

minster, occurred in circumstances, which the medical attendant relates as follows:—"The whole family, consisting of eight persons, eat, drink, and sleep, in one very small room; four of them are ill with small-pox; none apparently have been vaccinated; and it is stated that the same disease carried off four children in the family on a former occasion." The deaths from scarlatina, which for some previous weeks have been about 30, rose last week to 51. Thirteen children died from want of breast-milk, and from inanition. One person died of intemperance. A mendicant, aged 30 years, died in the Chelsea Workhouse of scurvy.

Last week the births of 814 boys and 739 girls, in all 1553 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846—55 the average number was 1416.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.852 in. The highest reading was 30.05 in., on Thursday; and on both that and the following day, the mean reading was above 30 in. The mean temperature of the week was 58.7 deg., which is 1.3 deg. above the average of the same week in 38 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The highest was 72.5 deg., on Wednesday; the lowest 44.8 deg., on Tuesday. The mean dew-point temperature was 51.7 deg.; and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 7 deg. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 62.0 deg. The wind blew on the last three days from the north-east and north. The amount of rain-fall was 0.41 in.

**ACCIDENTAL POISONING BY OPIUM.** On Thursday evening, Sept. 11, one of those cases which are unfortunately not rarely met with—the administration of a poison instead of a prescribed medicine, through mistake or negligence—occurred in Weymouth, Dorset. The person whose life has been sacrificed is named Augustus Broughton, and is son of Colonel Broughton, residing at Powell-villa, Chickerell, near Weymouth. It appears that about the middle of the day in question the deceased complained of a slight headache; his mother, therefore, sent a servant named Eliza Dowell to the shop of Mr. Barling, chemist of this town, with a note requesting "an aperient draught for a child 11 years old". The servant gave the note to one of the assistants, which of whom she knew not. The assistants, or rather apprentices, are named Lundie and McConnochy, besides whom there is a lad named Barrett, about 13 years of age. This lad, it appears, was subsequently directed to get the aperient—"black draught". By some mistake or negligence, this lad put a proportion of "black drop"—a preparation of opium. This "black drop" was kept in a cupboard, and the black draught on a shelf near the counter. Unfortunately the "black drop" was put into a bottle and conveyed to the boy, and, it would appear, administered to him, shortly after which he became comatose, and could not be awoke. Mr. J. Lithgow, a surgeon, was sent for, but could not render any assistance, and shortly after his arrival the unfortunate child expired. An inquest was held on the body. The surgeons, Messrs. Lithgow and Tompson, stated that their examination of the contents of the body led them to conclude positively that the death of the deceased was caused by the administration of a preparation of opium. The chemist and druggist, Mr. Barling, and his assistant, John McConnochy, made statements on oath, from which it would appear that the former was absent at the particular time, and that the latter knew nothing of the execution of the order in question. The only other persons who could have executed it were John Lundie and James Barrett. The former is about 20 years of age, and has been apprenticed to Mr. Barling about four years; and the latter is 13 years of age, and has been in the service of Mr. Barling just over four months. The jury, after a long consultation, returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased, Augustus Broughton, came to his death from the effects of a preparation of opium being administered to him instead of black draught, the mistake having occurred through the want of care on the part of John Lundie and James Barrett, two servants in the employ of Mr. Barling, chemist and druggist; and the jury also wish to express their disapprobation of allowing young persons in the employ of druggists to dispense medicine until they are properly qualified by experience to do so."

**GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM: GRANDE FETE AT ASTON PARK.** A second *fête champêtre* was given on Monday last in the beautiful park surrounding Aston-hall. The success which attended the first, given a few weeks ago, by which some £1,700

was realized in aid of the funds of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, emboldened the friends of the old General Hospital to repeat the experiment on behalf of their institution, and the result was equally satisfactory. The arrangements were entrusted to the same committee, and no efforts were spared by them to render the second *fête* as attractive as the first. Galleries of immense dimensions were erected, archery grounds constructed, orchestras pleasingly decorated, elegant dancing-rooms provided, the London Orchestral Union, with Picco, the Sardinian minstrel engaged, the splendid band of the Royal Artillery, fifty in number, brought from Woolwich, with the band of the 10th Hussars, and five others in various parts of the grounds, thirty thousand variegated lamps of surpassing brilliancy in the sycamore avenues, and, to close all, a grand display of fireworks, supplied from the Ordnance stores at Woolwich. The weather was fine and everything went off admirably. There was no hitch in any part of the day's programme, and the magnificent display of fireworks, surpassing anything ever seen before in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, formed a fitting *finale* to the varied pleasures of the day. It is calculated that not fewer eighty thousand people were admitted into the park during the day, and the net receipts of the General Hospital, it is thought by those best acquainted with the expenses, will be upwards of £2,000. Some give even a higher sum.

**MEDICAL JOURNALS IN RUSSIA.** There are four medical periodicals in Russia: the *Medicinishe Zeitung Russlands* (Russian Medical Times), edited in German by Drs. Heine, Krebel, and Thielmann; the *Gesundheitsfreund* (Friend of Health), edited in Russian by Dr. Eugene Pelikan, and containing original communications and selections from foreign works; the *Zeitschrift für Militair Medicin* (Journal of Military Medicine), edited in Russian under the direction of Dr. Eugene Pelikan and Dr. Tschistowitch, professor-adjoint of the Medico-Chirurgical College in St. Petersburg; and, lastly, the *Moskow Medical Journal*, edited by Professor Polownin. The *Journal of Military Medicine* appears four times yearly, in octavo, in an edition of four thousand copies; it is extensively circulated to all military surgeons in Russia, at the very moderate price of three silver roubles (about 13s. 6d.). It contains original contributions, mostly supplied by the professors in the Russian universities and in the medico-chirurgical school at St. Petersburg, and also by military surgeons, as well as translations of monographs of excellence by German, French, and English surgeons. The original articles are by Pirogoff, Pelikan, Zablotzky, Kieter, Tschistowitsch, and Platanoff, in St. Petersburg; by Hubenet and Mazonn in Kiev, etc. Among the selections from foreign authors, are Nelaton's *Elements of Surgical Pathology*, Forget on *Diseases of the Heart*, Valentin's *Physiology*, Becquerel on *Hygiène*, Zehetmayer on *Auscultation and Percussion*, Clarus and Williams on *Diseases of the Heart*, Oscar Heyfelder on *False Passages*, J. F. Heyfelder on *Resections and Amputations*, etc.; as well as translations from the smaller works of Kölliker, Rochow, Luschka, Vierordt, Frerichs, Henle, etc. (*Deutsche Klinik*, August 2nd, 1856.)

**THE CASE OF MR. SNAPE.** At the Central Criminal Court, on Tuesday last, the Grand Jury ignored the bill of indictment for manslaughter against Mr. Snape, of the Wandsworth Asylum.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

Communications have been received from:—MR. W. GILLARD; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. J. P. GARLICK; MR. G. E. NICHOLAS; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; DR. KOUTH; DR. KIDD; MR. W. B. KESTEVEN; DR. COCKLE; DR. W. P. BROOKES; DR. A. G. MALCOLM; DR. D. H. TUCKE; MR. E. GARRAWAY; MR. O. L'EMBERTON; MR. THOMAS MORRIS; and MR. JOSEPH CLEGG.

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