

does business upon system, and in accordance with the motto, "Strike while the iron is hot."

Since our last, we have received the news that the attempt to lay the Atlantic Electric Cable has proved a total failure. The engineer to the Company, who superintended the "paying out" himself, lays the blame upon a subordinate. After stating that all went well until the 11th, when at 3.45 the cable parted:

"I was," he says, "proceeding to the forepart of the ship when I heard the machine stop; I immediately called out to ease the break and reverse the engine of the ship, but when I reached the spot the cable was broken."

"On examining the machine, which was otherwise in perfect order, I found that the breaks had not been released, and to this or to the handwheel of the break being turned the wrong way may be attributed the stoppage, and the consequent fracture of the cable. When the rate of the wheels grew slower as the ship dropped her stern in the swell, the break should have been eased; this had been done regularly before whenever an unusually sudden descent of the ship temporarily withdrew the pressure from the cable in the sea; but, owing to our entering the deep water the previous morning, and having all hands ready for any emergency that might occur there, the chief part of my staff had been compelled to give in at night through sheer exhaustion, and hence, being shorthanded, I was obliged for the time to leave the machine without, as it proves, sufficient intelligence to control it."

It seems very strange that the cable should have been at any time left in the charge of unskilled labour. We hope, however, that the company will have a lesson by this mischief not to employ such expensive labour for the future as ignorant labour. We are glad to hear, however, that the disaster has happened through a pure accident, and not through any defect in the wire itself, or in the paying-out machinery. The directors have issued the following interesting statement respecting the undertaking, which is doubtless partly prompted by the fact that the shares of the company are at £250 discount:

"Sufficient information has already been obtained to show clearly that the present check to the progress of the work, however mortifying, has been purely the result of an accident, and is in no way due to any obstacle in the form of the cable, nor of any natural difficulty, nor of any experience that will in the future affect in the slightest degree the entire success of the enterprise. The only sudden declivity of any serious magnitude, from 410 fathoms to 1,700 fathoms, had been safely overcome, the beautiful flexibility of the cable having rendered it capable of adapting itself, without strain, to circumstances which would probably have been its ruin had it been more rigidly constructed. The combined influences of the low temperature of the water and the compression of the pores of the insulating medium had practically shown that the action of a telegraphic cable, so far from being impaired, is materially improved by being sunk in deep water. The only difficulty worthy of consideration which remained was to demonstrate the practicability of making the splice in mid-ocean. This was put to experimental test by the engineer in a heavy sea, subsequent to the accident, and before the return home of the ships. The two ends on board the Niagara and Agamemnon were joined together, and the splice let down to the bottom into soundings of 2,000 fathoms, and during a heavy sea. The experiment was perfectly successful, and these and all other circumstances which have been wrought out by the recent expedition have made more and more cheering and certain the prospect of complete success on the next occasion."

The Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in his return for this week, alludes to the significant fact that diarrhoea has for the last twelve years been on the increase in the metropolis; "for, on referring to the returns for the second or third week of August in 1840-45, it will be seen that the number of cases in which it was fatal was as low as 20 or 11, and did not exceed 70. Besides the deaths from diarrhoea (244), there were 21 last week from 'cholera' and choleraic diarrhoea, 12 of which occurred in young children." This is indeed a noteworthy increase, and the more alarming as it appears to be so steadily going on. It may, we think, be readily accounted for by looking at and smelling the Thames. This stream has been for several summers past disgusting both in colour and odour; and we suppose, that the more we build, and the more perfect is the drainage into the Thames, the worse it will get, until the great intercepting drains are completed. We earnestly hope that great work will be accomplished before cholera springs upon us suddenly, as a tiger springs upon his victim from the jungle.

## Association Intelligence.

### LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, S.W.

Letters regarding the business department of the JOURNAL, and corrected proofs, should be sent to 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

### ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call the attention of members to the Laws regarding the ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, and the PAYMENT of their SUBSCRIPTIONS.

*"Admission of Members.* Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any *three* members, shall be admitted a member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any Branch."

*"Subscriptions.* The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member, on paying his subscription, shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association for the current year. The subscription shall date from the 1st January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous."

Either of the following modes of payment may be adopted:—

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings, M.D., Worcester), or to the undersigned.
2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the member belongs.
3. Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments through the publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Mr. Thomas John Honeyman, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W. C.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

Worcester, July 1857.

"Colney Hatch is a house of detention of the most dismal kind; and Mr. Gardiner Hill need not talk any more about the authorship of the non-restraint system so long as this huge bastille is appropriated to the incarceration of such a little army of helpless beings?"

Did Mr. Gardiner Hill plan, and recommend Colney Hatch Asylum as the model of what such institutions should be? Certainly not. Does the non-restraint system demand "a huge bastille" as a condition of its success? Certainly not. Has not Dr. Conolly, the eloquent advocate of the non-restraint system, formally condemned such large asylums, because "every desirable quality, both in the construction and government of an asylum, becomes more difficult to be obtained and preserved" under such circumstances? He has done so. Where then, I repeat, Mr. Editor, is the logic—where the justice of such insinuations?

I have not the honour of a personal acquaintance with Mr. Gardiner Hill, but on public grounds, I object to the wanton use of a gentleman's name in connection with a subject for which he is no more responsible than he is for the judicious conduct of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Moreover, as one who has been associated with lunatic hospitals for more than twenty years, and who has practised the non-restraint system for upwards of fourteen years, I protest against the inference, that the non-restraint system of treating the insane is inseparable from "huge bastilles"; as also against your insinuation, that there is anything in that treatment upon which men will look "with feelings of disgust, differing only slightly in degree from those with which we read of the treatment of madmen in old Bedlam."

I am, etc., JOHN HITCHMAN.

Mickleover, near Derby, August 15th, 1857.

[As the name of the Editor of this JOURNAL has been associated with this article by nearly all the medical journals, and as Dr. Hitchman appears to have read it, we must confess our surprise at his idea that we should feel inclined to deprecate the non-restraint system. Why, the whole article is a laudation of this so-called system—and something more. Dr. Hitchman styles that article a "compilation", whereas it breaks altogether new ground with respect to the treatment of lunatics in pauper asylums. We scarcely should have thought it necessary to remind that gentleman that "compilations" are never admitted in the *Quarterly Review*.—EDITOR.]

## MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS.

LETTER FROM JOSEPH STONE, M.D.

SIR,—My thoughts have lately been directed to the subject of prescriptions. The profession and the public would, I think, be equally benefited by a rule like the following. All prescriptions written by medical men, and compounded by druggists, should be returned to the prescriber; and no druggist should make up an old prescription without the fresh sanction of the medical attendant.

Mr. Sillex, a general practitioner, is called out of his immediate neighbourhood. To save his own time, or to spare the patient trouble, he writes prescriptions for the case. He finds, perhaps, in a month or two, that his patient has been seized with his old complaint. Mr. S. has not been called in; the old prescriptions have been used, and with success, without his knowledge. This is an injustice to the doctor. The patient has a third attack; the same prescriptions are employed until, matters getting worse, he sends for the practitioner, who finds himself called in too late. This is a serious matter for the patient and his friends, as well as an injustice to the doctor.

Again, Mrs. Essex has certain symptoms which she details to Mrs. Bristol, who immediately finds her a prescription which she said Mrs. B. "paid a guinea for," and which she assures her friend will prove an infallible cure. Poor Mrs. Essex—the good intentions of her friend have nearly poisoned her.

I have known a prescription sold for half-a-crown; and I have known a prescription lent for sixpence or a shilling a time.

The following case occurred to me lately. The child of a patient was taken into the country, and, while there, had a fresh attack of chronic eczema. He was placed under the care of a highly respectable physician, who undertook the case with a special proviso that the child should be frequently brought to him, that he might watch the action of his remedies. Much benefit was derived from the treatment. On his return, the symptoms reappeared; and a bundle of prescriptions, marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, etc., were about to be put into requisition, when it was suggested by a relative that I should be consulted. I

found arsenic, in rather considerable doses, had been given. It was manifestly an improper use they were about to make of the prescriptions, and might have been attended with serious results.

I am aware that some patients think they pay for the prescriptions, and would insist upon retaining them; but they should be taught that they pay for *advice*, and not for the "paper written in Latin".

I cannot but think that, after a little while, respectable druggists would fall in with the plan I propose; namely, in all cases to return the prescription to the prescriber where practicable. A penny stamp and an envelope would be the only cost.

I will not take up further space, but submit the question to the profession, and especially to all Medico-Ethical Associations.

I am, etc.,

JOSEPH STONE.

Manchester, August 18, 1857.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, August 13th, 1857.

### THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. ESTCOURT said, seeing the First Commissioner of Works in his place, he begged to ask him a question. The other day the right hon. gentleman, in answer to a question put to him by the hon. member for North Staffordshire (Mr. Adderley), stated that he had entered into communication with the local authorities of Lambeth with regard to certain noxious trades carried on in that parish, and which, as was obvious to the perception of every one who put his nose out of the library windows of that House, were, to a considerable extent, the cause of the bad vapours which entered the House from the direction of the Thames. The question he had to ask of the right hon. gentleman was, whether that communication had led to any result, and if so, whether he felt himself at liberty to state it to the House?

Sir B. HALL, in reply, stated that the vestry of the parish of Lambeth had been requested by him to cause steps to be taken for the abatement of the nuisance, to which the vestry replied "that they were not prepared to take any legal proceedings in connexion therewith." The House would therefore see how important it was that the Act of 1855 should have contained the clause inserted on the recommendation of the Select Committee, imposing penalties on the local authorities for the neglect of duty on their part, and how much it was to be regretted that that clause should have afterwards been expunged. [Hear, hear.] He would only add that he hoped early in next session the House would pass a short Bill to remedy the omission, and to compel the local authorities, on requisition being made to them, to act in the discharge of their duty. [Hear.]

Monday, August 17th.

### CROWDED DWELLINGS PREVENTION BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on this Bill,

Mr. RIDLEY hoped that the Government would withdraw the Bill for the present session. Its provisions were of the utmost importance; they trench upon the liberty of the subject, and ought not to be passed without great consideration. The hon. gentleman moved that the Bill be committed this day three months.

Mr. HENLEY joined in the request for the postponement of the Bill for the present session. It was very badly drawn, and one of the clauses read in conjunction with the preamble gave the police power to enter into every house in the kingdom. Another clause gave the London police power to go over all the kingdom to carry the provisions of the Bill into operation.

Mr. KINNAIRD supported the Bill. If London were polled, the vote of every poor man would be given in favour of it. The state of the lodging-houses in London was terrible. Not long ago he went with one of the police to visit some of these lodging-houses, when he was surrounded by persons who begged that the provisions of the existing Act might be extended to houses which did not now come within their operation. There were many places which, though not technically, were practically lodging houses, in which several families were crowded together. In one tenement he saw thirty or forty miserable Chinese so crowded together as to breed all kinds of filth and

abomination. The crowding of 3,000,000 of persons into a single city was a highly artificial arrangement, and it required some special enactments, like those now proposed, to get for the poor some measure of air, water, and other matters required for healthy and convenient living.

Sir W. JOLLIFFE condemned the provisions of the Bill, which would defeat the operation of that very excellent measure—the Common Lodging-houses Act.

Mr. W. COWPER said that he was not responsible for the framing of this Bill, but he should not be doing justice to those who introduced it into the House of Lords if he were now to withdraw it. If they went into committee, he could show that the measure was not open to the objections which had been raised to it. The second clause did not, as had been alleged, apply to private dwellings, but only to lodginghouses or flats of dwelling-houses. In the third clause it would be desirable to introduce words limiting the authority of the Police Commissioners to their own district. The hon. gentleman concluded by repeating the explanation of the provisions of the Bill which he gave when its second reading was under discussion.

Mr. LOCKE said that the overcrowding of the dwellings of the poor was the result of our great improvements, and that we had now no right to turn the occupants out of their houses, as was proposed by this Bill, without taking any care where they went to afterwards.

Lord PALMERSTON said that the House did not appear clearly to understand the nature or the principle of the Bill. Hon. gentlemen got up and said that the Bill proposed an interference with the dwellings of the poor, but the fact was that it was not with the dwellings of the poor that the Bill proposed to deal. The fact was that the unfortunate wretches for whose welfare the Bill provided did not live in their own houses. A number of capitalists had built tenements which were occupied by the poor as lodginghouses, and, from a sordid love of gain, they kept the inmates of those tenements in a state of misery, of dirt, and disease. He trusted that the House would not be led away by misrepresentations, and retard the progress of a measure which would be productive of great benefit to the labouring classes. [*Hear, hear.*]

Colonel SYKES would not, at that late hour, trespass long upon the attention of the House, but there were certain facts with which he thought they ought to be made acquainted. The condition of the lodginghouses did not regard the poor alone, but being, as they were at present, nuclei of disease and pestilence, they affected the whole community. A report which had been drawn up for the Statistical Society of London, and part of which had been prepared from his own personal experience, disclosed a sad state of things with regard to the condition of the poorer classes. He would not trouble the House by quoting many passages from that report, but there were one or two which he thought that it would be advisable to refer to. There were many cases mentioned in that report illustrating the deplorable condition of the working classes with regard to lodging accommodation in the manufacturing districts. It appeared, also, from the report, and he could confirm it from personal observation, that in Church-lane, St. Giles's, in London, the population examined was 463, the number of families 100, and the number of bedsteads among them 90, the average being above five souls to a bed; and many rooms were inhabited by as many as 22 souls, without water, or drainage, or privies, while in one of the rooms containing 22 souls there was also a dead body. The condition, in fact, of those people was so revolting, that a committee of the Statistical Society of London had concluded a report, which they were called upon to make, as follows:

"Your committee have thus given a picture in detail of human wretchedness, filth, and brutal degradation, the chief features of which are a disgrace to a civilised country, and which your committee have reason to fear, from letters that have appeared in the public journals, is but the type of the miserable condition of masses of the community, whether located in the small, ill-ventilated rooms of manufacturing towns, or in many of the cottages of the agricultural peasantry. In these wretched dwellings all ages and both sexes, fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, grown up brothers and sisters, stranger adult males and females, and swarms of children, the sick, the dying, and the dead, are herded together with a proximity and a mutual pressure which brutes would resist; where it is physically impossible to preserve the ordinary decencies of life; where all sense of propriety and self-respect must be lost, to be replaced only by a recklessness of demeanour which necessarily results from vitiated minds; and yet, with many of the young, brought up in such hotbeds of mental

pestilence, the hopeless, but benevolent attempt is making to implant, by means of general education, the seeds of religion, virtue, truth, order, industry, and cleanliness; but which seeds, to fructify advantageously, need, it is to be feared, a soil far less rank than can be found in these wretched abodes. Tender minds, once vitiated, present almost insuperable difficulties to reformation; bad habits and depraved feelings gather with the growth and strengthen with the strength."

Well, then, the hon. member for Southwark had talked about erecting buildings for the accommodation of the labouring classes. Now, such an attempt had been made; and in one building which had been erected in Old Pancras there was accommodation for nearly 100 families; and so well arranged were the sanitary regulations of that establishment that, during the cholera, not a single case of that disease appeared within it, although it was prevalent in the immediate neighbourhood. For his own part, he thought that the Bill was one which would, to a certain extent, remedy a great abuse, and he would therefore feel it his duty to support it. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. AYRTON thought that whether a poor man occupied a whole house or a single room, his dwelling ought to be as inviolate as that of the richest man in the land; and he could not approve of the power which this Bill would give to the police, to enter and inspect the residence of a poor man at any time they might think fit to do so.

After some discussion the House divided, when the amendment was negatived by 41 to 23.

The House then went into committee, but the chairman immediately reported progress.

The House adjourned at 2 o'clock.

Friday, August 18th.

#### CROWDED DWELLINGS PREVENTION BILL.

The House went into committee again on this Bill.

Mr. RIDLEY again suggested the propriety of postponing the further consideration of this Bill until next session.

Mr. COWPER said that the Bill had been before the House sufficiently long to be amply considered. It was true that the Bill as originally introduced was restricted to the metropolis, where the evil to be met chiefly existed; but, as the Bill referred to the Common Lodginghouses Act, which applied to the whole country, it was thought proper to extend the application of the Bill. Except for the purpose of defeating the Bill, he could not understand the reason of postponing its consideration. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. COX seconded the motion. The Bill was a gross outrage upon the poorer classes of the country, and would place the whole metropolis in the hands of the police.

Mr. JOHN LOCKE objected to this Bill because it interfered with every man in the metropolis, and throughout the country, as to the mode in which he chose to live in his own house, and enabled the police to enter every man's private dwelling.

Lord PALMERSTON said this was a question between speculating builders, who wished to overcrowd the houses they erected, and the poor, who were the victims of their cupidity. [*Hear.*] The hon. gentleman said that an Englishman's house was his castle. In this case every builder's house was his dungeon; and it was into this unhealthy dungeon that, for the sake of private gain, they crowded a number of persons, who could not live together with safety to either body or mind. [*Hear, hear.*] As to the question of time, that was a commonplace stereotyped argument, which hon. members, who felt they could not oppose a Bill upon its merits, frequently brought forward. He hoped the committee would listen to no argument of that sort. Every objection which had been urged against this measure applied equally to the Lodginghouse Act, which we proved to have conferred the greatest possible benefit on the poor of this metropolis; and he trusted that the committee would defeat the attempt to throw out this Bill, and would thereby complete the good work which that Act had begun. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. KNIGHT regarded this as only one of a series of stringent measures for increasing the power of the Government over the subject, which ought to be strenuously resisted. The police ought to be strictly confined to their single, proper duty—the prevention of crime; otherwise, the same system of gradual encroachment which had enslaved the nations of the continent would be insidiously extended to this country.

Mr. COX thought the chairman ought to report progress, in order to allow the noble lord at the head of the Government an opportunity of reading the Bill, of which it was evident he knew nothing. Had the noble lord ever read the *History of England*. [*A laugh.*] If he meant to play Wat Tyler with the people of

England, they would be able to find persons to play the tyrant against him. [*Much laughter.*]

Sir W. JOLLIFFE disclaimed the imputation that had been cast upon him of having opposed the Bill from unworthy motives.

Lord PALMERSTON did not know what was meant by saying that the Government had imputed base motives to those who opposed the Bill. If any imputations had been cast, they had been rather cast upon the Government by those who opposed the Bill, that under the semblance of improving the Common Lodging-houses Act, they were attempting a tyrannous interference with all private houses, and that they sought to establish domiciliary visits. The hon. member for Finsbury had even gone so far as to impute to him a desire to imitate the example of a person whom the hon. member conceived to be a great tyrant. [*Laughter.*] If the hon. member inquired within the limits of his own borough into historical facts, he would acquit him of any display of arbitrary government and tyranny, as resulting from an imitation of Wat Tyler. [*Loud laughter.*] He earnestly hoped the committee would adopt the amendment of his right hon. friend (Mr. Henley), which the Government were quite willing to accept. [*Hear, hear.*]

After a few words from Mr. S. FITZGERALD, Mr. AYRTON, and Mr. CARTER,

The committee divided, when there voted—

For reporting progress . . . . .	22
Against it . . . . .	35
Majority . . . . .	—13

The amendment proposed by Mr. Henley was then introduced, and clause 1, as amended, was agreed to.

The Chairman then reported progress, and the House resumed.

## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

*In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.*

#### BIRTHS.

- GRIFFITH. On August 13th, at Peckham, the wife of \*John T. Griffith, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
HARE. On August 13th, at Great Baddow, Essex, the wife of \*Henry Hare, M.D., of a daughter.  
POLLOCK. On August 12th, at 4, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, the wife of James Edward Pollock, M.D., of a son.  
SMITH. On August 17th, at 13, John Street, Berkeley Square, the wife of Thomas Henry Smith, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

- \*CLARKE—GRAYSON. CLARKE, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Kenilworth, to Eliza, youngest daughter of the late John Grayson, Esq., of Dowdsby, Lincolnshire, at Kenilworth, by the Rev. B. J. Bickmore, vicar, on August 18th.  
DUDMAN—SHIRREFF. DUDMAN, the Rev. L. S., rector of Pitney, Somerset, to Mary Anne Eyre, younger daughter of James Hales Shirreff, M.D., of Lympstone, Devon, at Lympstone, on August 12th.  
GOODDY—WARD. GOODDY, George, Esq., Surgeon, of Thorne, Yorkshire, to Sophia Godson, youngest daughter of the late W. Ward, Esq., of Brompton, London, at Thorne, on August 13th.  
TRESIDDER—COURTIS. TRESIDDER, John N., Esq., civil surgeon, Cawnpore, East Indies, to Emily Hooton, fourth daughter of R. S. Courtis, Esq., of Falmouth, at Camberwell, on August 15th.

#### DEATHS.

- DODS, George Douglas, Esq., Staff-Surgeon in H.M. Forces, aged 40, on August 16th.  
POULSON, W. H., Esq., Surgeon, at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, aged 52, on August 13th.

#### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. LICENTIATES IN MIDWIFERY admitted at the meeting of the Board on August 12th:—

ALCOCK, John, Cobridge, Staffordshire  
BANNISTER, Alfred James, Chelsea

BARKER, Samuel, Ramsgate  
BRIGHT, Richard Stonhewer, Richmond  
COBBETT, Robert Newberry, Winchmore Hill  
CROSSLEY, William Henry, Wath-upon-Dearn, co. York  
DUCHESENE, Robert, White Lion Street, Norton Folgate  
FLUDER, Charles John, Lymington, Hants  
HARLEY, Thomas, Cleobury Mortimer, Salop  
HARRIS, Edward, Calcutta  
HINDER, John, Calcutta  
HOGG, Francis Roberts, Gower Street  
MASON, Benjamin Earnshaw, Calcutta  
NEWMAN, Augustus, Oxford  
PHILPOTT, Henry Gray, Brighton  
RADLEY, William Hepworth, Doncaster  
ROSE, George Cowper, West Square, Lambeth  
SCOTT, Thomas Alexander Fraser, Aberdeen  
SIMMS, Frederick, Tonbridge Place  
WHITEFIELD, Arthur, Barnstaple, Devon  
WILKES, George, Stepney Green

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. M.B. First Examination, 1857.

#### First Division.

ADAMS, Samuel Hoppus, University College  
ALFORD, Henry James, University College  
CARTER, Robert, University College  
CAYLEY, William, King's College  
COOKE, John, St. Thomas's Hospital  
COUSINS, John Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital  
CROWFOOT, William Miller, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
DURHAM, Arthur Edward, Guy's Hospital  
HARLEY, John, King's College  
HICKMAN, William, University College  
HILL, Matthew Berkeley, University College  
HIND, John Marriott, University College  
JEFFCOAT, James Henry, St. Mary's Hospital  
KEMPSTER, Felix Henry, University College  
KNAGGS, Henry, Guy's Hospital  
LANGDON, Thomas Charles, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
LLOYD, Edward Harford, London Hospital  
MARRIOTT, Charles Hayes, University College  
MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital  
PEMBERTON, Clarence Linden Henderson, Queen's College, Birmingham  
PILE, William, University College  
RINGER, Sydney, University College  
RIVINGTON, Walter, London Hospital  
RIX, William Howells, Middlesex Hospital  
SMITH, Eustace, University College  
THOMPSON, Edmund Symes, King's College

#### Second Division.

BUCHANAN, Albert, B.A., University College  
COPESTAKE, Walter, St. George's Hospital  
EVERET, Wilton, London Hospital  
GASQUET, Joseph Raymond, University College  
HARVEY, Charles Hamilton, King's College  
SANSON, Arthur Ernest, King's College  
SHEPHERD, James, University College  
SQUIRE, Alexander John Balmanno, University College  
STOKOE, Paul Henry, Guy's Hospital

### HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday (August 15th) were 1187, and exhibit a decrease on those returned in the three previous weeks, when they ranged from 1209 to 1238. In the ten years 1847-56 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1255. But the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, and to admit of comparison the average should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it will become 1380. The average rate of mortality would have produced more deaths by 193 than the number in the present return; but it is proper to state, that as that rate is derived in part from periods when cholera raged, it is too high as a measure of health when the population is happily free from such calamity; and that the mortality from all causes at the present time differs little from the ordinary amount at this season of the year.

The deaths from diarrhoea, which rapidly rose to 302 in the last week of July, and in the next week declined to 258, again exhibit a slight decrease, the number returned last week being

244. In the ten weeks (of 1847-56) corresponding with last week, the deaths from this complaint ranged from 81 to 253. The London registers during the last twelve years reveal a very striking increase in the prevalence of diarrhoea; for on referring to the returns for the second or third week of August in 1840-45 it will be seen that the number of cases in which it was fatal was as low as 20 or 11, and did not exceed 70. Besides the deaths from diarrhoea there were 21 last week from "cholera" and "choleraic diarrhoea," 12 of which occurred to young children. The Registrar of the sub-district of Woolwich Arsenal reports a death from "English cholera" after an illness of 40 hours. The deceased was a rigger in the dockyard, and had been employed for several days in raising the convict hulk "Defence," and it appears that he suffered extremely from what was described by him as "the awful stench" of the river during the performance of his work.

Last week the births of 875 boys and 743 girls, in all 1,618 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1,448.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.793 in. The highest reading in the week was 30 in. on Wednesday. The mean temperature of the week was 63.7°, which is 2.1° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was highest on Thursday, having been 68.6°, which is 7.1° above the average. The highest readings of the thermometer occurred on that day, and were 83.6° in the shade, and 105° in the sun. The mean dew-point temperature was 57.7°, and the difference between that and the mean temperature of the air was 6°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 68.2°. The general direction of the wind was south-west. Rain fell to the amount of 1.52 in., of which so much as 1.12 in. fell on Friday. A thunderstorm commenced at half past 9 o'clock on Thursday night; it was very heavy during the first hour, and continued with intervals till five next morning. About five in the afternoon of Friday great darkness prevailed, which was followed by a very severe thunderstorm, accompanied with hail-stones of unusual size.

NUISANCES ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER THAMES. Some correspondence between Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney, the Board of Works, and the Commissioners of Sewers, on the state of the river Thames and the pollution of the air on the banks of the Thames and at the Houses of Parliament, was published by order of the House of Commons on Saturday, on the motion of Mr. Estcourt, M.P. Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney, in May, June, and July last, pointed out at length, in some valuable reports to the Board of Works, a number of abominable nuisances arising from the state of the sewers in the vicinity of the New Palace at Westminster, and other causes most injurious to the health of the members. The source of the original evil (certain untrapped gulleys in St. Margaret's Street, New Palace Yard, and the open mouth of Bridge Street sewer) was cut off some time since; but, although the greater nuisance is removed, the minor annoyance remains. This was pointed out in a report of 1855. It arises from untrapped sewers on the south side of the river near Lambeth Palace, besides two at Millbank, one at the Penitentiary, and two at Vauxhall Bridge. The sewers at Lambeth and Millbank are the most offensive. Another source of pestilential effluvia, affecting the atmosphere of the Houses of Parliament, is the existence of bone and other offensive manufactories on the south side of the river, and also exhalations from the river itself. In June last, Mr. Gurney reported the river to be in so pestilential a state that it was difficult to keep the stench out of the Houses of Parliament, and he urged the trapping the open mouths of certain sewers forthwith. Mr. Gurney's appeals to the Board of Works were seconded by Mr. R. Burrell, of the Lord Great Chamberlain's office, House of Lords, who (July 16th) complained that the stench from the river compelled him to close all his windows, but that the poisonous effluvia penetrated to his rooms notwithstanding, causing headache, nausea, and loss of appetite. "The nuisance," he says, "is becoming greater annually;" and common humanity, he adds, requires that the Government should seriously take up the question of the purification of the Thames. The Board of Works ordered Mr. Gardiner, on the 21st ult., to put himself in communication with Mr. Gurney for the abatement of the nuisance arising from the manufactories on the south side of the river; and Mr. Bazalgette, the engineer, was also referred to. Ultimately it was intimated to the Board of Works by the Secretary of State (on the 29th ult.), that the prosecution of nuisances was left by the Metropolis Local Manage-

ment Act to the local authorities of the parishes, to whom, as armed with ample powers, Sir G. Grey suggested that application should be made in the cases referred to. The state of the Thames, meanwhile, remains as before.

THE HUMAN MIND IN CITIES. Somehow or other, amid their crowding and confinement, the human mind finds its fullest, freest expansion. Unlike the dwarfed and dusty plants which stand around our suburban villas, languishing like exiles for the purer air and freer sunshine that kiss their fellows far away in flowery field and green woodland, on sunny banks and breezy hills, man reaches his highest condition amid the social influences of the crowded city. His intellect receives its brightest polish where gold and silver lose theirs—tarnished by the searching smoke and foul vapours of city air. The finest flowers of genius have grown in an atmosphere where those of nature are prone to droop and difficult to bring to maturity. The mental powers acquire their full robustness where the cheek loses its ruddy hue and the limbs their elastic step, and pale thought sits on manly brows, and the watchman, as he walks his rounds, sees the student's lamp burning far into the silent night. (Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh.) [If the lamp of life burns brightly in large cities, it burns quickly. It is a known fact that the citizens of a great metropolis generally die out in the third generation. EDITOR.]

NEW CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. A deputation on the subject of the proposed new charter of the University of London had an interview with Sir George Grey, on the 13th inst., at the Home Office. The deputation consisted of— from the University College, London, Mr. Thornely, M.P., Dr. Booth, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Goldsmid, Mr. R. Hutton, Dr. Mackenzie, Mr. Frederick Wood (members of Council), with Mr. Atkinson, Secretary; from Manchester New College, Mr. R. H. Hutton; from Carmarthen College, Mr. D. Morris, M.P.; from the Committee of Graduates of the University, Mr. Mitchell, M.P., Mr. Hodgson, M.P., Professor Foster, Mr. G. Jessel, Mr. Osler, Mr. J. G. Flitch, and Mr. Heath.

FAILURE OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH. (By Electric and International Telegraph.) Plymouth, Friday evening. The United States' steam-frigate *Niagara*, Captain Hudson, from the Atlantic, followed by the *Susquehanna*, Captain Sands, and Her Majesty's screw steamship *Agamemnon*, Master-Commander Noddall, entered the Sound this afternoon on their return from their unsuccessful effort to lay the telegraphic cable. On board the *Niagara*, they report that, at the time of the severance, a quarter to 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, 335 nautical or about 380 statute miles had been laid, at a distance of 260 to 280 miles in a direct course from Valentia. The wind was southerly; there was some sea, and the ship was going from three to four knots, and the cable paying out five to six, and sometimes seven knots. As the quantity of slack thus expended was greater than expected at starting, and more than could be afforded, the retard strain was therefore increased to a pressure of 3,000 pounds, and the cable broke. The extra expenditure of slack commenced on Monday evening, when a strong breeze and heavy swell prevailed, and a powerful undercurrent was experienced. This current forced the wire from the ship at a considerable angle. When the break was applied with increased power, the stern of the *Niagara* was down in the trough of a sea, and the extra strain created by her rising was the immediate cause of the cable's parting. The *Susquehanna* was a mile off on the *Niagara's* starboard beam; the *Agamemnon*, the *Cyclops*, and the *Leopard*, were within signal distance. At 12 o'clock the *Cyclops* left for Valentia, and the *Leopard* for Spithead. The other three remained to make some experiments. Soundings were found by the *Cyclops* at 2,000 fathoms. At night they kept a course E.S.E., under easy steam, and on Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock, bore up for Plymouth Sound. The *Niagara* is gone into Hamouze. The general opinion is that the season is too far advanced for another effort now, but every confidence is expressed in the ultimate success of the undertaking. The machinery now aboard the *Niagara* is considered too heavy for the purpose. It is stated that the wheels ceased to revolve when the pressure was applied on Tuesday morning. (Times.)

THE HEAT IN INDIA. The *Moniteur de l'Armée* publishes a letter from Bombay of the 14th of July, which states that the heat is greater this year in the presidency of Bengal than ever was remembered. On the 25th of June the thermometer marked 52 degrees (centigrades) above zero in the English camp before Delhi. Several soldiers died that day of sunstroke.

**THE SPOLENS.** There is really some show of justice in the continued demands of the *Cork Constitution* for further inquiry into the allegations preferred against Spollen's wife by Mr. Curran in the course of his able defence of the prisoner. Following up its recent remarks upon this branch of the case, the *Cork paper* asks,

"Is a woman publicly impeached of having attempted to procure the execution of her husband to remain at large? Is there to be no trial, no inquiry, no investigation of the grounds on which the accusation was preferred? If the Attorney-General sleeps shall the press sleep? Are our Dublin contemporaries to suffer the startling statement of Mr. Curran to be forgotten? Is it not better worth their attention than were the host of 'rumours' on which they expended so much speculation? Then why are they silent? There is a clue to the murder. Either Spollen was the murderer, or Mrs. Spollen knows who was. There is no escaping that dilemma. How, without knowledge of the murderer, could she have told where the plunder was deposited! How could her statements to the police have been verified and their search for it have been successful? How, moreover, did Spollen's razor get into the canal? We put these questions merely to show that if Spollen is innocent, Mrs. Spollen has a secret in her possession which ought not to be left there, and that if he is not innocent, she ought not to be made the victim of the foulest calumny ever uttered against a mother and a wife. No license can excuse, no exigency can justify it. Either it is true, and she is worse, more heartless, more hardened, more infamous than the shedder of Mr. Little's blood; or it is false, and — but we must not trust ourselves with the inference. Be it which it may, it is the duty of the law officers to search it out, and the duty of the press to keep them to it. Wherever the accusation is believed, that woman stands in a more undesirable position than Spollen stood in before he was arraigned; and ought this to be so and she still at large? Is that the result we look for from legal process in superior courts? Is one to be acquitted that mother, unconvicted and unquestioned, may be condemned?" *Times Correspondent.*

**VENTILATION BY THE STEAM JET.** A somewhat novel application of the steam jet, for the purpose of ventilating a coal mine, has just been made by Mr. F. H. Pearce, of the Bowling Ironworks, near Bradford. The *Leeds Mercury* gives the following account of the application: "The application is at present in operation in a pumping shaft, 120 yards in depth, the ventilation of which had been stopped by the water rising at the bottom of the pit during the time some alterations were being made in the pumps. The water having stopped the air-courses, the pit, to within a few yards of the top, became full of the gas known to miners as black or choke damp, which appears to have been discharged freely from some old workings, and thus it was rendered an impossibility for the workmen to descend until the removal of the gas had been effected, and a constant current of pure air produced in the pit. Mr. Pearce has succeeded in maintaining so perfect a ventilation of the above-mentioned pit, simply by allowing a small jet of steam to issue into the atmosphere at a few feet from the top of the pipes through which the water is forced up when the pumps are at work, and the pit can be worked with perfect safety. The workmen were enabled to descend thirty minutes after the steam had been turned into the pipes. The principle is exceedingly simple. The jet of steam issuing from the top of the pipes produces in them a partial vacuum, which draws the foul air up these pipes, and thence out of the pit, with very great velocity. The cost of applying the steam jet in the above manner is very trifling; and this method of ventilation will, doubtless, be found a very safe and useful one in many instances, particularly in sinking deep shafts. In addition to other advantages, wood or any other kind of pipes may be used. It requires little or no attention, no machinery to get out of repair, produces a powerful current of air, and can be regulated at pleasure. As the steam is discharged into the atmosphere above the top of the pit, it does not interfere with the men working in the shaft."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

### POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets open at the ends, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

To CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

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

We are obliged to Mr. Garstang for his communication, but we think the subject has been sufficiently discussed already.

Mr. NATHANIEL CRISP, by referring to the Hospital Reports of August 8th, will find a detailed account of the death from Amylone at St. George's Hospital; and in the same department of this week's paper, he will find an account of the death from Chloroform at King's College Hospital.

Communications have been received from:—Mr. T. HOLMES; DR. MACKINDER; DR. C. HANFIELD JONES; MR. STONE; MR. R. L. BOWLES; MR. C. BADER; MR. WALTER GARSTANG; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; MR. NATHANIEL COATS; MR. NATHANIEL CRISP; MR. R. WOOD; MR. GEORGE YATES; DR. J. HITCHMAN; and DR. JOSEPH STONE.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. On Mineral Waters; their Physical and Medicinal Properties. By Robert Mortimer Glover, M.D. London: Henry Renshaw. pp. 375.
2. A Key to the Adulteration of our Daily Food. Compiled by William Dalton. London: Published by F. Marlborough & Co. 1857.
3. Metropolitan Workhouses and their Inmates. London: Longmans. 1857.
4. La Vaccine: ses Conséquences Funestes, démontrées par les Faits, les Observations, l'Anatomie pathologique, et l'Arithmétique. Réponse au Questionnaire Anglais relatif à la Vaccine, adressé aux Académies par la Chambre des Communes d'Angleterre. Paris, &c. Baillières. 1857.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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