

point to him as likely to be the first to be able to fill with most honour the high professional station aimed at. May justice and common sense guide the deliberations of the Reverend Dr. Miller, his Worship the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Lucy, and their colleagues in the council of Queen's College!

In the discussion on Monday, one fact came out, which we regret, but must in honesty not suppress—that Dr. Birt Davies had asked a member of the council to vote for his (Dr. Davies') son. It is unfortunate that Dr. Davies so far allowed his paternal feelings to prevail over his sense of duty; notwithstanding that he seems to have been patriotic enough, at the meeting of the professors, to allow his son's name to be withdrawn from the list of candidates. But the merits of the question at issue are not in the least affected by this disclosure. The Queen's Hospital is not such a paltry institution, as to be unaffected by the sacrifice of prominent merit to any other claim on the part of those who seek office within its walls. On the principle of "the best man foremost" its elections must be conducted. Mr. Sands Cox and his fellow-thinkers feel this, and with honourable perseverance act accordingly. If they cannot succeed fully, the best compromise is that contained in the resolution proposed by Mr. Welch, which we should, for the sake of peace, be glad to see adopted; but then the question of seniority must be left entirely open for the present—otherwise the treaty of peace will be an utter mockery.

The new Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford has just issued a short pamphlet on the *Teaching of Physiology in the Higher Schools*. It appears that during the past term physiology was taught, as an experiment, in the Grammar School of Magdalen College. At the end of term, an examination was held; and the papers were forwarded to Dr. Acland for inspection, who has expressed his opinions in the pamphlet to which we refer, and which consists of replies to certain questions submitted to him by the teacher of physiology in the Magdalen College School. He argues strongly, and in detail, in favour of the popular teaching of this science. Here are one or two of his reasons, the validity of which is evident.

"General physiological questions will in a few years become so universally understood, that much ordinary literature will be unintelligible to those wholly unacquainted with them. Advanced physiological problems are already discussed in reviews, in this and other countries. Sanitary inquiries of all kinds come now within the range of town councils, vestries, guardians, police, registrars, and officials in every class of society. *Ceteris paribus*, therefore, one versed in such subjects, or intelligently grounded in them, is better prepared for office than one who is not.

"The standard of medical knowledge and medical practice will be raised in proportion to the diffusion of physiological knowledge among the general public. I look, therefore, to the increase of a general knowledge of physiology (and of hygiene, which it implies) as one of the greatest benefits which will accrue through science to the temporal interests of mankind. Every form of quackery and imposture in medicine will in this way, and in this way only, be discouraged. It is, in great part, on this ground—on the ground of the future benefit to the people through the dissemination of a true perception of the *groundwork* of practical medicine—that I have laboured for many years to promote physiological knowledge in this University, among students holding whatever rank, and destined for whatever occupation."

It is a good sign when we find a man in such a position as that which Dr. Acland occupies thus expressing himself. He might be indifferent, or positively obstructive; but in his present course he does honour to his University.

Association Intelligence.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH:

SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS RESIDENT IN ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND THEIR VICINITIES.

SCIENTIFIC and social meetings of members of the South-Eastern Branch resident in Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, and their vicinities, will be held on the under mentioned days: Friday, February 12th, 1858, at 4.30 P.M., at the Guildhall, Maidstone.

Friday, March 12th, 1858, at 3.30 P.M., at the Guildhall, Gravesend.

The members resident in this district will be gratified by the attendance and assistance of any of the members of the British Medical Association.

All members of the South-Eastern Branch may attend these meetings, and be at liberty to introduce any professional friends.

Any member of the profession may, by permission of the Chairman, attend one of these meetings, subject to the rules of the Parent Society.

JAMES DULVEY, *Local Sec. pro tem.*

Brompton, Chatham:

Reports of Societies.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 1858.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., in the Chair.

ON THE DISTRICT MORTALITY OF LONDON. BY WM. ODLING, M.D.

THE author calculated logarithmically the annual rate of increase of population in each of the thirty-six metropolitan districts, between the census of 1841 and that of 1851, according to the equation $r = n\sqrt[n]{\frac{m}{p}}$; and, presuming the same rate

to have continued since 1851, ascertained the mean population of each district in the year 1856. The mean annual rate of increase was greatest in Islington, where it amounted to 5.52 per cent., and least in St. James's, Westminster, where it was estimated at 0.27 per cent. The mean of the entire metropolis was 1.94 per cent. The calculated population of St. Pancras in 1856 amounted to 189,337, and was greater than that of any other district, while the population of Hampstead amounted only to 13,060, and was less than that of any other district. The density of population was greatest in the Strand district, which had 258 persons to an acre, and least in Lewisham, which had only 2.4 persons to an acre. The lowest mortality occurred in Camberwell, Lambeth, and Clerkenwell, where the deaths per 1000 were 18.57, 18.71, 18.97 respectively; the highest in St. Olave, Southwark, Whitechapel, and Greenwich, where the death-rates per 1000 were respectively 55.25, 26.60, and 25.58. The extremely high death-rate of St. Olave, Southwark, is evidently due to its containing Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals. The mean mortality of the metropolis was represented by a death-rate of 21.83 per 1000. From an examination of the entire results, it appeared that no district having a high reputation for salubrity had a high death-rate, but that several districts, having had bad reputations, enjoyed a comparatively low mortality, as instanced particularly by Lambeth, Bethnal-green, St. Luke's, and Bermondsey. The death-rate of any district did not appear to have any specific relation with its elevation or density of population. No calculation was made of the mean individual wealth of the residents in each district, and consequently no comparison of wealth with mortality; but it was observable that the poor parishes of Lambeth, Clerkenwell, Bethnal-green, and St. Luke, had lower death-rates than the rich neighbourhoods St. George, Hanover Square, St. Marylebone, and St. Martin's in the Fields. Dr. Odling also made calculations of the death-rates from epidemic disease, and of the proportions which these death-rates bore to the general death-rates. In his own parish of Lambeth, he ascertained that the entire death-rate varied from 12.33 per 1000 in the Brixton sub-district, comprising 17,506 inhabitants, to 21.69 in Lambeth church first sub-district, comprising 18,390; and that in his eight sub-districts the total rate of mortality increased precisely as the proportion which the infant mortality bore to the entire mortality increased.

1. It is a great step to have made in advance when we consider that the subject is discussed at all. The English community have come to regard public discussion and agitation as indispensable in the promotion of any reform, of whatever kind; and if you, Sir, have had lately time to even cursorily read the public papers, you will see that the great social evil has become one of the questions of the day, which cannot any longer be shirked. But a few weeks ago I was met by the reply, that this subject, prostitution, did not admit of discussion; and yet to-day no less than two leading articles, and several letters, have appeared in the public journals, thus most satisfactorily proving the interest taken in the subject by the press of this country, and inducing me to hope that, ere long, F. R. C. S. will be one of our warmest advocates.

2. It is a great step in advance when we find two rectors of influential parishes publicly admitting, although with shame, that it is impossible to suppress prostitution altogether. It is a good omen for the future when we find philanthropic men merging petty differences, and content to postpone larger views, acting with those who at present are only disposed to consider street immorality. We all acknowledge the difficulty that surrounds the subject; but our mutual friend, F. R. C. S., must admit that the external social aspect of the streets cannot be worse—it may be better; and I think I could prove to him, that we are not reduced to the alternative suggested by Sir G. Grey to a late deputation, viz., of leaving the streets as they are, or introducing the foreign system, at which F. R. C. S. hints.

My opponent's appeal to the fears of the public reminds me somewhat of the conduct of an injudicious nurse who quiets children by telling them stories of bogies in the cupboard, that will commit all sorts of horrors if they, her charges, do not lie still. You, Sir, I feel sure, cannot approve of such infantile intimidation, but will probably agree with me, that it is incumbent upon our profession, now that the streets are about to be cleared, to attempt the establishment of some industrial occupation, or reformatory, for the assistance of those who will be thus thrown out of an employment which they have been hitherto allowed to exercise without any impediment. It is in this sense that I hope to receive your support, and I have the honour to remain, etc.,

WILLIAM ACTON.

46, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, January 21st, 1858.

[We see very little chance of the present movement against prostitution coming to anything. Of this we feel certain, that a much more common sense view of the subject must be taken than the gentlemen forming the deputation to Sir George Grey took, or seemed capable of taking. EDITOR.]

REMOVAL OF THE CERVIX UTERI BY THE ÉCRASEUR.

LETTER FROM JOHN ARMSTRONG, M.D.

SIR,—Permit me to correct an error into which I inadvertently fell in my paper on the operation for the removal of the cervix uteri by the écraseur. My attention has been directed to two similar operations; one by Mr. J. F. Nicholson, of Stratford Green; the other by Dr. McClintock, Master of the Lying-in Hospital, Dublin. My impression that mine was the first case of the kind was, therefore, an error, and I take the earliest opportunity of correcting it.

I am, etc.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Gravesend, January 25th, 1858.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- BEARDSLEY. On January 17th, at Ulverstone, Lancashire, the wife of *Amos Beardsley, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
BURCHELL. On January 21st, at 1, Kingsland Road, the wife of Peter L. Burchell, M.B., of a daughter.
FALCONER. On January 21st, at Bath, the wife of R. Wilbraham Falconer, M.D., of twin sons.

FORBES. On January 24th, at 9, Devonport Street, Gloucester Square, the wife of J. Gregory Forbes, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARSHALL. On January 20th, at 10, Savile Row, the wife of John Marshall, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon, of a son.

SHILLINGFORD. On January 21st, at Hill Street, Peckham, the wife of J. S. Shillingford, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LEATHES—PETT. LEATHES, Charles A. Stanger, Esq., of Bombay, to Emilia Louisa, eldest daughter of Alfred Pett, M.D., of Upper Avenue Road, Regent's Park, at Bombay, on December 5th, 1857.

DEATHS.

BEARDSLEY. On January 17th, at Ulverstone, Lancashire, Harriet, wife of *Amos Beardsley, Esq., Surgeon.

BLACK. On January 18th, at the residence of his father, 2, George Square, Edinburgh, Thomas Black, civil engineer, aged 28 (late of Manchester), son of *James Black, M.D.

CLARK, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Grove Cottage, South Hackney, on January 21st.

DONNELLY, William, M.D., at Seabrook, near Sandgate, aged 63, on January 19th.

FULLER. At Fort William, Calcutta, lately, aged 17, Helen Catherine, fourth daughter of the late Charles Wray Fuller, Esq., Surgeon H.E.I.C.S.

GORDON. On December 24th, 1857, at Pernambuco, aged 29, of yellow fever, Bertha, wife of Charles Gordon, M.D.

HASSARD, Ross, Esq., Surgeon Royal Artillery, at the Danish Hospital, St. Thomas's, of yellow fever, aged 41, on December 16th, 1857; also, on November 3rd, 1857, at Port Royal, Jamaica, of yellow fever, Mary Anne, wife of the above.

HAWKINS. On January 22nd, at 36, Colet Place, Anne, wife of James Hawkins, Esq., Surgeon.

ROGERS, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Newport Pagnell, Bucks, aged 70, on January 21st.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, January 22nd, 1858:—

ADRIEN, John, Oldtown, co. Dublin

BEAUMONT, John Morton, Walton Place, Upper Chelsea

BYRNE, Theodore Edgar Dickson, Whickham, Gateshead-on-Tyne

COOKE, Louis Richard, Orchard Street, Portman Square

DALY, Michael, Mallow, co. Cork

FAULDER, John Jeffery, Newcastle

FORD, James, Sandford, Devon

GIRAUD, Charles Hervé, Petersfield, Hants

KING, Gilbert Lennox, Royal Navy

LEY, Edwin Granville, Rochester

ROBINSON, Augustus, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

At the same meeting of the Court—

EVANS, Richard, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date February 22nd, 1850.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, January 21st, 1858:—

BARRETT, James, Banbury

DAVIES, Henry Harries, Llandyssul, South Wales

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 23RD, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE total number of deaths in London in the week that ended on Saturday (January 23rd) was 1344. In the ten years 1848-57 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1207, but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average to admit of comparison must be raised proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1328. From these statements it appears that the number of deaths in the present return slightly exceeds the estimated amount. Measles is now more fatal than any other disease in the miasmatic order; it was fatal last week in 66 cases. Whooping-cough occupies the next place, having carried off 54 children; 35 persons died from typhus,

and 33 from scarlatina; three children died of the last-named disease at a house in Thomas-street, Kennington.

Diseases of the respiratory organs proved fatal in 361 cases, of these 213 were attributed to bronchitis, and 115 to pneumonia. Only 7 fatal cases were returned under the designation of influenza. The death of a woman is recorded as the result of insufficient nourishment, and a patient died at St. Thomas's Hospital from carbuncle. A widow attained the age of 90.

The causes of death in the improved nosological arrangement, are divided into five classes. Last week 273 persons died of the zymotic class of diseases. Of the constitutional diseases (including consumption, 163), 266 persons died. Local diseases (including inflammations) were fatal in 624 cases. Of developmental diseases, including those peculiar to parturition, the young and the aged, 131 persons died; and of violent deaths 19 cases were recorded.

Last week the births of 941 boys and 857 girls, in all 1798 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1563.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.231 in. The mean daily barometrical reading was above 30 in. on every day last week, except Wednesday, when it was 29.753 in. The mean temperature of the week was 37.5°, which is 0.7° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On Wednesday the excess of mean temperature above the average was as much as 7.3°. The highest temperature in the week was 50.0° on Wednesday; the lowest was 30.5° on Friday. The mean daily range of the week was 9.1°. On Thursday the range was only 4.8°. The mean dew point temperature was 31.2°, and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 6.3°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 38.4°. The mean degree of the humidity of the air was 78, complete saturation being represented by 100. A little snow fell on Thursday. The wind was variable throughout the week. No rain fell.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

Mr. Griffin has forwarded us the subjoined correspondence for publication.

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, 20th January, 1858.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the letter I sent to the Board of Guardians of the Weymouth Union. . . . The result of this election proves that the Guardians will not under any circumstances improve my position. I therefore pray you to exert your legal authority and give me a salary commensurate with the duties I have to perform.

"In your letter of Oct. 15th, 1857, you state: 'with reference to the alleged inadequacy of the salary which you receive for your services as medical officer, the Board can only refer you to the communication which they have already addressed to you on the subject.' I have referred to these documents, and append extracts from them for your re-perusal, as, possibly, amidst your multifarious correspondence you may have forgotten the precise import of the sentences devoted to the subject of my remuneration.

"My Lords and Gentlemen, I ask for an increase of salary as an act of justice and not as a favour; and I trust you will tell me definitely whether you will or will not accede to my request. If you will state that it is your intention to bring in a Bill this session for the amelioration of the position of the Poor-law medical officers, then I will cheerfully waive private claims and await its accomplishment. I respectfully call your attention to a minute of your honourable predecessors in office, dated February 6th, 1841, and their instructional letter, dated March 12th, 1842, and also the fourth resolution of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Medical Relief, dated July 1854.

I have the honour to be, etc.

"RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Poor-law Board."

Extracts from Letters from the Poor-law Board to Mr. Griffin.

"Oct. 2, 1855. 'I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., and to inform you that the statements which it contains will meet with their consideration.'

"Nov. 22, 1855. 'The Guardians will, at the end of twelve months from the date of your appointment, give the subject of your salary their farther consideration. Under these circumstances, and looking to the short period for which you have been the medical officer of the Weymouth district, the Board must decline to interfere further in the matter.'

"March 10, 1856. ' . . . to inform you that the statements which it contains shall meet with their consideration.'

"Dec. 18, 1856. ' . . . to inform you that the subject to which it relates will receive their attention.'

"April 18, 1857. ' . . . acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 4th and 15th instants, in reference to the remuneration which you receive for your services as the medical officer of the Weymouth district of the Weymouth Union.'

Aug. 29, 1857. ' . . . of the 19th inst., in reference to the amount of your remuneration as the medical officer of the Weymouth district of the Weymouth Union.'

"Oct. 15, 1857. 'With reference to the alleged inadequacy of the salary which you receive for your services as medical officer, the Board can only refer you to the communications which they have already addressed to you on the subject.'

Report of the Select Committee on Medical Relief, July 1854.

"Resolution 4. They also recommend that the Poor-law Board should direct their attention to the salaries of the medical officers, which, in some cases, appear to be inadequate to the duties they are required to perform."

Extract from a minute of the Poor-law Commissioners, Oct. 31, 1840.

"By sec. 46 of the Poor-law Amendment Act, the Poor-law Commissioners are empowered, when they may see occasion, to regulate the amount of salaries payable to such officers respectively, and the time and mode of payment thereof.

"It follows, from the provisions just quoted, that the commissioners can authorise the guardians to appoint paid officers, but that the appointment of the officers is made by the guardians; and that the power of determining the amount of the salaries of such officers is vested in the commissioners, and they cannot forbear from calling the attention of the guardians to the obvious advantages of the arrangement that the same authority should not fix the salary and make the appointment.

"It is difficult to over-rate the importance to a union of possessing a body of efficient paid officers. Without efficient paid officers, no union, of whatever size, can conduct its Poor-law business in an economical and satisfactory manner. Although the vigilant superintendence of the guardians is necessary to the well-working of the union, it is not alone sufficient. Here and there an individual candidate, well fitted for a union officer, may, from peculiar circumstances, be willing to accept it for an adequate salary; but even he will, probably, after a short time become dissatisfied, and will desire to transfer his services to some other union, or to seek some other sort of employment."

Instructional Letter of Poor-law Commissioners, March 12, 1842.

"The committee of 1838 expressed an opinion that the medical districts seemed to be in some instances inconveniently large, and that they should be of such a size as to admit of an easy access of the medical man to his patients. It is the earnest wish of the commissioners to carry into effect the recommendation of the committee, that 'the remuneration of medical officers should be such as to ensure proper attention and the best medicines, and the guardians will doubtless perceive that unless the medical officer be adequately remunerated, no vigilance on their part will suffice to secure proper attendance and medicines to the poor under his care.'"

Copy of Letter to the Board of Guardians, Weymouth Union.

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, 18th January, 1858.

"SIR,—In accordance with the terms of your advertisement, I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the appointment of medical officer for the Melcombe Regis district. Should you do me the favour to elect me, and the Poor-law Board confirm the election, I beg you will then consider that I place in your hands my appointment as medical officer of the Weymouth district. . . .

"I have been for nearly three years your medical officer—ample time for you to judge whether I have or have not faithfully performed my duties to the poor. Has a complaint been so much as even whispered that I have neglected my patients? During the time I have amputated two legs above the knee, excised an elbow-joint, and performed other operations of importance; but how have I been remunerated for these valuable services? Why, by a salary which, when divided by the number of patients attended, gives but one shilling and threepence halfpenny for each case. One patient named Puckett I have attended with but a slight intermission nearly three years, and I have during this time cured an extensive disease of one leg, and have been compelled to remove the other by amputation; in addition I have given her an immense quantity of medicine,

for all of which I have received the munificent sum of two shillings and seven pence, the average payment my salary allows for the two orders sent me in this case, and she is still under treatment; but I shall receive no further pay if the orders continue to average as they have done. Surely there is no guardian who will say this is a just remuneration for such services. I have removed the entire elbow-joint of a patient named Cole, and thereby saved her arm, which will be very useful to her; for this somewhat formidable operation, attending her eleven months, and finding her with medicines all the time, splints, etc., I am paid but one shilling and threepence halfpenny. Is there a guardian, however careful he may be of the interests of the ratepayers, who can say this is as it ought to be? The salary you pay the officer of the Wyke district is, on the average of two years, at the rate of 16s. 3½d. per order; that for the workhouse, according to a written statement made me by the late officer, Mr. Boyd, is 4s. 11d. per case of illness; that for the Melcombe district 2s. 2½d.; whilst I have but 1s. 3d. per order. Is this fair? Is it just for a public body to treat me thus? Are you doing your duty as guardians to suffer it to continue? You may be displeased with me for publishing these accounts to the world; but were you in my situation, would you quietly rest under such monstrous injustice as I have suffered for nearly three years? Surely, now you have the opportunity to improve my position a little, and but a very little, you will gladly seize the opportunity, and give me the Melcombe district. "I am, Sir, etc., RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Chairman of the Board of Guardians, Weymouth Union."

WANT OF EXERCISE IN THE UNITED STATES. What we most want in this toiling country is physical exercise. The brain is set going very early in life, and kept going until the oil gives out, and the machine jars and creaks itself still. We find out the impregnable fact that the body is woefully neglected in our loud, tumultuous cities. Their male denizens are nailed down to their business, which is almost always carried on in long, low stores, having an unstable temperature and an atmosphere thick and poisoned, or else in little offices which are rarely visited by healthy, genial sunlight, and are impregnated with a perfume anything but Arabic. In these impure places—doubled up at desks and crammed over counters—very many of the mercantile men spend the brightest and best hours of each day, often without so much as a stretch or a stride. When they go forth into the air and the light, it is only for a frenzied plunge through the trade streets, which they traverse with a startling and dangerous velocity, or for a quick passage to the structures they are pleased to call their homes. They are mentally exercised by violent thoughts of money—how to make it, how to increase and multiply it, how to invest it, how not to lose it—not how to enjoy it, or to live and love life without it. Their arms and legs, their chests, and backs, and cheeks—how shamefully these noble possessions are treated! Do they not deem it a bore and a waste of time to engage in bodily exercise of any kind? Do they not rather signal an omnibus (if, by mysterious chance, that eccentric vehicle happens to be about), and jostle and jolt to their destination, than seek it afoot? Even when the red summer sun beats and burns them out of town, and they rush off to the cooler country, do they find pleasure in long, brisk morning walks over airy hills and fields—in rambles through rough woods—in the active employment of their muscles in hearty, wholesome recreation of that kind? They are to be discovered lounging away the time in armchairs in shady porches, surrounded by volumes of tobacco-smoke, or fidgetting themselves over marked out routes between the house and the tree, or the post, or some other proximate object, or taking lazy views of the fair landscapes from the recesses of stiff, stupid carriages. They give their frames no chance whatever to knit and expand. Now, it is too late to hope for reform in the ways of those whom we have been sketching. But our young men and women ought to make the exercise of their bodies one of the serious duties of their life. Only look at them! The incipient man (we take an extreme case) is a thin, frail creature. His face is sharp and sallow, and has a bleared and bilious appearance. His back can be spanned with both hands, and there will be some hand to spare. The muscles of his arm consist of soft, loose lumps, which give to the touch; his chest, even with the aid of stiff-starched dicky and bulging vest, don't protrude perceptibly, and never makes the mildest attempt at a heave; his legs are matters to be implicitly believed in without any solid proof as to their reality. In fact, the last-named members have become so appallingly lean and same-all-

the-way-up, that the tailors have established a wide, flappy style of integments, into which they slip and are lost, the external effect on the casual observer being agreeably deceptive. The youth spends his spare time in smoking and drinking himself nastily sick, in rotating uncomfortably about a billiard-table in a glare of gas and a fog of burnt tobacco, in unbending stately dancing at hot balls and parties, and in the various pursuits which none but a boy, who is tightly annexed to the strings of his mother's apron, can refrain from indulging in. The poor, parched fellow, wants active, earnest exercise. He needs it more than he needs the Latin lexicon and the Greek roots; more than he needs counting-house cultivation or a lucrative situation down town. The immature lady, as far as we are permitted to judge by her overwhelming and distended dress, is suffering in like manner. Where are the roses which glow on the full cheeks and bursting lips of the unlaced, bouncing country girl? Where is the sparkle that lives in the eye of her who spends less time over her whole toilette than our town belle spends over the most insignificant portion of hers, and whose delight is rather to drink in the jolly fresh breeze of the morning, than the stale and stifling air of the midnight saloon of grim gaiety and flimsy fashion? Her waist is waspish and her foot is minute, but the chances are strong that she stoops or limps, has a cold, and does no blooming without the aid of rouge. How many of our town ladies (as somebody else has asked) envy the fresh, developed beauty, of their "girls in the kitchen"? We want plenty of gymnasiums and all sorts of schools for the body. We want a spacious lot, like the Common, in Boston, on which bustling games can be played. We would that skating and sleighing and swimming were thoroughly understood and appreciated by all the young, and that vigorous pedestrianism were not held to be a bore; for it is fearful to observe with what rapidity we are dwindling in stature, and how every generation is weaker and more dwarfish than its predecessor. (*Philadelphia Evening Journal*.)

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. At the last sitting, Dr. Guyon sent in various coloured drawings of the state of the body and viscera under the influence of yellow fever. Dr. Guyon, having studied that disease for many years in America, had visited Lisbon during the late invasion, where he had caused the drawing in question to be executed. He chiefly called attention to the colour assumed by the liver, which at the same time tends to degenerate into a fatty substance. M. Reynaud, Director of the Lighthouses of France, and M. De-grand, civil engineer, presented an account of a series of experiments undertaken to ascertain the comparative distances at which coloured lights are perceptible. From these experiments, it appears that a red light is seen from a greater distance than a white or any other light, while blue and green are the least perceptible.

BRITISH METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY. At the last meeting of the British Meteorological Society, held on Wednesday, January 20th, Dr. R. D. Thomson, F.R.S., in the chair, a paper was communicated by Dr. Smallwood, "On Ozone and the Meteorology of Isle Jesus, Canada." In this paper, Dr. Smallwood gave observations tending to confirm those heretofore made with regard to the presence or absence of ozone in the atmosphere, as connected with the prevalence or non-prevalence of cholera.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, February 1st, a paper, "On Drainage and Water Supply, in Connexion with Public Health," will be read by Dr. Snow.

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.

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

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