

Home Secretary, in company with Mr. Herapath, and to have urged upon him the duty of respiting the prisoner, on the ground of Mr. Herapath's profound conviction of his innocence. At the very same hour Tawell was confessing the particulars of his crime in Aylesbury gaol.

PALMER'S CONVICTION. It may be recollected that after the charge delivered by Lord Campbell, the jury were absent from court one hour and ten minutes before they returned, and their foreman pronounced the verdict "Guilty." From this it may be inferred that some doubt existed in the mind of one or more of the jury which gave rise to considerable discussion before it could be removed. It may therefore be satisfactory to the public to know that such was not really the case. On their retirement, the jurymen, without discussing among themselves the subject of the prisoner's guilt or innocence, agreed that each individual jurymen should write his verdict, and place it under his hat. Within ten minutes from the time of leaving court this determination was carried into effect, and on raising the hats the word "Guilty" was found under every one of the twelve! The delay in returning into court with the verdict originated in a feeling that, considering the life of a fellow-being was at stake, may with great propriety be said to have been commendable and considerate—that any suggestion compatible with the innocence of the prisoner which might occur to the mind of any individual jurymen should not be precluded from discussion by a hasty verdict. The verdict may with truth, however, be said to have been virtually given in ten minutes, and in the satisfactory manner already mentioned.

THE CONVICT PALMER. Mr. Haud, the under-sheriff of the county of Stafford, has informed Major Salford, governor of the gaol, that the execution of William Palmer will take place on the morning of Saturday, the 14th of June, at 8 o'clock. The scaffold will be erected on the flat roof of the building forming the entrance to the prison. When Palmer arrived at Stafford on Tuesday night, a considerable crowd had assembled to see him; but he was quickly transferred by Mr. Weatherhead and his assistants to a carriage which was in waiting, and in ten minutes he was inside the cell allotted to him. Since then his behaviour has been much the same as before his trial. Two of the prison officers are constantly in his cell; and when he does enter into conversation with them, the purport of his remarks has chiefly reference to a probability of his sentence being remitted. He is as collected and unmoved as ever, and evinces cheerfulness and serenity. Up to yesterday, none of his friends had applied for permission to see him. (*Globe*, May 31st.)

THE RUGELEY POISONING CASE. (To the Editor.) Sir,—As Secretary of the Coroners' Society, I beg to forward you a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted at the annual general meeting of the Society, held on Thursday, the 29th inst., in order to your giving it insertion in your columns, should you think it right to do so. I am, Sir, yours obediently,

SAMUEL F. LANGHAM, jun.

10, Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn, May 30th.

"At the annual general meeting of the Coroners' Society of England and Wales, held in the city of London, on Thursday, May 29th, on the motion of Mr. R. Bremridge, Coroner for Devonshire, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the conduct of Mr. Ward, the Coroner for Staffordshire, on the occasion of the holding of the inquest on the body of John Parsons Cook, as appears by the report of the trial of William Palmer, was discreditable, and if left uncensured by this Society, will have the effect of lowering the office of Coroner in public opinion; and that, regarding this ancient institution as one of the surest safeguards for the security of life and the detection of crime, we cannot but lament that Mr. Ward should have acted as he appears to have done on the late inquiry, and that he should have laid himself open to the severe censure he received at the hands of the Lord Chief Justice." (*Times*.)

NEW BURIAL ACTS BILL. A Bill, prepared by Mr. Massey and Sir George Grey, transfers all the powers now vested in the Secretary of State to the General Board of Health, for the purpose of executing the Burial Acts. Burial Boards are allowed to provide more than one burial-ground; and the provisions of the Acts will apply to every grave-yard so provided; save that the Burial Boards may, where they see fit, provide separate and distinct cemeteries for churchmen and dissenters, in lieu of dividing them into "consecrated" and "unconsecrated" parts. Local Boards of Health may, by an order in Council, be constituted Burial Boards.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL. The annual meeting of the governors and friends of this charity was held at the Hospital, Charing-cross, on June 3rd, the Marquis of Westminster in the chair, in the absence of the president, the Duke of Richmond. The chairman of the committee of management, Sir John Swinburne, who has manifested his interest in the hospital by constant and munificent donations, and by being invariably present at these meetings, was unavoidably absent on account of ill health; but at the board were the Earl of Strafford, the Earl De Grey, Major-General Broke, Admiral Grace, Colonel Wood, sen., of Littleton, Colonel Wood, jun., of the Grenadier Guards, Mr. Lewis Powell, the deputy-chairman, Mr. C. J. Bunyon, other governors, and several officers of the hospital. According to the annual report read by the secretary, Mr. G. C. Farrant, the hospital had been supported at the expense of £821 : 12 : 3 for the year ending the 31st of December last, and there was left a deficiency of assets for the current year of £17 : 13 : 10. Only the interest of the inalienable fund had been appropriated for the purposes of the hospital; the principal formed a permanent capital to insure the future existence of the hospital on an enlarged scale. £4,800 stock was invested, but £12,000 were required to receive an extended number of in-patients. 110,641 persons had availed themselves of the benefits of the charity since its formation to the first day of the present year. 2,328 had been restored to sight by operations for cataract and the formation of an artificial pupil; 4,603 had had their appearance improved by the removal of squinting; 5,938 had during the past year been admitted to the benefits of the hospital; 184 had been in-patients. The number of in-patients was now 24. But the hospital had two wards closed, and many urgent and important cases had been refused solely for the want of funds. The minutes of the special meeting of the 15th of May last were read, in which the committee expressed regret for the death of Mr. Guthrie, and testified affection and respect for him on account of his valuable services to the hospital over a period of nearly forty years, and of the skill and energy with which he had promoted its interests. The meeting expressed its entire concurrence in the testimony borne in those minutes to the memory of Mr. Guthrie. After a long discussion between the noble chairman, the Earl of Strafford, the Earl De Grey, the Dean of Hereford, General Broke, Colonel Wood, and others, it was unanimously resolved that, in order to perpetuate regard for the memory of Mr. Guthrie, a subscription should be entered into to be applied in aid of the Inalienable Fund, and to be called the Guthrie Fund. The subscriptions for this fund from the noblemen and gentlemen present amounted to £130.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. At the Commemoration on Wednesday last, the Honorary Degree of D.C.L. was conferred on Sir Henry Holland, M.D., F.R.S.; Dr. Humphry Sandwith; and Dr. Barth, the African traveller.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DR. PAXTON. Your Letter shall appear next week.

A COUNTRY SURGEON. We do not see that the etiquette of Surgeons should differ from that of other people. In England, the custom is that, when a new comer takes up his residence in a provincial town, the respectable inhabitants and neighbours first call on him.

Communications have been received from:—MR. THOMAS L. PRIDHAM; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. FUNCK; MR. JOHN HATTON; DR. SIEVEKING; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; DR. LANKESTER; MR. G. KING; MR. JOHN LEE; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; MR. J. K. SPENDER; MR. GRIFFIN; MR. W. C. FREER; MR. JOHN BARRETT; DR. ROUTH; MR. W. T. FERNIE; MR. BROWN (Chatham); DR. KIRKMAN; MR. NUNNELEY; DR. J. PAXTON; MR. PETER MARTIN; DR. MACKINDER; and DR. KIDD.

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