

FIRST DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN THE METROPOLIS. On Thursday week, the workmen in the employ of the New River company, completed the laying on of the water supply, from their reservoir, at Claremont Square, to the newly constructed drinking fountain, at the south-east corner of St. Sepulchre's churchyard, in Skinner Street, Old Bailey. The fountain is neatly executed, and the design is both simple and serviceable, with a touch of ornament about it most gratifying to the eye. In a recess, hewn out of the churchyard wall, two small pillars are fixed, from the top of which springs a semi-circular arch, neatly moulded: the sides of the recess, with the arch itself, are of polished Aberdeen granite. In the centre is a tastefully wrought marble shell, through an orifice in which the water will flow into a bowl of white marble, also highly polished. The setting is finished with cement coating, ornamentally executed in relief, materially heightening the effect of the diminutive work it encloses. Deeply cut in the cement of the major arch, is the inscription, "The first Drinking Fountain," and in the granite curve underneath, "The gift of Samuel Gurney, M.P." These letters are trebly gilt. Upon the plinth, immediately below the basin, is engraved, "Replace the cup;" and, upon the base line, the words, "Filtered water from the New River company." The cost of the water supply will be made a charge upon the consolidated rate, and will, of necessity, be so small as not to be felt by even the most needy of the ratepayers. It is expected that the fountain will be opened in a few days.

THE NATIONAL VACCINE BOARD. The report of this body (issued on Saturday) states that during the past year 234,150 charges of lymph have been supplied. The letters received and answered by the Board, during the year, amount to 12,418; an excess of 1,706 over those of the preceding year. Six thousand four hundred and forty-five vaccinations have been performed by the stationary vaccinators in London connected with the establishment, and the correspondents of the Board report that 130,697 vaccinations have been performed by them. The Board has commenced careful inquiries respecting the purity of the lymph supplied to them, and also respecting the best means of affording instruction in vaccination to medical students; but, as all these subjects are still under consideration, they are deferred to a future report.

ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS. Orders have been received at the head quarters of the Medical Staff Corps for the removal of men from the regiments of the line, to enter the Army Hospital Corps; the men are not to have more than three years service. They are required to read and write. Those now serving in the Medical Staff Corps are to be retained under the old warrant of Sept. 1855, for the regulation of the corps. (*United Service Gazette.*)

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