

THE GAS QUESTION. In a letter addressed to the *Times*, Dr. Challice, Medical Officer of Health, for Bermondsey, remarks that the summary dismissal of the proceedings taken by the Bermondsey Vestry against the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company for causing a public and dangerous nuisance by the distribution of deleterious gas for two days throughout a district containing a population of nearly 100,000 by Mr. Combe surely calls for reconsideration. As the question now stands, public comfort may be set at nought, health and life perilled with impunity. Upon the evidence of the engineer to the Company to the effect that this great nuisance (which so poisoned the atmosphere as to stay the worship of the congregations in our churches, was even more suffocating in private dwellings, and also injuriously pervaded the wards of the hospital) arose from "a screw loose," which when discovered was promptly remedied, the summons was at once dismissed. Thus the evidence of the person especially implicated, uncorroborated by any impartial testimony, was deemed sufficient for the past, and a satisfactory assurance for the future! Yet this is not the first occasion of a similar grievance in Southwark, in the district monopolized by this Company. The other gas companies have provision for the prompt prevention of such a serious danger to the public, should accident occur, as the supply of unpurified gas, which when burnt is pernicious, and, if breathed, is fatal. All who are not blinded by selfish interests will now see the necessity for legislative action on a question of such great public importance.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY. In consequence of a recent decision of the Emperor of Russia, the principal medical officers of the navy of that country will be sent abroad for two years, during which time they will be required to visit not only the most celebrated hospitals and *cliniques* in Europe, but also foreign ports, especially those of France, England, and the Low Countries, for the purpose of thoroughly studying the hygienic and medical organisations of European fleets, the lodging and diet of men in barracks and on board-ship, the influence of climate and locality on disease, the organisation of naval hospitals and lazarettos, and other matters of importance. (*Gazette des Hôpitaux*; 26 Janvier, 1860.)

GRATITUDE. The following is a translation of a letter which has appeared in the *Moniteur de l'Armée*. The writer is G. Hraby, lieutenant in the 47th Regiment of Austrian Infantry. He appears to have been wounded and taken prisoner in the late war:—"Will you kindly insert in your excellent

journal the following act of thanks. The undersigned expresses his deep gratitude to M. de Vérac, *médecin-major* of the first class, whose happy interference has saved him from amputation of his arm. He addresses also his warmest thanks to M. Lhonneur, *médecin aide-major*, for the good services which he lavished on him. Finally, he is happy to see, in the preservation of his arm, an additional proof of the high intelligence and scientific practice of French surgeons. Written at Cremona, 12th January, 1860."

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, February 6, a paper will be read on "Quarantine in the East," by R. F. Foote, M.D.

#### HEALTH OF LONDON—JANUARY 28TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

Births. Deaths.

During week .....	{ Boys' 1089	2067 .. 1386
	Girls.. 978	
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58 .....	1291	
Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 202; pneumonia, 127; phthisis, 137; small-pox, 26; scarlatina, 33; measles, 19; diphtheria, 11; whooping-cough, 50. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 368, being 78 above the corrected average.		

Barometer:

Highest (Sat.) 29°01; lowest (Sun.) 29°14.

Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Mon.) 69°5 degrees; lowest (Thurs.) 46°0 degrees. In shade—highest (Fri.) 49°0 degrees; lowest (Sat.) 27°5 degrees. Mean—32°9 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. + 0°5 degree.

Range—during week, 21°5 degrees; mean daily, 11°5 degrees.

Mean humidity of air (*saturation*=100), 80.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.28.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. R. We have not heard that the Society of Apothecaries are likely to grant their license to the Members of the College of Surgeons, on the same terms as the diploma of the College is now being granted to the Licentiates of the Hall. We have received no positive news about the recognition by the Poor Law Board of degrees in medicine.

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

Communications have been received from:—DR. INMAN; DR. MARKHAM; DR. JAS. RUSSELL; DR. HEN. HANCOX; DR. RANKING; DR. COCKLE; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. COWDELL; MR. LL. LODGE; MR. J. H. GRAMSHAW; DR. SKINNER; MR. J. G. APPLETON; MR. CLARENCE MATTHEWS; M.D.; C. R.; DR. R. U. WEST; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; DR. SIEVEKING; M.D. & M.R.C.P.LOND.; MR. W. Y. SHEPPARD; MR. C. WILLIAMS; and MR. R. S. CROSS.

## ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

(INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.)

PATRON—HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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The Council of the ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE have the pleasure to inform the Governors and Friends of the Institution, that the EIGHTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL will take place at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, on THURSDAY, the 26th of APRIL NEXT, when the RT. HON. THE LORD LEIGH has kindly consented to take the Chair.

The following Gentlemen have already undertaken to act as Stewards on the occasion, and a further List will be published shortly. Gentlemen who are desirous to serve, are requested to send their names to the Treasurer, or to the Secretary. There is no liability attached to the office of Steward.

Birkett, Edmund Lloyd, M.D., 48, Russell Square.

Burton, Colonel, Portland Place.

Carr, William, Esq., Lee Grove, Blackheath.

Chandler, James, Esq., Epsom.

Churchill, John, Esq., New Burlington Street.

Cory, C. Fred., M.D., 8, Nassau Place, Commercial Road.

Dalton, William, Esq., Cheltenham.

Fletcher, Bell, M.D., Waterloo Street, Birmingham.

Forest, Robert, Esq., Montague Place, Clapham Road.

France, John F., Esq., Bloomsbury Square.

Gibney, Dr., Cheltenham.

Greaves, Edward, Esq., M.P., Avonside, Barford, Warwick.

Hammond, J. J., Esq., Jersey and Guernsey.

Harcourt, George, Esq., Chertsey.

Harrison, W. A., Esq., 10, Kepple Street, Russell Square.

Hawkins, Bisset, M.D., 29, Upper Harley Street.

Havers, John, Esq., 10 Bedford Place, Russell Square.

Hogg, Jabez, Esq., Gower Street, Bedford Square.

Hayes, Rev. Sir J. W., Bart., Arberfield Rectory, Reading.

Jones, Dr., Lower Seymour Street.

Jones, William, Esq., 20, King's Arms Yard.

Kendall, T. Marsters, Esq., Lynn, Norfolk.

Machin, John, Llington Lodge, Leamington.

Manby, Frederick, Esq., East Rudham.

Milles, Major, 6, Duke Street, Portland Place.

Oxley, T., Esq., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham.

Pilkington, Thomas, Esq., Cheltenham.

Robertson, C. Lockhart, M.D., Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

Smith, William Abbotts, M.D., 38, Doughty Street, W.C.

Sparrow, Dr., Zetland Place, Southsea.

Thorpe, Major-General, Guernsey.

Watlington, F. W. Perry, Esq., M.P., Moor Hall, Harlow, Essex.

Wyman, George, Esq., Alcester.

By order of the Council.

ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.

HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assistant-Secretary.