

inflammable, now 13, then 3; drowning and suffocation were then twice as fatal (23 and 20) as they are (10 and 10) in the present day. Five in 100,000 of the people were executed then annually; now 1 in the whole population. In addition, the inhabitants of London were then destroyed by the terrible plague; which upon an average of the 20 years, carried off 1,132 lives. In 1665 nearly a third of the population perished by plague. It is difficult to conceive this frightful destruction of human life; the imagination, the wailing notes of writers, the details of Defoe in a work which would have immortalised any writer, fail to bring all the horrors before our minds. The mortality was at the rate of 7 per cent. on an average during the 20 years. If the mortality of London had been at the same rate in the last year, instead of 61,617 about 194,204 deaths would have been registered. The plague was the more appalling as the mortality overwhelmed the people in particular years; thus the burials from 15,356 in 1663 rose to 97,306, "whereof 68,596 were by plague," in 1665; and this was equivalent to more than 600,000 deaths by plague in the present population of London. In the third week of September 8,207 deaths were registered, which represents a rate of mortality equivalent to about 85,000 deaths in a week on the actual population of London.

THE LATE SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR. An obelisk to the memory of the late Sir James M'Grigor has just been erected at Aberdeen, in the quadrangle of Marischal College, within the venerable walls of which building the deceased baronet was educated. This testimony of respect to his memory is one of a local nature, having no connexion whatever with the memorial which owes its origin and much of its success to Sir James M'Grigor's admirers south of the Tweed. The Aberdeen obelisk is 72 feet high, and the material of which it is composed is highly polished granite, of a red colour, with the exception of a slab of grey coloured granite, which has been introduced in the pedestal for the purpose of containing the following inscription:—"This obelisk is erected to the memory of Sir James M'Grigor, Bart., M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S., etc., for thirty-six years Director-General of the Army Medical Department, and several times Lord Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen. He was born in Strathspey, North Britain, on the 9th of April, A.D. 1771. He entered the army as surgeon of the Connaught Rangers in 1793, and served the two following years in the campaign of Holland. He was afterwards medical chief in the expedition against the Island of Grenada; in the expedition under Sir David Baird, from Bombay through the deserts of Thebes and Suez to Alexandria; and also in the Walcheren expedition. He was chief of the Medical Department of the Army under the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular war, from the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo in the year 1811 to the final battle of Toulouse in 1814. He was favourably mentioned in the despatches of all the Generals under whom he held these responsible posts, and was repeatedly noticed in those of the Duke of Wellington, who, on the 26th of July, 1814, referring to the manner in which Mr. M'Grigor had conducted the department under his direction, wrote thus: 'I consider him one of the most industrious, able, and successful public servants I have ever met with.' In the course of fifty-seven years of active service, he was exposed to the vicissitudes of war and climate, besides encountering shipwreck and other dangers at sea; yet he lived to attain a tranquil and happy old age. He died in London, on the 2nd of April, A.D. 1858. This memorial is erected near the place of his education and the scenes of his youth." The base of the obelisk is surrounded by a platform of grey coloured granite from the neighbourhood of Aberdeen.

## HEALTH OF LONDON—MARCH 17TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week .....	{ Boys..1046 } 2023 .. 1563	{ Girls.. 977 }
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58 .....	1724 .. 1362	
Among the causes of death were—	bronchitis, 267; pneumonia, 140; phthisis, 171; small-pox, 29; scarlatina, 33; measles, 24; diphtheria, 10; whooping-cough, 45. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 450, being 145 above the corrected average.	
Barometer:	Highest (Sat.) 29.936; lowest (Wed.) 29.327; mean 29.585.	
Thermometer:	In sun—highest (Fri.) 90.7 degrees; lowest (Mon.) 60.0 degrees. In shade—highest (Sat.) 56.5 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 38.7 degrees. Mean—40.2 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—1.0 degree. Range—during week, 27.8 degrees; mean daily, 15.6 degrees.	
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 80.		
Mean direction of wind, Var.—Rain in inches, 0.32.		

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from:—MR. A. M. EDWARDS; DR. ALLEN DUKE; DR. BEGLEY; L.S.A.; DR. W. LEISHMAN; DR. W. GORMAN; MR. J. DIX; MR. R. P. BELL; MR. T. M. STONE; A POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICER; DR. T. INMAN; DR. T. HAYES JACKSON; DR. R. U. WEST; DR. THUDICHUM; MR. I. T. BECK; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; and MR. G. REID.

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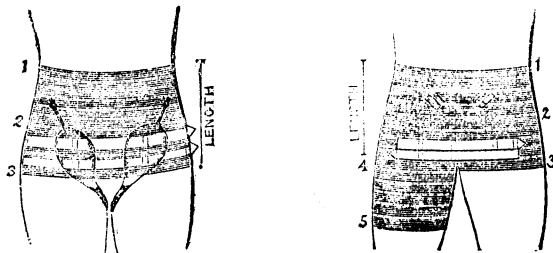
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