

holiday in the year because they had now completed the buildings, which, with the drainage alterations, had cost something like £30,000. Probationers had one week's holiday at the end of the first six months' training; another week at the end of the second six months, a third week at the end of eighteen months' service, and then, when their probation was at an end, they received one month off duty before they settled down to work again. In addition to that, both the staff nurses and probationers frequently had holidays for private reasons, and if ever they were away on sick leave it was never reckoned in their holidays. The interests of the hospital were never allowed to be compromised by having a private nursing staff, and the patients in the wards never suffered on that account. Of 339 private nurses sent out last year, in only three cases was there the smallest complaint. The Committee were now working under a system of fault finding, which enormously increased their difficulties, and which tended to encourage insubordination among their servants. Such a state of things was very unfair to those whom the governors had chosen to manage the institution. Quarterly courts could not go on under the present condition of things, with constant hostile attacks on the management; and it was for the governors to stop such proceedings by supporting the Committee. Mr. P. M. MARTINEAU, L.C.O., seconded the motion.

After some remarks from Mr. W. J. HUTTON, Mr. ROBERT HUNTER delivered a long speech, in which he said that those who criticised the management did not censure the hospital generally; but they did say that the nurses were overworked. So long as the committee withheld a certificate of competency until the end of two years' training the public were entitled to say that a nurse was not fully trained until after two years' service in the hospital. With regard to the holidays of the nurses, the probationers ought to receive three weeks as well as the staff nurses.

Mr. E. MURRAY IND (Chairman of the House Committee) maintained that the present arrangements with regard to the nurses worked for the best, and was satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. COSTELLOE, L.C.C., having spoken in favour of giving the nurses longer holidays, the Rev. J. F. KITTO proposed:—"That this Court of Governors of the London Hospital desires to express its unqualified confidence in the administration of the hospital, its warm appreciation of the services of the House Committee, and its cordial and hearty thanks to the officers of the hospital and the whole nursing staff, for their zealous and loyal co-operation with the committee in carrying out so important a work."

Before putting this to the vote, the CHAIRMAN submitted the proposal for the adoption of the report, which was agreed to unanimously, as was the Rev. J. F. KITTO's motion—Mr. and Mrs. Hunter and another gentleman left the room while the voting took place.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

#### SANITATION OF LONDON HOUSES.

THE work of the London Sanitary Protection Society, 1, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C., a society formed in 1881 for the sanitary inspection of London houses, appears to have progressed during the last ten years in a very satisfactory manner. The Society has for its President the Duke of Argyll; Mr. Timothy Holmes acts as Treasurer; and on the Council, who all act as honorary officers, are Sir Henry Acland, Dr. Bristowe, Dr. Brunton, Sir Andrew Clark, and other eminent physicians, as well as engineers. The Society is precluded by its incorporation from making profits, and finding that even on the very low scale of charges made a surplus has begun to accumulate unnecessarily, a further reduction of charges is being made. There are 1,600 members, and 475 houses were inspected for the first time during the past year, bring up the total number of inspections to 4,591. Since 1888 greater stringency has been introduced in the testing of house drains with water to insure their freedom from leakage into the surrounding soil, experience having proved that drains, though free from obstruction and well ventilated, are frequently in a most dangerous condition from original faulty construction and bad jointing, which permits a free escape of sewage into the soil. Regret is expressed that no application has been received during the past year for sanitary inspection of the dwellings of the working classes throughout London; and seeing that the Association is not reaching the houses of the poor directly, they have given during the past year a further

donation of £10 to the Mansion House Council on the Dwellings of the Poor, who are doing most excellent work in that direction. In the annual report a list is given of provincial sanitary associations (which are not so numerous as could be desired), of which the membership appears to be scanty.

#### NOTIFICATION OF MEASLES.

At the last meeting of the Paddington Vestry, a resolution was adopted, on the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, expressing concurrence with the views of the Vestry of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, touching the desirability of steps being taken to obtain the classification of measles as an infectious disease; and that such Vestry be informed of the action taken by this Vestry in endeavouring to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board to include measles amongst infectious diseases.

#### SMALL-POX AMONG SWISS WAITERS.

THERE seems to be a small outbreak of small-pox in St. Pancras, several cases now having been traced by Dr. Sykes, occurring among Swiss waiters who have been associated by mixing in houses in which they resort. The nationality and association of the sufferers and the fact that small-pox is prevalent in Switzerland are considered to be marked evidences of foreign importation.

#### HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,440 births and 4,571 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, February 27th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had declined in the preceding five weeks from 35.4 to 21.1 per 1,000, rose again to 23.4 during the week under notice. The rates in the several towns ranged from 14.2 in Croydon, 16.6 in West Ham, 17.3 in Huddersfield, and 17.9 in Brighton to 29.9 in Derby, 30.5 in Bristol, 32.9 in Halifax, and 34.0 in Burnley. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 24.1 per 1,000, and exceeded by 1.7 the rate recorded in London, which was 22.4 per 1,000. The 4,571 deaths registered during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 426 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against numbers declining from 607 to 383 in the preceding six weeks; of these, 155 resulted from whooping-cough, 123 from measles, 49 from diphtheria, 39 from diarrhoea, 31 from scarlet fever, 28 from "fever" (principally enteric), and 1 from small-pox. These 426 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 2.2 per 1,000; in London the zymotic death-rate was 2.5, while it averaged 1.9 per 1,000 in the thirty-two provincial towns, and ranged from 0.5 in Croydon and in Norwich, and 0.6 in Plymouth, in Swansea, and in Leicester to 3.5 in Bristol, 3.7 in Liverpool, 3.8 in Cardiff, and 5.0 in Wolverhampton. Measles caused the highest proportional fatality in Sheffield, Sunderland, Liverpool, and Wolverhampton; scarlet fever in Cardiff; whooping-cough in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Derby, Blackburn, Wolverhampton, and Bristol; and diarrhoea in Preston. The mortality from "fever" showed no marked excess in any of the large English towns. The 49 deaths from diphtheria recorded during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 30 in London, 3 in Bristol, and 3 in Sheffield. One fatal case of small-pox was registered in Liverpool, but not one either in London or in any other of the thirty-three towns; 10 small-pox patients were under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday last, February 27th. The number of scarlet fever patients in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital on the same date was 1,198, against numbers declining from 1,397 to 1,244 at the end of the preceding five weeks; the new cases admitted during the week were 86, against 117 and 82 in the previous two weeks. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in London was equal to 5.6 per 1,000, and was slightly below the average.

#### HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, February 27th, 861 births and 635 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had steadily declined in the preceding five weeks from 27.2 to 20.1 per 1,000, rose again to 22.8 during the week under notice, but was 0.6 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the lowest death-rates were recorded in Leith and Edinburgh, and the highest in Paisley and Greenock. The 635 deaths in these towns included 68 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, equal to an annual rate of 2.1 per 1,000, which was slightly below the mean zymotic death-rate during the same period in the large English towns. The highest zymotic death-rates were recorded in Aberdeen and Greenock. The 321 deaths registered in Glasgow included 14 from whooping-cough, 14 from measles, and 4 from diphtheria. Two fatal cases of diphtheria were recorded in Edinburgh, and 5 of whooping cough in Aberdeen. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in these towns was equal to 6.4 per 1,000, against 5.6 in London.

#### HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.

In sixteen of the principal town-districts of Ireland the deaths registered during the week ending Saturday, February 20th, were equal to an annual rate of 31.6 per 1,000. The lowest rates were recorded in Galway and Drogheda, and the highest in Armagh and Waterford. The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases averaged 1.6 per 1,000. The 251 deaths registered in Dublin were equal to an annual rate of 37.4 per 1,000 (against 33.6 and 31.8 in the preceding two weeks), the rate during the same period being 20.7 in London and 17.1 in Edinburgh. The 251 deaths in Dublin included 13 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases (equal to an annual rate of 1.9 per 1,000), of which 4 resulted from diarrhoea, 3 from measles, 3 from whooping-cough, 2 from scarlet fever, and 1 from enteric fever.