

recognise that on the first occasion on which such an honour has been conferred upon a member of our profession the recipient should be one who has created a new era in surgery and who has thereby saved innumerable lives. There is no place in which your precepts and practice have been more zealously followed than in this country, and we, in common with all other peoples, are your debtors. We rejoice in the honour which has been conferred upon you by Her Majesty; and we trust that you may live long to exercise that influence upon the practice of scientific surgery which has made your name famous.

I am, my Lord, yours faithfully,
W. THOMSON, President,
12, Park Crescent, Portland Place,
January 12th, 1897.

MY DEAR MR. THOMSON,—I esteem it a very high honour to receive congratulation from the body which represents my Irish colleagues in surgery, and I feel it to be enhanced by the circumstance that the gratifying message has been communicated to me by yourself, the President of the College.

I well remember the kind part you took in reporting a small address that I gave many years ago in the Richmond Hospital, an act on your part which I suspect had no small share in diffusing among your Irish brethren the principles of antiseptic surgery. I beg you to express to your colleagues on the Council the great gratification which they have caused to me, and

Believe me, very sincerely yours,
JOSEPH LISTER.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE third session of the twenty-sixth Parliament of the United Kingdom was opened on Tuesday.

NOTICES.

THE PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

MR. CALDWELL has intimated that he proposes to ask the Secretary for India whether the attention of the Indian Government has been called, or will be called, to the necessity of having suitable hospital accommodation at Bombay for the isolation and treatment of cases of plague, and whether, in view of the great suitability of the military lines and cantonment of Colaba for such a purpose, the Indian Government will find other accommodation for the troops in Bombay?

THE FACTORY ACTS.

SIR C. DILKE has given notice to ask the Home Secretary whether it is his intention to introduce, in the present session, a Bill for the consolidation of the Factory Acts with any minor amendments of the law?

THE CASE OF DR. FOSTER NEWLAND.

MR. FIELD has on the notice paper a question to the President of the Board of Trade as to whether he is aware that Dr. Foster Newland has remonstrated against his dismissal without notice or complaint from his position as medical officer to the Irish Lights Board in the Kingstown District after a satisfactory service of 20 years; and whether he will cause an investigation to be made into the facts.

TRANSIT OF CATTLE.

MR. FIELD also intends to ask the Secretary for Ireland whether he will introduce a Bill to ensure the more humane cross-Channel transit of live stock, by making shipping companies liable under the Carriers' Act for injuries to animals caused by careless handling and insufficient fittings.

LAW OF EVIDENCE (CRIMINAL CASES).

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL has given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to amend the law of evidence in criminal cases.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

MR. KNOWLES has given notice that on an early day he will call attention to the treatment of habitual drunkards, and move a resolution.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

ESTIMATION OF LEAD IN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.
We have received from Mr. N. J. Hughes-Hallett, Clerk to the Derbyshire County Council, the following letter for publication, which he has addressed to the Clerk of the Rural District Council, Chesterfield. The letter sufficiently explains the circumstances.

County Offices, St. Mary's Gate, Derby, January 15th, 1897.
George Shaw, Esq., Clerk to Rural District Council, Chesterfield.
DEAR SIR,—The Derbyshire County Council met on Wednesday, the 13th instant, and their attention was then called to remarks reported to have been made by your water engineer, Mr. Eaton, at a recent meeting of your authority with reference to the results of analyses made by our county medical officer, Dr. Barwise, of water submitted to him by Dr. Mackintosh for the purpose of ascertaining whether lead was present therein or not. As you are aware Dr. Barwise reported that two samples analysed by him contained respectively 0.45 and 0.42 grains of lead per gallon. It appears from the papers that this report was called into question by Mr. Eaton, who stated that Dr. Barwise did not know what he

was talking about, that his analysis was all wrong, that it was ridiculous to talk about 0.42 grains of lead per gallon, and that such a state of things did not exist. He went on to infer that Dr. Barwise had carried out his work in an amateurish manner, with the silly result arrived at.

Since these reported remarks of Mr. Eaton appeared in the public press further portions of the same samples of water which had been examined by Dr. Barwise have been handed to Mr. White, the County Analyst for Derbyshire, and to Dr. Bostock Hill, the County Analyst for Warwickshire. The results of the three analyses of the samples of water submitted by Dr. Mackintosh are as follows:

	Sample No. 1.	Sample No. 2.
Dr. Barwise	0.45	0.42
Mr. White	0.45	0.39
Dr. Bostock Hill	0.35	0.39

It will thus be seen that Dr. Barwise's estimate, to which Mr. Eaton has taken exception, is confirmed to within $\frac{1}{30}$ of a grain, an almost inappreciable quantity.

In further confirmation of the above results two taps in your district were on the 8th inst. sealed up by the county sanitary inspector in the presence of Drs. Mackintosh and Meredith Richards; and on the following day the seals were broken and samples collected in duplicate by the same inspector in the presence of Dr. Richards. These samples were subsequently analysed by Mr. White, with the following results, namely:

Mr. Hewitt's tap at Holbrook	0.30 grains per gallon.
Mr. Robert's tap at Halfway	0.42

Your Council will thus see that a week after Mr. Eaton's reported statement that such result as 0.42 grains of lead per gallon was nonsense, the same quantity was again proved to be present in the water.

Under these circumstances the County Council very strongly resent Mr. Eaton's derogatory remarks concerning one of their officers, and at their meeting held on Wednesday last the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"That the clerk be instructed to communicate with the Chesterfield Rural District Council with reference to the statement made by their engineer, Mr. Eaton, at their last meeting, and to inform them of the results of the water analyses obtained by Dr. Bostock Hill and the county analyst, and that the District Council be asked to call upon Mr. Eaton to either substantiate or withdraw the statements made by him with reference to the county medical officer. And further that a copy of such communication be sent to the press."

In accordance with this resolution I have already explained what has taken place with regard to the examination of the water submitted to Dr. Barwise, and I now ask that you will be good enough to bring this letter before your District Council at their next meeting. I have no doubt that your authority will comply with the request of the County Council contained in the latter part of their resolution, and when this has been done I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me know the result of your Council's communication to Mr. Eaton.

In accordance with the directions of my Council I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the press.

I am, yours faithfully,
N. J. HUGHES HALLETT.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 7,127 births and 4,055 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, January 16th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 22.3 and 19.4 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, further declined to 19.2 last week. The rates in the several towns ranged from 9.1 in West Ham, 15.4 in Portsmouth, 15.5 in Brighton, and 15.9 in Leicester to 23.9 in Wolverhampton, 24.9 in Preston, 25.1 in Liverpool, and 28.3 in Plymouth. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 20.1 per 1,000, and exceeded by 2.1 the rate recorded in London, which was 18.0 per 1,000. The zymotic death-rate in the thirty-three towns averaged 1.8 per 1,000; in London the rate was equal to 1.7, while it averaged 1.8 per 1,000, in the thirty-two provincial towns, and was highest in Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Blackburn, and Nottingham. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.6 in Nottingham, 1.7 in Portsmouth, 1.8 in Bradford, and 2.1 in Plymouth; scarlet fever of 1.0 in Gateshead; whooping-cough of 1.1 in Sunderland, 1.6 in Bristol and in Nottingham, and 2.0 in Blackburn; and "fever" of 1.1 in Halifax. The 77 deaths from diphtheria in the thirty-three towns included 52 in London, 9 in Birmingham, 3 in Bristol, 2 in Liverpool, and 2 in Leeds. No fatal case of small-pox was registered during the week under notice, either in London or in any of the thirty-two large provincial towns. There were 3 small-pox patients under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals on Saturday last, January 16th, against 3 and 2 at the end of the two preceding weeks; 1 new case was admitted during the week. The number of scarlet fever patients in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had declined from 4,164 to 3,597 at the end of the twelve preceding weeks, had further fallen to 3,414 on Saturday last; 208 new cases were admitted during the week, against 219, 271, and 290 in the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, January 16th, 991 births and 664 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had increased from 20.3 to 22.8 per 1,000 in the seven preceding weeks, declined to 21.9 last week, but exceeded by 2.7 per 1,000 the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 17.3 in Aberdeen to 23.8 in Paisley. The zymotic death-rate in these towns averaged 2.5 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Greenock and Glasgow. The 323 deaths registered in Glasgow included 25 from measles, 23 from whooping-cough, 3 from "fever," and 2 from diphtheria.

THE SUPERANNUATION ACT AND THE NURSES.

THE Metropolitan Asylums Board at its last meeting had under discussion the position of the nurses under this Act, and, on a recommendation from the General Purposes Committee, recommended that the President of the

Local Government Board be requested to receive a deputation from the managers with the view of urging upon the Board the desirability of supporting the proposed amendments which were in course of preparation, so that the great injustice done to nurses by this recent Act might be remedied. We are very glad to see that action is being taken by this important body, and that this question is being dealt with in such a statesmanlike manner. If nurses are to be offered opportunities of providing for their old age, it should be in such a way that there may be a reasonable prospect of reaping the fruits of their prudence. As the Act now stands, very few nurses could ever come within the scope of its provisions.

THE INSANE POOR IN IRISH WORKHOUSES.

AN important letter on the above subject from the Local Government Board was read at the meeting of the Governors of the Clare Lunatic Asylum. This letter pointed out that the workhouse was designed for the reception and treatment of the destitute and sick poor, and not for the custody of the insane, and that the obligation to make due provision for the insane poor rests with the governors of the asylums. We are most fully in accord with the principle of this letter, and we have from time to time endeavoured to draw attention to the miserable condition of the imbecile and idiot class in the workhouses. At present, both in this country and in Ireland, the management of the harmless class of lunatics is chaotic, and often the unhappy idiot is banded from workhouse to asylum, or asylum to workhouse, because in neither institution is he a welcome inmate. Now that the responsibility of the governors of asylums is put so clearly, we trust that means will be forthcoming to enable them to meet their responsibilities. It is a question of accommodation; the asylums are overcrowded, and the adjustment of the financial burden of their increase has to be equitably apportioned.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE EASTBOURNE DISTRICTS.

AT a recent meeting of the Eastbourne Town Council it was decided that in the event of the united districts, to which the late Dr. Fussell was medical officer of health, being divided, Dr. Willoughby, the medical officer of health of Eastbourne should be allowed to apply for the appointment to the Eastbourne Rural District Council. Some discussion arose with regard to this matter, it being urged on the one hand that the claims made upon the time of the medical officer of the town were such as not to admit of his undertaking extra work; while on the other hand it was pointed out that there would be considerable advantage if the medical officer of health were in a position to act as adviser with regard to health conditions in the rural parishes immediately surrounding Eastbourne. A letter from Dr. Willoughby was read, in which he stated he wished to withdraw his application. This letter was, however, ultimately withdrawn, and Dr. Willoughby placed himself in the hands of the council. It was decided that the permission requested should be granted.

DISINFECTATION IN ST. GEORGE SOUTHWARK.

THE system to be adopted in disinfecting dwellings in which there has been infectious disease is receiving a good deal of attention in St. George's Southwark. Three years ago, acting on the advice of its medical officer, the vestry provided a steam disinfecting apparatus, and Dr. Waldo has also succeeded in inducing the sanitary authority to make arrangements for providing a shelter house for the accommodation of families during the disinfection of their homes. A special committee of the vestry has moreover, had under consideration the question of the arrangements for disinfecting dwellings in force in the parish. The medical officer of health has recently reported on the matter, and he presented to the vestry at its last meeting a supplementary report on room disinfection, in which the points requiring attention in connection with office administration, and with the arrangements as they affect the household concerned, are dealt with in detail. Dr. Waldo makes a number of suggestions with regard to the routine to be observed, and points out the need for additional assistance in order to place the system of disinfection upon an efficient basis. In an appendix to the report a proposed code of rules for the guidance of disinfectors is submitted for the vestry's approval. Dr. Waldo's report has been referred to a committee for consideration.

"AGGREGATE" SERVICE AND "EMOLUMENTS" UNDER SUPERANNUATION ACT.

SECRETARY (Norwich) writes to ask the meaning of the terms "aggregate" and "emoluments" under this Act, and whether, in case of an officer serving for ten years in each of two unions at the same time, this would count as twenty years.

. In calculating the amount payable for superannuation, all service under the Poor Law is to be reckoned, so that if an officer leaves the service, and returns to it after the lapse of years, both periods of actual service are to be aggregated in reckoning the claim. Our correspondent's claim will in the course of time be against both unions in which he has served, but will be reckoned on the length of time he has been engaged in each union only. The term "emoluments" is defined as including all fees, poundage, and other payments made to any officer as such for his own use, also the money value of any apartments, rations, or other allowances in kind appertaining to his office. Fees received from guardians for certifying lunatics for asylums would not be reckoned as emoluments.

M.O.H. AND CLERK.

RURAL M.O.H.—Inasmuch as the firm of architects has advised in the same sense as himself, our correspondent does not appear to be called upon to take any other action beyond what he has already taken—speaking to the chairman of the council. The clerk has incurred unnecessary expense, and this is so patent that it will probably provide a remedy against similar conduct in the future.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE Local Government Board has sanctioned the borrowing of the sum of £10,600 by the Richmond Town Council for perfecting the water supply to the town.

THE *Gazette* of January 19th announces that the Queen has been pleased to renominate Dr. William Moore, Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, to be, for five years from January 25th, a member of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, for Ireland.

THE sum of £10,000 has now been obtained to provide a maternity hospital for Dundee, and the matter has been taken up by the managers of the Royal Infirmary, and will without delay be proceeded with. Half of the sum was received by the Forfarshire Medical Association from the Cobb bequest, and the remaining £5,000 raised by public subscription.

THE Portsmouth Medical Union has resolved to make a presentation to the medical officers of the Order of Rechabites of that town who recently resigned, in acknowledgment of the united stand they made on behalf of the whole profession in the recent dispute with that Order. The presentation will be made by Dr. Ward Cousins at the Medical Library on Tuesday next, January 26th.

INTERHOSPITAL FOOTBALL.—The Interhospital Rugby Football Cup was founded in 1874, and since then twenty-one competitions have been completed. St. Thomas's has won for the last five years in succession, and has altogether nine wins to its credit, Guy's four, St. George's three, the London and St. Bartholomew's two, and the Middlesex one. The first round of the competition in the present season will be played before the end of this month.

OUR Liverpool correspondent writes: January 10th was Hospital Sunday in Liverpool, and the weather fully maintained the reputation it has gained of late years for inclemency. On this occasion the collections show a considerable falling off in almost all cases as compared with last year. There is a strong feeling among the friends of the hospitals in favour of fixing Hospital Sunday at some milder time of the year.

AT a quarterly court of the directors of the Society for the Relief of the Widow and Orphans of Medical Men on January 13th, Mr. Christopher Heath, Vice-President, in the chair, one new member was elected, and the deaths of one honorary and two other members announced. It was resolved to distribute £1,212 10s. among the fifty-one widows, thirteen orphans, and five recipients from the Copeland Fund. Presents amounting in the aggregate to £368 were distributed on December 21st among the widows and orphans on the books of the Society. It was reported that the expenses of the quarter had amounted to £76.

TRAINED NURSES IN THE UNITED STATES.—Under the name of the Trained Nurses' United Aid Society of America, what is described as the most extensive association of nurses yet organised in the United States has recently been incorporated. More than 6,000 nurses are said to have joined the Society. Its object is the relief of members who are prevented from following their employment by illness or accident, and in case of death the payment of a funeral benefit. Other advantages proposed are homes of rest, loans of money in temporary distress, a sickness fund, endowed beds, and pensions.

ANTIVIVISECTION PETITIONS.—We published recently a note from Mr. J. J. Langley, calling attention to the house-to-house antivivisectionist canvassing now being practised in the West End, and we have since received a similar communication from another correspondent. Signatures are obtained in the usual haphazard fashion, and leaflets of the ordinary sort are distributed. We would remind our readers that the Honorary Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Medicine by Research (Mr. Stephen Paget, 57, Wimpole Street) is always glad to send literature relating to experiments on animals to anyone who wishes to have a ready answer to the antivivisectionist.