

## HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,471 births and 3,491 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, July 16th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 17.1 per 1,000 in each of the preceding two weeks, rose to 17.9 during the week under notice. The rates in the several towns ranged from 9.8 in Croydon and in Birkenhead, 10.7 in Brighton, 13.5 in Hull, and 13.6 in Oldham to 19.8 in Halifax, 20.0 in Salford, 21.3 in Blackburn, 21.5 in Liverpool, and 22.6 in West Ham. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 17.1 per 1,000, and 1.8 below the rate recorded in London, which was 18.9 per 1,000. The 3,491 deaths registered during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 598 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against numbers increasing from 477 to 503 in the preceding three weeks; of these, 260 resulted from diarrhoea, 131 from measles, 80 from whooping-cough, 60 from diphtheria, 44 from scarlet fever, 23 from "fever" (principally enteric), and not one from small-pox. These 598 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.1 per 1,000; in London the zymotic death-rate was equal to 4.2, while it averaged only 2.2 per 1,000 in the thirty-two provincial towns. No fatal case of any of these diseases was recorded last week in Brighton; in the other towns they caused the lowest death-rates in Hull, Leeds, Derby, and Norwich, and the highest rates in London, Sunderland, Leicester, and West Ham. Measles caused the highest proportional fatality in Birkenhead, Huddersfield, Halifax, West Ham, Oldham, and Sunderland; scarlet fever in Swansea; whooping-cough in West Ham, Nottingham, Preston, Huddersfield, Wolverhampton, Bolton, and Burnley; and diarrhoea in Sheffield, West Ham, Bristol, Preston, London, and Leicester. The mortality from "fever" showed no marked excess in any of the large towns. The 60 deaths from diphtheria recorded during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 43 in London, 4 in West Ham, and 3 in Birmingham. No fatal case of small-pox was registered either in London or in any of the large provincial towns; 17 small-pox patients were under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals, and 4 in the Highgate Small-pox Hospital, on Saturday last, July 16th. The number of scarlet fever patients in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals, and in the London Fever Hospital on the same date was 2,488, against numbers increasing from 1,226 to 2,372 on the preceding sixteen Saturdays; 322 new cases were admitted during the week, against 331 and 301 in the previous two weeks. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in London was equal to 2.1 per 1,000, and was below the average.

## HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, July 16th, 880 births and 480 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had declined from 19.3 to 17.6 per 1,000 in the preceding three weeks, further declined to 17.2 during the week under notice, and was 0.7 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the lowest death-rates were 13.2 in Greenock and 14.1 in Edinburgh, and the highest rates 18.3 in Glasgow and 20.1 in Leith. The 480 deaths in these towns included 62 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, equal to an annual rate of 2.2 per 1,000, which was 0.9 below the mean zymotic death-rate during the same period in the large English towns. The highest zymotic death-rates were recorded in Leith and Paisley. The 235 deaths in Glasgow included 9 from measles, 9 from whooping-cough, 6 from scarlet fever, and 4 from diphtheria. Two fatal cases of diphtheria were recorded in Aberdeen. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in these towns was equal to 2.3 per 1,000, against 2.1 in London.

## HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.

In sixteen of the principal town-districts of Ireland the deaths registered during the week ending Saturday, July 9th, were equal to an annual rate of 19.7 per 1,000. The lowest rates were recorded in Armagh and Dundalk, and the highest rates in Sligo and Newry. The death-rate from the principal zymotic diseases averaged 3.2 per 1,000. The 146 deaths registered in Dublin were equal to an annual rate of 21.8 per 1,000 (against 27.4 and 24.6 in the preceding two weeks), the rate during the same period being 17.2 in London and 14.8 in Edinburgh. The 146 deaths registered in Dublin included 20 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases (equal to an annual rate of 3.0 per 1,000), of which 13 resulted from measles, 3 from diarrhoea, 2 from whooping-cough, 1 from diphtheria, and 1 from enteric fever.

## OBITUARY.

## WILLIAM EDWARD BALKWILL, M.R.C.S.ENG.

WILLIAM EDWARD BALKWILL, a descendant of the well-known George Fox, was associated for over twenty years with the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, of which he was one of the surgeons. A victim in the early part of the present year to a second attack of influenza, he did not allow himself the necessary respite from work fully to re-establish his strength, and succumbed after a few hours' illness on the morning of July 11th.

A skilful operator and devoted to the speciality he had adopted—orthopædic surgery—he has left behind many friends both in England and America who will mourn the loss of an ardent and zealous worker. Snatched away at the early age of 43, in the midst of hard and incessant toil, his life must always remain (happily not unique in the annals of the medical profession) a monument of disregard of self, and an unselfish devotion to the needs of others, and none will

miss him more than the poor, whether at the hospital or in his daily round, who always found a sympathetic friend and showed his tender thought for their infirmities, and helped them in their suffering by a cheery word or a genial smile. Mr. Balkwill, who was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was a member of the British Medical Association, and had looked forward with great interest to taking part in the forthcoming annual meeting at Nottingham, where it was his intention to have given a demonstration on orthopædic apparatus.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SCHOOL OF SURGERY, IRELAND.—The "Mayne Scholarship" of fifteen pounds has been awarded to Mr. G. Hamilton.

It is officially announced by the authorities of the St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy that stammering will in future be considered a disqualification in candidates for admission.

THE annual meeting of the Austrian food analysts and microscopic experts will be held this year at Vienna, between October 15th and 20th. The committee entrusted with the preparation of a "Codex Alimentarius" is making progress with its task.

A BREAKFAST will be given at the Exchange Hall, Nottingham, on Wednesday next, when Dr. H. Martyn Clark, of Umritsur, Punjab, and Dr. Hoernlé will give a short account of medical mission work. Dr. Roberts Thomson will take the chair.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.—Drs. Beely and Kirchoff have published a book on *The Human Foot: its Care and Covering*. The authors, after considering the anatomy and the functions of the human foot, proceed to ask how a "rational" modern shoe should be constructed, and then discuss the "rational stocking."

THE Gesellschaft deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte will assemble for its 65th meeting on September 11th, in Nuremberg. The business of the Congress will commence on the following morning. Among those who will take part in the Congress and read addresses are Professors von Helmholtz, Ziegler, His, Strümpell, and Hueppe. The Sections will meet on Tuesday and Thursday, the general sessions, at which the addresses are given, being held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

A QUARTERLY court of directors of the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men was held on July 13th, Sir James Paget, President, in the chair. Two new members were elected. The deaths of two widows receiving grants were reported. It was resolved to distribute the sum of £1,296 among the fifty-six widows and eighteen orphans now in receipt of grants. No fresh applications for assistance were read. The expenses of the quarter amounted to £51 11s.

WE desire, says the *Citizen*, to honour an act of unselfish devotion to humanity and duty performed by Dr. Jones, of the Earlwood Asylum. A little girl, 6 years of age, named Ethel Sargent, was admitted to the infirmary of the Asylum on Sunday evening, July 10th, suffering from diphtheria. Her condition was so serious that tracheotomy had to be performed. The accumulation of matter threatened the life of the little sufferer, and after being warned by his colleague of the danger, Dr. Jones sucked the tube and relieved the patient.

THE DENTAL HOSPITAL.—On July 15th, at Prince's Hall, a *conversazione* was given in connection with the distribution of prizes to the students of the Dental Hospital. Mr. Morton Smale (Dean of the hospital) read during the evening a very satisfactory report in reference to the progress of the school during the past year. Professor St. George Mivart, having distributed the prizes, briefly addressed those present. He observed that human happiness depended largely upon matters with which the hospital had to deal, for personal godness was intimately connected with perfect digestion. Dentistry was a very ancient art, having been practised by the early Egyptians. Although it held its own throughout the