

ficial area is eight hundred and ninety-six feet, and the cube contents sixteen thousand feet; as altered, it will be fifty feet long, by twenty-eight feet wide, and twenty feet high, the superficial area one thousand four hundred feet, and the cube contents thirty thousand feet. They are of opinion that the present council room might be advantageously appropriated as a room in which those fellows who wish to read and write, free from interruption, might be accommodated. The substantial and ornamental repairs necessary for the rest of the premises are estimated to cost £600. These alterations the Council beg to recommend to the Society for adoption, and that they should empower the trustees of the Society to sell as much stock as will produce such a sum (not exceeding £2,000) as may be required for defraying the expenses of these alterations, and for the payment (already authorised by the Society) of £300 to Mr. Scott for his interest in the lease of the premises."

The Society, after an animated debate, refused to sanction the proposed expensive alterations, and decided that the house should simply be put in a state of efficient repair.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

APPROACHING SESSION OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The first meeting will take place on Saturday the 12th instant, when the proceedings will be opened by a paper from the President of the Society. This meeting, our readers are aware, is the first since the amalgamation of the old Medical with the late Westminster Medical Society. We cannot but congratulate the Fellows, and the profession at large, upon the pleasing prospect which is now opening. At last, the metropolis may look forward, with confidence, to the establishment of a Society so constituted, as, in every respect, to meet the exigencies of the times. It is a fact, curious yet not less true, that, numerous, great, and deservedly-esteemed, though the scientific societies in London are, there is yet not one in itself capable of carrying out the manifold objects of an Academy of Sciences. Societies that might have taken the initiative in carrying out such views, have so long neglected or refused to act, that they have ceased to be in a position to do so; while others, governed by monopolising bodies, are too deservedly unpopular to undertake the task with any chance of success. None of these objections apply to the Medical Society of London. With antiquity, and the most active portion of the medical talent of the metropolis on its side, it is preeminently qualified to supply the void.

The Library and Hall of meeting are now in a most central position, at No. 33 George-street, Hanover-square. The meetings are to be held, (as formerly, in the Westminster Medical Society.) on Saturday evening, and are to continue weekly, until the end of May. But the advantages of the Society have been greatly extended: several new and most wholesome measures have been adopted. An old custom in the Medical Society has been also revived, namely, the appointment of Sectional Committees, consisting of distinguished and active Fellows: one for Medicine, one for Surgery, and a third for Midwifery. Other Sectional Committees are in contemplation. The departments of Chemistry, of Materia Medica, and of Statistics, will be duly represented. From the labours of these Sectional Committees, much public and professional advantage may be expected. We would suggest that, in future, the Sectional Committees consist of *thirteen* in place of *seven* members; and that they be elected by the Society. The aggregate Sectional Committees ought then to form the Executive Council. It has been proposed to open direct relations with Government, in relation to sanitary or other measures connected with medical science. Companies and individuals, moreover, requiring information and advice on any point of vital statistics, on new discoveries, or other improvements

made, will have the opportunity, in this way, to obtain the advice and assistance of a Sectional Committee especially appointed for the purpose of giving the information. Herein, it is hoped, will be developed a valuable agency:—a board, whose opinions, unbiassed by Collegiate partialities, or Government control, may ultimately—and the sooner the better—supersede the Board of Health, or, at least, carry out the intentions of that ill-constituted institute in stricter accordance with truth and science,—a task which can never be accomplished by untrained sanitary amateurs. In this way we hope to see Public Hygienics prevented from continuing (as at present) little better than a branch of quackery, and a field for jobbing.

Two Lettsomian Professorships have also been established. Though these appointments are, owing to the limited means at the disposal of the Society, only as yet honorary, it is to be hoped that they may not always remain so. Those who obtain them will at least have reason to be proud of the distinction. They have been named in honour of the distinguished benefactor of the old Medical Society. Their object is to enable Fellows who have become distinguished in any particular branch, to communicate their views in a more public and satisfactory manner—precisely as the lecturers at the Royal Colleges do, only that hereafter men shall not be elected by the partiality of a few high in office, but by general suffrage, merited through their own intrinsic and distinguished knowledge. We hope to see the Lettsomian Professorships become objects of high ambition, honourable emulation, and some emolument.

The library of the old Medical, towards the support of which all available means will be employed, is a great advantage. It is hoped that it may be enriched now, not only in the older standard works, but also by those of more recent publication. Large presents of this kind, from many of our most esteemed modern authors, have already been promised. The Reading Room will remain open, we understand, from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M., and will thus afford ampler facilities for the study and consultation of books, than London has ever yet afforded to the medical profession.

The Fothergillian Medals are well known. This year an additional medal is offered, to commemorate the occasion of the amalgamation.

The number of papers already promised is unusually large; and we may thus look for a very interesting and instructive session. The papers, it is hoped, will be issued at the close of the session in a volume of transactions. Papers only of value should be read; and *all* those read should be printed in a good but inexpensive form, provided the authors supply their manuscripts when required, and do not cause delay in bringing out the volume.

All these are great, very great advantages, and entitle to gratitude those who planned and carried out the amalgamation. We trust that the motives of the council of the Society, and their exertions during the recess, will be appreciated by every medical practitioner in or near the metropolis. The profession may rest assured, that the Medical Society of London will, if it obtain the support it merits, be surpassed by no other Society; that it will not only take the lead among the Societies of London, but gain a preeminent position among the most famous and the most learned academies of the world. We therefore earnestly advise all who love medical science, and all who desire (easily and unexpensively) to keep pace with its progress, to rally round the banner of the London Medical Society. Let all metropolitan practitioners, who are not now Fellows, with one consent enter the Society, and then all that could be desired will be accomplished.

MORTALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH OF OXFORD. An excellent example has recently been set in the city of Oxford, by the publication of monthly and quarterly reports of its sanitary condition, together with classified lists of deaths in the Infirmary. These instructive reports are now regularly issued under the patronage, and at the expense, of the Ashmolean Society, being

compiled by **DR. GREENHILL** and **MR. ALLEN**, who have appended some valuable editorial remarks. We hail their appearance with satisfaction, and trust that other towns will not fail to adopt a similar publication. Much useful information, now lost to the profession, would thereby be put upon record; and conduce greatly to the advance of sound knowledge and practical experience. According to the Quarterly Report, for the spring of 1850, the state of the public health at Oxford was highly satisfactory; the deaths being proportionally fewer than in the metropolis; although London then proved also very healthy. A comparison even of the mortality from zymotic diseases in the two cities, shows a slight superiority in favour of Oxford. The diseases from which the greatest number of deaths occurred, were phthisis, fever, convulsions, and disease of the heart. The deaths from fever proved more numerous than in the similar period of any of the previous years; whilst those from erysipelas were more than double the average. No fatal case of small-pox has been reported at Oxford in any spring quarter since 1845; an immunity, doubtless, greatly owing to vaccination. The classified list of deaths in the Infirmary contains a short statement of the most important cases, with the chief symptoms, and the pathological appearances observed on dissection. The profession are much indebted to **Dr. Greenhill** and **Mr. Allen** for these useful statistical tables. If every hospital and infirmary throughout Great Britain would periodically publish similar official reports, far more correct notions respecting the mortality in public institutions would be acquired, than we at present possess. We believe that the deaths in hospitals are more numerous than they ought to be.

DISGUSTING LIBEL ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. Blue Books are often full of worthless and irrelevant opinions; they are also sometimes made vehicles for libel. **MR. SADLER**, an undertaker, states in his evidence, that "it is known that surgeons take commission on funerals." This may be true in some exceptional instances, for within the pale of our profession, as in others, improprieties and crimes are committed; but it was grossly wrong to convert an unsupported charge into a disgusting libel on the entire medical profession, as is done by publishing it in the Blue Book. If **Mr. Sadler** had been asked,—“Is it known that clergymen have committed adultery, and lawyers forgery?” he could only have replied in the affirmative. But would this reply have been published at the expense of the country? It is most discreditable for members of the House of Commons thus wantonly to put forth so revolting, and so false and disgusting a libel on the medical profession.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. J. CONOLLY, OF HANWELL. As an amiable and upright man, and as a learned and accomplished physician, **Dr. Conolly** is worthy of all praise; but it is in the nobler position of a great benefactor of his species, that he peculiarly deserves the honour and the gratitude of his fellow men. Honour and gratitude never were more richly merited. We are therefore rejoiced to find that a committee has been formed for presenting to him a testimonial “commemorative of his invaluable and most successful labours in ameliorating the condition of the insane.”

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. G. A. WALKER. We hope that a large sum of money may be collected for this most proper object. The newspapers recently announced, that a numerous and influential public meeting had been held for the purpose of taking steps to collect a fund “to present **Mr. Walker** with a Testimonial of the public sense entertained by the community of his energetic, unwearied, and successful labours in the cause of sanitary reform, and of the removal of the dead from the centre of the homes of the living.” We are glad to learn that the subscription is going on prosperously.

LANCET BIOGRAPHIES OF LIVING MEDICAL MEN. There is at present in course of publication in the *Lancet*, a series of one hundred biographies of eminent living members of our profession. Objections may at first be taken to the project, on the plea of its indelicacy or general impropriety; but so far as it has already been executed, there is not much for the most captious to complain of. There have already appeared, interesting and instructive memoirs of Sir Benjamin C. Brodie, Dr. Chambers, Mr. Guthrie, Dr. Marshall Hall, Dr. Clutterbuck, and Mr. Bransby B. Cooper. The seventh of the series will be Sir James M'Grigor. A portrait accompanies each biography.

BIOGRAPHIES OF EMINENT DECEASED MEDICAL MEN. The *Medical Times* has commenced a series of biographical sketches. The memoir of John Green Crosse, F.R.S., late of Norwich, is well written, and full of interest.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, PADDINGTON. The medical and surgical staff are to be appointed about the close of the present year. The candidates are not very numerous.

SIR BENJAMIN C. BRODIE AT DUBLIN. This eminent surgeon was honoured by a public banquet by the Royal College of Surgeons of Dublin on the 29th of August.

STATUE OF LARREY. A marble statue has been erected to the memory of this illustrious surgeon in the court-yard of the Val-de-Grâce of Paris. The inauguration was recently celebrated with much pomp and ceremony.

CHEAP MEDICAL SCHOOLS. If Cheap Medical Teaching have degraded the status of the teacher and the taught in England, what are we to expect in America? In the Rush Medical College of Chicago, Illinois, the students only number 107, yet the following are the terms. Full course of seven professors, 35 dollars; matriculation and clinical instruction, *gratis*; dissections, 5 dollars; graduation, 20 dollars. So much for competition!

THE MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES AND THE CORONER'S COURT. The Middlesex Magistrates have a resolution under consideration to the following effect: "That this Court is of opinion that measures should be taken for the substitution of a fixed salary, in lieu of fees to the Coroner, and for the appointing of a Medical Officer to the Coroner's Court, at a fixed salary, for making post-mortem examinations."

HUNTERIAN ORATOR FOR 1851. RICHARD ANTHONY STAFFORD, Esq., surgeon to the St. Marylebone Infirmary, a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, is the gentleman appointed to deliver the annual oration in the theatre of that Institution, on the 14th of February next, in memory of the immortal genius of John Hunter.

BRISTOL. Several inhabitants of this city have raised a subscription to increase the efficiency of the Guinea-street Hospital. Mr. Eaton has contributed 5,000*l.*, and Mr. George Thomas 1,000*l.* for that purpose.

APPOINTMENTS.

DUVERNAY, M., appointed Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the *Jardin des Plantes*, Paris, in the room of the late M. DE BLAINVILLE.
 HULME, Edward C., Esq., elected Surgeon to the Blenheim Street Free Dispensary, in the room of Mr. T. M. GIRDLESTONE, resigned.
 St. HILAIRE, M. Isidore, appointed Professor of Natural History at the Sorbonne, Paris, in the room of the late M. DE BLAINVILLE.