

breath, and positively so on their departure. Probably the deflection of the needle at these moments might point to some interesting results. The question of *ozone* is still an uncertain one.

The accompanying and residual state of the atmosphere is congenial to health. Vegetation freshens, animals are brisk, cocks crow, and the swallows, those blithe associates of a summer day's ramble, skim along with the most delightful alacrity. These are the days when the garden looks and smells the sweetest, and the foliage is the greenest. All nature revives; and the air we breathe at these moments is antagonistic to disease. Cases of debility experience a favourable reaction, and even the moribund reclaim a few short delusive intervals from the inevitable collapse of death.

In learning what are the conditions of atmosphere adverse to health, the chief point is first to have ascertained what are those the most conducive to salubrity. The opposite conditions will determine many a question on this point.

Brighton, May, 1854.

### ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF A FŒTUS WITH TWO HEADS.

By DAVID KENNARD, Esq.

On the 15th of May, at 6 A.M., I was called to attend Elizabeth Palmer, in labour with her third child. On arriving, I found that she had been in labour three days. The midwife had been unable to render her any assistance. I found the membranes unruptured, and the head presenting. As she was much exhausted, I passed, with as little delay as possible, my left hand into the vagina; and finding the os uteri fully dilated, I ruptured the membranes, and grasping the foot of the fœtus without the slightest difficulty, I brought the foot into the world. I then waited a few minutes, when the pains returned, and then, with great exertion, brought down the breech and left leg, and about three-fourths of the body. I now experienced great difficulty to accomplish more, from what I fancied an enlarged head. I was compelled to use considerable force; the hands and arms being placed on each side of the head, which filled up the pelvis, I could not by any possibility get my hand sufficiently high to get down the arms. Consequently, I was compelled to use the blunt hook, by which means I succeeded in getting down the hands. I then passed my finger up, in order to feel the occiput, when I discovered that the fœtus had two necks. Not being able to use sufficient force to bring down the head, I again introduced the blunt hook between the necks, and by perseverance got my index finger of the left hand into the left mouth, and with great exertion delivered the two heads, which were large and perfect.

The fœtus was living at the time of turning; but, through the length of time in delivery, which occupied nearly two hours, and from the pressure on the umbilical cord, it was dead when the heads were expelled. I have written and offered the fœtus to the Royal College of Surgeons, where, if it is accepted, it may be seen.

Lambourne, Berks, May 1854.

### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

THE CENSUS OF IRELAND FOR THE YEAR 1851. PART III. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF DISEASE. pp. 150. Dublin: 1854.

THE Commissioners appointed for taking the census of Ireland in 1851 (Mr. WILLIAM DONNELLY, the Registrar-General for Ireland, and Mr. W. R. WILDE of Dublin), were led, in the performance of their duty, to solicit returns of all persons who laboured under disease upon the night of the 30th March, 1851. As a reason for this step, they write:

"It was conceived that such returns would, when properly classified, present at one view not only the amount and distribution of disease, but also the maladies to which the inhabitants of the country are most exposed at a certain period of the year. No similar attempt has, we believe, been yet made to collect and tabulate the diseases presented on a single day in even a limited portion of any other country." p. 1.

This Report is divided into nine Sections, and is accompanied by an Appendix of Tables.

Section first contains the Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb in Ireland. It will not be necessary for us to give an analysis of this interesting and valuable section; first, because the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for April 29, 1853 (p. 370), contains an analysis compiled from the *Journal of the Statistical Society* of Mr. Wilde's statistics of the Deaf and Dumb in Ireland; and next, because we desire to have space to devote to the consideration of other portions of the work.

Section second is a report upon the Number and Condition of the Blind. The number of persons in Ireland returned as blind—i. e., totally deprived of sight—on the night of 30th March, 1851, was 7587—3588 males and 3999 females. Of this number, 1672 were in the civic, and 4920 in the rural districts, the former including towns of two thousand inhabitants, and the different asylums and public institutions for the blind; and 995 persons—373 males and 622 females—were in the various workhouses and auxiliary workhouses.

The proportion of blind to the entire population is 1 in 864. With the exception of Norway, this is higher than the average for Europe generally, or for America. In the flat countries of Belgium, Hanover, portions of Saxony and Prussia, and some of the German States, and in the plains of Lombardy and Denmark, the proportion is 1 in 950; in the more elevated parts of Saxony and Prussia, in Wurtemberg, Nassau, the Duchies of Altenburgh and Hesse, and part of Brunswick, it is 1 in 1340; in alpine regions, and in Sardinia, it is 1 in 1500. In these three classes of districts, the proportion of deaf and dumb to the population is respectively 1 in 1500; 1 in 1477; and 1 in 561.

The Institutions for the Blind in Ireland are five in number.

1. Simpson's Hospital, in the city of Dublin, founded by George Simpson, a merchant, and erected in 1779 for those afflicted with gout or blindness. It accommodates 100 male patients. It contained 38 at the time of the census.

2. Richmond National Institution for the Industrious Blind, in Dublin, established in 1810. It is capable of receiving 40 boys, who remain from three to seven years, and are taught basket-making. The number of inmates at the date of the census was 17.

3. Molyneux Asylum for Blind Females; formerly the residence of Sir Thomas Molyneux, M.D., and purchased in 1810 as a blind asylum. It has accommodation for 30 inmates; and contained 25 at the time of taking the census.

4. Ulster Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind. It can accommodate 15 male and 15 female patients. At the time of the census, it contained 5 males and 8 females.

5. Limerick Asylum for Blind Females. It can accommodate 20 inmates; but at the time of the census, contained only nine, being all that the funds of the institution could support.

6. Cork Asylum. It is capable of accommodating 50 male and 50 female patients. At the time of the census, it contained 15 males and 14 females.

Since the beginning of the year 1849, an epidemic ophthalmia has been prevalent in Ireland, especially in the counties of Tipperary, Westmeath, and Limerick. It was made the subject of an able paper by Mr. Wilde, in the *London Journal of Medicine* for January 1851. In the present report, the Commissioners state that—

"During the three years preceding December 1851, no less than 86,959 cases of epidemic ophthalmia were treated in the Irish workhouses, of which number 2,253 laboured under the disease when admitted; the sexes (when recorded) being 100 males to 132.44 females. Of this number, 63,077 were children or persons under fifteen years of age, 28,579 males, 34,408