

DR. GRIFFITH, medical officer of health for Sheffield, has issued his second annual report of the sanitary condition of the borough. The report is compiled with evident care, and contains some interesting information, statistical and otherwise. Scarletina was fatally prevalent in the town last year, 671 deaths being registered from this cause alone, and there is reason to fear a continued increase of the disease. The number of deaths returned as uncertified seems very large—572. Infantile mortality reached a high figure, 2045 infants having died under one year of age out of a total return of 10,857 births. Dr. Griffith deplors the need of mortuaries and of accommodation for patients with infectious diseases in the town.

IN London, last week, 1397 deaths were registered, including 21 from measles, 110 from scarlet fever, 15 from diphtheria, 47 from whooping-cough, 29 from different forms of fever, and 105 from diarrhoea. No death from small-pox was registered. Different forms of violence caused 39 deaths in the period. A death from chloroform while the patient was undergoing operation occurred at the Seamen's Hospital. The Asylum District Fever and Small-pox Hospitals at Homerton and Stockwell contained 314 patients on the 9th inst., of which number one only was a case of small-pox.

AT a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, held last Saturday, under the presidency of Dr. Brewer, the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Hampstead Hospital question was read. Afterwards it was agreed to appoint a special committee of the Board to consider upon the best means of utilising the suggestion of the report, to the effect that administrative blocks should be erected on the vacant lands in possession of the managers.

THE Queen has granted to Dr. William Cormick, who is actually employed beyond Her Majesty's dominions, in the medical service of the Shah of Persia, in which he holds the appointment of chief medical officer attached to the heir apparent to the throne of Persia, her royal licence and authority that he may accept and wear the insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Lion and Sun, conferred upon him by his Majesty.

WE understand from the *Jewish World* that there is great dread of an outbreak of cholera in Jerusalem. Preventive measures are actively pushed forward by the authorities of the city, and the physician attached to the Rothschild Hospital is circulating a pamphlet in which advice and instructions are given to the inhabitants. They are particularly exhorted to practise the virtue of cleanliness.

A CHILD has been poisoned at Barnsley by taking Harrop's Soothing Syrup, which, on analysis by Mr. Palmer, of the firm of Worley & Co., Market-street, Manchester, was found to contain morphia! When will Government compel the publication of the composition of quack medicines, and appoint some responsible person to forbid the sale of such as are dangerous to life?

#### NEW STUDENTS.

THE following is the latest return of the number of fresh students at the metropolitan medical schools this session. The returns give all the new entries at the schools, whether first-year's students or not:—St. Bartholomew's, 120; Guy's, 98; University College, 85; St. Thomas's, 74; St. George's, 46; Middlesex, 41; St. Mary's, 38; London, 33; Charing-cross, 32; Westminster, 11.

## REPORT OF *The Lancet* Commission ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

### SHREWSBURY.

THE school at Shrewsbury was established in the reign of Edward the Sixth as a grammar school for the free education of the sons of the townsmen, the head master being permitted to receive boarders into his house who were to be maintained at their parents' charges. Shrewsbury, in spite of the comparative smallness of its numbers, has always held a prominent position among our chief public schools, and during the last forty years its career has been most brilliant. Shrewsbury men have repeatedly attained the distinction of Senior Classic at the University of Cambridge, and quite recently this honour has been obtained by them three years in succession; whilst since 1848 no less than twenty-one Porson Prizes at the same University have fallen to their share, and since 1868 they have carried off ten University (not College) scholarships. Such success is, we believe, unparalleled, and appears marvellous when we consider that the school rarely exceeds 170 in number, and that there are no entrance scholarships to attract boys of special promise to it.

The school buildings are situate in the town on a rising slope of ground overlooking the river on the west, and occupy about two acres and a half of ground. The school proper consists of a block of stone buildings, three storeys high, which contain the class-rooms, the library, and chapel. The houses belonging to the head and second master lay at right angles to the main buildings, forced back into a somewhat cramped position on the edge of the slope. At the entrance from the town is a small house containing studies. All the buildings are extremely old, and, with the exception of those having class-rooms, decidedly insufficient for the requirements of the school. In consequence of this cramped and crowded condition of the buildings containing the studies and dormitories, the governing body have determined to remove the institution to a more spacious and open site. It may be asked,—What use can any criticism of ours be now, as the school is to be removed? We reply, that the sanitary arrangements at Shrewsbury show what school authorities can do towards rendering their buildings healthy under the most disadvantageous circumstances; and a description of what has been done at Shrewsbury will serve as a useful example to those schools which still lag behind in matters of sanitary reform. It has been remarked that the health of the Shrewsbury students has been "inconsistently" good, considering the close and narrow quarters they have had to live in; but this inconsistency is explained when an examination of the premises is made, and the care expended on minute sanitary details observed. Great credit is due to Dr. Kenedy (the late) and the Rev. Mr. Moss (the present head master), for their labours in this direction; and we also think that the school has benefited in having the advice and assistance of Sir James Paget, who is a member of the governing body.

The school at present numbers 175 boys, 115 of whom are boarders. The majority of the boarders reside with the head master in two houses, one house for juniors, the other for seniors; about 15 boys reside in the second master's house; all these buildings being on the school premises. Twenty-seven of the junior boys also board with the French master and one of the assistant masters at their private residences in the town. The remaining 33 boys live with