

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

AN extraordinary Comitia of the College was held on the 20th inst., Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., President of the College, in the chair. Several gentlemen whose names have been already published were admitted to the Fellowship.

The terms of the Report of the Royal Commission upon the Higher Education in London were brought to the notice of the College by the President, who stated that, although the Report was not yet printed, it was well known that the Commission was unanimous in advising the rejection of the petition of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to be given powers to grant degrees in Medicine. On the motion of Dr. Allchin, seconded by Sir Risdon Bennett, a small committee was nominated to inquire into the position of the College with regard to the question, and to invite the co-operation of the Royal College of Surgeons in considering what further steps should be taken by the Colleges in view of the report of the Commission. The committee nominated by the President consisted of Sir Risdon Bennett, Dr. Andrew, Dr. Pye-Smith, Dr. Allchin, and Dr. D. Macalister.

A communication was read from the Charity Organisation Society inviting the co-operation of the College in furthering the proposal for an inquiry into the hospitals and charities of the metropolis. The Registrar was directed to acknowledge the receipt of the communication; but the College reserved its right of taking, if it thought fit, independent action in the matter.

A report was read of the Committee appointed to consider the question of Quarantine, which will be forwarded to the Colonial Office, after which it will be published.

The Registrar moved, for the second time, an alteration in Bye-law LXXI., constituting a Library Committee.

## THE GROSVENOR GALLERY.

THE exodus from the Grosvenor Gallery has passed into history, and although last year every exertion was made to minimise the loss of the malcontents, yet it must be admitted that the defection and the strain have told on this year's exhibition. Certainly, the Gallery had contrived, chiefly by the aid of Mr. Burne Jones, to retain a distinctive flavour, whereas now there is little or nothing to distinguish the rooms from so many apartments in Burlington House. The change is, perhaps, most clearly marked by the fact that some of the greatest successes are achieved by older members of the Royal Academy. Sir John Millais has always been a staunch friend of Sir Coutts Lindsay, but he has shown few works of greater grace and charm than "Shelling Peas," though some of its predecessors may have been stronger and better finished. Mr. Breton Rivière's "Prometheus Bound" is not unworthy of the associations of his "Rizpah," which it recalls; and in the pictures of Messrs. Pettie and Sant we have some of the best, if not of the most ambitious, which they have to offer us. Mr. J. C. Hook is as good as ever in his sea shores, and if anything be lacking to the older Academician, it is fully supplied in the more open sea of his younger rival, Mr. Henry Moore. In portraiture Mr. J. J. Shannon now holds uncontestedly the post of chief painter to the ladies, and, many as are the charms which he has to portray, he has fallen neither into back work, nor, on the other hand, into such exaggerated cleverness as is seen in Mr. Skipworth's "Magpie," near the entrance. There is a noteworthy portrait by Mr. C. H. Shannon, a more interesting if less complete painter; and Mr. Logsdail's strong picture of the War Correspondent, Mr. F. Villiers, and Mr. Bigland's sound work of "Mrs. George Rhodes" must not be passed over. Variety, which does not necessarily imply originality, has always been a feature of English art, but the works of the newer men are remarkable rather for a close application to nature than for any large ambition of aim. The two most remarkable landscapes are perhaps those of Mr. Lindner (28) and a Cornish work of Mr. Llewellyn; but much of the best work is to be found in scraps of studies in the fourth gallery. Mr. Clausen has attempted a larger picture than usual in "Ploughing," and, if he has not met with his full reward, it must be due to a certain want of life in what is otherwise an admirable work.

## Public Health and Poor Law.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

## REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

*Stratford-on-Avon Combined Districts.*—The combination for which Mr. G. H. Fosbroke acts as medical officer of health includes portions of the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Gloucester, and it has for many years exhibited considerable advance in sanitary progress. Looking at the zymotic rate of death as a test of progress, Mr. Fosbroke is able to show how substantial the advance has been. In 1875, 1877, and 1879 the rate was 2·0 or more per 1000; then a fall set in, and for the last four years it has only averaged a little over 0·7, the rate for 1888 being only 0·5. This result is alleged to have been unquestionably brought about by the numerous and extensive sanitary improvements carried out, amongst which we would recall the successful administration in connexion with the isolation of infectious diseases which Mr. Fosbroke initiated during the early years of his office. Although only four deaths were registered as due to diphtheria in the five sanitary districts included in the combination, yet it is evident that the obscurity in which the causation of this disease is involved remains a source of anxiety. In this district it still clings essentially to the rural areas, it appears to show some power of progressive development from sore throats of a non-specific sort, and it is not materially complicated by the addition of any noteworthy number of deaths from croup of the non-spasmodic type. The voluntary system of notification of infectious diseases inaugurated many years ago is maintained with success, one leading principle of it being that Mr. Fosbroke accepts the assurance of the medical men in his district that every case will be reported, and if they inform him that all needed precautions are taken, no need for his intervention is regarded as called for.

*Newcastle-upon-Tyne Urban District.*—Mr. Henry Armstrong has the satisfaction of reporting for 1888 the lowest mortality on record for the city of Newcastle—namely, one of 20·5 per 1000 living; and he adds that the deaths from zymotic diseases are only two-fifths of the number during the previous year, almost all the specific fevers having diminished, except diphtheria, as to which there was a slight increase. And, further, the infant mortality of the city is more than 22 per cent. below that of the previous year, and has never before been so low; and in this connexion it is noteworthy that there has been a great diminution in the number of uncertified deaths which occur so largely amongst infants. As to infectious diseases, which are notified under a local Act, the number of cases was 43 per cent. below that for the previous year, and 48 per cent. below the average for the previous five years. Amongst the points calling for amendment in the future, there is evidently some need for a modification of defective bye-laws as to new buildings, and especially as to the construction of bedrooms without some efficient means of ventilation, and also as to attics. Where bedrooms are not provided with fire-places, they are required, under all modern bye-laws, to have some other permanent and adequate means of ventilation, and this should be seen to as regards Newcastle. Mr. Armstrong's report contains two special ones. One relates to a peculiar epidemic of scarlet fever, in which a dairy-supply came under suspicion, and it is one on which we have already commented. The other is descriptive of the new isolation hospital erected for the purposes of Newcastle. The completion of this excellent piece of work is highly creditable to the sanitary administration of the borough, and it affords a further indication of the value which is locally set on the services of Mr. Armstrong in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. With much less efficient means than will now be at his disposal Mr. Armstrong has laboured most successfully in this direction both in the town and the port, and the series of annual reports which he has issued afford a lasting testimony to the great saving of life and improvement in health which have resulted from the measures of progress inaugurated during his tenure of office.

*Glanford Brigg Rural District.*—The general mortality for this district as a whole was 14·9 per 1000 last year, and probably 17 per 1000 if the Ironstone villages alone are con-