

governors, but this has finally been settled, the compromise being that all the old life governors will retain their privileges, but that no new ones will be appointed in the same way. The charter will be submitted for approval to a committee of the subscribers to be held next week.

The Health of Belfast.

For the period between May 22nd and June 18th 499 cases of zymotic diseases have been notified—viz., 327 cases of typhoid fever, 83 of simple continued fever, 48 of scarlet fever, 20 of diphtheria, 16 of erysipelas, 2 each of puerperal fever and croup, and 1 case of typhus fever. There were 81 deaths from zymotic disease, 101 from phthisis, and 93 from diseases of the respiratory organs. The annual death-rate from all causes was 22·9, while for the same period in 1897 the deaths rate was 23·5. Cases of typhoid fever are becoming less numerous and those of scarlet fever and measles comparatively few and attended with little mortality. It is curious to note that although at this season the deaths from chest affections are becoming less numerous the high air temperature seems to have no effect in reducing the mortality from phthisis. Mr. Conway Scott, C.E., the executive sanitary officer of the Belfast Corporation, has, owing to ill-health, been obliged to obtain a month's leave of absence. It has been decided to appoint a practical civil engineer with a thorough knowledge of sanitary work as assistant executive sanitary officer at a salary of £200 with gradual increase to £250.

The Public Health Department of Belfast.

The Public Health Committee of the Belfast Corporation have for some time been considering the working of the department and have drafted a number of recommendations for its better arrangement, but owing to the absence of the chief sanitary officer (due to illness) their consideration has been postponed until his return.

The Belfast Water-supply.

The Public Health Department having drawn the attention of the Water Commissioners to the risk of contamination of one of their supplies at Stoneford owing to pollution by sewage of one of the streams flowing into their works the Commissioners reply through their secretary that owing to storage and filtration the water is suitable and safe for domestic purposes. However, they are anxious to remove all ground for uneasiness in the public mind and this can only be done by purchasing a number of farms the proximity of which to the reservoirs might be regarded as detrimental to the water. This will probably require a Parliamentary Bill to be passed authorising the Water Commissioners to buy the land owned by these farmers.

Death of Mr. Martin Howard, L.A.H., L.M. Dub., of Oldham.

It was with sincere regret that many members of the Cork profession heard of the death of Mr. Martin Howard who for many years had been practising at Oldham. Mr. Howard was educated at the Queen's College, Cork, and whilst quite a junior in the profession was a constant contributor to the medical journals. He at all times had a great taste for literature and many years ago was officially connected with the London *Daily News* and the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*. He afterwards became assistant to a practitioner in Oldham and later, with the consent of his principal, who had formed a high opinion of him, started an independent practice in that town. His old love of journalism asserted itself and he became editor of the *Oldham Standard*. So great was his energy that he was able to perform his editorial duties and at the same time devote himself to the laborious work of a general practitioner. However, the strain proved too much for a constitution which was never robust. Last Easter he suffered from an attack of influenza and he never completely rallied. His death last week came as a painful surprise to his many friends in Cork who had been unaware of his failing health.

July 5th.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Prophylaxis of Tuberculosis.

AFTER a long discussion on this subject the Academy of Medicine, at their meeting on June 28th, unanimously agreed that the conclusions formulated by Dr. Grancher in his

report to the Academy, which were given in THE LANCET of May 14th, 1898, should be adopted. These conclusions were shortly as follows: (1) all sputa should be collected in some vessel or receptacle containing at least 5 per cent. of carbolic acid; (2) sweeping should be as far as possible replaced by rubbing over with a damp cloth; (3) all milk to be boiled; (4) these measures to be strictly enforced by private practitioners attending on families where and as soon as tuberculosis is diagnosed; (5) early cases of tuberculosis occurring in the army to be invalidated provisionally until the bacillus of Koch is demonstrated and permanently as soon as it is demonstrated; (6) the importance of hygienic and preventive measures to be urged upon those in charge of schools, workshops and the like; (7) isolation and antiseptics to be carefully carried out in hospitals where tuberculous patients are received; (8) the health of the permanent hospital staff to be more carefully looked after; (9) sundry regulations for the seizure of tuberculous meat and the use of tuberculin recommended to farmers and graziers as a means of diagnosis; and (10) the hygiene of the army to be more carefully attended to by means of improved rations, better ventilation of barracks, and the like.

The Value of the Anti-streptococcic Serum obtained from a Culture of Erysipelas Streptococcus.

At the meeting of the Biological Society held on June 25th M. Courmont gave an account of some experiments he had made with anti-streptococcic serum. He immunised an ass by inoculating it with a culture of streptococci derived from a case of human erysipelas and thus obtained a serum which rendered a rabbit perfectly immune against these streptococci. He had also isolated eleven kinds of streptococci from erysipelas or suppurating lesions in human beings and tried the serum obtained from the ass against these. Of the eleven different streptococci seven only were influenced by the serum. Even then, if an ass be inoculated with two samples of streptococci, it is not possible to obtain a serum efficacious against all kinds of streptococci, for the various kinds of this organism are too different for one anti-streptococcic serum to overcome them all.

The Curability of Fœtal Ichthyosis.

At the meeting of the Hospitals' Medical Society held on June 24th M. Thibierge showed two patients similar to those individuals who are exhibited at fairs as "human fish." The two patients were aged respectively fifteen and eighteen years, thus showing that, contrary to the general opinion, fœtal ichthyosis is not necessarily fatal. They both presented in a diminished degree all the characters of fœtal ichthyosis. From birth they had suffered from ectropion owing to the thickening of the skin and very soon afterwards scales began to appear. These scales covered the whole body, including the articular surfaces, and in one patient they were regular horny plates which, however, almost entirely disappeared under treatment. In both the hands showed hyperkeratosis and hyperidrosis, which is not the case in ordinary ichthyosis. Both were of very low intellectual development; the father of the one was syphilitic and alcoholic, while the mother of the other suffered from psoriasis and had before given birth to a monster with only one lower extremity, but there was no other case of ichthyosis in the family.

Observations at the Execution of Carrara.

M. Capitan, who had occasion to be present at (*assister à*) the execution of Carrara, was able to note some physiological points which he communicated to the Biological Society at the meeting held on June 25th. On arriving at the guillotine Carrara was deadly pale and almost lifeless. He made not the slightest movement of resistance save only that his body seemed to shrink back when he was laid on the plank. Afterwards he never moved. When the knife fell the section of the neck on the body remained perfectly bloodless. As the body was being tilted into the basket it hit against the side of the plank and then two jets of red blood spouted in the air to the height of about a yard. In this case there was probably cardiac syncope present before the decapitation, whence the absence of hæmorrhage immediately after, although this came on in the ordinary way when the powerful nervous excitation provoked by the fall of the knife acted upon the heart.

The Toxicity of Normal and Pathological Sweat.

At the same meeting of the Biological Society M. Charrin and M. Mavrojanis reminded the society that in a previous

communication they had decided that the toxic dose of normal sweat was from 60 to 70 c.c. per kilogramme of body weight; they continued their researches by making extracts of sweat both with alcohol and ether and they found that its toxicity was due in the proportion of about two-thirds to substances soluble in ether, most probably fatty acids. They also discovered that there were certain substances insoluble both in ether and alcohol which were capable of setting up grave gastro-intestinal disturbances and a very marked and persistent fall in temperature. Sweat freed from substances soluble in ether causes death, but the dose ought to be triple that of the ordinary toxic dose. Sweat taken from patients suffering from acute infectious maladies was, in accordance with the researches of Queirolo and Salter, sensibly increased in toxicity. A subcutaneous injection made into a healthy guinea-pig of doses of sweat of from 25 to 30 c.c. per kilogramme of body weight produced during two or three days a rise in temperature of from 1.5° to 2°C. and sometimes brought about death in the space of 24 hours. Sweat sterilised in an autoclave at 110°C. for 20 minutes acted in the same way. The sweat collected immediately after a seizure in an epileptic patient and injected into the venous system of a rabbit brought on forcible extension of the vertebral column, but never marked convulsions or death. In the case of melancholics the toxicity of the sweat is not increased.

July 5th.

BERLIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Treatment of Asphyxia produced by Anæsthetics.

DR. HERZOG of Charkow has recently published in the *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Chirurgie* some experiments made according to Dr. Laborde's method of producing resuscitation in cases of chloroform and ether asphyxia by rhythmical traction of the tongue. The effect of making traction on the tongue is to stimulate its sensory nerves and to bring about reflex contraction of the respiratory muscles through the medium of the central nervous system. Dr. Laborde recommends that the tongue should be seized firmly and that traction should be made about twenty times in a minute. Up to the present time 12 cases have been recorded in which this method proved successful in asphyxia from anæsthetics. For the purpose of testing Dr. Laborde's conclusions Dr. Herzog made a series of experiments on dogs partially asphyxiated by means of large doses of chloroform and ether and found that in 19 cases respiration was restored spontaneously in 6, but that traction of the tongue was only successful in resuscitating 3 of the remaining 13. In these 3 instances the animals began to breathe again after traction had been made twelve times, and their recovery was complete; in 2 other cases respiration was restored, but the cardiac action nevertheless failed and although the respiration was kept up for sixteen and six minutes respectively the pulse did not rally and the animals died. The results obtained by Dr. Herzog are thus at variance with those of Dr. Laborde, who obtained resuscitation in the great majority of cases. It is probable that Dr. Laborde commenced to make traction of the tongue at an early stage when the animals were still capable of recovering spontaneously. The asphyxia obtained in Dr. Herzog's experiments always occurred in the last stage of the narcosis. Asphyxia in the early stage of the narcosis, while it is so frequent in the human subject, could not be obtained in the experiments on animals. Dr. Herzog concludes that Dr. Laborde's method is not reliable in the asphyxia of the last stage of narcosis, but that it may be tried as an auxiliary to other methods in the primary stages.

The Giving of Medical Advice by the Clergy.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Augsburg has recently made a communication to the clergy of his diocese on the subject of the increasing tendency of the clergy to give advice in cases requiring medical treatment—a practice which he condemns as being at variance with the ordinances of the Church, and he charges his clergy to avoid anything which may have the appearance of interfering with the work of the medical profession. This order is the more remarkable because Woerishoffen, where the late Father Kneipp lived and where his successors still continue his work, is in

this diocese. The expression of similar views by other clerical dignitaries would no doubt have a beneficial influence as tending to prevent misunderstandings between the two professions. That quackery has its most fervent adherents among the upper classes was clearly shown by a recent occurrence. One of the leading newspapers of Berlin published a letter written by a medical man showing that a so-called "magnetopath" had pretended to cure patients by means of magnetic fluid coming from a well-known Berlin medium now resident in America. This medium had formerly caused a certain amount of sensation in connexion with spiritualist meetings but eventually left the city when it was shown by some medical men that she had been carrying on a system of imposture, and it was by means of the fluid of this medium that the "magnetopath" professed to effect his cures. A few days after the insertion of this letter a public declaration appeared in the advertising columns of the leading Berlin journals, signed by a great number of patients of the quack. The signatures were for the most part those of members of the nobility and of the upper classes, who solemnly stated that they had been cured by this man after having been attended without success by legally qualified medical practitioners. The great popularity of every kind of quack treatment among the upper classes leaves little ground for hope that unqualified practice will be made illegal.

July 5th.

Obituary.

HENRY ALFORD, F.R.C.S. ENG. (HON.), L.S.A. LOND.

MR. HENRY ALFORD recently died at his residence, South-road, Taunton, from old age. The deceased received his medical education at the Bristol Medical School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, qualifying as L.S.A. in 1828 and as M.R.C.S. Eng. in the following year. In 1844 he was admitted to the honorary Fellowship of the College. Mr. Alford had resided in Taunton since 1830, being formerly surgeon to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and at the time of his death was consulting surgeon to that institution. The deceased was one of the most respected and oldest inhabitants of Taunton and had he lived until July 17th would have been ninety-two years of age. In spite of this great age he retained his health until a fortnight before his death. Mr. Alford will be greatly missed in Taunton, where he had assisted in many good works, especially taking a great interest in the hospital. The deceased was a cousin of the late Dean Alford of Canterbury and also of the late Bishop Alford of Victoria. Mr. Alford was twice married and leaves four children, one of whom is the present medical officer of health of Taunton.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE tenth election of Fellows to fill the vacancies in the Council of the College under the new regulations was held in the Library of the College, Lincoln's-inn-fields, on Thursday, the 7th inst., between 1.30 and 4 P.M. The result of the voting was as follows:—

	Votes.	Plumpers.
MR. RICHARDSON CROSS ...	411	74
MR. HENRY MORRIS ...	325	7
MR. JOHN LANGTON ...	322	15
MR. R. CLEMENT LUCAS ...	274	53
MR. BENNETT MAY ...	248	26

Mr. Langton and Mr. Morris were therefore re-elected members and Mr. Cross was elected a member of the Council.

651 Fellows voted by proxy, 26 voted in person, and one voting paper was spoiled.