

Association, these anomalies are to be removed, as will be seen by the reply of the War Secretary to the question put by Sir Guyer Hunter, chairman of the Council of the Association, in the House of Commons. Volunteer medical officers generally, and acting-surgeons in particular, are much indebted to the Council for the interest they have evinced, and we cordially recommend every Volunteer medical officer to join the Association, the offices of which are at 26, King-William-street, Strand.

VITAL STATISTICS.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In twenty-eight of the largest English towns 5844 births and 4191 deaths were registered during the week ending August 13th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 23.2 and 22.9 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, rose again last week to 23.7. During the first six weeks of the current quarter the death-rate in these towns averaged 22.1 per 1000, and was 1.0 above the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the ten years 1877-86. The lowest rates in these towns last week were 13.2 in Halifax, 15.1 in Huddersfield, 16.3 in Brighton, and 17.2 in Derby. The rates in the other towns ranged upwards to 29.5 in Blackburn, 30.1 in Preston, 30.2 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 31.4 in Manchester. The deaths referred to the principal zymotic diseases in the twenty-eight towns, which had been 1301 and 1292 in the preceding two weeks, further declined last week to 1252; they included 943 from diarrhoea, 104 from whooping-cough, 78 from measles, 57 from scarlet fever, 39 from "fever" (principally enteric), 29 from diphtheria, and 2 from small-pox. These zymotic diseases caused the lowest death-rates last week in Halifax and Huddersfield, and the highest in Birmingham, Salford, Hull, Portsmouth, and Preston. Diarrhoea caused the greatest mortality in Salford, Birmingham, Hull, Leicester, Portsmouth, and Preston; whooping-cough in Sheffield and Birmingham; measles in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Bolton, Salford, and Manchester; scarlet fever in Birkenhead, Bristol, and Blackburn; and "fever" in Birkenhead. Of the 29 deaths from diphtheria in the twenty-eight towns, 21 occurred in London. Small-pox caused 1 death in Sheffield, 1 in Cardiff, but not one in Greater London, or in any of the twenty-five other large provincial towns. Only 2 cases of small-pox were under treatment on Saturday last in the metropolitan asylum hospitals receiving cases of this disease, of which one was admitted during the week. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs in London, which had declined in the preceding six weeks from 199 to 158, further fell last week to 175, and were 7 below the corrected average. The causes of 65, or 1.6 per cent., of the deaths in the twenty-eight towns last week were not certified, either by a registered medical practitioner or by a coroner. All the causes of death were duly certified in Plymouth, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Nottingham, and in five other smaller towns. The largest proportions of uncertified deaths were registered in Oldham, Sunderland, Brighton, and Sheffield.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

The annual rate of mortality in the eight Scotch towns, which had declined from 20.9 to 17.1 per 1000 in the preceding three weeks, rose again to 19.3 in the week ending August 13th; this rate, however, was 4.4 per 1000 below the mean rate during the same week in the twenty-eight large English towns. The rates in the Scotch towns last week ranged from 13.0 and 14.5 in Perth and Paisley, to 24.0 in Dundee, and 26.7 in Greenock. The 482 deaths in the eight towns last week showed an increase of 54 upon the number in the preceding week, and included 37 which were referred to diarrhoea, 28 to whooping-cough, 9 to scarlet fever, 5 to diphtheria, 1 to measles, 1 to "fever" and not one to small-pox; in all, 81 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against 103 and 73 in the preceding two weeks. These 81 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.2 per 1000, which was as much as 3.9 below the mean rate from the same diseases last week in the twenty-eight English towns. The fatal cases of diarrhoea, which had been 39 and 23 in the preceding two weeks, rose again last week to 37, of which 8 occurred in Glasgow, 8 in Dundee, 7 in Edinburgh, and 5 in Leith. The deaths referred to whooping-cough, which had been 41 and 22 in the previous two weeks, increased last week to 28, and included 8 in

Glasgow, 8 in Greenock, 7 in Edinburgh, and 4 in Dundee. The 9 fatal cases of scarlet fever exceeded by 2 the number returned in the preceding week, and included 7 in Dundee. The 5 deaths from diphtheria were within one of the number recorded in the previous week; 3 occurred in Edinburgh. The fatal cases of measles and the death from "fever" were recorded in Glasgow. The deaths referred to acute diseases of the respiratory organs in the eight towns, which had been 65 and 67 in the preceding two weeks, further rose last week to 71, and corresponded with the number returned in the same week of last year. The causes of 63, or more than 13 per cent., of the deaths registered in the eight towns during the week were not certified.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.

The rate of mortality in Dublin, which had been 30.9 and 29.6 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, rose again to 31.5 in the week ending August 13th. During the first six weeks of the current quarter the death-rate in the city averaged 29.4 per 1000, the mean rate during the same period being but 22.7 in London and 19.1 in Edinburgh. The 213 deaths in Dublin last week showed an increase of 13 upon the number returned in the preceding week; they included 27 which were referred to measles, 23 to diarrhoea, 6 to whooping-cough, 2 to "fever" (typhus, enteric, or simple), and not one either to small-pox, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. Thus the deaths resulting from these principal zymotic diseases, which had increased in the preceding four weeks from 45 to 55, further rose last week to 58, and exceeded the number in any week since August, 1884; they were equal to an annual rate of 8.6 per 1000, the rates from the same diseases being 7.0 in London and 3.4 in Edinburgh. The fatal cases of measles, which had been 22 and 16 in the preceding two weeks, rose again last week to 27, and exceeded the number recorded in any recent week. The deaths referred to diarrhoea, which had been 16 and 29 in the previous weeks, declined to 23 last week. The 6 fatal cases of whooping-cough showed an increase of 3 upon the number in the preceding week, while the 2 deaths from fever corresponded with those recorded in the previous week. The deaths of infants and of elderly persons slightly exceeded those returned in the preceding week. Eight inquest cases and 3 deaths from violence were registered; and 52, or one-fourth, of the deaths occurred in public institutions. The causes of 33, or more than 15 per cent., of the deaths registered during the week were uncertified.

THE SERVICES.

Deputy Surgeon-General R. Webb has been appointed Principal Medical Officer, Dublin District.

A Greenwich Hospital Pension of £50 a year for Fleet Surgeons and Staff Surgeons is vacant by the death of Deputy Inspector-General James Vaughan.

INDIA OFFICE.—The Queen has approved of the retirement from the Service of the undermentioned officers of the Indian Military Forces:—Brigade Surgeon Charles Julian Joseph Jackson, M.D., of the Bengal Medical Establishment (dated March 31st, 1887), and Surgeon-Major Richard Hamilton Batty, of the Bombay Medical Establishment (dated June 24th, 1887). The undermentioned officers have been granted a step of honorary rank on retirement:—Brigade Surgeon Charles Julian Joseph Jackson, M.D., of the Bengal Medical Establishment (dated March 31st, 1887), and Brigade Surgeon Henry Cayley, of the Bengal Medical Establishment (dated April 29th, 1887), to be Deputy Surgeons-General; an Surgeon-Major Richard Hamilton Batty, of the Bombay Medical Establishment (dated June 24th, 1887), to be Brigade Surgeon.

ADMIRALTY.—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of April 1st, 1881, Fleet Surgeon Daniel O'Connor, M.D., has been placed on the retired list, with permission to assume the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets (dated Aug. 14th, 1887).

The following appointments have been made:—Fleet Surgeon James Bradly, to the *Malabar*; Surgeon John N. Corbett, to the *Alecto*; and Surgeon John Fogerty, to the *Orwell*.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—5th (Isle of Wight, Princess Beatrice's) Volunteer Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment: Acting Surgeon E. R. Woodford, M.D., resigns his appointment (dated Aug. 13th, 1887).