poor and to the members of the medical profession, to employ duly qualified medical men exclusively devoted to parochial medical relief; but, in thinly peopled agricultural districts, a far larger subdivision of service than at present exists would, I submit, be attended with no small advantage both to the poor and to the profession. Thine sincerely,

THOMAS HODGKIN.

Bedford Square, 27, 1, 1857.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

** In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.*

BIRTHS.

AIKIN. On January 25th, the wife of C. A. Aikin, Esq., Surgeon, of 8, Southwick Street, Hyde Park, of a son.

BILLINGHURST. On January 23rd, at 41, Hulliford Street, Islington, the wife of Henry Billinghurst, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

KNAGGS. On January 26th, at Maldon Place, Haverstock Hill, the wife of Henry Guard Knaggs, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARSHALL. On January 25th, the wife of Peter Marshall, Esq., Surgeon, of 42, Bedford Square, of twin daughters.

*SPENCER. On January 24th, the wife of J. H. Spencer, Esq., of Hallaton, Leicestershire, of a son.

SPICER. On January 18th, the wife of H. S. Spicer, Esq., Surgeon, of North Molton, Devon, of a son.

STEVENS. On January 26th, at Hoddesdon, Herts, the wife of Robert Ingram Stevens, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

TOPHAM. On January 22nd, the wife of John Topham, M.D., of Wolverhampton, of a son.

WANE. On January 26th, at 20, Grafton Street, Berkeley Square, the wife of Daniel Wane, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BURTON—PAGE. BURTON, Robert Graves, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon 77th Regiment, to Elvira, daughter of the Rev. Jas. Page, at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on January 20th.

GOODWIN—PEEL. GOODWIN, John Wycliffe, M.D., of Norwich, to Frances Emma, eldest daughter of Joseph Peel, Esq., of Singleton Brook, Manchester, at Broughton, on Jan. 22nd.

HOME—FAIRBANK. HOME, Alexander Gordon, M.D., of Whitfield, Edinburgh, to Hannah Priscilla, youngest daughter of the late Josiah Fairbank, Esq., of Westhill, Yorkshire, at Paris, on January 21st.

SIMPSON—CAMPBELL. SIMPSON, George, jun., Esq., Surgeon, of Gower Street, Bedford Square, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late Hugh Campbell, Esq., at Southweald, Essex.

STOCKWELL—TATUM. STOCKWELL, Francis William, Esq., of Richmond, Surrey, to Ellen, eldest daughter of Thomas Tatum, Esq., Surgeon, of George Street, Hanover Square, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on January 22nd.

DEATHS.

ADAMS. On January 25th, Sarah, wife of R. E. Adams, Esq., Surgeon, of Sevenoaks.

ALEXANDER, W., M.D., of Halifax, on December 31st, 1856.

*CARY. On January 23rd, Eliza, wife of William Henry Cary, Esq., Surgeon, of Woodford, Essex, aged 49.

CRICHTON. On January 20th, at the Grove, near Sevenoaks, Frances, widow of Sir Alexander Crichton, M.D., F.R.S., aged 85.

MCCLELLAND, Joseph, M.D., at Manchester, aged 45, on January 12th.

*MOREY, John Egleton, Esq., Surgeon, late of Doncaster, at Almholme, on January 19th.

NORMAN. On January 26th, at 7, Manchester Square, Henry Charles, second son of H. Burford Norman, Esq., Surgeon, aged 4 years and 10 months.

PALMER. At Ormskirk, on January 15th, Harold, infant son of Charles Palmer, M.D.

THOMSON. At Liverpool, on January 15th, Caroline, daughter of David P. Thomson, M.D.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 24TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London, which in the two previous weeks had been 1135 and 1171, rose in the week that ended last Saturday to 1216. In the ten years, 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1177. But if the deaths of last week are to be compared with the average, the latter should be raised proportionally to the increase of population, in which case it will become 1295. Hence it will be seen that although the rate of mortality has been rising lately, it is still below the average.

In comparing the results of the last two weeks an increase is observed in the deaths of old persons; for whereas 41 men and women, who had attained the age of 80 years or upwards, died in the former week, the number last week was 74. In these 74 old persons an unusual number of nonagenarians is found, namely, 14; a man and a woman were each 95 years of age, and the two oldest were women who had reached the age of 96 years.

In the present as compared with the previous return there is an increase in zymotic diseases, and also in diseases of the nervous system and the heart; whilst the numbers referred to pulmonary complaints are almost identical, and deaths by phthisis (or consumption) decreased from 152 to 135. The increase in the class first mentioned arises altogether from hooping-cough and typhus (which includes common fever), the cases in which the former was fatal having increased from 55 to 67, and those of the latter from 34 to 52. Six children died of hooping-cough in the sub district of St. Margaret, Westminster, and 3 of these in the same house, viz., 2, Church-court. Three men died of "febris" on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd instant respectively in the Workhouse, Mile-end New Town. Measles was fatal last week in 26 cases. This complaint appears to have prevailed in the Norwood Workhouse, as four young children died there from it between the 11th and 17th of January. A musician who resides at 117, Lillington-street, Westminster, has lately lost all his children (four daughters) from measles.

Three persons died of carbuncle. The deaths of 5 persons are recorded in the present return as caused by intemperance.

Last week the births of 904 boys and 885 girls, in all 1789 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1553.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·547 in. The highest reading was 30·20 in. at the beginning of the week; the lowest 28·97 in. on Saturday. The mean temperature of the week was 38·1°, which is 1° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The *highest* temperature occurred on Sunday (the 18th), and was 49·8°; the *lowest* was 28·4°, which occurred on Thursday; the range of the week was 21·4°. The mean dew-point temperature was 36·1°, and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 2°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 39·4°. The temperature of the river was remarkably constant. The wind blew generally from the west. Its horizontal movement varied from 15 miles on Wednesday to 165 on Friday. Rain fell to the amount of 0·41 in., more than half of which fell on Tuesday. Rain fell on every day, except Wednesday.

HEALTH OF LONDON IN 1856.

IN the 52 weeks that ended December 27th the number of children born in London was 86,833. According to a rule which holds invariably in this large population, the number of males exceeded that of females, for the births consisted of 44,159 boys and 42,674 girls. In the same period 56,786 persons died, namely, 28,894 males and 27,892 females. The births increase more or less rapidly with the population; and under a reduced rate of mortality the number of deaths in 1856 was less than that of any previous year since 1852: and the result is an excess, greater than was obtained in any former year, of births over deaths. This excess is 30,047. Soldiers and seamen have returned from the seat of war; persons engaged in peaceful pursuits have arrived in the capital from other parts of the United Kingdom and from abroad; and though many have left it for other homes, it may be assumed that sustenance, clothing, and house accommodation must now be found in London for about 60,000 inhabitants more than it contained at the end of 1855.

Last year the public health was unusually good. During the last ten years the annual deaths in London have been on the average 25 to a thousand of the population; in 1856 the proportion was 22 to a thousand. The mortality was lower than in any year within the limits of this comparison, except 1850, when it was slightly less than 21 in a thousand, a reduction which, it is probable, was partly the consequence of the premature destruction of infirm persons by the cholera of the previous year. That improved state of health which last year prevailed in London as a whole was in various degrees enjoyed by each of the five great divisions of which it is composed. The mortality ranged from 21 in the Western and Northern divisions to 23 in the Eastern. But without reference to the rate of mortality—or the proportion of deaths to population—which alone furnishes a criterion of health, a comparison of deaths registered in the several *districts* will in some cases strikingly indicate the changes always in progress in the component parts of that vast "contiguity" of brick to which the term "London" is now applied. Westminster, selected for measures of improvement with some other districts, exhibits a decided decrease in the deaths; whilst in Kensington, Islington, Lewisham—desirable neighbourhoods on the outskirts—the deaths following population show a still more manifest increase.

The meteorological conditions of the year appear to have been generally favourable to health. The mean temperature at Greenwich was 49°·1, which approximates closely to the average as obtained from a long series of years. The winter, viz. January, February, and March, was mild; the mean weekly temperature was frequently above 42°, and rose as high as 44° and 47°; and in the fifth week of the year the deaths fell to 949. Diarrhœa prevailed amongst infants in summer, which to other classes of the community is the healthiest season; and hence, though the mortality was rather higher in winter than in the other quarters, its uniformity throughout the year is remarkable. An exception to this statement must be made with regard to October, which was conspicuous among the months for its low rate of mortality, the weekly deaths having been considerably less than a thousand. The mean temperature during great part of that month was 53°. The most fatal period was the first week in December, when the deaths arose above 1300, in consequence of great rigour combined with sudden change in the state of the atmosphere. Twenty-two inches of rain fell in 1856; the average of the last 40 years is nearly 26. In the second quarter the rain-fall was in excess of the average. The horizontal movement of the air was on an average 4 miles an hour.

The decline of small-pox in London may be traced through the last seven quarters. In the spring quarter of 1855 the deaths from it were 328; thereafter the quarterly numbers were 196, 177, 194, 146, 108, having decreased almost continuously till they were only 74 in the last quarter of 1856. The annual mortality from scarlatina has also been very perceptibly less since 1851. If the deaths from this disease, as they occurred in four seasons during the last five years, be compared, it will be seen that they always rose rapidly towards the close of each year; in 1854, when scarlatina was most fatal, the deaths from it were 3439, and in the last quarter of that year 1297; in 1856 they were 1795; and in the last quarter 556, having been in each of the previous three quarters about 400. Hooping-cough differs from scarlatina in this respect, that it is almost invariably most fatal in the winter quarter, viz., January, February, March, and (in the next degree) in the spring. The deaths from hooping-cough were 2078, showing a decrease on some previous years. Measles, alone of the four epidemics mentioned, exhibits an increase: in 1855 it was fatal in 864 cases, but last year in 1445.

The number of persons who died in 116 public institutions was 10,381. Nearly one person out of five who died in the year closed his days under a roof provided by public law or private charity. In workhouses the deaths of females preponderated over those of males; in hospitals for the sick, lunatic asylums, and prisons, the numbers in relation to sex are inverted, the inmates of the houses last mentioned being chiefly men and boys. The deaths of soldiers and seamen, which during the war rose each year above 400 in the London military and naval hospitals, were last year 282.

On the 25th of November the temperature suddenly fell, and after remaining amidst some fluctuations low for the following ten days, it rose again on December 5th, and continued for some days higher than the mean temperature of the year. The mean temperature of the *ten cold days* was 33·6°; and it ranged from 27·7° to 47·6°. But the mean night temperature was 26·9°; and the range was from 19·4° to 35·3°. Upon the grass the thermometer fell one night to 9·5°. Fog prevailed for the first four days, but was afterwards dispelled; on Thursday, December 4th, rain fell, and an increase of 10° of temperature took place between the hours of 6h. P.M. and 8h. P.M., followed by a nocturnal rising temperature, accompanied by a magnetic disturbance. Electricity was positive throughout the period; and volleys of sparks as well as galvanic currents were frequent at first, and became constant during the last five days.

Although the temperature was not on an average below the freezing point, and the season did not, as in the six weeks ending on February 24th, 1855, when the mean temperature was 28·4°, exhibit the effects of extreme and protacted cold on the population of London, it was held to be a favourable opportunity for investigating the immediate effects of a fall to a comparatively low temperature followed by a mild temperature.

The deaths at different ages, and of the several diseases in the Nosology, were taken out for each day from November 23rd to December 13th.

The *ten* days (November 26th to December 5th) may be called *cold days;* the ten days November 23rd, 24th, December 6th to 13th, may be called *warm days*, for the sake of distinction.

The general result is that the deaths in London during *ten cold days* were 1844; while the deaths in the ten warm days were 1505. The excess of deaths in the cold days was 339, or nearly 34 daily.

Under 5 years of age the mortality was increased by cold one *fourth* part; at the age 5 to 10 there was no increase; at 10 and under 20 the increase was one *third* part; at 20—40 one *sixth* part; at 40—60 one *fifth* part; at 60—80 one *third* part. At the age 80 and upwards no effect of cold is shown.

The deaths by consumption were increased at the age 20 and under 60.

The deaths by lung diseases and heart diseases were increased by the cold; but on the brain diseases the effect is not obvious.

WARBURG'S FEVER TINCTURE.

A CORRESPONDENCE, of four letters, has recently taken place between the Reverend Philip Jacob, Rector of Crawley and Canon of Winchester, and Dr. Andrew Crawford, a physician residing in Winchester. The letters are too long to be given at length; but an outline of them is subjoined.

No. 1. The Rev. Canon Jacob writes to Dr. Crawford that, having heard from a fellow clergyman of the beneficial effects of Warburg's tincture, he at once provided himself with a small bottle. Three years, however, elapsed before he used it; he then gave it in a case of remittent fever; and, within four hours, "the diaphoretic and restorative properties of the medicine were unmistakably developed." Finding that the patient did not recover so rapidly as he expected, Canon Jacob, on the sixth day, called in a medical man, who, on seeing the case, said "that there was nothing for him to do." The case went on "to a happy termination." In another case—one of typhus—Canon Jacob suggested the use of the tincture to the medical attendant; whose readiness "to take a step out of the beaten track of the accustomed treatment" the reverend gentleman holds worthy of praise. He adds that Warburg's tincture is used by Dr. Babington and Mr. Skey, and that they have fearlessly recommended it. In concluding, he says: "I do not apologise, sir, for thus addressing you; for, besides your own high medical reputation, you have the higher character for superiority to mere professional routine. I do not doubt your willingness to inquire into the properties of this new remedy. . . . . Prejudice against everything new in medical science is too common; and I could not anticipate the effect of my statement in some minds."

No. 2. Dr. Crawford replies that he possesses no actual knowledge on the subject; and that, although he had heard from extra professional sources reports as to the wonderful effects of Warburg's tincture in fever, he listened with great incredulity to the marvels related about secret nostrums. The case of typhus referred to by Canon Jacob had been seen by Dr. Crawford on the day following the administration of Warburg's tincture: she then was in the state in which fever patients generally are when the disease has "taken a turn"; and subsequently required the free exhibition of wine to aid her recovery. From a medical friend in London, he had learned that the tincture is said to be composed of aloes, aromatics,