

vestigation, and would report the results. Papers were read by Mr. J. C. Oliver on Conservative Dentistry, by Mr. G. G. Campion on the need of a Higher Qualification in Dental Surgery, by Mr. S. C. Coxon on the Teaching of Mechanical Dentistry, by Mr. T. G. Read on Porcelain and Gold Crown, and by Mr. H. W. Mayne on Draining Tube for the Antrum." A discussion then followed with reference to the vexed question of the utility of bar and bridge work. Mr. Tom Bird and Dr. Dudley Buxton read papers on Anæsthetics. Demonstrations of various methods of operating (clinics) were especially numerous, amongst which must be mentioned Dr. Hewitt's anæsthetising with nitrous oxide and oxygen, using his improved apparatus.

VITAL STATISTICS.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In twenty-eight of the largest English towns 5649 births and 3907 deaths were registered during the week ending Aug. 23rd. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 19.2 and 21.0 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, was again 21.0 last week. The rate was 19.2 in London and 22.4 in the twenty-seven provincial towns. During the first eight weeks of the current quarter the death-rate in the twenty-eight towns averaged 18.9 per 1000, and was 1.5 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the ten years 1880-89. The lowest rates in these towns last week were 13.0 in Bristol, 14.4 in Birkenhead, and 15.3 in Nottingham and in Halifax. The rates in the other towns ranged upwards to 27.5 in Salford, 27.6 in Sheffield, 29.4 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 31.7 in Preston. The deaths referred to the principal zymotic diseases, which had increased in the preceding five weeks from 526 to 960, further rose last week to 999; they included 705 from diarrhoea, 106 from measles, 72 from whooping-cough, 56 from scarlet fever, 36 from diphtheria, 24 from "fever" (principally enteric), and not one from small-pox. The lowest death-rates from these diseases were recorded in Halifax, Blackburn, Bristol, and Oldham, and the highest rates in Salford, Birmingham, Norwich, and Preston. The greatest mortality from measles occurred in Birkenhead and Bradford; from scarlet fever in Huddersfield, Manchester, and Bolton; from whooping-cough in Norwich and Huddersfield; and from diarrhoea in Hull, Sheffield, Norwich, Birmingham, and Preston. The mortality from "fever" showed no marked excess in any of the twenty-eight towns. The 36 deaths from diphtheria included 20 in London, 6 in Salford, 3 in Liverpool, 2 in Manchester, and 2 in Birmingham. No death from small-pox was registered in any of the twenty-eight towns. One small-pox patient was under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals and one in the Highgate Small-pox Hospital. The number of scarlet fever patients in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital at the end of last week was 1427, against numbers declining from 1505 and 1457 on the preceding three Saturdays; the new cases admitted during the week were 148, against 118 and 125 in the previous two weeks. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs in London, which had been 197 and 208 in the preceding two weeks, were 203 last week, and exceeded the corrected average by 27. The causes of 86, or 2.2 per cent., of the deaths in the twenty-eight towns were not certified either by a registered medical practitioner or by a coroner. All the causes of death were duly certified in Portsmouth, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Leeds, and in four other smaller towns. The largest proportions of uncertified deaths were recorded in Liverpool, Hull, Cardiff, Huddersfield, and Blackburn.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

The annual rate of mortality in the eight Scotch towns, which had been 17.2 and 18.2 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, further rose to 18.9 in the week ending Aug. 23rd, but was 2.1 below the rate that prevailed during the same period in the twenty-eight English towns. The rates in the eight Scotch towns ranged from 14.4 in Greenock and 15.6 in Aberdeen, to 20.9 in Glasgow and 21.2 in Leith. The 488 deaths in the eight towns showed an increase of 18 upon the number in the preceding week,

and included 40 which were referred to diarrhoea, 27 to whooping-cough, 10 to measles, 6 to scarlet fever, 4 to diphtheria, 3 to "fever," and not one to small-pox. In all, 90 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against 67 and 73 in the preceding two weeks. These deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.5 per 1000, which was 1.9 below the mean rate last week from the same diseases in the twenty-eight English towns. The highest death-rates from these diseases were 4.6 in Leith and 7.8 in Perth. The fatal cases of diarrhoea, which had been 18 and 36 in the previous two weeks, further rose last week to 40, of which 15 occurred in Glasgow, 9 in Dundee, and 6 in Edinburgh. The deaths referred to whooping-cough, which had declined from 36 to 20 in the preceding three weeks, rose again last week to 27, and included 10 in Glasgow and 7 in Edinburgh. The 10 fatal cases of measles exceeded by 6 the number in each of the previous weeks, and included 3 in Perth. The 6 deaths from scarlet fever also exceeded recent weekly numbers; 4 occurred in Edinburgh. Of the 4 fatal cases of diphtheria, 2 were recorded in Glasgow and 2 in Edinburgh. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs in these towns, which had been 64 and 67 in the preceding two weeks, further rose last week to 81, and exceeded the number in the corresponding week of last year by 33. The causes of 49, or 10 per cent., of the deaths in the eight towns were not certified.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.

The death-rate in Dublin, which had been 18.6 and 20.1 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, further rose to 20.5 during the week ending Aug. 23rd. During the first eight weeks of the current quarter the death-rate in the city averaged 20.3 per 1000, the rate for the same period being 18.5 in London and 17.1 in Edinburgh. The 139 deaths in Dublin showed an increase of 3 upon the number in the previous week; they included 7 which were referred to diarrhoea, 4 to "fever," 2 to measles, 1 to whooping-cough, and not one either to small-pox, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. Thus the deaths from the principal zymotic diseases, which had been 14 in each of the preceding two weeks, were again 14 last week; they were equal to an annual rate of 2.1 per 1000, the rate from the same diseases being 4.9 in London and 3.8 in Edinburgh. The fatal cases of diarrhoea, which had been 8 in each of the previous two weeks, declined to 7 last week. The deaths referred to different forms of "fever," which had been 2 in each of the preceding three weeks, rose to 4 last week. The 139 deaths in Dublin included 32 of infants under one year of age, and 33 of persons aged upwards of sixty years; the deaths of infants corresponded with the number in the previous week, while those of elderly persons showed an increase. Five inquest cases and 3 deaths from violence were registered; and 48, or more than a third, of the deaths occurred in public institutions. The causes of 21, or more than 15 per cent., of the deaths in the city were not certified.

THE SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.—Surgeon Charles Stuart Spong, F.R.C.S., has been seconded for service with the Egyptian Army (dated Aug. 13th, 1890).

ADMIRALTY. — The following appointments have been made:—Fleet Surgeons: Alfred W. Whitley to the *Trincomalee*, Valentine Duke, B.A., M.B., to the *Castor*, George B. Murray to the *Unicorn*, and Henry S. Lauder to the *Clyde* (all dated Aug. 30th, 1890); John S. Dobbyn to the *President*, additional (dated Aug. 27th, 1890). Staff Surgeons: Christopher Harvey to the *Anson*, Henry T. Madders, M.D., to the *Lion*, Henry A. W. Richardson to the *Hecla*, Robt. W. Biddulph, B.A., M.B., to the *Cleopatra*, and Frederick A. Trevan to the *Indus* (all dated Aug. 30th, 1890); Myles O'C. M. Swiney to Ascension Hospital and James O'B. Williams to the *Comus* (both dated Aug. 21st, 1890). Surgeons: John Lowney to the *Assistance*, temporarily (dated Aug. 30th, 1890); Robt. M'Ivor, M.D., to the *Daphne* (dated Sept. 5th, 1890).

VOLUNTEER CORPS.—*Rifle*: 4th Voluntéer Battalion, the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment): Thomas Lyndon, M.D., to be Acting Surgeon (dated Aug. 27th, 1890).—6th Volunteer Battalion, the King's (Liverpool Regiment):