

**THE ABERDEEN UNIVERSITIES.**—At a meeting, on Monday, the 21st ult., the graduates of Marischal College adopted resolutions in favour of the union; and it was recommended to the committee to co-operate with the King's College graduates, and arrange a joint deputation to wait on the Lord Advocate immediately.

**THE LATE POISONING CASES.**—At the close of a lecture delivered on Monday evening, at the Bristol Philosophical Institution, Mr. William Herapath, the eminent analytical chemist and professor of toxicology, took the opportunity of adverting to the state of alarm which had been produced in the public mind by the recent alleged secret poisonings at Rugeley, Manchester, and elsewhere. The apprehensions which the cases to which he had referred had given rise had, he said, been much increased by certain statements which had been put forth, and which, as he understood them, were these—that prussic acid could not be discovered in the system at more than fourteen days, that strychnia could only be detected a few hours after death, and that cocculus indicus could not be detected at all. Now, he had himself detected the presence of prussic acid in a human body after an interment of two months; he had found cocculus indicus in dead fishes and in a human body after it had been buried for ten months. The difficulties in the way of detecting poisons of this class were not, therefore, so insurmountable as some supposed, and he hoped that the knowledge of the fact would have the effect of reassuring the public mind.

**ALLEGED CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA.**—M. Guerin-Meneville lately brought before the French Academy of Sciences a means of curing hydrophobia, which, he stated, is practised in Russia with success. A little insect, the golden cetonides, found in considerable quantities on rose trees, is proved, when pounded to a powder, and administered internally, to produce a profound sleep, which sometimes lasts for thirty-six hours, and which has the effect, in many cases, of completely nullifying the hydrophobic affection. A distinguished entomologist of Russia, M. Motschouski, has tried several experiments with this insect, and in most cases with success.—*Times*.

**ENGLISH COD-LIVER OIL.**—A complaint has been lately made before the Local Board of Health, of Hartlepool, of a most offensive nuisance on the sands, the smell being so offensive as to cause even fishermen to leave the pier towards which the vapours were wafted. The nuisance turned out to be a cauldron employed in the manufacture of "English Cod-liver Oil," from the livers of the ling-fish in the last stage of decomposition.

**SUSPECTED POISONING.**—Thomas Bull Holland, Member of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, has been charged, with others, at the Manchester City Court-house, with poisoning. The details resemble those of the Rugeley case. It is understood that he has made a confession to the effect that, being surgeon to the Diadem Insurance Company for the District, the other prisoners had applied to him to pass John Monaghan, father of one of the prisoners, as a good life; that subsequently they asked him, whilst making in his surgery a solution of white-lead in water, if it could not be done without assuming a milky colour; and that he showed them it could be done by making the solution with whisky. There was reason to believe that some of the mixture had been given to the old man Monaghan, who died some months ago, when application was made for £300, the insurance money; this, however, was refused. Mr. Holland's disclosures have led to the belief that two other persons have been similarly poisoned. The counsel for the prosecution applied to have Holland liberated from the dock, that he might be examined as a witness. This was done, and an examination of some hours made, in which, it is said, he prevaricated so as to render it impossible to get half-a-dozen consecutive sentences from him without contradictions. The case is still under investigation.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT REFUSED.**—At a public meeting, held at Smethwick, Staffordshire, the following resolution was carried, after considerable discussion:—"That it is the opinion and wish of this meeting that the Health of Towns Act be not applied to this hamlet; and the meeting respectfully requests the chairman to communicate this to the General Board in London, and ask them to forego taking any further steps in the matter." The chairman, in his opening speech, had said he was most desirous to see the Act adopted, with a view to the general good and the permanent advantage of the parish.

**MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.**—At the weekly meeting of the Marylebone vestry, held last Saturday, in the Court-house, Marylebone-lane, it was agreed that the election for Medical Officer of Health, under the new Metropolis Management Act, should take place on the 9th of February next, the salary of the officer to be £400 per annum, with the privilege of practising. The secretary, Mr. Greenwell, was therefore directed to advertise in THE LANCET and two of the morning newspapers for candidates.—The medical committee, appointed by the Paddington vestry to examine the claims of gentlemen applying for the appointment of sanitary officer to the parish, and to report thereon, have recommended the following, five in number:—Mr. P. H. Bird, Dr. Holland, Dr. Graily Hewitt, Dr. Handfield Jones, and Dr. Sanderson.—Mr. Lionel Beale has been appointed Medical Officer of Health for the parish of St. Martin-in-the-fields.

**HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 26.**—The health of London is now in a more satisfactory state than it has been usually at this period of the year. In the week that ended on Saturday 1029 deaths, of which 500 were those of males and 529 those of females, were registered. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1165, which if raised in proportion to increase of population becomes 1282. The deaths in the present return are less than the corrected average by 253. Scarletina has become less fatal than it was two months ago. In November the deaths from it were about 70 in a week; last week they were 43. Hooping-cough, which has rather increased lately, carried off 56 children; and typhus (which appears to prevail to some extent in the East districts) was fatal in 44 cases. Four of these cases occurred in White-chapel North; 3 of them in the workhouse. Three persons died of influenza; 10 of erysipelas; 8 of syphilis; 17 of cancer; 1 of carbuncle; 1 of intemperance; 2 of delirium tremens; 1 from want; 7 infants from want of breast-milk. It was stated in last report that 10 deaths from typhus had occurred in the London Fever Hospital between the 11th and 19th January. The return for last week contains 11 deaths that have occurred there since the 19th, all caused by the same disease.

## Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

**BIRTHS.**—On the 22nd ult., at Hayle, Cornwall, the wife of Edwin Edmonds, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., of a daughter.

On the 22nd ult., at Calverly Park, Tunbridge-wells, the wife of C. F. Thompson, M.D., of Sussex-gardens, Hyde-park, London, of a daughter.

On the 23rd ult., the wife of E. W. Pollard, M.R.C.S., &c., of Brompton-square, of a daughter.

On the 24th ult., at Craven-street, Strand, the wife of Assistant-Surgeon J. Fitzpatrick, Madras Army, of a daughter.

On the 24th ult., at the Manor House, Chiswick, the wife of Harrington Tuke, M.D., of a son.

On the 26th ult., at Thornhill-square, Islington, the wife of Horatio Sillifant, Esq., M.R.C.S., of a son.

On the 28th ult., at Fakenham, the wife of H. Rudge, M.D., of a son.

On the 28th ult., at Queen's-road, Bayswater, the wife of Edward Riggall, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c., of a son, stillborn.

**MARRIAGE.**—On the 24th ult., at Ripon, R. Death, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c., Buckingham, to Anne, youngest daughter of the late Timothy R. Holmes, Esq., of Bury St. Edmunds.

**DEATHS.**—On the 15th ult., Thomas Brenan, surgeon, R.N., at Southsea, after a long and painful illness, contracted on the coast of Africa.

On the 22d ult., at Barham, near Canterbury, Edward Long, M.D., aged 25, late of Downham-market, Norfolk.

On the 24th ult., at Higham Ferrers, W. H. Pope, L.S.A., aged 48, fifth son of the late Rev. James Pope, vicar of Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire.

On the 25th ult., H. Monro, M.D., sen., late of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, and Bushy, Herts, in his 67th year.

On the 27th ult., after a few days' illness, at his residence, City-terrace, City-road, R. Hills, M.D.

On the 28th ult., at Guildford-street, Mary Isabel, eldest daughter of the late Scrope Hutchinson, M.D., of Dover.

On the 30th ult., Charlotte, wife of R. L. Haynes, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., of Holloway, aged fifty-two.