

# Illustrated London News

## August 1854 – October 1854

[Aug. 5, 1854.]

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—During the week ending last Saturday, the births of 786 boys and of 750 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts. These numbers show an excess of 157 over the average of the nine corresponding weeks of the nine preceding years. The number of deaths registered during the same time was 1219, being 210 above the number in the preceding week, and 40 in excess of the average of the ten corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years' corrected for increase of population. The zymotic class of diseases, which numbered 293 deaths in the previous week, rose this week to 422. This increase is caused by cholera, which has made considerable progress since the 26 deaths which occurred last week. It was fatal this week in 133 cases—viz., to 42 children under fifteen years of age, to 78 persons between fifteen and sixty years, and to 13 persons sixty years old and upwards. Diarrhœa has increased from 58 to 84 in the last two weeks.

AUG. 12, 1854.]

HEALTH OF LONDON.—During the week ending last Saturday, the births of 1503 children were registered within the metropolitan districts: of these, 776 were boys, and 727 were girls; exhibiting an excess of 76 boys and 63 girls over the average of the nine corresponding weeks of the nine preceding years. The number of deaths during the same time was 1456: of these, 768 were males and 688 were females; showing an excess of the deaths of 160 males and 100 females above the average of the ten corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years, corrected for increase of population. The present return, therefore, exhibits a mortality considerably in excess of the average; the result arising from cholera, which it will be seen with regret, continues to make progress in the metropolis. The deaths ascribed to the zymotic or epidemic class of diseases, rose from 422, in the previous week, to 731 in this week. Of these 64 are ascribed to scarlatina, the deaths being all under fifteen years of age (the average is 37). To diarrhoea, 142 deaths are referred: 124 occurring under 15 years; 6 between 15 and 60; and 12 above sixty years (the average number is 119). To cholera, 399 deaths are ascribed; of these, 145 deaths occurred under the age of 15 years; 213 between 15 and 60, and 41 above the age of 60 years. To typhus, 44. To tubercular diseases, 198; of these, 128 are due to consumption. To diseases of the brain, nerves, and senses, 124. To diseases of the heart and blood-vessels, 24. To diseases of the lungs and of the other organs of respiration, 79. And to violence, cold, privation, and intemperance, 30 deaths are attributed.



AUG. 19, 1854.]

HEALTH OF LONDON.—During the week ending last Saturday August 12th, the births of 820 boys, and of 842 girls, were registered within the metropolitan districts; and within the same period the deaths of 924 males, and of 908 females. Of the deaths, 833 were at ages less than fifteen years; 286 exceeded sixty; and 661 were between those ages. The average number of deaths in the same week, in the ten preceding years, corrected for increase of population, was 1221; and therefore the number of deaths exceeded the estimated number by 611. The number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 230: this result is very unusual. To zymotic diseases, 1063 deaths were attributed: of these scarlatina caused 86; diarrhœa, 195; cholera, 644; and typhus, 53. The other classes of diseases caused about their average number of deaths. The present epidemic is on the increase. Its progress, week by week, is shown by the following numbers—5, 26, 133, 399, and (last week) 644. The deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery in the same five weeks were—51, 63, 87, 146, and 200. The number of deaths caused by cholera in the different districts are as follows:—In the west districts, there was one death in 5500 inhabitants; in the north and central districts, one in 13,000; in the east district, one in 8000; but in the south districts (those situate on the south side of the river Thames) the deaths were one in 1400 of the inhabitants.

THE CHOLERA IN MILLBANK PRISON.—About twenty deaths from cholera have taken place there; and, in consequence, it has been decided to remove the whole of the convicts temporarily to Dorchester. About 600 arrived at Dorchester Barracks in one train, by the South-Western Railway, a few days since. An immense number of keepers accompany the convicts.

Aug. 26, 1854.]

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—During the week ending August 19, the births of 813 boys and of 756 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts; and, within the same period, the deaths of 1833 persons were also registered; the number of deaths exceeding that of the births by 264. The number of deaths in the preceding week was 1832. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week, of the years 1844—58, the average number was 1113, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1224. The present return exhibits an excess of 609 above the estimated amount. Cholera was fatal last week to 729 persons, of whom 214 were children under 15 years of age, 426 were 15 and under 60, and 88 were 60 years old and upwards. During the cholera epidemic of 1849 the total deaths registered in the week that ended August 18th were 2230, and those from cholera 1230. In the six weeks of its present appearance the deaths from cholera have been successively 5, 26, 133, 399, 644, and 729. The deaths from diarrhoea last week were 192. From the Registrar-General's return it appears that the present epidemic has prevailed with great irregularity over London, and that in some districts its ravages are inconsiderable. Imperfect drainage, proximity to the dirtiest parts of the Thames, bad water, and poverty, are still, as they were in 1849, the chief circumstances that make cholera fatal. It is on the banks of the polluted Thames, in the lower parts of the London basin, that the people die in large numbers; for on ground not on an average 10 feet above the Trinity high-water mark one death from cholera has happened out of 490 people; while on the next terrace of 10 feet, and under 40 feet of elevation, one in 1300 has died; and on the higher grounds above St. James's-square and the Strand only one has died of cholera out of 5025 inhabitants. The mortality at the three elevations, commencing at the lowest, has been at the rate of 204 and 76 and 20 to every 100,000 inhabitants. The people on the low grounds have suffered *ten* times as much as the people living on the grounds of a moderate elevation.



SEPT. 2, 1854.]

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—Within the week ending August 26, the births of 1638 children were registered within the metropolitan districts; of these, 856 were boys, and 782 were girls. The number of deaths registered within the same period was no less than 2039, exceeding the number of births by 401. The average number of deaths in the same week, for the preceding ten years, varied in the proportion of increase of population, was 1225. The prevailing epidemic has produced an excess, amounting to 814, above the corrected average. From cholera the deaths in last week were 847—of which 277 were children, 458 in the prime of life, and 111 aged; and from diarrhoea were 214—of which number 166 were children. In the corresponding week of 1849 cholera carried off 1272 persons. In the present summer its weekly progress is traced in the following numbers—5, 26, 133, 399, 644, 729, and 847. In the first seven weeks of the epidemic of 1849 the deaths were 9, 22, 42, 49, 124, 152, and 339. In that year it commenced about the end of May, but in the fourth week of August it had reached to 2456, a higher rate of mortality than the disease which now prevails has yet attained. The number of persons who have already died of cholera in the present epidemic in the metropolitan districts, is 2783; but 1706 of the number have fallen on the low grounds of London, out of 595,119 people, whose dwellings are not ten feet above the Thames; 705 have died out of 648,619 on ground extending from 10 to 40 feet above the same level; and only 345, out of 1,070,372, who live on ground exceeding 40 feet above the same level. The mortality from cholera at the three elevations is, therefore, at less than 10 feet, 1 in 350; between 10 and 40 feet, 1 in 920; and at elevations exceeding 40 feet, only 1 in 3100. Last week 1022 males, and 1017 females died, distributed at three different periods of life, as follows:—Less than 15 years, 965; exceeding 60 years, 298; and between those ages, 775.

**INSTITUTION.**—An interesting lecture,



[SEP. 9, 1854.]

of John Angerstein, Esq., and leaves

## THE CHOLERA.

The severe outbreak of cholera in part of St. James's parish, and in the adjacent parts of the parish of St. Anne, Soho—in which ninety deaths from cholera are reported in the Registrar-General's return for last week—has been promptly met by the sanitary and other preventive measures carried out by the Boards of Guardians, under the advice of the General Board of Health. The President of the Board himself went over the affected district on Tuesday morning, with the view of seeing for himself the real amount of evil, to encourage local efforts, and allay alarm by his presence. He visited Dufour's place, Broad-street, Silver-street, and other infected localities in the neighbourhood. Groups of people formed themselves in the street, and evinced much gratitude at his presence. The scenes in those districts are of a most distressing character. The Guardians are acting most energetically, and every credit is due to them. The same may be said of many other districts.

Inquiries have been instituted and assistance rendered, where necessary, in the following parishes and unions:—Lambeth, St. Saviour's, St. George, Southwark; St. Mary, Newington; Camberwell, Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Greenwich, St. Olave's, Stepney, Poplar, Bethnal-green, Shoreditch, St. George's-in-the-East, Whitechapel, Chelsea, and Paddington. All the other districts of the metropolis will shortly be reported on. The President has directed special attention to the supply of water in the several localities; the source of supply; whether filtered or not before supply; and when two companies supply in any one district, the inspector is to state whether the disease is more prevalent in one district than in the other, having due regard to similar classes of dwellings. Inquiry also will be made into the state of the sewers. The inspector is also to report whether in those places which were the seats of disease in former years, the epidemic has appeared in a less virulent form where drainage and general improvements have been carried out. House to house visitation is strongly recommended, and disinfectants are to be used where necessary. It is extremely satisfactory to find that the local authorities have exhibited the greatest willingness to adopt any suggestions from the General Board of Health. After the inquiry is concluded, each inspector will make a report on the district assigned to him. He will state the powers given to local authorities, and the defective state of those powers (if any), that the subject may undergo the consideration of the Legislature next session; and in the meantime the inspectors send in daily reports to the Board, which are noted by the President and returned to the inspectors early next morning, before they proceed to their inquiry. Inspectors are also appointed to visit the shipping in the river, and report thereon.

Since Friday morning a portion of the lower part of Deptford, near the Dockyard, has been the scene of a terrible visitation of cholera. Between midnight of Thursday and Monday morning, nearly forty human beings perished in one street alone, and it was stated on Monday afternoon that there were nearly twenty more hopeless cases lying in the same street and the adjacent courts. The immediate locality of this terrible outbreak is New-street, Wellington-street, Deptford, a long street of old houses, many of them uninhabitable or in ruins, while, with few exceptions, all those which are tenanted are in a very dilapidated state. In many places one common cesspool supplies the wants of several houses, and the stagnant gutters upon each side of the street do the duty of sewers. Added to this, Wellington-street, out of which New-street branches, being in the same state, nearly all its refuse water runs through New-street before it finds its way into the Thames. In places where houses have been pulled down, the waste ground has been used as a dépôt for all sorts of filth. The inhabitants are principally decent labouring people. Up to Thursday last there had been a few cases of sickness creating no alarm. Upon that evening a working man at the Crystal Palace was brought to his house in New-street, ill of the cholera. His landlady who let him in, was so alarmed at his appearance that she was instantly taken ill, and before daybreak both had died. Before twelve o'clock the next day (whether through sudden panic or otherwise) others were dead and dying, and the mortality has kept spreading since then, to the fearful extent above mentioned. The bodies of the deceased parties were not removed, or even coffined, until Monday night, about eleven o'clock, when the parochial authorities came into the street with a van. In Flaggon-court, a small *cul-de-sac* turning out of Wellington-street, four children in one family died in a few hours. This court is a small place with eight small two-roomed cottages in it, not having the slightest ventilation backwards, and there is one common cesspool in the court, and no sewerage. Except in this immediate locality, there has been but little sickness in Deptford, a circumstance which proves the necessity for searching inquiry. The householders in Wellington-street, mostly shopkeepers, complain bitterly. They have paid sewer-rates for four years, and yet have to empty all their slops in the gutter.



[SEP. 9, 1854.]

**CHOLERA PREVENTED.** Views on Diet, 1s.; by post, 1s. 4d. Electro Biology Explained, 4d.; by post, 6d. C. M. K. DICK, Practical Phrenologist, 492, New Oxford-street. Delineations of the powers of the Mind daily. Lecture on Fridays at Three p.m.; on Tuesdays at Eight. Consultations in French, German, or Spanish.

DR. DE JONGH'S

**LIGHT BROWN COD-LIVER OIL**, prepared for Medicinal Use in the Loffoden Isles, Norway, and put to the test of chemical analysis. The most effectua' remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, and all SCROFULOUS DISEASES.

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Extract from the "LANCET," July 29, 1854.

"After a careful examination of the different kinds of Cod-liver Oil, Dr. De Jongh gives the preference to the Light Brown Oil over the Pale Oil, which contains scarcely any volatile fatty acid, a smaller quantity of iodine, phosphoric acid, and the elements of bile, and upon which ingredients the efficacy of Cod-liver Oil, no doubt, partly depends. Some of the deficiencies of the Pale Oil are attributable to the method of its preparation, and especially to its filtration through charcoal. In the preference of the Light Brown over the Pale Oil we fully concur.

"We have carefully tested a specimen of the Light Brown Cod-liver Oil, prepared for medical use under the direction of Dr De Jongh, and obtained from the wholesale agents, Messrs. Ansar, Harford, and Co., 77, Strand. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

Sold wholesale and retail, in bottles labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, by

ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., 77, Strand, London,  
Sole Consignees and Agents for the United Kingdom and the British Possessions at the following prices:—

IMPERIAL MEASURE.—Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.

\*\*\* Four half-pint bottles forwarded, CARRIAGE PAID, to any part of England, on receipt of a remittance of ten shillings.



SEPT. 16, 1854.]

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending September 9, the births of 810 boys and of 796 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts; in all 1606 children. The average numbers in the same week of the preceding nine years are 706 boys, and 695 girls. The number of deaths within the same week was the very large number of 3418—a number greater than any in the same week of the year in the previous ten years. In the year 1849, when the epidemic of cholera was then prevalent, 3183 deaths occurred, which is the nearest approach to the mortality of last week of any within the period. Of the deaths, 1655 were males, and 1758 were females, distributed over the different periods of life as follows:—Under 15 years of age, 1357; above 60 years, 523; and 1528 between those ages. Cholera alone caused the deaths of 2050 persons: of these, 954 were males, 1096 females: 614 were children under 15 years of age; 1128 men and women of 15 and under 60; and 287 at ages exceeding sixty years. The deaths from cholera in the last nine weeks have been—5, 26, 133, 399, 644, 729, 847, 1287, 2050. The sum of those numbers is 6120: and, thus, cholera has already destroyed 6120 lives. The deaths have been distributed over the metropolis as follows: In the West district, whose population in 1851 was 376,527, in eight weeks, ending September 2, there were 768 deaths; last week there were 545. In the North district, population in 1851 was 490,396: there were 252 deaths up to September 2; and this number was increased last week by 208. In the Central district, population in 1851 was 393,256: the deaths up to September 2 were 195; and last week added 117 more. In the East district, population in 1851 was 485,522: deaths up to Sept. 2 were 541, and last week 208; and in the South districts, population in 1851 was 616,635: the number of deaths up to Sept. 2 was 2317; and this large number was increased last week by 972. Active measures have been adopted by the Board of Health for combating the present epidemic, and for obtaining, by all the agents and instruments that science has now at command, such a thorough knowledge of the conditions that lend power to this enemy, as will enable us to oppose it with advantages that were not before possessed. The decline of the temperature, the analogy of the epidemics of 1832 and 1849, as well as the remedial measures that are now brought into operation, justify us in anticipating that the epidemic will, ere long, gradually subside. In the meantime the zeal and watchfulness neither of the local authorities, of the heads of manufactories, nor of the heads of families, should be slackened for a moment.

The square is closed for the

At Naples, in a small and filthy street, called Vico del San Sepolcro, 143 out of 146 inhabitants have been carried off one after the other by cholera. The authorities caused the three survivors to be removed, and placed sentinels at the entrances of the street to prevent persons from visiting it. This place of death has been since appropriately designated the Tomba del San Sepolcro.



SEPT. 23, 1854.]

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending Saturday, September 16, the births of 766 boys and of 739 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts. The average numbers in the corresponding week of the nine preceding years were 702 and 663 respectively. The deaths within the same period were 1374 males, and 1462 females; spread over three different periods of life, as follows:—Children under fifteen years, 1127; above sixty years, 464; and 1239 men and women in the prime of life. The total number of deaths within the week was 2836—being less than in the preceding week by 577. The deaths from cholera fell, from 2050 in the preceding week, to 1549 in last week—or 501 less. The total deaths in the present eruption have been 7669. In the eruption of 1849 the deaths by cholera up to within one day of the same date, were 11,825. In both of the eruptions the mortality was highest on nearly the same day of September; its decline commenced in the corresponding week; and we may now sanguinely hope that it will descend as rapidly as it did in the autumn of 1849. But no exertions should be spared to save the thousands whose lives are still threatened; and the dread lesson, before regarded so little, should never be forgotten, that men can no longer drink polluted water—breathe impure air—neglect sanitary measures, year after year, with impunity. The number of deaths from cholera last week in the West districts was 248, making a total of 1558; in the north districts 115, making a total in ten weeks of 575; in the Central district 106, making a total in ten weeks of 418; in the East district 224, giving a total in ten weeks of 973; and in the South districts of 856, giving a total of 4145 in the ten weeks ending September 16. In the week ending July 1, there was only one death from cholera; in the second, five; and week by week the numbers were 16, 133, 399, 644, 729, 847, 1287, 2050; and last week 1549; thus, then, its ravages have reached a culminating point; and it is a subject of thankful congratulation that it has done so. The first check given to it immediately followed the change in the weather on the 12th and 13th instant.

THE WANTS OF LONDON.

Though London is the richest and greatest, and, perhaps, the healthiest city in the world, it is by no means the finest or the most convenient. Its wealth, its population, and its extent are rapidly increasing; but its salubrity and its amenity are neglected and impaired. The larger it grows, the more unwholesome it becomes. The more numerous its population, the more pestiferous is the noble river that ebbs and flows through it. The more active and enterprising its traders and merchants, the more inconvenient are its streets. Wealth is certainly not wanting to render the metropolis as beautiful as it is ugly, and as convenient for locomotion and intercommunication as it is notoriously the reverse. Neither is there any deficiency of willingness on the part of the great mass of the people to aid in the work of improvement. Every one feels and deplures the evils of the congestion under which the olden portions of the metropolis—and more especially the City—that great heart and centre of all—suffer for want of adaptation to the necessities of its enormous traffic, and to the health and comfort of its crowded millions. But no one has sufficient authority to undertake the needful reforms. The new London of Belgravia and Tyburnia may stand comparison for beauty and splendour with any city in the world; but old London and Westminster, with their outlying boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, the Tower Hamlets, and Finsbury, have positively nothing to recommend them but wealth, extent, and populousness. The wealth is not applied to sanitary improvement or to architectural adornment; while the extent and the populousness are but aggravations of a pre-existing and very serious mischief.

The most urgent wants of London may be classified under four heads:—First,—the want of municipal unity; second,—the want of a system of drainage and sewerage to carry off the refuse of two millions and a half of people without poisoning the Thames, and making it a stream of death, instead of a river of life and beauty; third,—the want of bridges from shore to shore; and, fourth,—the want of a sufficient number of main arterial streets to accommodate the

traffic of the greatest commerce the world ever saw. To supply all these wants is doubtless a matter of difficulty. Yet the difficulty is not insurmountable. The first is simply a question for Legislative decision, and might be settled by any Government that had energy enough to insist upon it. The three others are questions of expense alone, and should not affright a people that has invested so many millions in railways and in steam-ships; and that, out of its plethora of capital, finds money to lend to any State or Government that may be in want of it—that helps to make the canals and railroads of America—that opens up the interior of India—that even made the railways of France to a far greater extent than the French themselves—that buys up Highland hills and Irish bogs—and that will embark in any project, sane or insane, which promises a return of four or five per cent upon the investment.

It is needless to dwell upon the inconveniences that result from the want of municipal unity, or even of municipal federalism, in the government of so mighty a city. Even amid the bustle and excitement of war, should the calamity unfortunately endure for another twelvemonth, time will be found by the Legislature to attend to the recommendations of the late Commission of Inquiry. The old Corporation of London is doomed. Affecting, and affected by, the whole metropolis, the City can no longer be considered as a thing apart. The "Belly" must be taught that its interests are identical with those of the "Members." The great civic "Body" must be one in Government, as it is in fact. The head at Westminster—the hands at Marylebone and Finsbury—and the feet at Southwark and Lambeth—must know themselves to be parts of one whole, and that what is of service to one is beneficial to all; and that the dirt, discomfort, and disease that prevail in one locality are nuisances and dangers to every other. Any Government that shall undertake and accomplish this great work will entitle itself both to fame and to gratitude. Such a victory of peace would not be incompatible with the more uproarious and engrossing victories of war. The people are impatiently anticipating the one, let the present Go-

vernment attempt the other also. If it will, there is but little reason to fear that it will not succeed in it.

The purification of the Thames, which we have classed as the second of the great wants of the metropolis, has become a matter of absolute necessity. The ravages of the cholera prove, in a fearful manner, the deadly mischief which it either produces or aggravates. It is only a question of expense whether the Thames shall not be as limpid and wholesome at Blackfriars-bridge as it is at Chertsey or Maidenhead; and whether there shall not be embanked terraces from Whitehall to Billingsgate, and from Lambeth Palace to the railway termini at Southwark, as imposing in appearance, and as convenient for the traffic, both of business and recreation, as the magnificent *quais* of Paris. Sooner or later these improvements will be effected; and, while the purification of the river will be a direct benefit to the health and comfort of every dweller in the metropolis—and, as such, beyond all price—the embankment and terracement of the Thames will, in all probability, yield a fair percentage of profit to those who may be induced to invest their money in them.

The want of new main streets, and of lines of communication between the main streets already in existence, is a positive disgrace to a community that claims to be at the head of civilisation, and that can justly boast of so many wealthy, enlightened, and public-spirited members. New Cannon-street—for which the Corporation of London deserves high credit—diminishes, but does not remove, the evil. Ludgate-hill and Fleet-street are more inconveniently crowded than ever they were; while the Strand—one of the most important streets in Europe, and a main thoroughfare—has no direct communication with the parallel thoroughfare of Oxford-street and Holborn. The only available means of communication between Fleet-street and Holborn is Chancery-lane, which is too narrow at one end to admit of the passage of two vehicles abreast, and where a vast amount of traffic is often brought to a stand-still by a costermonger's cart, or by a laundress's wheel-barrow. Two wide streets between the



HEALTH OF LONDON.—The number of births registered within the metropolitan districts, within the week ending September 23rd, was 1628, of which 833 were boys, and 795 girls. The number of deaths within the same period was 2504; of which 1194 were males and 1310 females. The deaths at three different periods of life were as follows:—Children under fifteen years of age, 1009, exceeding the corrected average by 462; at ages between fifteen and sixty, there were 1056 deaths, exceeding the corrected average by 657; and at ages exceeding 60 years there were 436 deaths, exceeding the corrected average by 230. The number of deaths caused by diarrhoea and dysentery was 195, being less than in the preceding week by 44, and less than in the week ending September 16th by 89; the disease is, therefore, upon the decline. The number of deaths caused by cholera was 1284, a number less than in the preceding week by 265, and less than in the week ending September 16th by 766; thus showing a further decrease of cholera. Out of a population of 376,427 in 1851, in the West Metropolitan districts, there were 380 deaths—of those 216 were caused by cholera; in the North districts, out of a population of 490,396 in 1851, the deaths were 303, and 70 were caused by cholera; in the Central districts (population in 1851 was 393,256), the deaths were 240, and cholera carried off 77; in the East districts (population in 1851 was 485,522), the number of deaths was 475, the number referred to cholera was 197; and, in the South districts, out of a population of 616,635 in 1851, there were 1106 deaths, and 724 were referred to cholera. The total number of deaths by cholera in these districts, up to September 23rd, is 8953. Of these, 1774 have occurred in the west; 645 in the north; 495 in the central; 1170 in the east; and 4869 in the south districts. In the west districts one death has taken place out of 210 inhabitants; in the north, 1 out of 760; in the central, 1 out of 800 nearly; in the east districts 1 out of 420; and in the south, the comparative large proportion of 1 out of 130 inhabitants.



The cholera has carried off at Barcelona 6000 persons, or nearly five per cent of the whole population, which is 123,000. In London the mortality has not been one-third per cent.

The town of Daroca, in Arragon, which contained 2300 inhabitants, has been destroyed by an inundation, caused by the bursting of a waterspout, formed in the neighbouring lake of Gallocanta.

The report which has appeared in one or two papers that the 46th Regiment intended to send forth a pamphlet in its own defence, is contradicted on authority.

Even the highest mountains are not refuges from the cholera; a German missionary has died of the disease in the Neilgherries, eight thousand feet above the sea-level.

THE LATE MR. ELIJAH WILLIAMS, THE CELEBRATED CHESS-PLAYER.—(From a Correspondent.)—This lamented gentleman was professionally a surgeon, but for many years had discontinued practice. When the cholera, to which he fell a victim, broke out, he benevolently posted a notice on the door of his house, inviting the poor to apply to him for preventive medicines, if attacked by premonitory symptoms, offering it to them gratuitously. On leaving his home for the last time, he asked his wife to give him some of the medicine, as he felt unwell. Unfortunately, the last bottle was exhausted. He walked to town, and was seized with violent pains near Northumberland House, in the Strand, and on the advice of a friend, went to the Charing-cross Hospital for relief. This occurred on the 6th of this month; on the 8th he expired in that establishment. Some of the medical men hoped that the crisis had passed; but Mr. Williams pointed to the blue marks on his nails. He was convinced, from this discoloration, that he would not survive. He has left a widow and four young children, utterly unprovided for; but his friends are raising a subscription for her support. It is hoped that this melancholy case, really worthy of Christian charity, will excite the sympathy of chess-players in particular. We urge the claims of the widow [the more earnestly, because we are personally acquainted with her truly deplorable position. Her youngest child is only eight months old. She is an amiable lady, deserving of aid in her sad bereavement.



Oct. 7, 1854.]

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—Within the week ending September 30, the births of 907 boys, and of 862 girls were registered in the metropolitan districts; these numbers exceed their average by 182 and 167 respectively. The number of deaths in the week, were 1141 males and 1075 females; or, together, 2216. At ages less than 15 there were 946 deaths; between 15 and 60, 869; and above 60 there were 361 deaths. The number of deaths from cholera was 754: it is rapidly declining. Its progress weekly is shown by the following numbers:—In the week ending July 8, there was 1; and in the following weeks 5, 26, 133, 399, 644, 729, 847, 1287, 2050, 1549, 1284, and 754 respectively. The deaths from diarrhoea are also decreasing. This disease, in the week ending September 9, caused 284 deaths, next week 239, then 195, and last week 169. The improvement in the public health is better than the 2216 deaths from all causes indicate; as in the last week of the quarter many coroners' cases, spread over the quarter, is returned, and included in the total number. The present epidemic began later than in 1849, and it has latterly been more fatal; but the aggregate mortality will yet, probably, be less than it was in 1849, for the deaths by cholera in that year, to September 29, were 13,098; while the deaths in the present epidemic, to September 30, have been 9707. Yet the loss of nearly 10,000, or, including the deaths by diarrhoea, of 12,000 lives, within a few weeks, in the chief city of the empire, is an appalling fact, demanding the strict investigation into all its details, which the Board of Health has directed to be instituted. Is London to continue every five years to be attacked by pestilence, and to lose so many thousands of its inhabitants? Cannot the conditions in which disease is fatal be determined, and cannot they be removed?

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTION

Oct. 21, 1854.]

City of Montreal.

THE CHOLERA IN RUSSIA.—The *Russian Medical Gazette* of September 23 (Oct. 5), states that since the breaking out of the cholera at St. Petersburg, there had been 20,620 cases down to Sept. 1 (13); of which 8652 had proved fatal. At Mitau, down to the 14th (26) of September, there had been 384 cases; of these, 189 persons had died.



Oct. 28, 1854.]

HEALTH OF LONDON.—During the week ending last Saturday, the births of 1408 children were registered within the metropolitan districts; being 19 above the average of the nine corresponding weeks of the nine preceding years: of these, 705 were boys, being 2 below the average; and 703 were girls, exceeding the average by 21. The number of deaths during the week were 1321; the average of the ten corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years, corrected for increase of population, was 1036; therefore, about 300 more deaths occurred than estimated from the experience of former years at the middle of October. The numbers in the two preceding weeks were—1532 and 1394 respectively. The number of deaths from cholera this week were 163. The mortality from the epidemic declines, but not so rapidly as in the same month of 1849. In the three weeks of October in that year the deaths were 288, 110, and 41, respectively; in the last three weeks of the existing epidemic they have been 411, 249, and 163. The fatal cases of diarrhoea and dysentery were 102 and 106 in the first two weeks of this month; this week they declined to 83. The improvement in the public health for the last two weeks is greatest on the north side of the river; and, of the five northern districts, cholera lingers most in Marylebone, though the mortality in it is not so great. To scarlatina 103 deaths are referred, (being 45 above the average); to consumption, 130; to bronchitis, 80 (being 41 above the average); to pneumonia, 94; to old age, 44; and to violence, privation, cold, and intemperance, 18 deaths are attributed.