

## MEDICAL STATISTICS.

66. *Vital Statistics of Paris.*—The total number of births in Paris, during the year 1837, was 29,192; or, 14,651 boys and 14,541 girls. Of the number born, no less than 9,578, or nearly one-third, were born out of wedlock. The number of deaths amounted to 28,834. There died—at home, 17,127 persons; in hospital, 10,604; in prison, 99; while 304 bodies were deposited at the Morgue.

Hence of every five persons who die in Paris, only three have the satisfaction of dying in bed.

The number of deaths from small-pox, out of a population of 774,338, amounted to 458; in the year 1836, it was only 227.

The proportion of males to females born is as 17 to 16; but of children born out of wedlock, the proportion is as 24 to 23.

As there is one birth for every 32.7 inhabitants, if we suppose the population to remain nearly stationary, the mean duration of life is expressed by 32.7 years. Before the revolution, it was only 28.75 —*Lancet*, Oct. 5, 1839, from *La Lancette Française*, Sept. 10, 1839.

67. *Prison Mortality in France.*—From 1815 to 1818, the general mortality of the prisons in Paris was one death for every 12.01 prisoners, from 1819 to 1825, the mortality was reduced to one in 15.30. In the other prisons of the kingdom the general mortality was one in 20.9.

In the places where galley slaves are confined, the mortality from 1816 to 1827, was as follows:

Rochefort,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 in 11.51.
Toulon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 in 20.55.
Brest,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 in 26.06.

*Ibid.* Sept. 21, 1839.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

68. *Means of rendering Respirable an Atmosphere containing a portion of Carbonic Acid.*—Professor GRAHAM communicated to the chemical section of the British Association, at their late meeting, an extremely important practical suggestion, one which may tend to the preservation of many lives.

He observed that the *after damp*, or carbonic acid, left in the atmosphere of a mine, after explosion, is supposed to occasion, in many instances, a greater loss of life than the explosion; at the same time it renders assistance impracticable. In many cases the oxygen of the air is not exhausted by the explosion, although, from the presence of five or ten per cent. of carbonic acid it is rendered irrespirable. The atmosphere will be rendered respirable by withdrawing the carbonic acid, and he suggested a method by which this might be effected. He found that a mixture of slacked lime and powdered glauber's salts, in equal proportions, has a singular avidity for carbonic acid, and that air might be purified completely from that deleterious gas, and thus rendered respirable by inhaling it through a cushion of not more than an inch in thickness, filled with that mixture, which could be done without difficulty. This lime-filter should be used in all cases where persons are obliged to descend into mines, vaults, wells, &c., the atmosphere of which is noxious to life from the presence of carbonic acid.