With a laudable desire to limit the spread of scarlatina, the Bethnal-green Board of Guardians have resolved on prohibiting the paupers in the parish workhouse, where several cases of the disease had occurred, from taking leave of absence or from being visited by friends for the next week or two. The same restrictions will be applied to the schools at Leytonstone, where there are 383 children under the charge of the Union.

Saunders's News Letter expresses an opinion that the services of the medical officers of the Irish Militia Regiments will shortly be dispensed with, they receiving a money grant according to length of service, &c. In future it is supposed that the medical duties of such auxiliary regiments will be performed by officers of the Army Medical Department who may be quartered with their troops near the Militia head-quarters.

The Local Government Board of Ireland has declined to receive a deputation of the Irish Medical Association on the subject of salaries under the Public Health (Ireland) Act. The Board, however, has given assurance that the question of the adequate remuneration of gentlemen appointed under the provisions of the Act is now under its consideration.

The City Press states that the committee who have undertaken the collection of contributions towards the proposed testimonial to Dr. Sedgwick Saunders met last week at the Mansion House, and, after the transaction of business, adjourned for a month to await the result of a movement in the same direction, initiated in the ward which Dr. Saunders represented for many years in the Common Council.

A domestic servant, aged thirty-eight, who had been injured in the late railway accident near Norwich, died on Wednesday at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The deceased had received fracture of both legs. Ultimately pysemia set in, and carried her off. This makes the twenty-sixth death due to the collision.

The mortality in London last week amounted to 1293 deaths, including 5 from measles, 105 from scarlet fever, 4 from diphtheria, 10 from whooping-cough, 30 from different forms of fever, and 25 from diarrhoea. It is satisfactory to note the diminishing fatality from scarlet fever. A death due to glanders. -

The names of Mr. Darwin, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mr. Matthew Arnold, the Marquis of Salisbury, and Dean Stanley are given as candidates for the Rectorial Chair in the University of St. Andrews.

It is stated that a promenade concert given this (Friday) evening, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in aid of the Hospital Saturday Fund, will be honoured by the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Cesarowitch.

Enteric fever is spreading at an alarming rate in Over Darwen, Lancashire. We understand that, in a locality containing a population of little over 20,000 between five and six hundred cases of typhoid have occurred.

We are pleased to hear from the Gazette that H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh has appointed Dr. Arthur Farre, F.R.S., to be Physician-Accoucheur to the Duchess of Edinburgh.

There is an unusual amount of fever now prevalent in Nottingham. Several cases of small-pox have also been reported.

Dr. Turr has been elected a corresponding member of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia.

Correspondence.

Sir,—In a "book of the day" largely advertised as "Leicester Square," with the honoured name of Tom Taylor on its title-page, there is a chapter remarkable for error of date, fact, and inference of disparagement by omission, to which, through your columns, and under your permission, I am bound to draw the attention of the few who may still remember their first teachings in anatomy under James Wilson, the surgeon, in the grand old Hunterian School and Museum of Great Windmill-street.

We, the scant and faithful survivors, are told by Mr. Taylor, in a highly eulogistic memoir of the late Sir Charles Bell, a sometime worthy of the square in its days of decadence, that in 1820, or thereabouts, Mr. Bell, under agreement of purchase, became one of the teachers to the large anatomical class in the celebrated school of the two brothers Hunter, Howson, Matthew Babilee, Cruikshank, James Wilson, and Benjamin Brodie, on the extensive premises of Windmill-street; that in 1832, on the retirement of Dr. Wilson, Mr. Bell made the school his own, and that he, Mr. Bell, is the "real successor of the Hunters." Allow me, Sir, in this October week of lecturer and lectureship chronology, to inform the lively chronicler of the Alhambra-square, that my honoured father never was a doctor; that I, a retired M.D. of Christ Church, Oxford, was a "freshman" of seventeen in 1812, and that my lectures on anatomy began and ended in the school which I founded and opened in 1830, under the walls of St. George's Hospital, in brotherly alliance with Samuel Lane, my late father's selected house-pupil, and now honoured by the entire profession in his quasi-retirement of consulting surgeon to the great N.W. London hospital of St. Mary. Again, and I must beg leave to stamp this error of date on Mr. Taylor's "tablet of memory," let me tell him that my father taught anatomy, as no man ever had taught it before him, in the school of Windmill-street or elsewhere from the year 1793 to 1821 unceasingly; that during the early years of the Great War alone he did it, recruiting the fleets and armies of Nelson, St. Vincent, Abercrombie, and Wellington, with scores and hundreds of sailor and soldier surgeons, Sir James McGrigor being one of the many who honoured him by their love. To the last day of his life he was chief in the
school which for many years had been entirely his own on freehold tenure. He opened the October course of 1821 with a short, manly, generous, touching address to his pupils, which is now before me with his autograph of "October 1st, 1821." On November 27th in that year he was taken suddenly ill, and died in my arms, with his attached pupil, Samuel Lane, at his side. He had been the diligent pupil of both the Hunters, the house-pupil for some years of Cruikshank in Leicester-square, the selected demonstrator from many eligible aspirants, and the immediate lineal successor of Matthew Baillie, nephew of the Hunters, from whom he purchased the "manor house" and museum of William Hunter, Matthew Baillie, and James Wilson, there to indulge at my cost with a "glace" or a "gloria" as may be most suitable to the season of our visit to the "restaurant." In the meantime let him borrow the first volume of the works of Benjamin Brodie, edited by Mr. Charles Hawkins. In the chapter of "Autography" he will find full, true, and lucid particulars, as he will do of the ingenious originalities, the artistical intercourse, and graceful amenities of host and hostess in the "good old" brilliant days and evenings of Soho-square.

CANAL BOATS.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—I am very glad to see, from The Lancet of the 10th inst., that the question of canal-boat accommodation has been taken up in Dublin.

In a report of mine (to which you were good enough to refer in an article on the subject) I ventured to state that I feared that rural sanitary authorities were practically powerless with regard to those boats, and the sanitary authority here having referred the matter to the consideration of their clerk, he advised that such was the case, and it was ordered that the Local Government Board be communicated with.

I need hardly say that the 32nd section of the Sanitary Act, 1866, had been duly considered, as well as the 19th section of the same Act.

Dr. Cameron seems to imply that rural sanitary authorities have the necessary powers to interfere, and should proceed at once to treat canal boats as houses; but there is this important difference,—that after finding insalubrity in a house, the house is ordered to be abandoned; and it did when you come armed with the proper legal process; but the canal boat, with its interesting contents (disease, as you remark, among the number), has vanished you know not whither, and if you start on a wild goose chase after it, you will most probably find that it is "took in turn reserving a way,"—arrived, in fact, in another district where you are powerless. An illustration of this was appended to some remarks upon the report of mine alluded to, that appeared in the Local Government Chronicle.

Port sanitary authorities may be better able to deal with these boats, but rural sanitary authorities have them staying only a few hours here and there in their districts, and thus they are always eluding any action.

I shall be very glad, then, if Dr. Cameron or anyone else will bring any point out, with regard to this difficulty.

If Dr. Cameron's description of boats are fair samples of the Irish canal boats generally, I must say that they are in a better state than ours, but even those he very justly condemns.

Three-fourths of the boats running on our canal have women and children inhabiting their confined cabins, and circumstances such as were depicted by Mr. Geo. Smith, of Coalville, Leicester, in his letter to The Times, are not infrequent.

I write in the hope that if the difficulty can be overcome we may be shown how and set to work at once; or, otherwise, that it may be sought to be overcome by future legislative provisions.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES ARTHUR WILSON.


P.S.—Will Mr. Tom Taylor further indulge me, by good-naturedly suffering the expression of my candid belief, that he has in no way responsible for the exclusive "realities of the well-known line of his description, but that I was indebted for the communiqués of this "disparaging inference by omission" to the "special correspondence" of some over-zealous "nervous pathologist," who has not forgotten the ingenious originalities, the artistical intercourse, and graceful amenities of host and hostess in the "good old" brilliant days and evenings of Soho-square.

BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

"Hospital Sunday" has again come round, the collections this year being for the oldest and most extensive of the charities of Birmingham, the General Hospital, and again has the liberality of the town been exercised on its behalf. £4374 is the amount already received from last Sunday's collections, but the total will probably exceed £5000. It was for the General Hospital that the first effort of this kind was made, and by what was then considered a very successful appeal by Canon Miller, the pioneer of the movement, and by the rest of the clergy, a similar sum was then raised.

Year by year an amount as large or larger is now collected, and much difficulty is met with in all the charities in turning this money to the best use. It will be observed that I do not demur to the "real succession" of Bell by the word "succession") a chain that will hold of works of art, but rural sanitary authorities have them staying only a few hours here and there in their districts, and thus they are always eluding any action.

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I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ALDERSEY DAVENPORT.

Heathside, Nantwich, Oct. 10th, 1874.

Wolverhampton and Walsall have each a Hospital Sunday, and the Birmingham hospitals have many other special collections, and indeed the medical charities of the town may with safety rely on this unfailing source of income. The General Hospital annually expends more than £21,000, and of that sum £5000 are derived from subscriptions, £2400 from endowments, and for the rest the committee have to depend on the donations, legacies, and the proceeds of the Triennial Musical Festival. Without Hospital Sunday, it is difficult to imagine how the charity could be maintained in its present state of efficiency. The good example of Birmingham is now followed in all the neighbouring towns; Dudley and West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Walsall have each a Hospital Sunday which contributes largely to their support. The inaugural meeting of the Midland Medical Society took place on October 21st, Mr. Oliver Pemberton, the recently elected president, in the chair, when Professor Humphry, F.R.S., of Cambridge, gave an interesting address on the "Greatest British School of Medicine." The Society has over 150 fellows and 17 members, and, thanks to the untiring exertions of the treasurer, Mr. Harmac, and the secretary, Dr. Thomas, is in a very flourishing state. Dr. Humphry was afterwards entertained at supper at the Great Western Hotel.

The death-rate of the town is still higher than the average, scarlatina being the disease which most helps to swell it at the present time. Small-pox appears to be steadily diminishing in extent and in fatality. Sixty-two new cases were reported, and there were fourteen deaths from that disease during the week ending October 17th.