public, and to these medical gentlemen themselves, that an explanation be given by the latter, of the cause of death? Was it ether, or chloroform, or what else was it? Surely the question as to the propriety of adopting or rejecting the inhalation theory, so much vaunted, and the reverse, ought to be enlightened by the detailed results of such a case. Why was there no inquest, and why such haste to bury?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leeds, Oct. 29, 1849.

INVESTIGATOR.

* * It is not too late for an inquest in this case, and it will be a disgrace to the authorities of the town if a judicial inquiry be not instituted. It is a case in which the coroner, if he receive proper notice of the circumstances from the inhabitants, and a demand for an inquest, could not refuse to hold one, without rendering himself liable to removal from his office by the Court of Queen's Bench. We sincerely hope that the demand for an investigation will be duly made, as a more proper case for an inquiry never occurred.

THE CHOLERA SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, ON THE CHOLERA FUNGI.

THE following are the principal conclusions and results arrived at by this committee on the nature and import of certain bodies examined microscopically in relation to cholera.

"1. Bodies presenting the characteristic forms of the so-called cholera fungi are not to be detected in the air, and, as far as our experiments have gone, not in the drinking-water of infected places.

"2. It is established that, under the term 'annular bodies' and 'cholera cells, or fungi,' there have been confounded many objects of various and totally distinct natures.

"3. A large number of these have been traced to substances taken as food or medicine.

"4. The origin of others is still doubtful, but these are clearly not fungi.

"5. All the more remarkable forms are to be detected in the intestinal evacuations of persons labouring under diseases totally different in their nature from cholera.

"Lastly. We draw from these premises the general conclusion that the bodies found and described by Messrs. Brittan and Swayne are not the cause of cholera, and have no exclusive connexion with that disease; or, in other words, that the whole theory of the disease which has recently been propounded, is erroneous, as far as it is based on the existence of the bodies in question.

WILLIAM BALY, M.D. } Cholera Sub-
WILLIAM W. GULL, M.D. } Committee.

Medical News.

HOMŒOPATHY AND IMPUTED MANSLAUGHTER.—The trial of Charles Thomas Pearce, who had been committed to Newgate by the Deputy-Coroner for Middlesex, on a charge of the manslaughter of Richard David Pearce, took place at the Old Bailey, on Saturday last, before Mr. Justice Maule. The prisoner was arraigned on the coroner's inquisition, and speedily acquitted. There are circumstances connected with the proceedings of this trial which call for searching inquiry.

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL REFEREES AT ASSURANCE OFFICES.—We are glad to observe, from an advertisement in another column, that the Royal Insurance Company has adopted the course of remunerating those members of the medical profession who may be referred to by persons desirous of insuring their lives. This is another step in the right direction, and we trust that the example set by so respectable and prosperous an association, may be extensively followed by other offices. The principle of payment being acknowledged by this insurance office, we cannot doubt that, on reconsidering the matter, the directors will see the propriety of converting the fee they have named into the customary fee of one guinea. It should be recollected by directors, that in replying to the questions, the amount of the insurance is not the measure of the labour and trouble which is entailed on the medical practitioner. His replies are the same, whether the insurance is for £100, or for £5000.

The Royal Exchange Life Office, also, one of the oldest and most respectable in London, has resolved to pay medical practitioners a just remuneration for the information they

contribute. Amongst the old-established offices of high-standing, this one, we believe, took the lead in the good work. While this is passing with establishments of just repute and solidity, is it not strange that we have still to record the fact that the directors of the Clerical, "Medical," and General Assurance Company still resist the practice of remunerating medical practitioners for the valuable information they contribute relative to the health of persons who seek to insure their lives at that institution? At no very distant day we shall publish, in juxtaposition, a bright list of the paying offices, and a black list of the defaulting ones.

THE LONDON MUTUAL LIFE AND GUARANTEE SOCIETY.—We were much pleased in finding the following paragraph in the prospectus lately circulated by this Society:—"Ground for complaint on the part of the medical profession—in reference to the non-payment of a fee to the private medical attendant of the life proposed for insurance—having existed, the directors of this institution have determined that in all cases the usual fee to the professional gentlemen referred to shall be paid without hesitation.

A STEP TOWARDS THE CONCOURS.—We were much gratified in perusing a notice posted up a few days ago, at King's College Hospital. Students desirous of filling the offices of house-surgeon, physician's assistants, clinical clerks, and dressers, were therein requested to send in their names previous to the examinations which are to decide which candidates are best fitted for these various offices. By these means there is no doubt that very efficient subjects will be selected, and it is surely not too much to entertain the hope that the good effects of such elections will gradually lead to a more extended application of appointments by concours.

QUALIFICATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR PAROCHIAL APPOINTMENTS.—An interesting discussion took place in the St. Pancras vestry, on the appointment of a medical officer for one of the districts of that extensive parish. The directors of the poor having advertised for a medical officer for the north district, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Smith, three candidates presented themselves to the vestry. The first stated that he was a member of the College of Surgeons of London; the next, that he was a member of the College and a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company; and the third, that he was a member of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. All were in actual practice in the district. In the discussion which took place, Mr. Harding, a medical member of the board, made some explanatory remarks on the present state of the law, the former custom of the vestry, and the merits of the qualifications produced. The vestry determined that a qualification in medicine and surgery be required of each candidate. That as the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the College of Surgeons of Dublin educate and examine in medicine, surgery, midwifery, and chemistry, the diploma of either of these colleges be considered a sufficient qualification. The effect of this vote, as far as the parish of St. Pancras is concerned, was of course to exclude the member of the College of Surgeons of London, on the ground that he had not, by examination, proved his qualification to practise medicine, midwifery, and pharmacy.

NEW COUNCILLORS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—At a numerously attended meeting of Fellows on Thursday last, November 1, Mr. GEORGE PILCHER, and Mr. JOHN BISHOP, were elected members of the Council, in the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. C. Aston Key, and the resignation of Mr. Welbank. This result will have a material influence in forwarding the projected revision of the Charter of the College.

MORTALITY OF THE METROPOLIS.—Deaths registered in London, in the week ending October 20, 1028; weekly average, 1162; decrease on the average amounts, therefore, to 134 deaths. This reduction of the mortality was greatest on the south side of the river, for the deaths of the week in this division were 276, whereas the average is 324. Mortality from cholera had fallen from 110 in the previous week to 41 in the last. In the whole metropolis, the daily number did not, in any instance, exceed nine. Deaths from diarrhoea and dysentery amounted in the week to 63; in the previous week they were 105. Of the 14,538 persons who had died of cholera in London in 55 weeks, 6657, or nearly one-half, died after less than one day's illness, (exclusive of the duration of premonitory diarrhoea,) and of the remainder, 2466 sank under the disease before it had reached the second day. Small-pox and measles were much less fatal than usual; scarlatina was fatal in 41 cases, the average being 64; typhus in 63 cases, average being 56. Barometer, mean of week, 29.89; mean daily temperature increased from 43° on Sunday to 59° 7' on Thursday, and continued at nearly this value during the rest of the week. —Deaths registered in London, in the week ending Oct. 27,