least attractive feature in the building, and it did not appear to be remarkably well planned for the admission of light or air.

We also visited Ebury-buildings, in Ebury-square, Pimlico, which have been erected by the Society. The same general arrangement was observable, and we need not detain our readers by a repetition of the details. The rooms are somewhat larger and lighter, which is due to their situation in a nice open spot, and the rent charged is somewhat less, as might be expected, the value of house property being less in Pimlico than in Grosvenor-square. There is no basement storey, and the buildings enclose a quadrangular space. There is no difficulty experienced in letting the tenements at the rents charged, and the occupiers consist of well-to-do artisans, butlers, cooks, valets, &c. The characters of all applicants for rooms are carefully inquired into, and ill-conducted tenants, or such as do not pay their rent regularly, are quickly got rid of at a week's notice.

The moral effect of these dwellings is scarcely second to their effect on the physical well-being of the inhabitants. We have freely criticised these buildings wherever we have thought criticism admissible, but we need hardly say how immeasurably superior they are to the ordinary dwellings which artisans are compelled to inhabit; nor need we say how highly we appreciate the good work which is being done by this Company, and how heartily we congratulate it upon its well-deserved prosperity.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

At a meeting of the College, held on Thursday, the 29th ult., upon the recommendation of the Council, the Baly Medal was awarded unanimously to Claude Bernard, the distinguished physiologist. The medal, in the ordinary course of events, is presented upon the day of the delivery of the Harveian Oration, and it is hoped, if Claude Bernard should accept the proffered honour, that he will receive it in person, should his engagements permit of his coming to England for the purpose; and in that case probably the Fellows might determine to invite him to a public dinner.

The College also decided that it is desirable to place three statues in the niches under the portico of the College front, and to issue a circular requesting subscriptions from the Fellows for a small sum additional to that in hand, to cover the cost of the embellishment. The three distinguished men selected by the College for representation in the niches are Linacre, the founder, in the centre; Harvey to Linacre's right; and Sydenham to the left hand.

The President made an explanation in reference to the statement which recently appeared "in one of the medical journals," to the effect that he had recently expressed to the President of the College of Surgeons his unwillingness to lay before the Fellows of the College of Physicians a proposition emanating from the College of Surgeons in reference to the Conjoint Scheme. He stated that he had been in private communication with the President of the College of Surgeons, and his individual opinion was asked as to his willingness to reopen negotiations in reference to a particular scheme which the College had sanctioned in detail, and for which it had passed special bye-laws, in order to give effect to its provisions. Being under the impression that the point the College of Surgeons desired to reopen had closed, he intimated his opinion that this was undesirable, but if a request of the kind came before him, he was willing to do so. The letter he wrote was not a public, but a *private* one, and an imperfect version of it had been published. He did not in the least degree take upon himself to act for the Fellows, but merely indicated his own private opinion.

The President's remarks met with general applause.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I trust you will do me the favour of inserting in your next issue this letter, which I make as short as possible.

Until this week, I have been unable to examine the reports of Surgeon-Major Scott and Surgeon Ruxton on cases of cholera treated by them in Lucknow, in November, 1873. The

Director-General has been kind enough to allow me to see these reports of cases, twelve in number.

I find that in every case, except one, brandy was given, generally when the patient was first taken to hospital, in the stage of collapse, or when it was impending. In most of the cases, opium was also given; and in some quinine, ammonia, &c. were also administered.

I also observe that three grains of chloral hydrate in thirty minims of water (one in ten) were only injected at *one time*, and repeated.

As the plan of treatment I advocate is that *nothing but cold water* should be given to the patient internally, in collapse; that brandy and opium, and other stimulants are *above all things* to be excluded; and that *ten* grains of chloral in one hundred minims of water should be injected in four or five different places *at once* when collapse sets in, and repeated if necessary in an hour or less, I think most people will agree with me that in the above patients that plan was not carried out.

As cholera is reported by telegram to have just broken out in Oudh, I sincerely hope that medical officers in India will give the chloral hydrate treatment *alone* a fair trial, in the quantity and proportion above stated. I shall be quite content to abide by the returns of the administration of this *sedative*, although others, such as hydrocyanic acid, atropine, &c., may, according to my idea, be advantageously employed.

I am, &c.,

Woolwich, 22nd April, 1875.

A. R. HALL, Surgeon, A.M.D.

ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—To prevent the possibility of a charge being made that I have misstated the number of beds which the Rotherham Hospital will contain, I beg you will allow me to explain that the large ward was originally intended to hold only 10 instead of 12, and the small one 6 instead of 8; but we soon found there was quite space enough for the larger number, and the patients expressed themselves more comfortable and warmer for the increase.

Yours faithfully,

E. J. SHEARMAN, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c.

Rotherham, 26th April, 1875.

BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

FOR many months the health of this town has not been so good as it is at the present time. The death-rate last week was 25 per 1000. Small-pox still exists; but there are now only 41 cases in the Special Hospital. Four deaths occurred last week from that disease.

The recently-erected public fever wards were opened last Monday, and two nurses were appointed to receive the first instalment of patients.

The Sanitary Committee of the Town Council have endeavoured to make the new wards as complete as possible, and it is to be hoped that the general public, for whose benefit they are provided, will not hesitate to send cases of contagious disease to them, rather than allow them to remain in their own homes, as foci for the dissemination of such diseases.

The Fever Hospital contains two wards, each with 20 beds, with suitable bath-room, lavatory, and earth-closet for each. A special room is urgently wanted for convalescent fever patients; already one has been erected for the accommodation of the convalescent small-pox patients, capable of containing 24 beds, and the other apartment being equally requisite for those who are recovering from fever, scarlatina, &c., ought to be at once provided.

The rapid development of some of the suburbs of Birmingham, especially those included in the Solihull rural district, has rendered interference by the Local Sanitary Authority necessary, and a proposition is on foot to borrow £45,000 to sewer the district.

That something requires to be done in this direction is shown by the report of Dr. George Wilson, the Medical Officer of Health for Warwickshire. Large, deep, open ashpits are common, and many of the wells are polluted by leakage from these ashpits, so that "in wet weather they are little better than open cesspools." The only drainage at Acock's Green, a place containing 300 houses and 1600 inhabitants, is at present into the Birmingham and Warwick Canal. A public inquiry