apparently somewhat longer intervals between the maxima, one of which was in 1861. We appear to have been lately near the crest of one of those waves, and might perhaps expect the curve now to go down, on the whole, for some years.

Unfortunately we cannot go further back than the dates indicated for exact data regarding the death-rate, but it might be well to study, on the one hand, the relative prevalence of measles in the years previous to 1840 for indications of like intervals, and to watch the future course of the curves in the light of what they indicate during those fifty years.

The third curve (second chart) is one of humidity. The annual figures denoting relative humidity at Greenwich are smoothed in the same way as the death-rates. A certain degree of correspondence to the upper curves will be noted. The phases of the London death-rate curve appear, however, to lag somewhat behind those of the humidity curve, as might, perhaps, be expected from the relationship between these two phenomena.

For the sake of comparison I append a few figures, showing the London measles death-rate in two groups of five years, each having a maximum year central, and in two groups, each having a minimum year central.

DEATH-RATES.									
Maximum.								Average.	
1864	0.82 ..	0.56 ..	0.94 ..	0.43 ..	0.73 ..	0.73 ..	0.73 ..	0.70	
1883	0.66 ..	0.60 ..	0.62 ..	0.56 ..	0.71 ..	0.71 ..	0.71 ..	0.63	
Minimum.								Average.	
1853	0.55 ..	0.25 ..	0.40 ..	0.56 ..	0.35 ..	0.35 ..	0.35 ..	0.42	
1869	0.37 ..	0.62 ..	0.46 ..	0.45 ..	0.44 ..	0.44 ..	0.44 ..	0.47	

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MEETING OF CONVOCATION.

AT the meeting of Convocation of the University of London on the 19th inst. the chair was taken by Mr. E. H. Bush, in the absence through illness of the Chairman of Convocation, Dr. Wood.

A vote of condolence to the Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of the lamented death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale was proposed from the chair and unanimously passed.

Dr. W. J. COLLINS, M.D., presented the report of the Annual Committee, and moved its reception. This having been agreed to, Dr. Collins moved the adoption of the following motion (a) recommended in Paragraph 8 of the report of the Annual Committee: "That, having regard to certain changes in the regulations for the Honours Examination in Chemistry at the B.Sc. Examination, whereby the production of the student's MS. book of laboratory work is required, signed by the teacher, if any, whose course he has attended as evidence of work done under the teacher's direction and supervision, this House is of opinion that such regulation imports into examinations considerations which should be excluded, and is liable to place at a disadvantage the non-collegiate candidates."

Dr. O'REILLY, D.Sc., seconded the motion.

Dr. TILDEN, D.Sc., moved, and Dr. CURNOW, M.D., seconded, an amendment to the effect that Clause 8 of the report should be referred back to the committee for further consideration. After some discussion the amendment was declared to be lost, and Dr. Collins's motion was subsequently carried.

Dr. T. B. NAPIER, LL.D., moved:—"(1) That this House, while not expressing any opinion as to the proposed new Charter for the Albert University generally, yet considers that the absence of any sufficient provision in the Charter for securing a fixed period and definite course of study by candidates for its degrees is likely to prove injurious both to the interests of higher education and of this University; (2) that the annual committee be requested to take such steps as in their opinion may be desirable to obtain a modification of the Charter in this direction; (3) that the annual committee be further requested to

represent the views and guard the interests of Convocation generally in all matters connected with the proposed charter, and that for this purpose they be empowered to confer and to take joint action with the Senate, and to act otherwise as may seem expedient." He said that many objected to the proposed Charter of the Albert University as creating a university one-half of which was likely to be of a denominational character. It was opposed to the interests of higher education and also to the interests of their own University. There was no need for another examining University of London. Many might think the matter was really so serious that the Senate should have taken steps against such a Charter, or at least ask that the whole matter should be referred back to the Royal Commission. He was perfectly certain that Convocation had always looked, and would always look, to the Senate to guard its interests, and it was only when Convocation found the Senate listening to every voice, when it found it yielding all the privileges which had made that University such a success as it was at present, that it said it would go no further. He was sure Convocation would unite with the Senate to prevent that obnoxious Charter from becoming law.

Dr. O'REILLY seconded the resolution.

Dr. COLLINS moved as an amendment to Clauses 1 and 2 of the resolution, "That this House is of opinion that the Albert University Charter, if granted, would neither supply a Teaching University for London, as recommended by the Royal Commission, nor tend to promote the interests of higher education, while it might interfere with the work of the University of London. That the chairman be asked to convey a copy of this resolution to Sir John Lubbock, M.P., with the request that he will bring it to the notice of Parliament."

Mr. BUSK seconded the amendment, which was accepted by Dr. Napier in the place of his own motion, and carried as a substantive motion. Clause 3 of the resolution was also carried.

TUBERCULOSIS.

THE Medico-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow have, in pursuance of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Society on Dec. 18th, 1891, addressed a memorial to the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Glasgow in respect to the infectious character of tuberculosis and the need for prophylactic measures.

The following is the main text of the memorial:—

"1. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease in the sense that in all cases of this disease the one constant and necessary element in the causation is a microbe. This microbe grows and multiplies in the bodies of certain animals and of man when introduced from without, and in so doing it produces an intensely active poison which is the more direct agent in bringing about the morbid changes in the living structures. There are doubtless other elements in the causation, such as inherited and acquired susceptibility, but the microbe is the only essential and constant one, and there is evidence to show that, without any special susceptibility, it may produce the disease if introduced in sufficient quantity.

"2. As the microbe will not grow except at a temperature almost identical with that of the body, the living bodies of men and animals affected are the great propagating places of it. They are the sources of the supply, and constitute the centres from which the infection is derived. But the microbe is not retained in the bodies of the persons affected. Most of the forms of tuberculosis are characterised by discharges of matter from the affected parts of the body, and these discharges contain the microbe—often in very large quantities. The most frequent form of tuberculosis is consumption of the lungs, and persons affected with this disease almost constantly spit up matter which is loaded with the infective microbe. The sputum of such persons when dry is liable to be pulverised into fine dust, and this in its dissemination carries the still living microbe with it.

"3. It is believed that tuberculosis is fairly to be compared, as regards its infectious quality, if not with typhus and small-pox at least with typhoid or enteric fever, although the mode and channel of the infection may be so different

as to make it much less obviously dangerous to live in the same house or room with a case of consumption than it would be in the case of one of the well-known contagious fevers. Tuberculosis, however, is much more disastrous in its results than all the other infectious diseases put together. According to the annual report of the Registrar-General for 1888, the deaths registered as due to tuberculosis in Glasgow numbered 1824, and those assigned to all other miasmatic—that is, infectious—diseases, including measles, scarlet fever, whooping-cough, &c., were 1089. For reasons known to us, it seems certain that the mortality from tuberculosis considerably exceeds that which appears in the Registrar-General's returns, but even these figures are sufficiently striking. The deaths registered as tuberculous made up 15·5 per cent. of the total deaths in Glasgow in 1888. These facts imply a large amount of what may be called 'floating infection' in our midst.

"4. The Town Council by its action in prohibiting the sale of tuberculous meat and milk has, in our opinion very properly, endeavoured to grapple with one source of the infection. It may be said that the great prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle, especially in milk cows kept in town byres, and therefore both more likely to be infected with tuberculosis and to become in turn sources of infection through their milk, has justly been already considered by the authorities. We recognise the wisdom of a policy having for its object the removal of this source of infection, which is dangerous for man as well as for animals. It should be possible by rigid cleansing and disinfecting of byres, and by the condemnation of all carcasses or animals known to be tuberculous, to stop this source of infection.

"5. It is not for us to prescribe the mode in which the infection should be dealt with in the case of man. The Council has skilled officials whom it can consult on the matter. But we venture to suggest that a beginning should be made with a definite attempt to stay the infection. If the public were authoritatively informed of the harmful nature of all discharges from tuberculous persons, and more particularly from cases of consumption of the lungs, and if they were encouraged to have these discharges rendered innocuous, and also to submit their houses and clothing to disinfection at intervals during the currency of the disease, and again at its close, it is believed that much good would result. With the splendid sanitary organisation which Glasgow possesses, it should be possible to do much to cleanse our city from some of the principal causes of the widespread prevalence of this its greatest plague."

The document is signed on behalf of the society by

JOSEPH COATS, M.D., President.

W. T. GAIRDNER, M.D.

HUGH THOMSON, M.D.

JOHN LINDSAY STEVEN, M.D.

CHAS. WORKMAN, M.D.

J. WALKER DOWNIE, M.D., Secretary.

UNIVERSITY LIFE IN AUSTRALASIA.

IN the lecture delivered by Professor Anderson Stuart, M.D., Professor of Physiology in the University of Sydney, the other evening at the Royal Colonial Institute, there was much to interest the profession of medicine, but we shall content ourselves with emphasising one or two points that appear to us well worthy of notice. The universities of Australasia are teaching universities, each one having its staff of professors and other teachers, and in medicine there is no such thing as exemption from lectures. There are at the present moment altogether 141 teachers and 2049 students actively engaged in the work of the universities. The former are for the most part graduates of European universities. The duration of the curriculum in medicine has never been less than five years, and, in Sydney at least, physics, ophthalmic medicine and surgery, psychological medicine and logic, and the principles of science are necessary for the bachelor's degree. The standard of examination is a high one, and nowhere in Australasia is there anything like a "cheap" degree. Dr. Anderson Stuart speaks highly of the work of the students, and says that they "have a definite aim and

take a serious view of life." In the University grounds is a general hospital, the Prince Alfred, which is the clinical school for the University. No difference is made between the sexes; there are no separate courses of instruction in Sydney, and no difficulty has made itself felt. The last third of the lecture is exclusively occupied with what appears to be the burning question of the day—viz., that of government. It appears that at present in all the four universities the body of graduates has, or soon may have, the entire management in their hands, inasmuch as they elect the governing body, which controls not only such matters as finance and appointments, but even actively busies itself with questions of internal administration, discipline, and purely educational matters, which it would do very much better to leave to the teachers, whose daily work is concerned with such things. It is proposed, it seems, in some quarters to get rid of the present representatives of the teachers, who sit on the governing body, so that then all the members of the governing body would receive their mandate directly from the graduates. The lecturer argued against the graduates being necessarily fit and proper persons to exercise this power, and spoke in favour of the adequate representation of all the interests concerned—viz.: (1) The public, through the Government representatives, all the more since the greater part of the funds come from the State, which at present has no voice in their expenditure; (2) the educated public, through the graduates' representatives; (3) the teachers; (4) the body of students, as in Scotland; and (5) perhaps the affiliated colleges in Sydney and Melbourne. The first three certainly constitute great and important interests, which should be represented in the governing body. With regard to the other two the case is not so clear. The presence of purely business men in the governing body is strongly advocated, and, indeed, the above scheme is largely to that end, for it seems that only professional men at present have any chance of election. Of the expediency of business men being there to advise on the many important business questions that arise there can be no question. Lastly, the lecturer urged that the body of teachers should be more trusted in the actual work of teaching than they are; and he was right. It is very easy to govern too much; and if a governing body is constantly interfering in such matters nothing but mischief can result. The resignation of the Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law in Melbourne, of which we have just read, comes to give point to the lecturer's words. But still there is no place that is perfect, and, said the lecturer, "Taking it all in all then, so far as our immediate surroundings are concerned, one may be very happy in a Colonial University chair. People will certainly be very kindly disposed to one, the authorities will do their best for one according to their lights, and, in a word, here, as so often elsewhere, the place is very much what one makes it. *Es hallt aus dem Walde wieder, wie man hineinruft.*"

INFLUENZA.

THE mortality returns for the week ending Jan. 16th exhibit some curious departures from the usual comparative death-rates in the large towns, which may doubtless be taken as indicating the places where influenza and its concomitants are prevailing or otherwise. Thus in London the death-rate has risen to 40 per 1000, but this proportion is exceeded by Liverpool (42), Wolverhampton (48·1), Brighton (51·5), and Portsmouth (57·5). Four weeks ago the rates at the two last-named places were only 18·0 and 17·9 respectively. The lowest death-rate for the week is at Huddersfield (14·6) and Bradford (15·7).

The deaths directly attributed to influenza in the metropolis for the week amounted to 271, and in addition to these there were 63 cases in which influenza was noted as a secondary cause. The number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs was 1248, or 594 above the corrected average. It is noteworthy that in London the total mortality was 1193 above the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years, and that the unusual circumstance of there being more deaths (3271) registered than births (2680) is recorded.