in Scotland against the conjoint scheme is universal. I am told that there has been a considerable change of opinion, not even in England, because I know persons who were at one time very strong advocates of the conjoint scheme, but who are now lukewarm supporters of it. Under the English conjoint scheme five guineas out of the thirty to be paid by a candidate would go to the medical schools of the University of London, and it seems to me that it is an anomaly for candidates to have to pay to support what is regarded as a national institution. If the council is a national institution, it should be maintained out of the national purse, and not be a representative of the general practitioners in some form or other on the Medical Council, but I have not the means of giving a definite opinion as to whether the best means of selecting that representative is by a general vote of the universities in England. If by the conjoint scheme you diminish the number of our graduates and students, you so far diminish the standard of general education throughout the country, and, on the other hand, if the conjoint examination is up to our standard, a sufficient number of persons would not be admitted to the general profession to satisfy the requirements of the public.

By Dr. Lush.

We have tried to frame a conjoint scheme in Scotland, but after various attempts we came to the conclusion that we did not see our way to carry it out. We object to the conjoint scheme as unnecessary, there is a profound difference between the universities of Scotland and those of England as teaching bodies. In Scotland we fulfill the old function and ideal of a university as a complete teaching body, whereas in England the examinations at the universities are really only recommendatory. If you did what it ought to have done.

The Committee then adjourned till Tuesday.

HEALTH OF LARGE ENGLISH TOWNS IN THE TWENTY-NINTH WEEK OF 1879.

In twenty of the largest English towns, 5240 births and 2418 deaths were registered during last week. The births exceeded by 58, whereas the deaths were as many as 952 below, the average weekly numbers during 1878. The deaths showed a further decline of 74 from the numbers returned in recent weeks. The annual rate of mortality per 1000 persons living, which had pretty steadily declined in the preceding weeks, would go to the medical schools of the University of London, and it seems to me that it is an anomaly for candidates to have to pay to support what is regarded as a national institution. If the council is a national institution, it should be maintained out of the national purse, and not be a representative of the general practitioners in some form or other on the Medical Council, but I have not the means of giving a definite opinion as to whether the best means of selecting that representative is by a general vote of the universities in England. If by the conjoint scheme you diminish the number of our graduates and students, you so far diminish the standard of general education throughout the country, and, on the other hand, if the conjoint examination is up to our standard, a sufficient number of persons would not be admitted to the general profession to satisfy the requirements of the public.

By Dr. Lush.

We have tried to frame a conjoint scheme in Scotland, but after various attempts we came to the conclusion that we did not see our way to carry it out. We object to the conjoint scheme as unnecessary, there is a profound difference between the universities of Scotland and those of England as teaching bodies. In Scotland we fulfill the old function and ideal of a university as a complete teaching body, whereas in England the examinations at the universities are really only recommendatory. If you did what it ought to have done.

The Committee then adjourned till Tuesday.
BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DESPITE the badness of trade in Birmingham and the neighbourhood the Saturday collection for the hospitals may be pronounced a great success. At a meeting held July 4th, under the presidency of the Mayor, the following balance-sheet was presented:—Total receipts, £2421 10s. 2d., being £3330 2s. 11d. collected in manufactories, workshops, and other industrial establishments, and £97 7s. 3d. collected by licensed victuallers and beer retailers. The disbursements included £152 19s. 3d. for advertising, printing, and bill-posting, and £132 8s. 6d. for management expenses, leaving £3116 1s. 6d. for distribution among the hospitals. The balance of the "Mayor's Relief Fund," collected during the late severe winter, has been handed over to the hospitals.

The fourth annual meeting of the Birmingham Medical Mission has been held during the past week. The chair was occupied by our respected conférencier, Dr. Samuel Berry, there being also present many of the local clergy and non-conforming ministers, together with numerous influential laymen. The financial statement showed the receipts of the general fund to have been £609 7s. 4d., and the expenditure, £641 10s. 1ld., leaving an adverse balance of £32 3s. 7d. The hospital has been eminently useful to the inhabitants of Birmingham, but it was not acceded to, as the contagious department of this hospital has been occupied by our respected confrère, Mr. Samuel Berry, there being also present many of the local clergy and non-conforming ministers, together with numerous influential laymen. The balance of the "Mayor's Relief Fund," collected during the late severe winter, has been handed over to the hospitals.

The Children's Hospital, one of our most popular institutions, has begun to feel the effects of the generally prevailing commercial depression. It has, unfortunately, been found necessary to cease one of the scarlet fever wards through lack of funds, as, notwithstanding the most rigid economy, the average percentage of rejections for all schools has been 18 per hundred, in Birmingham it has only reached 17 per thousand. The arrangement for the coming musical festival in aid of the funds of the General Hospital are rapidly approaching completion.

Birmingham, July 22nd, 1879.

PARIS.

We beg to intimate to our readers in Paris, and on the Continent generally, that we have made entirely new arrangements as regards the representation of THE LANCET in Paris. From this date the gentleman solely empowered to act as our correspondent commences his contributions—

"OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT."

The annual meeting of the Academy of Medicine was held on the 15th of July. This sitting is generally opened by a speech from the perpetual secretary, which is followed by the elocution of the candidate who has died in the year. The names of the laureates, prizemen, and bursars are then announced, and the proceedings terminate with the publication of the subjects for the next prize competition. The audience assembled on the 15th was much larger than usual, as it was known that M. Beclard did not intend to speak. It was noted especially that the ladies, who generally congregate on the front seats, were conspicuous on this occasion by their absence. Those who would, and, at the best, he is but a clumsy copyist, wholly devoid of originality. If M. Chereau's arguments did not convince the severest judges, essays had been sent in for the other five, but only one of these was considered worthy of the full reward, this being a memoir on Aconite and its History, which obtained the Prix Orfila of 6000 francs. Grants of money were made to some of the other candidates by way of encouragement, M. Huxley getting 200 francs for his work on the Action of Metals in Therapeutics, and M. Burq 2000 francs "to continue his researches on the Action of Metals in Therapeutics," but with the understanding that the Academy did not endorse (se porter garante) his theories. After the secretary had read the list of the prizes to be given in 1880, Dr. Alfred Hill, who was preceded by the distinguished medical officer of health, Dr. Alfred Hill, who was preceded by the distinguished medical officer of health, was asked to act as our correspondent commences his contributions—

The examinaton ; while the rejections of Birmingham students have been only 16 per cent for the primary, and 17 for the pass examination.

The health of the borough, notwithstanding the almost unceasing rain and cold weather, is very satisfactory, the Registrar-General's returns ending Saturday last showing that while the average rate of mortality in the eleven large towns has been 18 per thousand, in Birmingham it has only reached 17 per thousand. The arrangements for the coming musical festival in aid of the funds of the General Hospital are rapidly approaching completion.

BIRMINGHAM, July 22nd, 1879.