

## OBITUARY.

JOHN W. TRIPE, M.D. — The death of a medical officer who had been in charge of an important portion of the metropolis for more than a third of a century would in itself claim notice in these pages, but the removal from us of Dr. J. W. Tripe is a fact which effects not Hackney alone — though it of itself has a population exceeding many a well known town. Dr. Tripe was Hackney's first, and has been for thirty-six years its only medical officer. How carefully he watched over its interests is sufficiently shown by his long series of annual reports, and that his services were appreciated was shown in many ways when his death was announced. But though the welfare of his district had ever the first place in his thoughts, Dr. Tripe contrived to do much more than discharge the routine duties of medical officer and of public analyst, and we believe that this outside work tended greatly to increase his efficiency as regards his regular duties. Dr. Tripe was a great reader, a devourer, we might almost say, of the reports of his professional brethren, and thus he acquired an amount of knowledge which, coupled with considerable natural quickness, and a slight amount of combativeness, rendered his services as an expert upon medico-legal questions frequently sought — we need quote but two as typical — the inquiry (when St. Thomas's Hospital had to be removed from London Bridge) as to the suitability of the present site for a hospital, and later that as to the alleged spread of disease around the Homerton Hospital. Dr. Tripe was born in London in 1821, educated at Merchant Taylors' School, and took his M.D. at St. Andrew's in 1846. He joined the British Meteorological Society in 1856; became its President in 1871, and has for the past twenty years been the Council Secretary of the Society in its incorporated form of the Royal Meteorological Society. He was also Past President of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Foreign Member of the Soc. Francaise d'Hygiene, and of the Soc. of Public Medicine of Brussels. He was President of Section III. at the Worcester Congress of the Sanitary Institute, Vice-President of the recent International Congress of Hygiene and Demography; and so with the South Kensington Health Exhibition in 1884, where Dr. Tripe not only read an important paper, but was, we think, one of the jurors. In short, wherever public health and preventive medicine came to the front, Dr. Tripe was sure to be. Like many other hard workers Dr. Tripe did not, we believe, write a single book; but his reports and papers in professional and scientific journals are very numerous, how numerous no one can tell, for besides the large number to which his name was attached, we know that many an able review would rightly have J. W. T. at the end of it. Dr. Tripe may be said

to have died as he lived, hard at work; and the large and influential gathering at the funeral service in the church he loved so well did but indicate the esteem in which he had been held.

## ON THE QUANTITY OF ALBUMINOIDS REQUIRED BY MAN.

By L. BREISACHER. (*Deutsche Medizinischer Wochenschrift*, 1891, No. 48). Abstract.

IN order to decide the question how much albumen is necessary for a healthy man, Breisacher made upon himself a research which lasted 33 days. He began in nitrogenous equilibrium, and dieted himself on a diet which expressed in equivalents, equalled per day albuminoids 67·8 grams; fat, 60·5 grams; and carbohydrates 494·2 grams. He worked some 13 to 17 hours daily, and remained throughout in good health, save the final three days, when he felt rather weary. At the commencement of the research he weighed 57 kilos, at the end 57·25 kilos. The urea in the urine amounted in the first day to 14·08 grams, in the second to 10·03 grams, and during the remaining 31 days varied between 7·36 and 9·50 grams. Breisacher is of opinion that 67·8 grams of albuminoids, which is equal to 51·4 grams of absorbed albuminoids (16·4 grams going away with the fæces), with the above quantities of fat and carbohydrates, is sufficient for health even if continued for a long time. He lays stress upon the economic disadvantage of the 118 grams of albuminoids laid down as a standard by Voit, and thinks this standard may be much lower. The quantity of albumen which preserves nitrogenous equilibrium is in his view the full measure necessary for the organism, and if, after a long continuance of such a diet, symptoms of ill-health are observed, such symptoms have probably nothing to do with the food, but depend on other causes.

RUSSIA AND TYPHUS. — On February 11th, 1892, four cases of typhoid, which turned out to be typhus, were reported to the Health Authorities of New York city; these cases were in a lodging-house crowded with Russian immigrants, and it is fairly established that the fever was introduced by the steamship "Massilia," which had arrived a few days previously crowded with Russian Jews, refugees from the persecution of the Russian Government; the disease spread to 118 cases among the immigrants, and 35 other cases, altogether 153. The sufferers were taken to an extemporised hospital on North Brother island, and the outbreak seems to have been combated with great judgment. It forcibly illustrates the fact that hygiene is always an international matter, and that the effects of misgovernment resulting in famine, overcrowding, and disease are apt to extend far beyond the country of origin.