

that of the best regulated private dwelling. Preventive medicine, as applied to communities, could also claim to have gained by bacteriology, as was last year shown clearly enough in connexion with the dreaded cholera. Pasteurism could also claim to have already originated cures for some diseases, and the promise for the future was in this direction exceedingly rich. Bacteriology had, moreover, given us the knowledge not only of the minute organisms themselves as exciters of disease, but also of their action through the toxic substances they produced. In view of all this, would it be too much to describe Pasteur's first discoveries as epoch-making and to give to him a place only second to Darwin in the history of the science of the past thirty years? "But it may be asked," Dr. Grieve continued, "what have we as practitioners specially to do with these matters which are apparently mainly questions of science? It is true that to very few of us is given the opportunity of developing into skilled bacteriologists, but it is open to us all to be to a greater or less extent skilled clinicians. This being the case, it is possible to utilise the knowledge provided for us by the bacteriologist and in some cases, it is to be hoped, to add to it. If the scientific laboratory is not at our command, the huge laboratory of nature is at all times carrying on its operations under our eyes, if independently of our actions, and after all it is in this laboratory that the facts of bacteriology, as facts in all branches of scientific medicine, must receive their final confirmation. Now the local circumstances render the conditions under which these natural experiments are carried on more simple and more easily followed than they are in a European community. Here the population is in great part sparsely scattered over a considerable space and lives under the most simple conditions. The course of disease and its origin are therefore more easily traced than they are in huge collections of people with complex surroundings." "It was," said Dr. Grieve, "with the hope of exciting a deeper interest in this study that the subject of this year's address had been chosen."

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ ET IMPERATRICI FLORENTIA.

S. P. D.

BRITANNA regum filia, sunt tibi
Flores et omnis copia narium,
Quoscumque de villis odores
Aura rapit zephyri jocosa,
Jamdudum apud me. Rumpe, precor, moras,
Caliginoso sub Jove frigidam
Urbem relinquo et fruare
Deliciis tibi destinatis.
"Regina salve! grata redis!" sonat
Natura multis vocibus; in tui
Surgunt honorem nunc fluenta,
Nunc juga de nivibus renata.
Te dulce, primo vere tepentius,
Cælum salutatur; te nemus uvidum
Auro renidens et smaragdo
Lumine sub trepidante Phœbi.
Te siqua ramo cantat avis suo
Invitat aliam; quin et Oreades
Faunique conjunctis chorœis
Te celebrant propriumque nomen.
En noster Arnus, nec Tamesi invidens
Aucto ampliores agmine vortices
Volvit coercentesque ripas
Vix patitur dominosque pontes,
Ut hospitali dicat Etruriæ
Qualis propinquet femina, cui suam
Recludat Urbem, qua recepta
Non semel edat "Io triumphe!"
Natura nec te sola, sed Ars vocat
Tuscas ad oras, seu tibi dædala
Pictura, seu sublimis Ædes,
Sive placent animosa signa.
Cur invidendas tot referam domos
Musis sacratas, unde politior
Mundus voluptates serenas
Haurit et in meliora tendit?

Cur in Poeta commorer Inferas
Visente sedes, Virgilio duce,
Ignemque Purgantem, et beatas
Quotquot habet Paradisus arces?

Me Pallas olim matribus addidit
Scientiarum, me propriam colit,
Me nutrit ut fiant Etrusca
Ambiguæ regione Athearæ.

Digneris ergo, nobilis hospita,
Paulum morari collibus in meis,
Rerumque laxatis habenis
Sollicitam recreare mentem,

Donec novatis viribus Insulas
Revisis Anglas, consulere aptior
Quid causa communis requirat,
Quid populo tenuet labores.

Christo minorem te Domino gere,
Augusta Princeps, cui datur imperi
Porrecta majestas ad ortum
Solis ab Hesperio cubili,

Sic tuta regnes, sic tibi prospere
Conata cedant omnia, sic pia
Reddare cælo, sic Britannis
Culta colendaque sis per ævum.

J. P. STEELE, M.D. EDIN.

Florentiæ, in Die S. Patricii, M.D.CCCXCIII.

Public Health and Poor Law.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

River Tyne Port Sanitary District.—Dr. Armstrong has issued a very complete report in reference to his district. It shows evidence of considerable vigilance and activity, and cholera certainly ought to find some difficulty in breaking through the Tyne defences. Owing to the delay arising from the medical officers, when examining ships, being carried far up the river above the boarding station, the Tyne Pilotage Commission gave orders that all vessels which required to be medically examined were to be slowed on passing the hailing station. Detention at the mooring station was only practised in the cases of vessels having possibly infected water ballast or bilge water, which it was necessary to pump out before docking. Dr. Armstrong draws the attention of the authority to two sources of danger against which it is important to provide—viz., infected ballast and infected cargoes or holds. He states that "the means of dealing with ballast of infected fresh water or freshwater sand are not satisfactory; the appliances for disinfecting on a large scale are insufficient." During the year 1892 there were 1485 vessels boarded by the officers of the port sanitary authority on account of their having come directly or indirectly from foreign ports infected, or suspected to be infected, with cholera, fever or small-pox. Three masters of vessels gave false reports as to the health of persons on board. Emigrant vessels have been visited by the inspector on arrival and kept under supervision whilst in port. Some 9852 vessels, including 714 fishing boats, were inspected during the year. 151 structural defects were observed and 149 were remedied on notice. 1085 notices were issued to abate nuisances or remedy sanitary defects. In 524 cases the drinking-water was ordered to be changed and the tanks to be thoroughly cleansed. As Dr. Armstrong observes, it is much to be regretted that port sanitary authorities possess no legal power to deal with provisions supplied to seamen which are unfit for food. The only way they can be dealt with is as nuisances under the Public Health Act. The addresses of 3079 persons were taken in accordance with the cholera regulations. Four seamen gave false addresses and were fined £10 each with an alternative of seven days' imprisonment. Sea burial in the case of a corpse dead of cholera was not thought desirable owing to the shallowness of the North Sea and the possibility of the body being dredged up by the trawlers. 135 vessels with freshwater ballast taken in at infected ports were ordered to be pumped out, and the bilges of all vessels from infected ports were