

help from relatives and is endeavouring to obtain boarders. Two children, aged nine and seven years. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 67 years, of M.R.C.S. Eng. who was a surgeon in the Indian Emigration Service. No income, no children. Voted £12.

Widow, aged 51 years, of M.R.C.S., L.S.A. who practised in Lincolnshire and London. No income; a little assistance from a struggling son-in-law; children unable to help. Voted £12.

Widow, aged 62 years, of L.S.A. who practised in Derbyshire. No income, dependent on a son earning a small weekly wage. Health very indifferent. Relieved six times, £66. Voted £12.

Widow, aged 56 years, of L.R.C.P. Lond. who practised in Wales. Income £13 a year and receives a little help from a Masonic charity. Relieved twice, £10. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 62 years, of M.R.C.S. who practised in Liverpool. Earns a few shillings a week by giving music lessons. Relieved nine times, £77. Voted £5.

Daughter, aged 26 years, of late M.D. who practised in Middlesex. Physically and mentally unable to learn a living. Relieved twice, £15. Voted £5.

Daughter, aged 57 years, of late M.R.C.S., L.S.A. who practised in Hants. Income £15 a year and receives a little help from brothers. Failing eyesight interferes with needlework, by which applicant has supplemented her small means. Relieved twice, £12. Voted £5.

Daughter, aged 37 years, of M.D. who practised in Gloucestershire. Has been a cripple for many years and recently has been compelled to incur some extra and quite unavoidable expenses. Relieved twice, £12. Voted £5.

Daughter, aged 39 years, of late M.D. Edin. who practised in London. No income; is a governess but finds increasing difficulty in obtaining posts. Relieved six times, £25. Voted £5.

Daughter, aged 37 years, of late L.F.P.S. Glasg. who was a surgeon in the Royal Navy. Is a nurse but has been incapacitated for nearly two years and for several months will only be allowed slight and occasional occupation. Relieved once, £12. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 53 years, of M.B. Cantab. who practised in London. No income; endeavours to support herself by washing, needlework, &c. Slight help from children, three of whom are in service. Relieved four times, £53. Voted £12.

Daughter, aged 55 years, of late M.R.C.S., L.S.A. who practised in Buckinghamshire. Income £5 a year; does a little teaching but earnings decrease each year. Relieved six times, £68. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 38 years, of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. who practised in London. No income; supports herself as a working housekeeper, but earnings are insufficient to cover unavoidable expenses for herself and two children at institutions. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 57 years, of L.S.A. who practised in Yorkshire. No income; no children; unable to get work; health indifferent. Relieved once, £5. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 55 years, of L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin. who practised in Staffordshire. Income less than £10 a year; slight help from a brother-in-law. Two children, aged 16 and 12 years. Relieved twice, £20. Voted £10.

Widow, aged 76 years, of M.R.C.S., L.S.A. who practised in Buckinghamshire. Has a small income, but insufficient for the maintenance of herself and four children, three of whom are deaf and dumb and one epileptic also. Relieved five times, £40. Voted £5.

Widow, aged 60 years, of L.F.P.S. Glasg. who practised in Glasgow. Only income £10 a year from a charity. No children; broken down in health. Relieved five times, £50. Voted £10.

Widow, aged 67 years, of M.D. Aberd., M.R.C.S. who practised in London. No income; slight help from children. Relieved six times, £78. Voted £12.

Widow, aged 61 years, of L.R.C.P., L.F.P.S. Glasg. who practised in Sunderland. Only income a small annuity. Children unable to help. Relieved ten times, £106. Voted £10.

Widow, aged 63 years, of L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Edin. who practised in London. No income; dependent on earnings from needlework. Relieved once, £10. Voted £10.

Daughter, aged 61 years, of late L.S.A. who practised in Sunderland. Has a small annuity and is obliged to help an invalid sister. Relieved eight times, £72. Voted £10.

Daughter, aged 63 years, of late L.S.A. who practised in London. No income; receives a home in exchange for services and a small payment. Relieved once, £10. Voted £10.

Daughters, aged 70 years and 66 years, of late L.R.C.P., L.S.A. Edin. who practised in Clackmannan. Have maintained themselves for many years since father's death but now dependent on small pensions amounting to £35 a year. Relieved once, £18. Voted £10.

Widow, aged 46 years, of L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin. who practised in Sheffield. No income; dependent on a son earning small wages as a labourer. Relieved 11 times, £121. Voted £10.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary meeting of the Council was held on July 25th, Mr. HENRY MORRIS, the President, being in the chair.

It was resolved that diplomas of Membership should be issued to 112 successful candidates and that, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, Diplomas in Public Health should be issued to 13 successful candidates.

Mr. L. A. Dunn was elected a member of the Court of Examiners; Mr. A. Pearce Gould was re-elected a member of the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery; and Mr. W. B. Paterson was re-elected a member of the Dental Section of the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery.

A letter was read from Mrs. Bennett thanking the Council for its sympathy in connexion with the death of her husband, Professor E. H. Bennett.

It was resolved that the revised edition of Part I. (Man) of the Catalogue of Osteological Specimens in the Museum should be offered for sale at 10s. per copy.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, August 1st, 1829.

MEDICAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have been kind enough to insert my former notes, relative to the formation of a Medical Benefit Society in this metropolis. Permit me to inform your readers, and the profession generally, that among the several communications I have received, *two of the writers have promised very munificent donations* towards the establishment of an institution of the nature I propose. I now beg to state on what plan I should like to see it founded; viz. that of clubs or friendly societies, so that by each member contributing one or two guineas per annum, he should be allowed *two or three guineas* weekly, when incapacitated from attending to his professional duties; the sum to be fixed by a managing council or committee, elected by the members without favour or affection, whose duty it should also be to confer other privileges when required; as in case of the death of a member or his wife, or if his property have been destroyed by fire, or he be in prison for debt, &c. The rules to be prepared by a committee elected for that purpose, confirmed by the members at large, and enrolled according to Act of Parliament. I trust the profession will perceive the necessity of forming an institution for these purposes; and when a member requires assistance, he will have the gratification of obtaining it as his *right*, and not as a matter of *favour*, nor with the chance of experiencing the frowns or reflections of cold-hearted charity, in his applications for relief. These are urgent reasons; I trust the profession will come forward and aid my humble endeavours, and give their assistance to my project, the benefits of which will, hereafter, be duly appreciated. We have seen the great advantages that have attended friendly societies in the humble classes of society, and I can only feel surprised that nothing of the kind should have been attempted before. However, let us verify the proverb, "better late than never," and form a Medical Friendly Society. Any communications and suggestions, therefore, addressed to me, post paid only, twopenny post-office, Brewer Street, shall be attended to. Let me impress on the reader, that however bright our prospects may be at the present moment, sickness and uncontrolled misfortunes may arise, that would render such an institution one of the greatest blessings the profession could experience. Trusting to your kindness in giving this early insertion,

I have the honour to remain,

Your faithful servant,

H. W. DEWHURST, Surg.,

July 20, 1829. Lecturer on Human and Comparative Anatomy.

P.S.—I have omitted to mention that I would propose to throw open its advantages to all in the profession, whether the apothecary's assistant, or the presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, as well as practitioners, should they choose to embrace them; in fact, it should be open to all, and influenced by none.

VITAL STATISTICS.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

IN 76 of the largest English towns 8067 births and 3665 deaths were registered during the week ending July 27th. The annual rate of mortality, which had been equal to 12.5, 12.3, and 12.4 per 1000 in the three preceding weeks, declined to 11.9 in the week under notice. During the first four weeks of the current quarter the death-rate in these towns averaged 12.3 per 1000, the rate in London during the same period being 12.0. The lowest rates in the 76 towns last week were 1.2 in Hornsey, 4.9 in Northampton, 5.0 East Ham, and 5.8 in Walthamstow; the highest rates were 17.3 in Walsall, 18.4 in Rochdale, 19.4 in Hanley, and 19.7 in Great Yarmouth. The 3665 deaths in the 76 towns showed a decline of 149 from the number in the previous week, and included 396 which were referred to the principal