

dozen well observed and accurately noted cases of diseases of the ear in a twelvemonth? Faithful observation and clinical records of disease are now more required in this than any other branch of medical science.

ART. VII.—*On the Mortality of Medical Practitioners in Ireland.*

Second Article. By JAMES WILLIAM CUSACK, M. D. President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and WILLIAM STOKES, M. D., Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin.

WE have again to draw the attention of the Government, the profession, and the Public, to the subject of the mortality of medical men in Ireland. Our former researches, printed in the Number of this Journal for August last, did not approach the present time nearer than the beginning of the year 1843, and it is manifest that the returns which they gave, unparalleled and appalling though they were, cannot be received as giving the full amount of mortality.

In the present communication we shall give the results of the investigations which we set on foot during the past year, so as to complete, as far as possible, the statement of the Irish medical mortality up to the present time. In the second series of inquiries the number of subjects of investigation has been increased, and information has been sought for with reference to the following subjects:

1st. The names of medical practitioners who have died since 25th March, 1843, the period up to which our former inquiries extended; 2nd. The ages at which death occurred; 3rd. The diseases which caused death; 4th. How such diseases were contracted; 5th. The qualification of the individuals; 6th. The nature and locality of the official situations held at the time of death; 7th. The names of those who have since held, and who now hold, those situations; and, 8th. A statement of what in-

fectious or epidemic diseases such practitioners have previously suffered from.

To effect these objects, upwards of 500 printed circulars were sent to our medical brethren throughout the kingdom, and above 100 private letters were despatched to individuals under peculiar circumstances. The answers to these inquiries which we have had the honour of receiving, are all attested by the signatures of the medical officers of the various institutions throughout the country; and we have thought it right to have the information thus obtained registered in a separate volume, with the names alphabetically arranged and numbered; and we intend depositing this document, for the sake of preservation and inspection, in one of our public libraries.

We have already alluded to the fact, that when medical men are attacked with fever it is eminently malignant, and that in Ireland few medical men of standing have escaped fever. We have shewn that the medical practitioners in Ireland, from various circumstances independent of the constant existence of fever in the country, are placed in a much more dangerous position than that of their brethren in England or Scotland; and that while the proportion of deaths from fever to the mortality from all causes in the general population, was only 1 in every 10.59, the deaths from fever among the medical profession were not less than 1 in 2.29 of the deaths from all causes.

In enumerating the causes of the great medical mortality of Ireland, we omitted to speak of the isolated position in which so many of our brethren are compelled to live. Under these circumstances it often happens that, from the absence of any medical adviser or assistant, the practitioner neglects or misapprehends the premonitory symptoms of disease, or its insidious progress even after it is established, and he frequently does not yield until the affection has reached to its middle stage: he is then thrown on his own resources, and, in his

anxiety to throw off disease, attempts his own cure by measures which he would shrink from in the case of another patient. To obtain competent medical advice he has to send to a distance of many miles; and though the greatest devotion is shewn by our brethren in their attendance on one another, under circumstances of extreme difficulty, yet it is plain that, when the physician has to perform a journey of from twenty to thirty miles a day to visit his patient, the attendance cannot be as close, regular, and constant as the urgency of the case requires. To these unfavourable circumstances must be added the want of proper nurse-tending. This is a matter of great importance; for if there be one disease in which the effect of skilful nurse-tending is more manifest than another, that disease is typhus fever.

We have already stated our opinion, that not only the remuneration for attendance on fever hospitals and dispensaries should be fixed at a liberal scale, but that provision ought to be made for the widows and children of those practitioners who had lost their lives in the public service. Next to the loss of life of so many highly educated gentlemen, the most distressing circumstance connected with the subject under consideration is the destitute condition in which their families have been so often left. We can state without fear of contradiction, that in a large proportion of the cases of death of dispensary medical officers of Ireland, the widows and children of those gentlemen are left without provision. It might be urged that these circumstances, distressing though they be, are but the necessary results of improvidence in entering the marriage state when the prospect of a sufficient income is so distant or uncertain; but it must be recollected, that of all professions the medical is the only one in which a necessity exists for its members entering the marriage state; for reasons to which we need not allude. In Ireland the feeling which leads to this state of things is peculiarly strong; and, as a consequence, a large number of the junior practitioners, at the time they fall

victims to fever or other diseases, leave behind them an unprotected and unprovided family(*a*).

But even in the case in which the practitioner has been attacked with fever, and has had the good fortune to recover from the disease, the position of himself and his family is often one of extreme difficulty and hardship. Few men are possessed of a constitution sufficiently robust to enable them to endure the fatigues of country practice with impunity in a period shorter than three months from the subsidence of typhus. Many, it is true, urged by necessity, by humanity, or the fear of being supplanted, recommence their duties at an earlier period, although in a state of great physical weakness and nervous exhaustion, and in this way fall easy victims to a variety of chronic and acute diseases. Others become at once affected with some of the various sequelæ of typhus. Of these, diseases of the lungs and the digestive system are the most frequent, under which the patient too often sinks, as might be expected, when every external circumstance around him is calculated to depress whatever moral or physical energy that may have been left him; and should he even recover, a very great expense has been incurred during his illness, which few in country practice are well able to afford.

It must be clear to any right-thinking man that, so long as fever prevails in this country to such an extent as to render the public medical service one so fraught with danger as we have already shewn it to be, a provision ought to be made at least for the widows of those practitioners whose lives have been sacrificed by their attendance on the poor.

The duties, risks, and public remuneration of the country practitioners of Ireland are subjects which not only bear on the interests of the profession, but on those of every class of the

(*a*) According to a return of a committee for the distribution of a sum of money granted by the "London Ladies' Relief Association," alluded to at page 286 of this Journal, we learn that nineteen medical men left sixteen widows and seventy-eight children almost totally unprovided for.

community, from the highest to the lowest. For many years Ireland has been supplied with a body of highly educated medical men, a large portion of whom are the sons of the gentry of the country, or are otherwise closely related to them, and have brought with them into the profession the *status*, education, and feelings of gentlemen. But it is easy to foresee that if for the most dangerous of all medical services liberal public remuneration be not given, a lower order of men, to whom medicine will not be a profession but a trade, must come to occupy the place of that higher class of which the country has already been deprived in such fearful numbers.

The returns to which we shall now draw attention will exhibit the condition of the medical profession in Ireland in a still more alarming point of view than in our former article, shewing, as they do, a risk of life to the medical practitioner manifestly greater than that in the most unhealthy dependencies of the British Crown ; and we cannot allow ourselves to doubt that when these facts receive the attention which they deserve, that a right view of the value of the profession, and a desire for a due performance of the public service, will dictate a course of proceeding towards the Irish practitioners more calculated to reward their devoted exertions.

In many cases we received an account of the same death several times, indeed there are comparatively few instances in which we have not received duplicate returns of each death ; by this means a greater amount of accuracy has been obtained, and as the deaths were registered in the book already referred to in alphabetical order, the possibility of registering the same death twice was avoided, while an increased amount of authenticity was attained. Moreover, from the number of duplicate returns, we were enabled to complete the registry in a more efficient way than we could otherwise have effected, as what one return was deficient in, others supplied.

Under the head of medical practitioners we have included, —first, physicians and surgeons, or those holding diplomas or

licenses from some university or chartered corporate body; many of these gentlemen were also apothecaries, and several kept open shop: secondly, apothecaries, who may be classed under the head of general practitioners, for such is the position, particularly in the larger towns and cities, which they at present occupy in Ireland. The number of licentiate apothecaries in 1842 amounted to 1174, of which number nearly 700 possessed degrees in medicine and surgery: and, thirdly, pupils; for as in several instances (particularly during the late epidemic) they were intrusted with the care of the people, and having, in this way, or in prosecuting their studies in clinical hospitals, contracted fatal contagious diseases, we conceive, under these circumstances, that they have a right to be classed among the medical staff of this country.

The collected returns of all these deaths have been arranged in a tabular form at page 120, the first section of which exhibits, under thirty-eight headings, the diseases which caused death, arranged according to the simplest and most popular nosological classification, entirely taken from the causes of death specified in the returns; and the ages, set forth in quinquennial periods, from under 20, to 70 and upwards. In the four columns of the next section are arranged the various circumstances under which disease was contracted, as stated in the circulars returned to us, namely: fever attendance; hospital and dispensary duties; and general medical duties, under some of which the fatal and infectious diseases have been most frequently contracted, as well as accidents, and some fatal diseases incurred by hardship, fatigue, and such like circumstances. The column for unspecified causes it is unnecessary to explain. The next section in the table expresses the qualifications to which we have already alluded; and the fourth, that of the years in which death occurred: but we must always bear in mind that under the year 1843 are included but nine months.

In this table we have, we trust, included within the smallest

possible space the greatest amount of information which the returns afforded, as well as presented that information in the form most easily read. The last three items contained in our circular, viz., the official situations, the names of the successors, and whether such practitioners had suffered from epidemic or infectious diseases, &c., are, as far as our returns permitted, all accurately registered; but at the present period of our inquiry, and in this particular table of deaths, they do not require to be specified.

The total return of deaths for the period specified amounts to 443. Of this number, 335 were physicians or surgeons; and this item we believe to be, although deficient, nearer the truth than the return of apothecaries or pupils. These returns give an amount of deaths which we are satisfied is very much below the number which actually occurred within the last four years and nine months, among the medical officers of this country. The deaths of apothecaries returned to us for the same period amount to 88, but this we believe to be much within the actual amount of the mortality of this class. Only twenty pupils have been returned as having died within the period specified, but this number, it is manifest, is very much below the amount of deaths which actually took place. And therefore, although we have inserted these deaths in the general table of mortality, in order to shew what the risk of life is in Ireland, among persons engaged in the treatment of disease or the care of the poor, our calculations made with regard to the average general or yearly mortality among medical men, do not include or take into account these twenty pupils; at the same time we should observe, that, of the number specified, six were engaged as practitioners in the management of public institutions; eleven died during the past year; and twelve altogether of fever. The number of medical pupils attending the Dublin classes has been, upon an average, 500 annually during the last four years, and the deaths returned to us of this class have been three in 1843, one in 1844, one in 1845, four in 1846, and, as already mentioned, eleven

in 1847. It is unnecessary to enter further into the question of the deaths in this section, for it is so deficient that no fair deductions could be drawn from it, and by including them among the total deaths of medical practitioners,—physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries,—we should erroneously and unjustly lessen the actual amount of mortality per cent. of that class, either year by year or as a whole. The deaths specified under twenty years of age occurred among pupils. Seven medical officers of the army, who died while engaged on active service in Ireland during the last five years, are included in the returns of physicians and surgeons;—one died in 1843, one in 1844, one in 1845, two in 1846, and two in 1847. Only one of these, however, died of fever. They are not included in our statistical calculations made with relation to the *living*.

From the records which we possess, and from the accompanying table, a variety of curious and highly interesting statistical deductions might be drawn; but in the present communication we are only desirous of directing attention to a few incontrovertible facts, and to express these in as plain and intelligible a form as possible. We might, moreover, were it necessary, establish comparisons between the mortality which the Irish medical profession exhibits, and the proportion of deaths to the living in other countries afflicted with the most unhealthy climates, and shew a balance in favour of these above that which our profession here exhibits; or we might institute comparisons between the average proportion of deaths in the community at large, from all causes, and of the same ages, and those which the medical profession here presents, during the very prime of life, as the result of its laborious and hazardous duties. The average duration of life, or the annual amount of mortality in the medical, compared with other professions, would form a theme on which much might be written(*a*).

(*a*) In our former article upon this subject, we stated the military mortality in time of war, as a means of comparison with the mortality of Irish medical practitioners. It is scarcely necessary to add that we did not

A single fact, however, we feel to be of more importance than any of these calculations, which we leave others more versed in these matters to form,—and this fact is, that during the year 1847 one hundred and seventy-eight Irish medical practitioners, exclusive of pupils and army surgeons, died; being a proportion of 6·74 per cent., or 1 in every 14·83 practitioners in a single year; and of this number, the great majority fell victims to disease contracted in the discharge of public medical duties.

If we examine the accompanying table we find, that, of the entire number, 214 died of epidemic or contagious diseases, of whom 199 died of typhus fever; and while no age has been exempt from its fatal attacks, it has proved most destructive from 25 to 50 years, between which periods 142 deaths are recorded. Under the head of “how disease was contracted,” we find 71 deaths from fever attendance, we believe, chiefly among the lower orders; thirty-four from hospital duties, where the disease was manifestly contracted from attendance in medical institutions, and almost entirely during the past year; and forty-eight from the performance of medical duties not included in either of the former headings, such as, labouring among the poor in wild and thinly populated districts, where the medical man has often to ride or drive for many hours, exposed to cold and wet, and frequently at night, suffering great fatigue, and then becoming exposed to concentrated contagion in some of the wretched isolated hovels of the peasantry.

do so with a view of proving that the medical mortality in Ireland is greater than the military mortality during a period of war; we merely wished to express the facts as we found them. The time included in the calculation, and all the circumstances connected with the positions of both parties, must be taken into account, as well as the fidelity of both sources of observation. The military mortality was complete; the Irish medical mortality was, as we stated, necessarily deficient. The former might be many times greater than the latter, but, taking all the circumstances into account, the latter might be proportionally enormous. Lest any one might misconstrue our meaning, we added a note to the foregoing effect, in the separate copies which were distributed of our former paper.

TABLE OF DEATHS OF IRISH MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, SHEWING BY AGES

DISEASES.		Ages.													Total.
		Under 20.	21 to 25.	26 to 30.	31 to 35.	36 to 40.	41 to 45.	46 to 50.	51 to 55.	56 to 60.	61 to 65.	66 to 70.	Above 70.	Unspecified.	
EPIDEMIC AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.	{ Fever,	6	10	37	21	41	13	30	7	10	1	3	2	18	199
	{ Dysentery, . . . . .	..	..	2	..	2	2	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	11
	{ Diarrhoea, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
	{ Scarlatina,	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
SPORADIC DISEASES.	{ Nervous System.	{ Epilepsy, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
		{ Paralysis, . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	2	..	6
		{ Apoplexy, . . . . .	..	1	1	1	1	2	3	..	3	..	..	2	13
		{ Cerebral Diseases, . . . . .	..	1	2	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	9
		{ Delirium tremens, . . . . .	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	6
		{ Tetanus, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Respiratory and Circulating System.	{ Phthisis, . . . . .	..	7	17	5	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	40
		{ Heart disease, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	13
		{ Hydrothorax, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	5
		{ Aneurism, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
		{ Pneumonia, . . . . .	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
		{ Hæmoptysis, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
		{ Bronchitis, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	6	..	10
	{ Digestive System.	{ Asthma, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Chest disease unspecified, . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	5
		{ Peritonitis, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Dropsy, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	2	1	5	1	3	1	..	..	14
		{ Disease of Liver, . . . . .	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	9
		{ Disease of Stomach, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Urinary System.	{ Enteritis, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
		{ Hæmatemesis, . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Disease of Kidneys, . . . . .	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4
	{ Uncertain Seat.	{ Urinary diseases, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
		{ Disease of Bladder, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3
		{ Tumour, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Anthrax, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Dissecting wound, . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Abscess, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
		{ Old age and debility, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	4	..	11
VIOLENT OR ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.	{ Marasmus, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
	{ Suicide, . . . . .	..	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	
	{ Drowned,	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	
	{ Intemperance, . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	
	{ Fall from horse, . . . . .	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Unspecified,		1	..	2	1	3	4	1	..	3	1	3	1	18	38
TOTAL,		9	19	74	39	73	37	57	16	29	9	20	22	39	443

THEIR AMOUNT AND CAUSES, FROM 25TH MARCH, 1843, TO 1ST JANUARY, 1848.

How Disease was contracted.				Qualifications.			Years.				
Fever Attendance.	Hospital Duties.	Medical Duties.	Unspecified.	Physicians or Surgeons.	Apothecaries	Pupils.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.
71	34	48	46	138	49	12	17	11	18	30	123
..	..	2	9	8	3	..	2	..	1	2	6
..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
..	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
..	..	1	5	5	1	..	1	2	..	3	..
..	13	12	1	..	1	..	4	2	6
..	1	2	6	8	..	1	3	..	2	..	4
..	6	3	3	..	1	1	1	2	1
..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
1	..	5	34	29	9	2	7	10	3	7	13
..	..	4	9	12	1	..	5	1	3	2	2
..	..	1	4	3	2	..	..	..	4	1	..
..	3	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
..	..	5	1	4	2	..	..	..	3	2	1
..	2	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
..	..	4	6	10	..	..	..	..	3	5	2
..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	5	4	1	..	1	1	2	1	..
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	..	1	13	11	3	..	2	1	3	6	2
..	..	1	8	8	1	..	1	2	..	5	1
..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	..	2	1	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
..	4	3	1	..	2	1	..	1	..
..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
..	3	2	1	..	..	..	1	1	1
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
..	11	9	1	1	..	3	1	3	4
..	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
..	4	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	2
..	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
..	3	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
..	38	31	6	1	4	4	9	11	10
72	35	78	258	335	88	20	52	44	66	90	191

Another description of risk arising from exposure and fatigue, but which may be classed under the same heading, has been incurred in the garrets and cellars of the ill-ventilated, badly-sewered, and, consequently, most unhealthy portions of our principal towns. Forty-six remain unspecified, for want of due information in the returns; but there can be little doubt that many, if not all of these, might be distributed among the three foregoing headings, were our information perfectly accurate.

The three first years in which these deaths from fever took place do not present any very remarkable contrast, either with one another or with the known mortality from typhus, as it occurs endemically in this country, being, during the nine months in 1843, seventeen in fifty-two deaths; in 1844, eleven in forty-four deaths; in 1845, eighteen in sixty-six deaths; and in 1846, twenty-nine in ninety deaths(*a*); but in 1847 we have 114 deaths, exclusive of those of pupils, in 180 deaths, or 123, including all the qualifications, in 191, being 1 death from fever in every 1·55 deaths from all causes, or 64·51 per cent. in a single year,—a condition which would scarcely be credited were not the facts before us, and the name and circumstance of every such death accurately registered and verified. Now, Mr. Wilde has shewn that “the total deaths from fever in Ireland during the ten years included between June, 1831, and June, 1841, afforded by the Census Returns, amount to 112·072,—being 1 death in every 10·59 of the mortality from all causes, and 1 in 3·4 of the deaths of the total epidemic class of diseases.”

Among the diseases of the nervous system, thirty-seven deaths have been registered, and of these, twelve occurred from apoplexy, chiefly among physicians and surgeons. Four of the deaths in this class have been vouched to us as having occurred as the consequence of the performance of severe medical duties. In this and the five following classes of disease, the “years” do not offer any peculiarity worthy of investigation; and with the exception of the next (the third) class in the

(*a*) One army surgeon died of fever in 1846.

nosological table, the same observation holds good with respect to the manner in which disease was contracted.

Under the head of the diseases of the respiratory and circulating system, eighty-five deaths have been returned, of which number forty occurred from phthisis,—a disease to which the Irish medical practitioner, particularly in the rural districts, is, from his occupation, peculiarly liable; and in six instances we have authority for stating that phthisis followed fever contracted in the discharge of medical duties. The two next most fatal causes of death in this class were—heart disease, 13, and bronchitis, 10.

Twenty-nine deaths occurred from affections of the digestive organs, the most frequent of which was dropsy, and next to that affection, diseases of the liver. Four deaths of this class have been returned to us as the result of the performance of medical duties; two from the diseases just alluded to, probably because the original affection was the result of cold and exposure; and from a like influence have two deaths, registered under enteritis, been traced by the medical gentlemen who signed the returns.

Diseases of the urinary organs amount to nine: they chiefly occurred in persons advanced in life.

Seventeen deaths are enumerated under the head of those of “Uncertain Seat,” the principal item in which is old age and debility, under which eleven deaths are registered.

The entire deaths resulting from sporadic diseases amounted to 177; and, including fourteen from accidental causes, and thirty-eight unspecified, it would make the proportion of contagious and epidemic diseases (which are chiefly contracted in the discharge of duty), 1 in 1·93, or 51·86 per cent. of the entire number from all causes.

Fourteen accidental or violent deaths are recorded, of which we regret to say five are registered cases of suicide. Of these five, two happened in 1846, and three in 1847. The distressed condition of our medical brethren,—the great hardships they have endured,—the hopeless distress which they daily witnessed,—and the mortality of their brethren around, as well as the ge-

nerally depressed state of the community,—may, no doubt, be assigned as causes which will account, in some measure, for this sad state of things. We believe that some of the deaths in this class, such as “drowned,” and “fall from horse,” occurred while the practitioners were engaged on professional service; but, the returns being silent upon this subject, we have not so entered them. On the whole, there is every reason to believe that the enumeration of the diseases is more correct than those set down in statistical returns; and while we have taken every pains to arrive at the truth from the best authorities, we have registered as unspecified all those where the cause of death was doubtfully stated. Under this latter head will be found thirty-six deaths; and could we have procured the cause of death in these cases, they would, when distributed through the other sections, have rendered the array of deaths, particularly from epidemic diseases, more appalling. But medical men located in some of the distant mountain districts are themselves so separated from medical aid, that death has often occurred without the sufferer having been visited by any professional attendant. The ages we believe to have been given with tolerable correctness, and being in the table arranged in five-year sections, the numbers fall within the *actual* periods. Many remarkable comparisons might be made between the ages at which death has taken place among the medical profession in Ireland, and other members of the community, aged between 20 and 70. The deficiency in our returns occurred principally in the earlier years over which our inquiry extends; but, in a country like this, where there is no general registry of deaths as in England, nor any registry of the deaths of the members of the medical profession, either by the respective bodies to which they belong, or the public offices, such deficiencies must naturally be expected.

We have now but to seek to arrive at an approximation to the actual amount of mortality per annum, or the proportion which these deaths bear to the number of practitioners in Ireland. As already stated, we exclude the pupils, only a

moiety of whose deaths are undoubtedly returned, and also the army surgeons. Where the members of the medical profession belong to such a number of colleges and licensing bodies in Great Britain, as well as those in Ireland, it would not be possible to obtain the actual numbers from any of the lists of these bodies; but a Census of the medical profession having been twice published within the period over which our inquiry extends, we are able to form a very close approximation to the actual average numbers. In Dr. Croly's Medical Directory, published in 1843, the number of medical practitioners, including apothecaries, in Ireland, exclusive of Dublin, amounted to 2109, and taking Dublin at 482, as enumerated in the Directory for 1846, it makes 2591; but in the more perfect one published in 1846, the numbers were as follows, for all Ireland: 1989 practitioners, holding degrees in medicine and surgery; 513 apothecaries, who did not hold such diplomas; and 120 practitioners, whose qualifications were unspecified: in all 2622; and we do not believe that the actual amount has ever exceeded 2700(a). Since then the profession has not been on the increase, and considerable emigration, as well as the very great mortality, has served to keep the number of practitioners in Ireland within that amount. When we state that 2650 has been the average of the medical practitioners of Ireland (including apothecaries who do not hold degrees), for the last five years included in our inquiry, we believe that we have made the nearest approximation possible to the actual amount. If we distribute the 416 deaths (which do not include pupils or army surgeons) over the five years, we find an

(a) The census for 1841 reckoned under the head of those "Ministering to Health," 3820 physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries; but this, we have reason to know, was, from the character of the returns incorrect. The only authority on which an estimate can be made is that published by Dr. Croly, in which the names, qualifications, and addresses of each person are set down, and until this is controverted it must be an authority. We know that the profession has been usually supposed to be 3000, but without any authority; and, on the other hand, we have found (and we have had some experience in this matter) Croly's Directory wonderfully correct.

average mortality of 3·14 per cent., or 1 in every 31·77; but then it must be remembered that the early years of our inquiry are very deficient, and that the returns for the year 1843 are only for nine months. Taking the proportion in years, we find the following returns:—1843 (deficient three months), 1 in 55·20; in 1844, 1 in 63·1; in 1845, 1 in 41·40; in 1846, 1 in 31·55; and in 1847, 1 in 14·89, or 6·71 per cent. So that during the healthy years in Ireland we have an average mortality of 1 in 53·23; and taking 1846 and 1847 as unhealthy periods, 1 in 23·22; but it is manifest that our returns are very deficient for the early years.

The only other question which we at present think necessary to bring forward in this paper, is the proportion of mortality in the provinces, both from epidemic and sporadic diseases, under which latter we have included the violent and accidental deaths, as well as those unspecified.

Provinces.	Years.					
	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	Total.
Leinster, . . .	20	11	20	26	33	110
Munster, . . .	19	9	15	15	48	106
Ulster, . . .	4	9	11	20	44	88
Connaught, . .	4	5	9	4	25	47
Unspecified, . .	2	9	10	21	30	72
Total,	49	43	65	86	180	423
Pupils,	3	1	1	4	11	20
	52	44	66	90	191	443

We have received a return of only thirty-three deaths from the city of Dublin, during the period over which our inquiry extends.

We will now conclude these investigations for the present, but we must repeat that though we have endeavoured to ascertain, by three series of investigations, the mortality of the Irish medical profession, that our results must be taken as giving an amount considerably below the truth.

We have to express our thanks to many of the physicians and surgeons of Ireland, who have so promptly and carefully answered our inquiries; and we would particularly specify Dr. Little of Sligo, by whose exertions a great quantity of information, not only bearing on the mortality of the profession, but on the question of the necessity for a provision for the families of gentlemen who have lost their lives in the public service, has been obtained. We have also to return thanks to Dr. Lynch of Loughrea for important information on these topics.

Finally, we beg to offer our acknowledgments to the Editor of this Journal, Mr. Wilde, for the time, labour, and care, which he has bestowed in the necessary correspondence of the last investigation, and on the arrangement and tabulation of the returns in both series of investigations. Without his assistance, indeed, we could hardly have given the arranged table of diseases at page 120-21.

The following deductions may be drawn from the inquiries which we have instituted upon this highly important subject, as shewn in this and our former communication:

1. That the physicians and surgeons of Ireland are, by their profession, more exposed to the influence of fatal diseases than any other class of the community of a similar grade; and that they are at all times liable to these influences, from the period of their entering the profession as students to advanced life.

2. That few, if any, of the medical profession in Ireland, escape typhus fever; that many have had it twice, and several three times.

3. That the fevers of medical men in Ireland are almost always of a bad character, even when the epidemic is not of the worst kind; and that, consequently, fever has proved more fatal to medical men than to any other class of the community of a similar grade in this country.

4. That the fevers and other infectious diseases, from which

our profession suffers so severely, are generally contracted in discharge of public duties, either in attendance upon sanitary institutions, or in the miserable, ill-ventilated, and dirty dwellings of the poor.

5. That, according to our returns received for the period prior to 1843,—undoubtedly deficient,—568 out of 1220 practitioners in charge of medical institutions suffered from typhus fever; of these, twenty-eight had fever twice, and nine three times; and that, of the whole number, three hundred, or one-fourth, died.

6. That the calculations contained in the papers which we have now laid before the public shew that, of 743 deaths of medical men, of which we possess the particulars, 331 were caused by typhus fever, or 1 in every 2·24;—nearly forty-five per cent. of the whole.

7. That, during the prevalence of the late epidemic, 500 Irish medical men, at the lowest computation, suffered from fever or other epidemic diseases, contracted, for the most part, in discharge of public duties, by which themselves and their families have suffered considerable loss.

8. That about one-fifteenth of the entire medical community of Ireland have died during the year 1847.

9. That during the continuance of an attack of fever, and in cases of recovery for a long period subsequent to it, the families of medical men are deprived of their exertions,—usually their only means of support.

We think that as the risk incurred in the public medical service in Ireland is so great, an adequate remuneration should be afforded for the performance of these services; and as the widows and children of medical men who have died during the last two years have been, in many instances, left totally unprovided for, we most earnestly recommend to the consideration of the Government, the propriety of making some legal provision for the families of those gentlemen whose lives have been sacrificed to the public service.