

an appendix on syphilis in animals. The New Sydenham Society may, we think, be fairly congratulated on the intrinsic value of the work, which Dr. Whitley has translated, and on the rapidity with which the second has followed the first volume.

Smoking Fires, their Cause and Cure. By the Rev. Alex. COLVIN AINSLIE, M.A., Vicar of Corfe, Somerset. Small 8vo. pp. 79. Longmans. 1869.

To few men has it been given to earn a right to a distinguished position among philanthropists at so small an expenditure of type and paper as Mr. Colvin Ainslie. He has addressed himself to one of the greatest nuisances of civilised life, and dealt with it in such a fashion that his name ought to become a household word throughout the kingdom. In his prefatory remarks on the horrific evidences of internal miseries which meet the eyes of a gazer from the fifth or sixth floor of a London hotel, in "the countless multitude of unsightly, distorted earthen and metal tubes through which thousands of fireplaces pour out their black pollution into the London air," he reaches the dignity of pathos. Mrs. Lirriper, taking an æsthetic view of the subject, might prefer her smoke plain, and not distorted by the hideous devices which are too commonly affixed to our chimneys to correct original errors of construction; but Mr. Ainslie takes too serious a view of his subject to be turned aside from the strict path of the duty he has assigned to himself, even by Mrs. Lirriper's gossiping. In seventy-nine pages he discusses the causes, symptoms (diagnostic), and remedies of smoky fires. He writes with much lucidity, and his book, particularly to one who suffers from the evil with which it deals, is most readable. Everybody with its aid may achieve a rational knowledge of the cause or causes of a smoky fire in any given instance, and of the remedy or remedies for the nuisance, if it be remediable. Mr. Ainslie's book ought to be in the possession of every householder.

Traité des Maladies Infectieuses. Par Dr. GRIESINGER. Traduit d'après la 2me Edition, par le Dr. G. LEMAITRE. 8vo. pp. 556. Paris: Baillière. 1868.

DR. LEMAITRE's translation of the lamented Berlin professor's "Treatise on Infectious Diseases" will be welcome to many readers in this country. No work on the subject of which it treats holds a higher rank for accuracy and soundness; none can be consulted with greater benefit to the investigator. It discusses malarious fevers, yellow fever, typhoid diseases (including exanthematic typhus, enteric, and recurrent fevers, and plague), and cholera.

THE SICK POOR OF PARIS. By BLANCHARD JERROLD.

No. IV.

THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL, ASYLUM, AND OUT-DOOR RELIEF STORES.

COUNT RUMFORD, writing in 1796 of "Fundamental Principles of Establishments for the Poor," observed: "However large a city may be, in which an establishment for the poor is to be formed, I am clearly of opinion that there should be but *one establishment*—with *one* committee for the general management of all its affairs, and *one* treasurer. This unity appears essentially necessary, not only because, when all the parts tend to one common centre, and act in union to the same end, under one direction, they are less

liable to be impeded in their operations, or disordered by collisions, but also on account of the *very* unequal distribution of wealth, as well as of misery and poverty, in the different districts of the same town." The Count divides his city into sections and sub-sections; subordinating the minor bodies gradually to the common centre of authority, exactly on the plan of the Assistance Publique of France. The fidelity with which the French have followed the principles laid down by our adventurous and energetic countryman is marked especially in the organisation of the various central establishments, whence the hospitals, asylums, and arrondissement bureaux are supplied with the necessaries which are distributed among the sick and poor. There is a Central Bakery, a Central Wine Dépôt, a Central Butchery, a Central Pharmacy, and then there is the great Central Magazine—a vast establishment which has been lately constructed near the old Salpêtrière, and remains to be perfected by a central Buanderie, or laundry.

Let us glance at the uses and manner of government of these institutions, which have been established for the sake of order and economy. The Central Bakery of the Assistance Publique of Paris is housed in the old Hôtel Scipion. In this establishment all the bread for consumption in the hospitals and asylums, and for distribution to the poor by the Bureaux de Bienfaisance, is made and baked. It is interesting to note how the Assistance authorities have watchfully taken advantage of every improvement by machinery in the manufacture of bread. So far back as 1853 the bread was made by steam machinery; in 1856, in order to discover whether it was not possible to produce bread at a less price than that of Parisian bakers, the Prefect of the Seine installed a commission, the result of which was that the Boulangerie bought corn instead of flour. With their own mill as well as their own bakery, all conducted on a vast and economical scale, the municipal bread-makers found that they could produce the first necessary of the poor cheaper than even the scale established by the Government to meet times of dearness. In presence of this fact, it was decided that the Boulangerie Centrale should, in the first place, supply all the clients of the Assistance Publique; and, in the second place, that its surplus bread—that is, the quantity the establishment could make in excess of the Assistance demand—should be offered at the cost price in the public markets for the benefit of the poorest of the working population. The example of the Boulangerie Centrale showed, at any rate, that, in a time of excessive dearness, a bakery powerful enough to produce from 20,000 to 25,000 kilogrammes of bread daily (about 45,000 lb.), could undersell even the town bakers, whose tariff was supplemented by the Government Bakers' bank. The Hôtel Scipion became the centre of many experiments towards the perfection of bread-making. The scientific investigations and ingenious processes, first of M. Mège-Mouriès, and afterwards of M. Salome, late director of the bakery, have ended in the production of the most nutritive as well as the most economical bread. The cheapness and superior quality of the Assistance bread are so far beyond dispute that it is welcomed in establishments that are independent of the control of M. Husson. Many private charities provide themselves from the central bakery; there are dépôts for the sale of this bread in the town markets; it is the bread which the pupils of the Rollin and Chaptal colleges consume; it is eaten by the Pompiers and by the Garde Municipale; and it is provided in the winter economical kitchens which are dotted about Paris, under the patronage of the Prince Impérial. The Scipion bread is, in short, in high favour by reason of its abundant nutritive qualities, and its cheapness. Now, this bread is produced at a profit, calculated at an average of three centimes per kilogramme—say,

roughly, at one halfpenny profit on a 4 lb. loaf. This is not much. The profit might be increased if, in the first place, the bread, which is sold at the rate of the cheapest, were not really a fancy bread; and if, again, it were measured by the town bakers' nominal weight, instead of the real weight.

M. Husson, in his last report, assures the municipal authorities that the Scipion bread would be even cheaper than it is if the flour-mill had water power instead of steam power produced with very expensive fuel. Scipion bread, he adds, is an unalloyed wheat bread of the first quality; whilst Paris bakers mix bean-flour, or flours of inferior quality, even maize-flour and potatoes, with their loaves. It is with justifiable pride that the Director describes the Scipion bakery, not only as a central establishment which provides the cheapest and best bread to the sick and poor, but as a scientific school for bakers, in which every experiment for cheapening the staff of life, and improving it, has a hearty welcome and a generous trial.

In 1853 a Central Market Administration was organised for supplying all the Assistance establishments of the city with fresh food brought from the country, as vegetables &c., at wholesale prices. Through the agency of this administration, which has succeeded admirably, the hospitals and asylums are supplied every morning with their vegetable diet in the best condition. The marketing for the poor conducted in the Halles, as I have said, at wholesale rates, is to the extent of more than £54,000 annually.

We now turn to the Central Wine-cellar of the poor. The extent of it may be gathered by the few salient points of the last report on its operations. Within the year, 2,150,196 litres of wine were distributed to the hospitals and asylums, at a cost of 1,216,084 fr. The wine for the sick and aged poor costs a fraction over 62 c. within the *octroi* gates, and a fraction over 43 c. without the gates. For even the wine and meat of the poor pay the hateful *octroi* duty at the city gates—the Assistance wine to the extent of 362,300 fr.

The operations of the Central Butchery for the poor are extensive. About 1,500,000 kilogrammes—say 3,000,000 lb.—of meat are furnished annually, at the average cost of 1 fr. 20 c. the kilogramme—about 6d. per lb., nearly a penny of this price being *octroi* duty.

The Central Pharmacy distributes drugs &c. to the hospitals and asylums, the Maisons de Secours, &c., to the value of £44,000 yearly; by far the greater proportion, of course, going to the hospitals. Provisions foreign to their main character are kept at some of the central establishments. For instance, the oil and candles for the whole Assistance service are warehoused at the Hôtel Scipion, while soap, soda, &c., required for the Assistance washing, are stored both at the Hôtel Scipion and at the Central Pharmacy.

But the vast Magasin Central, lately constructed on the Boulevard de l'Hôpital, will bring complete order into the economical warehousing system of the Paris Assistance Publique.

The Magasin Central is built with that regard for orderly division and subdivision which characterises every French public administration. It is to be the one immense storehouse from which the hospitals and asylums and Bureaux de Bienfaisance will be supplied with all needful materials, except bread and meat and wine; even the market administration is within its comprehensive jurisdiction. The ancient Buanderie of the Salpêtrière is to be centralised. And even the old women's work, which makes so striking a scene in the Salpêtrière—namely, the repairing and making of hospital linen, bandages, &c.—is to be got under the hand of the chief of the Magasin Central. This work has proved a boon to the old women; for it gives them easy employment, and yields them a trifle of money. On the other hand, it has proved a public economy.

Of this new Magasin Central M. Husson observes in his recent Report on the progresses and improvements in his

department, that, embracing all the sources of supply for the material wants of the Assistance, it will prove a precious instrument of thorough control and of economy. While its service will lessen the labour of the managers of the hospitals and asylums by relieving them from all the anxieties of supplies drawn from various quarters, it will simplify the work of the Assistance central authorities; and simplification in administration is always a progress towards a saving one.

Let us now enter the great Magasin, the approach to which has more the aspect of a military centre than of a city's store for the supply of its poor. The officials at the gate are of strictly military appearance, and the unpractised observer of French administrations would imagine that he was entering a building devoted to the protection of formidable war material, and not of haricots and lentils, the blue woollens of the aged poor, and the beds and the linen of the destitute sick. But the Magasin Central is so new, so interesting and so instructive a store, that I must devote a separate communication to it.

ASYLUM REPORTS.

THE Annual Reports of the Medical Superintendents of County Asylums for the past year are now beginning to reach us, not singly, but in batches; and we are consequently driven to deal with them much after the same fashion,—separate notices in detail being an impossibility in the present crowded state of our columns. We are glad to observe that there is a general disposition on the part of the medical superintendents to adopt the system of statistics recommended by the Medico-Psychological Association, so that we may hope before long to have accumulated data sufficiently comparable and comprehensive for inductive reasoning on a solid basis as to the progress of mental disease in its various forms and under its variety of conditions amongst us. And so strongly are we convinced of the necessity for uniformity in asylum statistics, that we would especially urge upon the medical authorities of all asylums, whether public or private, who have not yet adopted the system above mentioned, to do so without delay. It will then rest with the Lunacy Commissioners to bring the facts so collected by the respective observers throughout the country together into a convenient summary, which will admit of publication in their official Annual Reports.

A cursory glance through the half-dozen Reports now before us shows, by the fluctuations which appear in the tabular statements of the results of treatment, &c., how greatly such collation as we have referred to is needed, in order that something like a standard average for the ratios of admission, discharge, and death in asylums, grouped as nearly as possible according to their general characteristics, might be available for the purposes of comparison. Thus, in the four county asylums of Wilts, Essex, Surrey (Brookwood), and Cumberland and Westmorland, the percentages of recoveries on admissions in 1868 were 32, 58, 18, and 38; the percentages of deaths on the average numbers resident during the same year were 10·5, 8·0, 11·5, and 7·6 respectively. It is not our purpose to touch further upon the statistical question, which would lead us far beyond our available space; but we have said thus much thereon in the hope that all parties concerned may fully recognise the fact so patent to us, that the statistics of insanity in this country really need and merit assiduous cultivation. Dr. Thurnam is everywhere so fully recognised as an authority in this particular, that it is mere superfluity to point to the tables in the reports of the Wilts County Asylum as models for emulation.

Dr. Clouston is for the first time enabled to report no increase in the year's admissions to the Cumberland and Westmorland Asylum; and he expresses his belief that the maximum of yearly admissions has been reached. We notice with satisfaction that Dr. Clouston is now impressed with the importance of medical treatment of the insane, and is devoting himself to its systematic adoption among the inmates of his asylum. As an illustration of the effects of medical treatment, he mentions the fact that among the