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AND JOURNAL OF THE SCIENCES. No. VII.] JULY 1, 1864. Nb Sehhs. PRISON DISCIPLINE. *my Dr. G. Bacon*, > The question of prison discipline is now on its trial before the public, and by the decision arrived at, will be regulated the treatment of our criminals for some years to come. What that decision will ultimately prove may be pretty well guessed from the tone of the last blue book on the subject. The wisdom of the project admits of serious doubts. At

the present time those interested in prison discipline may be divided into two parties, one of whom is anxious to increase the severity of punishment to the utmost as the most effectual way of diminishing crime, whilst the other thinks such means unsound in principle and unsuccessful in practice. Of the rival views the first is, of course, the more popular, and its partisans may feel re-assured when they see the "Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords" which sat last year to inquire into this subject; and, from this report, the nation may learn on what principle criminals are in future to be treated. The Report itself states that it is "desirable to establish without delay a system approaching as nearly as may be practicable to an uniformity of labour, diet and treatment;" that the "more strictly penal element of prison discipline is the chief means of exercising a deterrent influence, and therefore ought not to be weakened," and that "rigid maintenance of the separate system is a vital principle to the efficiency of county and borough gaols." The committee further recommend that the VOL. II. B

system of hard labour should be made uniform. They look with disfavour on industrial occupation, remarking, that it can "under no circumstance be made an equivalent for a corresponding amount of hard labour as administered by means of the wheel, the crank, or shot-drill," and that "diet may be made a just and useful element of penal discipline." These are the chief features of the model system, which the Lords are anxious to impose on the country, *no lens vol ens*, by giving new powers to the Secretary of State to render their system compulsory.\* The deliberate adoption of these views cannot but be regarded as a retrograde step in the treatment of the criminal class, for if the proper course be one of mere severity, to what purpose have been the reformatory efforts pursued so earnestly and for so long a time, and the attempts to appeal to other motives than those of terrorism?. It is a return to the traditions of the darkest times, the mere assertion of power over the powerless, and will fail as it always has failed, because it ignores every distinction among offenders, and submits them as so many soulless objects to an inflexible routine. A reference to the evidence detailed in the blue book, will show the opinions of many able men on these so much debated subjects, and how little such opinions serve to support the recommendations of the Peers. Thus in speaking of the crank, Mr. G. J. Perry, one of the Crown Inspectors of Prisons, said, "If it leads to resistance it leads to a great amount of punishment, and, as has been shown in some instances, even to suicide," and further he objected to it "as merely harassing, unproductive, and \* Sir G. Grey's Bill for giving the powers required in order to carry into effect recommendations made by the Lords' Committee of last Session, proposes that the Government allowance towards the expense of maintaining prisoners sentenced to hard labour shall be withheld in the year in which the Secretary of State shall not certify that means have been provided in the gaol to his satisfaction for enforcing hard labour, and that sentences of hard labour are carried into effect in a manner which fulfils the requirements of the law; but this certificate is not to be withheld without giving the governing authorities of the prison an opportunity of explanation, and a statement of the grounds of withholding the certificate is to be laid before Parliament. The Secretary of State is to be empowered from time to time to annul, alter, or add to the rules in force for the government of any gaol. If it shall at any time appear to the Secretary of State that a gaol is inadequate to give effect to the rules prescribed for its government and discipline, he may require the inadequacy to be remedied to his satisfaction; and, if that is not done, he may order the prisoners, or some of them to be removed to any other gaol the authorities of which may consent to receive them, and he may direct future commitments to be to such other gaol; and he may contract on behalf of the authority of the inadequate gaol for the lodging and maintenance of the prisoners in such other gaol, and such contract shall be binding upon the authority of the inadequate gaol.

merely intended to inflict suffering which leads to irritation of mind and insubordination,

as it did in Leicester and Birmingham gaols." Mr. also an Inspector, thinks the tread-wheel "lowers and degrades a man who is well disposed, and that you sacrifice such a man by putting him on the tread-wheel," and that "the crank serves to irritate a man and create a bad spirit." Mr. Merry, Chairman of the Reading Bench, remarked "we were the first county to have the tread-mill, and I am happy to say we were the first to give it up, finding it a *most useless mistake*" *I!* Comparing the value of useless crank labour and industrial occupation, Mr. Perry said, "I see a very much improved demeanour in the prisoners who have been subjected to the latter, compared to the demeanour of those who have been subjected only to those punishments which are simply punitive, amongst whom the countenance retains that criminal expression which the prisoner brought with him:" and Mr. in reply to the question, whether a convict feels an injustice in being subjected to an employment which he knows to be unproductive, stated, "I find that with some prisoners there is no punishment beyond the crank, many a man would sooner take a flogging than perform the crank labour." The committee were not, however, to be diverted from their favourite crank theory, and sought to extract some commendation of it by asking "Does not the crank call one set of muscles into play just as the tread-mill calls another? a piece of folly which met with the apt rejoinder (from Mr. Perry) "Yes, exactly so; and *if it were a mere gymnasium, it would be an advantage to have that difference.*" In reference to diet the committee were very anxious to prove that prisoners are too well fed, and suggested as a grievance to Major Wilford, Governor of Stafford Prison, that in long sentences he was obliged to feed his men well: The reply given must have rather disappointed the inquirer, "If I were to cast out strict discipline, if I had the means of giving every man who is sentenced to hard labour the full amount of discipline that I am empowered to do by Act of Parliament, for two years, no man in live could bear it, *it would kill the strongest man in England.*" Yet this is from one of the stern disciplinarians, a man who considers flogging "an incomparable punishment," and who "could not manage his prison without it"! Perhaps it was

the testimony of this witness, who describes the prison flogging as "a good deal worse than any I ever saw in the army," which induced the Lords to "record their opinion of its great value as one form of disciplinary correction." Somewhat similar evidence was given by the governors of two other gaols, Petworth and Maidstone, as to the insufficiency of routine diet for men employed at hard labour, and the effect of such work upon them. One witness said, in reply to a question, framed so as to suggest a very different answer, that he thought wheel and crank labour far greater than that done by healthy men out of doors, and added, "I have stout, strong navvies committed to my gaol, and I find that they lose flesh, and very soon get reduced in strength, when I put them to the tread wheel, and I find it necessary after a time to remove them from it." And again, when questioned as to diet, he said, "When a man comes in for six months I give him the fifth class of diet at once, he does not commence with the lower diet, otherwise we should have that man in the surgeon's hands immediately: it would reduce the strongest man to such an extent, that he could not go through a prolonged period and perform the work required of him without failing." Another witness "Observed even after six months by the countenance and general appearance of the men that the wheel was telling upon them," and did not think "you ever saw such effects produced by labour out of doors as you see produced by the wheel." Such evidence is surely enough to show that prison fare is not of so luxurious a quality as some suppose, and that hard labour is not too pleasant a pastime; indeed it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the crank and wheel, even if advisable for moral purposes, are means which may tell seriously on a man's health, unless carefully regulated. But such a system is objectionable, not so much because it is hardly tolerable, as that it is founded on mistaken principles. On what principle the Committee base their system of discipline appears very plainly from their announcement, that "they do not consider that the moral reformation of the offender holds the primary place in the

prison system ;. nor that punishment in itself is morally prejudicial to the criminal, and useless to society, nor that it is desirable to abolish both the crank and tread-wheel as soon as possible." This positive expression of opinion was intended as a contradiction to the opinions of the Inspectors, whose evidence was little to the taste of the Committee, as may easily be seen from the tone of the questions. The general tone of the book is, indeed, far from creditable to the men who asked 5,337 questions and then reported on the mass of evidence to the country at large, for there is an air of foregone conclusion and bias in favour of one set of views apparent throughout, -which is totally opposed to that impartiality which is the first function of judges who undertake to collect information. It is only needful to read the questions, in many instances, to tell the views of the inquirers, and the answers they desired, while any unwashed-for reply involved a series of new queries directed to upset the previous opinion; indeed one unacquainted with such documents might easily suppose that the report was planned first, and that the questions were asked afterwards.\* Those who have laboured so long at the work of reformation, and who have endeavoured to place criminal discipline on a better foundation than that of a harsh exercise of force, may well feel disappointed at a proposal to revert to methods which they had thought long superseded, and at finding public opinion so little advanced, that the idea of the reformation of a prisoner being the first object of our care, is received with incredulity, derision, and open public protest; for these were the same opinions against which Mr. Howard had to struggle nearly one century ago. The real secret, however, of the difficulties in the way of prison treatment, lies in the misunderstanding as to the proper objects of punishment, and in ignorance of the nature of crime. At present the infliction of punishment resembles more the revenge of the savage, than a calm exercise of a needful penalty, and the treatment of crime is little else than a relentless war carried on against the enemies of society. Crime would seem to be regarded, not as a phase of perverted human nature, but as some tangible object of invariable shape and qualities, which only requires to be seen to be known, and which can be met by the same means under 'At pp. 62 "and 63, the reader will find that a noble Marquis relieved his mind by no less than twenty-three consecutive questions, one of which deserves recording. Already aghast at the heresy of a witness who thought reformation the main object of punishment, the Marquis went on to ask, with mingled horror and surprise at the answer he foresaw: "But you do *not* think that *the punishment which is any benefit to society at large if*" As though such a preposterous notion were a necessary article of belief. . .

all circumstances; and accordingly it is recommended that there should be a uniformity of discipline, labour, diet, and treatment! It would be quite as reasonable to order that the clothes for the prisoners in every county should be made of one size, and to imagine that every man would be suited, as to suppose that one inflexible routine should be fitted for an infinite variety of human character. It is this fatal perversity which ignores all considerations of individuality that is the radical error of the present system, and till this is remedied it is hopeless to look for any intelligent method of meeting the evil, great as it undoubtedly is. Mr. Perry, whose evidence forms a refreshing contrast to the rest of the Lords' Report, was clearly alive to this defect, when, in reply to a question as to the faults that a military education tends to develop in the management of a gaol, he said: "It leads the governor to treat prisoners in a mass, rather than as individuals," and added "that the treatment should be individualised as much as possible, and the characters of the men should be studied." It requires no argument to prove a point so self-evident; for are not criminals, however bad they may be, human beings, and is there any such uniformity in our nature as to justify the idea, that one treatment is fit for every emergency? The evils which flow from indifference to this point are serious enough, for owing to this, it so often happens that men have the stigma of crime attached to their name, when their acts are the simple results of disease, (a fact of which I have given abundant proof in a former article on "Crime and Insanity,") while a careful investigation of the circumstances

attending the commission of many offences would make it clear that they by no means deserve to be all classed under the same category. The most cursory inspection of a prison list would show this, and it is a somewhat strange fact, that more than one quarter of the committals to the county prisons are of people under 21 years of age. For instance, at the Sussex County prison, out of 433 offenders, in the calendars for the years 1862-63, 122 were under 21, and in a county prison in 1863, out of 1,211 prisoners (excluding the naval and military, and the debtors), 319 were under 21, and 110 under 16 years old. No one, however, would suppose that the young require just the same treatment as the old and hardened, or that the offences of those under 16 are always of the same nature as those of greater years. Here are some of the *crimes* of those of tender years, and their "treatment" in a county prison last year.

A boy aged 9, *one* month's hard labour for stealing (his father also in goal). A boy aged 9, *two* months' hard labour for stealing 1\*. *id.* A boy aged 14, *seven* days for letting off a firework. A boy aged 12, *nine* weeks hard labour for arson, and *four* months' imprisonment before trial. In this case it was not very clear that the offence was not accidental. A girl aged 15, *three* weeks' imprisonment for stealing a penny. This was a mere piece of spite arising out of a neighbour's squabble. A boy aged 11 (deformed), *seven* days' hard labour for begging. A boy aged 15, *seven* days' hard labour for wilful damage to the extent of *one penny*, *i.e.* plucking a flower from a garden. A boy aged 11, *twenty-one* days' imprisonment, or to pay 1?. *is. Id.*, for picking up a piece of coal (value which dropped from a waggon in the street. A girl aged 16, *seven* days' for sleeping in an out-house. In this case the fact was, that the girl, having quarrelled with her mistress, left suddenly, and being afraid to go home, took refuge in a back lane. To treat these offences on the same footing as really serious crimes, is a mere absurdity; but these miscarriages of justice are sufficient illustrations of the value of routine. The plan of severe punishment almost without any object but that of increasing the sufferings of the victims, is but an evasion of the real question, a sort of *coup de main* which gratifies public passion, and is sure of the popularity which greets any panacea. It is the same with other phases of opinion, with religion, and with physic: a creed which is put forth as the one thing needful, always has more supporters than one which asks a patient judgment, and any pill or potion which is advertised to cure every disease, is preferred to a method which requires the exercise of thought or discrimination on the part of the patient. And so with prison discipline, a system which threatens to cut the knot, and to meet by a ready method every shade of guilt, appeals at once to the general sympathy. But we can look forward to a better day, when the claims of science and of physiology will command a greater share of attention, and men will take a broader view of crime, and study, in the first place,

human nature in all its relations. Then, perhaps, the tendencies of some to evil, descending to them from sources over which they had no control will be admitted; then mental constitution and hereditary defects will be fairly considered, and the victims of disease will cease to be confounded with wilful offenders; then the young will be early taken in hand, and not left, after a short sojourn in a gaol, to return in a state "worse than the first;" and then the older will be subjected to a discipline which shall have some higher aim than that of physical torture. What means is best is not yet perhaps clear, but one thing is certain, that a system which ignores every consideration but the infliction of pain, is as erroneous as it is barbarous.

**PASTORAL SCIENCE.** The Pastorals of a Catholic bishop are not usually a very remarkable publication. These documents issue periodically from the press in almost every diocese of Britain, but attract so little attention that even the pages of the *Tablet* do not contain a complete collection. Somewhat duller than an English bishop's charge, because treating almost solely of local or private matters, they find few readers except amongst the clergy

to whom they are officially addressed, and the very small lay public who are curious about the rates of exchange at which paternosters may be turned into indulgences, the days in Lent on which it is obligatory under pain of mortal sin to fast, and the days when eggs, lard, and dripping may be eaten with a clear conscience. It is not wonderful that the mass of mankind, whether outside or inside the Roman fold should have little interest in these niceties. So entirely are the documents in which they find record neglected, that no public library, not even the British Museum, thinks it worth while to accumulate them on its shelves, and we believe that there is not one solitary collector, "the gentleman whose gathering of tobacco papers is valued by connoisseurs at a thousand pounds inclusive" who has given himself the trouble to preserve these sheets as memorials for future ages of our civilization. They perish as unremembered as the tailor's advertisement that is thrust into your hands as you walk down Oxford-street, or the placards that glare in red, blue and yellow from the hoarding that protects the still open sewer a few paces further down. When, however, a missive of this kind issues from the bureau of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Papal governor-general in England, not directed against the improper use of cheese and lard, but the progress of civilization, the case is widely different\* Cardinal Wiseman, like the Emperor of the French and the chief of the Mormons, holds an exceptional position which gives his words, written or spoken, a far higher significance than his high literary attainments would in themselves justify. The fact that he represents the great materialistic despotism, which desires to bend all things on earth beneath the feet of the Pontiff, gives to his attack on knowledge an ominous force, not at all to be measured by our estimate of the writer's ability.

This journal is happily not devoted to theological speculation. We have no word to say here of praise or censure of the authentic doctrines of that vast body of Christians who claim to represent the ancient religion of Europe. Whether their faith be true or false, or of whatever admixture of truth and falsehood it may consist, we can here give no opinion. Under any circumstances, we should wish to speak with all deference of a system, without which, during a long period of the world's history, progress would have been impossible. History is, however, within our pale, and to any one who is capable of taking a moderately extensive survey of the succession of events, it must be obvious that the small and compact body of who now constitute the chief rulers of the Church, are maintaining opinions and endeavouring to carry out practices entirely subversive of historical Catholicity. Events have proceeded rapidly during the last few years. Till recently, almost every Catholic writer of note, who has written in a *modern language*, has maintained that the Church left free the human mind to inquire and speculate on all subjects, except certain defined dogmas which, as they relate to matters beyond the reach of human reason, she rightly said were not fit subjects for its exercise. Now the whole force of this revolutionary party, into whose hands political circumstances have thrown the Church, maintain that all branches of thought are subject to the jurisdiction of the Papacy, that is to a secret committee of Jesuits known as the congregation of the Index. We have heard little of this in England, because the numbers of educated Roman Catholics are here very small, and the literature of the body is almost entirely in the hands of the In France, Italy, and Germany however, things have been different: in those countries power has been used in a spirit of unscrupulous persecution which would have gladdened the hearts of those who tried to stem the tide of reformation in the sixteenth century. was haunted out of the Church because he held theories of political right in advance of his era. Gilberto nearly shared the same fate, because he saw more clearly than his neighbours the relation of the Papal See to Italian history. Hermes and Guenther, two of the most distinguished Catholic theologians in Germany, were condemned, because their works, though written with the avowed object of supporting the Church, taught a system of philosophy, which it is but fair to suppose those who censured them could not understand. The crowning work of intolerance in that country, however, was the persecution of Dr. This learned divine

ago published a work on the origin of the human soul, maintaining a theory, which, whether true or false, contained nothing that any man of ordinary education, whatever were his religious opinions, could consider dangerous. This book was condemned by the congregation of the Index, and when reasons were asked, this irresponsible committee refused to point out the condemned passages. The result need hardly be told, was an honest man and, preferring truth to peace, refused to retract. He is now cut off from the communion of which he was a distinguished ornament.

Things have gone nearly as far in this country: *The Home and Foreign Review*, an organ of liberal Catholicity has ceased to exist on account of the pressure from without. The Cardinal, and nearly every one of his suffragans, having condemned it in their pastorals, with as great vehemence as if it had been a work of a flagrantly immoral nature, and yet, as far as an outsider could judge, it seemed to present a theory of church authority, sufficiently submissive for any one whose ecclesiastical opinions fell short of a belief in personal infallibility. In the light of these facts the recent Pastoral of the Archbishop of Westminster must be viewed. It is not the solitary act of one dignified ecclesiastic who would sacrifice all the sciences at the altar of the one that he loves. Not the expression of a fanatic who believes that history, art, and all other branches of knowledge, are handmaidens to the queen of sciences, theology. Such visionaries have been and will, we fear, again be, but the Cardinal is not among them. It is one act in a long concerted drama, one mesh in a sublimely woven net, by which a small knot of desperate adventurers have determined to subdue to their bidding the greatest organization in the world. To the calm Protestant looker-on it seems a wilder dream than anything in the *Ada sanctum*, to suppose that the spread of knowledge can be materially hindered in Catholic Europe, even by a body so numerically insignificant. It must not be forgotten, however, that for the present the game is in their hands in France, Austria, Spain, and most of the smaller states of Europe. In Napoleon III they have a firm adherent, if not a votary. He owes his throne to the exertions of the French clergy, and within the sphere of his influence he repays the debt of supporting this "white Jacobinism" that masquerades in the costume of the Catholic religion. Hence the dismemberment of Italy by the occupation of Rome, the degradation of the French people by priestly interference in schools, the persecution of France's most illustrious Hebrew scholar, and the hundred acts of petty tyranny by which his subservience to ecclesiastical rule is distinguished.

Two prominent ideas seem to have been before the mind of the author of this manifesto. First, to degrade our national religion in the eyes of those over whom his words have power, and secondly, to warn members of his own communion that Rome has spoken, and that from henceforth speculation will be repressed with a high hand. Those who look on from without may well be amazed at what to them seems sheer audacity. A more intimate knowledge of the system would convince them that the talk about smiting the blasphemer, and cutting out the infecting sore is not the mere brag of conscious impotence, but a threat to all educated Roman Catholics, that will be rigidly carried into execution. The powers in the hands of this revolutionary priesthood are limited, but within their own bounds all powerful. Family quarrels, though seldom spoken of, are among the greatest sorrows of human life. The educated Roman Catholic is in fact in the hands of those who teach their votaries that the slightest divergence from their standard of orthodoxy will be punished by an eternal hell, and social ostracism is a power that can be wielded with unerring aim, and from blows of which there is no shield.

**ON THE KITE OF MORTALITY IN THE STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THAT CAUSED BY PULMONARY DISEASES AND CONSUMPTION. *St Dr. f. T. 3f. S., and A.B., Land.: Senior Physician to thy North Infirmary.* Among the parts of England least known to the mass of persons is the region of North Staffordshire, the centre of the pottery**

manufacture of the country, comprising five large towns, with other smaller, but of no mean size, containing a population according to the last census of 125,664 individuals. For upwards of a century the manufacture of pottery, both for ornamental purposes and for domestic use, has formed the chief branch of industry in these townships; indeed, long before the period specified, pottery, made from the red clay of the district, was manufactured and sold in the adjacent country; but it was not until the time of Wedgwood that the Staffordshire ceramic products assumed a national importance. At the present time, however, by far the largest portion of the pottery in use throughout the globe is derived from the workshops of the two unions of Stoke-upon-Trent and The advances made in artistic pottery in England within the last twenty years, is one of the most remarkable and gratifying facts revealed to us by the Great Exhibitions in London in 1851 and 1862. But unfortunately there is 'a reverse side to this picture of progress in artistic excellence and beauty. The Pottery towns have increased wonderfully in size and population, old workshops have been enlarged and numerous new ones built; but competition, the demand for cheapness of production, and the negligence, ignorance, and open violation of sanitary laws, have linked the advance in prosperity and taste with circumstances and conditions of labour and of existence, antagonistic to the well-being of the work people employed. The consequences of these prejudicial conditions on the health of the population of the Potteries have led to three inquiries under. tile sanction of-Parliament within the last twenty-three years. The latest one was made in 1862, and the results were published last. year in "the first Report of the Children's Employment Commission."

The diseases which have most arrested attention on account of their prevalence are those of the chest and pulmonary consumption. The mortality from these diseases was especially investigated by Dr. Green how, whose conclusions are printed in the "Papers relating to the Sanitary State of England," published under the direction of the General Board of Health in 1858. The same excellent observer has also published a further paper on the "Excessive Mortality of Lung Diseases in the earthenware manufacture" in the "Third Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council" in 1861. Those essays by Dr. Green how strikingly exhibit the high ratio of mortality from lung diseases, including in the Pottery towns, but they do not show the proportion in which the potters, as a distinct class of workmen, suffer from them. It is assumed that they do so suffer in a high degree, inasmuch as they are engaged in the peculiar manufacture of a district in which chest diseases are so fatal Nevertheless the Census informs us, that not quite one third of the population in the towns in question are engaged in the earthenware factories at the present time, the iron and coal trade and the iron manufacture having advanced with rapid strides of late years, promising soon to equal, if not to exceed in importance, the original occupation of the neighbourhood. It was still therefore an unanswered problem:â€"What is the mortality of the potters, and what are its causes relatively to those of the deaths of all other occupations? It is this question which we have endeavoured to solve. The solution unfortunately is not perfect and complete, owing to the imperfection of the data obtainable. The question has been taken up with respect to the parish of Stoke-uponTrent, which contains upwards of one-half of the whole population in the Staffordshire Potteries. The solution has been attempted from various information, but on the present occasion we confine ourselves to the results gathered from the registers of deaths, and although the statistical conclusions arrived at can be regarded as only approximative, they cannot fail to be of interest to every student of sanitary science. The two matters principally elucidated are the mortality of childrenâ€"which is extremely largeâ€"and that of potters, particularly in reference to the prevalence of chest diseases and among them as causes of death.

The mortality of Stoke parishâ€"including Halley, Shelton, Stoke, Kenton, and Long ton,

with a population of 71,308" was in the year ending March 31st, 1863, at the rate of 2-95 per cent. of those living, equal to 29,547 per million living. The proportion for England is 2-16 per cent., or 21,626 per million living. Therefore the mortality in Stoke was equal to an excess over that in England of 0\*79; or nearly eight persons die in every 1,000 living, in excess, annually. Relatively to the population of the parish, this is equal to an annual loss of life of 560 individuals. The relative mortality of males to females is as 3\*15 per cent. for the former, and 2-75 for the latter sex; of equal numbers living, the ratio is 114 to 100 in Stoke, whilst in England it is 108 to 110;" a fact indicating a great destruction of male life. Below the 20th year the deaths to every 100 living equal 4-00 for males and 3-64 for females; above the 20th year they equal 2'37 for males and 1-96 for females. A calculation of the mortality at different ages relatively to the whole number living at those ages shows that 25-27 *per cent. die in the first year* of their existence, and that the deaths under five years of age equal nearly one-third of the whole population under live living. A calculation of the proportion of deaths to the whole number of deaths shows that *more than one-half, viz., 52-86 per cent. of the whole number of deaths occurred among children under five years of age.* The deaths under one year old equal 29'23 of the whole mortality; those at one year and under five equal 23-63 per cent, *Causes of Death.* Of 2,107 deaths, 649 or 30-79 of the whole number were assigned to diseases of the lungs and consumption. Of the 2,107 deaths, 1,194 occurred among the children under 10 years old; among these, lung diseases and produced 22-60 per cent. of the mortality; whereas, of the 913 deaths among those 10 years old and upwards, those diseases produced 41-52 per cent. Among males singly the proportion was 42-25 per cent. Of children under 10 years, convulsions destroyed 24-28 per cent.; Erasmus, debility, 15-24 per cent.; and zygotic diseases, 25\*20 per cent,

Of those who died under one year, 3073 per cent. perished from convulsions. ^Relatively to the whole *population living in Stoke*, 9-10 per 1,000 died from lung diseases and consumption together; the average for England being 5-844 per 1,000 living. The deaths in Stoke relatively to the *whole mortality* were from lung diseases and 307,900 per million, compared with 270,293 deaths per million in England. The *number of male potters* in Stoke, aged 20 and upwards, is, according to the last Census, 5,813; which is equal to 31-25 per cent. of the whole male population living at the same ages; in other words, the male potters constitute less than one-third of the adult male population. The registers of deaths in Stoke parish, excepting those of the district of Long ton, fail to show, in a large number of instances, the occupations of those deceased. This sadly lessens their value as public documents, and particularly when needed to solve the question of the relative mortality of any special occupation. We can go no further in discovering and noting the occupation than the registers aid us, but reference to the careful records kept at Long ton, clearly indicates that many of the deaths in the other registration districts were those of potters, though not specified to be such. In Long ton the mortality among male potters to the whole number of such workmen living equals 3-47 per cent., and that in the whole of Stoke parish may be estimated at 3-25 per cent., allowance being made for a possibly higher ratio of deaths among potters in Long' ton than elsewhere. A table of the number of deaths among male potters compared with the number of deaths of males of all other occupations at different ages, in decennial periods, shows that in the ten years from 50 to 60, nearly one-half of the whole number of deaths occurred: 'among potters, and that in each decennial from 40 to 50, and from 30 to 40, more than one-third happened among those artisans. The conclusion deducible is, that the occupation of potters is con-' netted with a rapidly rising rate of mortality after the 20th year, which attains its maximum in the decennial between the 50th and. 60th years. Taking the whole period from the 20th to the 60th year, the deaths. among male potters. have equalled 37-91 per cent., although the proportion of such workmen in. the whole male popular; lat ion is only 31-25. From various calculations it may be inferred that the mortality among male potters is eight per

cent. greater than among other males at the period of life in question. Whereas only 17 male potters in 100 survive the 60th year, 35 males of other occupations do so. Of 223 males who attained the 50th year and upwards, potters constituted only 27-80 per cent.

The mean age at death of male potters who had arrived at the '20th year and upwards was 46-50, whilst that of other males was 62. The mean age of such males in England is 56. Allowing for casualties, the mean age of adult males in Stoke may be put at 54. "potters excluded. *Mortality of Potters from Lung Diseases and* Among potters aged 20 and upwards these maladies killed 1-34 per cent., or 13-41 per 1,000 living. In Long ton they destroyed 2-42 per cent., or 24-20 per 1,000 living. Among 210 males at 10 years and upwards, who died from those diseases in Stoke, 85 or 40-47 per cent. were potters. Of 148 male potters, 47 or 31-75 per cent. died from alone, and 85 or 57\*43 per cent. from that malady and lung diseases together. In Long ton, considered apart, the proportion is increased to above 60 per cent. On comparing the mortality of male potters at 15 and upwards from diseases of the lungs and together with that prevailing in England at the same ages, it is as 57 (or if the registration were correct) 60 per cent. to 32 per cent. of the deaths that take place. An examination of the ages at which death has occurred among male potters from and diseases of the chest respectively, shows that the maximum mortality of the former disease is reached in the decennial between 30 and 40 years of age, and that of the latter group of maladies between 50 and 60. It is especially in the circumstance of the high mortality from chest diseases that the excessive ratio of deaths among male potters finds its explanation. In not a few towns in this country the death rate from is greater than in the parish of Stoke; but, in much fewer is it larger from diseases of the lungs; and when the ratio of deaths in Stoke, caused by the latter class of maladies and consumption together, is compared with the average proportion in England and Wales, the excess, though very considerable in the case of is much VOL. II. C

more striking in that of the non-tubercular diseases of the respiratory organs. Again, when we come to inquire into the relative prevalence of the maladies in question in the two sexes in Stoke, find that both are considerably more rife among males than females, but the class of diseases in which the preponderance is more especially found are those of the lungs. That the maximum mortality of potters is reached in the decennial from 50 to 60 has been already noticed, and on further examination it is seen that, between the ages of 40 and 60, almost one-half of the whole number of deaths of potters, who have reached manhood, occur. A consideration of the foregoing facts leads to the inference that, unless predisposed to consumption, when they die in a larger proportion between 20 and 40 years of age, potters suffer from the injurious effects of their occupation, in a rapidly advancing ratio, after the fortieth year, which reaches its maximum shortly of the sixtieth year.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** One would almost be led to wonder how it is that in a country which boasts the highest civilization, several hundred gentlemen should be called upon to spend night after night, for six months of the year, in making new laws, or in unmaking old ones. An ordinary person would say, why not get the laws all complete, and then give the members of Parliament a holiday? All this is plausible enough, and probably the hardworking members might be glad of the rest. But the basis upon which this rest is suggested is an unsound one. We live in a continually progressive civilization, and the laws of one century will no more suit the succeeding century than will the clothes and playthings of the child suit the full grown adult. The principles of law will remain the same, but its details are constantly requiring modification and adaptation to suit the special wants of the age. We have nothing however to do with legislation further than it bears upon the subject before us. In the present paper, we purpose rather to call attention to Education, as carried on in our public schools, and recently reported to Parliament. The

great object of Education is so to instruct and train the minds of our youth as to fit them for the duties of after-life. We may well ask how is the attainment of so desirable an end to be attained? The lower classes of society are, or were, tolerably well provided for in this respect. There are few villages in England in which a school does not exist where the children of the surrounding district may be thoroughly instructed in the elements of education. If they do not get so instructed, it is generally because the calls of home and the demand for child-labour are more imperative, and have a higher market value than education. Schools for the industrious classes were formerly largely subsidized by grants of money from Parliament, but this source of income is apparently being withdrawn, so that in future these schools must charge higher fees or be reduced in efficiency. Of schools for the middle classes little can be said, except that they are frequently inferior to the National and British schools as regards the quality and amount of instruction given, although their programmes are far more pretentious. Lord Brougham, a short time since, remarked in the House of Lords, that although the education of the higher and lower classes was well attended to, the interests of the middle classes were totally neglected. He urged upon the Government the appointment of Inspectors to inspect middle-class schools, but that such inspection should be voluntary on the part of the school. We feel inclined to differ from the opinion of his Lordship not as regards the object to be attained, but the means which he proposes to use. It is a mistake to think that everything which is education included can be compelled by Act of Parliament. If the middle classes are not well educated, they have the remedy in their own hands, and they are sufficiently wealthy to carry it out. We would say let the middle classes of a district or a town subscribe a capital, and get up a school company upon the limited liability principle. Let them choose a suitable site, and build a school—large, airy, and comfortable—and by all means provide it with a large playground and gymnasium. Then let the company choose a master, the best they can secure, and pay him liberally; not according to work done, but as Mr. Lowe has it, "according to result"—which should be tested by thorough periodical examinations. We venture to assert that such a school would "pay," not only in the liberal and practically useful education which the children would receive, but even in a money point of view. This scheme is no new notion of our own, it is being carried out, and successfully too, in many places; and there is little doubt that as the middle classes become more alive to their position, effective steps will be taken to procure such education as the circumstances of the times demand. As regards the education of the higher classes, there is just now an unusual amount of information at hand. The Public Schools Commission, after three years' labour, has presented a report of its proceedings and opinions. We do not think this report is very flattering to the public schools generally, and we are led to this conclusion as much by the suggestions of the Commissioners as by the facts to which they have given publicity. "They desire to see more attention to English composition. One modern language at least now forms part of the regular course at every school but Eton. We are of opinion that all the boys, at every school, should, in some part, at least, of their passage through it, learn either French or German. .... The importance of arithmetic and mathematics is already recognized in every school: it is only necessary that they should be taught more effectively. .... With sincere respect for the views of the eminent schoolmasters who differ from us in opinion, we are convinced that the introduction of the elements of natural science into the regular course of study is desirable, and we see no sufficient reason to doubt its practicability." On the subject of reading, the Rev. James Ridgell, Fellow and Tutor of *Trinity College*, was quoted in the House of Lords when the Public Schools Bill was under consideration. He is reported to have stated that "five sixths of the pupil teachers in schools receiving aid from Government are better readers than five-sixths of the men who come to the University. ^Nearly half of the men who came under my notice, as an examiner, were imperfect spellers. Many of them are persons who were allowed, as boys, to carry their idleness with them from form to form, to work below their powers, and merely to move with the crowd—they are men of whom

something might have been made, but now it is too late; they are grossly ignorant, and have contracted slovenly habits of mind." "We (the Commissioners) are of opinion that every boy should learn either music or drawing during a part, at least, of his stay at school. Positive ineptitude for the education of the ear and voice, or for that of the hand and eye, is, we believe, rare; and these accomplishments are useful as instruments of training and valuable possessions in after-life."

After such a series of opinions and suggestions, we are led to wonder what is taught well in our public schools. Elementary instruction appears to be at a lower ebb than in the ordinary schools for the working classes. The pupils cannot write their mother tongue; they spell badly; they read badly; and they are but imperfectly taught. Modern languages they have but moderate means of attaining, and in one public school none at all. Natural science, music, and drawing are, apparently, not taught in the public schools. Leaving the last three subjects out of consideration, the pupils of the public schools would most certainly be plucked to a large extent if they were presented for examination under the Revised Code. But, although the lower or ordinary subjects of every-day life receive so slight an amount of attention, the higher subjects of instruction are better cared for. Eton boys are mentioned who in a short time could pour out their 60, 70, or 80 Greek iambs, with hardly a flaw in them; and Latin authors, it is well known, receive a large share of attention. It is also freely admitted that public school life tends to form and develop manliness of character and high principles of honour and integrity. We may add that the out-door sports so largely indulged in at the public schools exercise a very beneficial influence upon the health of the pupils, and cultivate a quickness of hand and eye which is not without its importance in after-life. Good as are the results enumerated, they are far smaller in amount than we have a right to expect: the schools appear to be, like *some of the boys* "working below their power" and certainly not even "moving with the crowd."

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