

fantastica). He showed physical symptoms of hysteria, such as a diminution of the corneal and cutaneous reflexes and irregular areas of complete analgesia on both sides of the body. Mentally he was ill-balanced and pretended while a boy to be an anarchist for a time. His waking reveries or dreams were sometimes so real that he could not distinguish them from actual facts. He thus told a story of a duel which on inquiry turned out to be unreal. The dreams were associated with what he read and heard or with songs. Professor Pick concludes that there are many transitional states from the vivid play of fancy to the delirious dreaming states of the hysteric.

"THE NEW POOR-LAW INFIRMARY AT HALIFAX."

AS we announced in our issue of August 31st the Halifax Board of Guardians, at a meeting held on August 21st, rejected by 20 votes to 3 a proposal of Father Russell that Dr. T. M. Dolan should be appointed medical officer of the Halifax Union Poor-law Hospital at Salterhebble at a salary of 100 guineas per annum. We now learn that a representative meeting of medical men of Halifax and district was held on August 28th to consider the action of the board of guardians. Dr. E. West Symes, J.P., was in the chair and the following motion was carried:—

That this meeting of medical men express their sympathy with Dr. Dolan in not having been appointed medical superintendent to the Halifax Poor-law Union Hospital.

We have not at present heard of any appointment having been made to any one of the medical officers' posts at the new infirmary and, in our opinion, the board of guardians have placed themselves in a difficult position.

THE WATER-SUPPLY OF JERUSALEM.

THE *Times* recently contained a very interesting account of the water-supply of Jerusalem. From this we learn that the annual mean rainfall of the district is 30 inches and that during the last year there has been a great drought, the amount of rainfall having been less than the usual amount to the extent of one-half. The city is usually supplied almost entirely by rain-water which is collected on the terraces of the houses and stored in cisterns hewn in the rock and situated beneath them. Even in ordinary years the amount collected and stored in this way is insufficient to supply the wants of the inhabitants and a year of drought causes great distress. During the present summer the municipal authorities made arrangements by which a certain amount of water was brought by railway in skins and sold at a fixed sum to the poor. The new Governor of Jerusalem, Mahomed Djevad Pasha, set himself to see what could be done permanently to improve the disastrous condition of affairs which he found on his arrival. Fortunately it happened that Franghia Effendi, one of the Sultan's engineers, was present in the city at the time and he suggested that a pipe should be laid to convey water from Ain Salah, a place situated about nine miles to the south of Jerusalem. This work, he estimated, would not cost more than £5000, could be carried out in a month, and would serve to convey an amount sufficient to fill 8000 skins per diem. There was an old endowment for supplying the city with water, but the funds had been devoted to other purposes. The Governor on telegraphing to the Sultan his congratulations on the festival of the birth of the Prophet begged that the occasion might be celebrated by the imperial permission to appropriate part of the fund to the purpose for which it was originally intended. The Sultan granted the necessary permission, and on July 5th the work was formally commenced. The ceremony must have been a picturesque one. The highest Turkish officials, the civil and military pashas, and the heads of the Mahomedan

religion were present. The Governor laid the first stone, lambs were slaughtered, and their flesh was, according to ancient usage, immediately divided among themselves by the poor. The customary prayers also were offered. The source of the water-supply is by no means a new one. For many years the exact site of the hidden spring was not known, but a "sealed fountain" has, it is believed, flowed through a conduit made by Solomon ever since the time at which he built it. The tunnel opened into the north-west corner of the highest of Solomon's Pools, and supplied that reservoir. Solomon is supposed to have referred to this conduit when he compared his beloved to "a garden inclosed a spring shut up, a fountain sealed."¹ However this may be, the structure of the tunnel shows that it is one of great antiquity. In the engineering work which is now projected the line of the new pipe will probably take the course of an aqueduct which formerly conveyed water from the same source to the area now occupied by the Mosque of Omar which was built on the site of the Jewish Temple. The pipe is to be 10 centimetres in diameter and its length will be 20 kilometres. Some long-disused fountains which exist in Jerusalem are to be fitted with taps from which it is proposed that the people shall be allowed to draw the water which they require without payment. The Governor of Jerusalem is to be congratulated on the good work which he has commenced. We hope it may be successfully and quickly carried out.

THE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN LONDON.

SINCE the middle of July there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of small-pox that have occurred in London. At a recent meeting of the managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District it was reported that the number of small-pox patients then under treatment on the hospital ships and at the shelters was 96, compared with 26 a fortnight previously. During the past two months the weekly number of admissions of fresh cases for the weeks ended on the dates mentioned have been as follows: July 13th, six admissions; 20th, five; 27th, two; August 3rd, four; 10th, three; 17th, eight; 24th, 30; 31st, 52; and Sept. 6th, 28. The fall during the first week in September is satisfactory. Although the numbers of admissions have not risen to a very alarming total, yet the outbreak is of sufficient magnitude to demand the serious attention of the authorities. The medical officers of health in the affected districts have risen to the occasion in a most praiseworthy manner and there is every reason to hope that a serious epidemic will not be forthcoming. An interesting letter was read at the above meeting from Mr. A. Wynter Blyth, the medical officer of health of Marylebone, suggesting that when the history of the present outbreak of small-pox was compiled its origin would be found intimately connected with errors in medical diagnosis, and more especially with the difficulty in distinguishing a mild case of small-pox modified by previous vaccination from an attack of varicella. This statement is one of the strongest arguments as to the efficacy of vaccination. At one time small-pox was one of the most common of diseases; thanks to the enforcement of vaccination it is now a comparatively rare disease, so that many younger medical practitioners have only seen a very few cases. As Mr. Blyth points out also, the characteristic eruption of the disease is considerably modified by an early vaccination. In many cases of the present outbreak the rash has been very profuse and the vesicles have been by no means characteristic, thus greatly adding to the difficulty of diagnosis. We would strongly urge that vaccination and revaccination should be compulsory in all persons resident in a house where a case

¹ Song of Solomon iv. 12.