of Bombay were in great hopes that the cold weather would stay the plague, but just as drought was blamed and rain prayed for, so the sun and heat were held guilty, and cloud and cold were welcomed. But rain seemed to cause an increase, and a cloudy day is now held in dread. Cold is accused in the public prints of causing the continuance of plague; in fact, all meteorological conditions have been experienced, seasons dry and wet, seasons hot and cold, have come and gone, and plague holds on its even course. The weather is blamed for many ailments, but it would seem that plague is independent of all weathers. It will last five to seven months in any particular locality, and neither the elements nor the hand of man appear able to stay its course.

BEATTY v. CULLINGWORTH.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow us to publish in your columns a further list of subscriptions towards the Cullingworth fund. The amount already received is sufficient to reimburse all the expenses of the recent action. A detailed balance sheet will be published later.—We are, etc.,

T. D. ACLAND, } *Honorary*
B. PITTS, } *Secretaries.*

December 15th.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sir T. Spencer Wells, Bart.	2	2	0	H. Allen, Mr. P. J.			
The Proprietors of the				Atkey, Mr. John Bal-			
<i>Lancet</i> ...	5	5	0	lance, Mr. P. L. Bla-			
Dr. Wills	1	1	0	ber, Dr. A. B. Blacker,			
Dr. C. T. Williams	3	3	0	Mr. G. V. Benson, Mr.			
Dr. W. S. Griffith	5	5	0	W. A. Bowring, Dr. C.			
Mr. J. Scott Battams	1	1	0	R. Box, Dr. A. M. Boy-			
Mr. W. J. Pilcher, (Boston)	1	1	0	cott, Mr. C. Brookes,			
Dr. T. Tinley, (Whitby)	1	1	0	Dr. J. R. Carver, Mr.			
Dr. W. E. F. Tinley				R. F. Chance, Dr. H.			
(Whitby)	1	1	0	J. Cooper, Dr. W. H.			
Dr. C. F. Harford Bat-	1	1	0	L. Copeland, Dr. H.			
tersby				T. Crosby, Mr. E. J.			
Dr. William Bain (Rich-	2	2	0	Dukes, Dr. H. Gervis,			
mond)				Dr. H. Greaves, Dr.			
Mr. Henry Wilson	1	1	0	T. H. Haydon, Dr. C.			
(Cheadle)				S. Jaffé, Dr. C. Latter,			
Dr. Alfred Smith (Dublin).	2	2	0	Mr. W. G. Laws, Dr.			
Dr. Habershon	2	2	0	H. Low, Dr. J. A. Mar-			
Four Trained Nurses	0	10	0	shall, Mr. J. H. Sims,			
Mr. T. Biddulph Goss	1	1	0	Mr. E. Smith, Dr. H.			
(Bath)				E. Smith, Dr. E. Solly,			
Mr. Charles T. Wright	1	1	0	Dr. Allen Swallow,			
(Leeds)				Dr. J. D. Swallow,			
Mr. F. B. Jessett	1	1	0	Mr. W. J. Stephens,			
Dr. Kingsbury (Blackpool)	1	1	0	Mr. A. C. Swinhoe,			
Dr. C. Aldridge (Plympton)	1	1	0	Mr. L. V. Tebbis, Dr.			
Dr. E. Arthur Saunders	1	1	0	S. G. Toller, Dr. W. F.			
Sir Thornley Stoker (Dub-	2	2	0	Umney, Mr. W. L.			
lin)—omitted last week...				Wainwright, Mr. C. S.			
Sir Stuart Knill (Almoner	5	5	0	Wallace, Mr. P. T.			
of St. Thomas's Hospital)				Whitehead, Dr. G. H.			
Mr. J. R. Hoare (Almoner	5	5	0	Wickham, Mr. E. H.			
of St. Thomas's Hospital)				Worth, Mr. S. Yeo-			
Through Dr. Harold Low,				man	34	0	0
old pupils at St. Thomas's							
Hospital:							
Mr. F. C. Abbot, Mr. W.							

Mr. Cranley Carter, as given last week, should read Dr. Charles H. Carter.

IRISH WORKHOUSE REFORM.

By W. R. MACDERMOTT, M.B.,

Poyntz Pass, Newry.

V.—PUBLIC OPINION.

OUR rulers say that we are a few medical men interested in, no doubt, a good object, the bettering of the vital standard of the workhouses and the people, but where is the money to come from? They must defer to public opinion as to that. We must not be silenced by positions which seem out of our province; everything is inside of our province which forbids us silently drugging paupers dying of starvation, neglect, and deadly surroundings.

Where is the money to come from? From the fund from which the money comes which is now misapplied under the fraudulent pretence of charity, from the earnings of labour, the fund which pays rent, the profit of the employer, and the £150,000,000 or so of general and local taxation. There is no other source from which it can come. And the public opinion which would make labour provide for the contingency of disability out of its own fund is, at least, as good and sound as the opinion which makes the fund pay for expeditions to Don-gola and Ashanti and other strange things.

We have behind us in Ireland a body of public opinion sound and good because resting directly on the base of individual experience. Why are the workhouses empty with people starving, or, according to the self-dubbed economist, much worse off outside? Why are the workhouse hospitals shunned with horror by the sick poor? Why is it next to impossible to effect the removal of fever patients or cases of the most extreme destitution to them? Why, if not because every second Irishman has his story to tell of what the workhouse did for him or father, brother, friend in direst need of a miserable life—did or oftener did not do? Insecurity of life is the one great fact on which the true public mind of Ireland is formed; but the people are logical: they do not look for respect for their opinion where they find none for their life.

Security for life is the first of economical principles, and the Irish public mind charges neglect of that principle with clear precision as to how, and when, and why against the Governmental agency. It has present in it every chief step in the principles of rational Government and every step in a cruel experience of their violation, and is logical in voting against all Government on the ground of that experience. The Irishman knows the supreme economical value of life, and next to that of his labour; that it is its earnings that support everything that are made to support everyone but himself. He calls it keeping up "the gentlemen," and it is sound economical doctrine; the notion that "the gentlemen" keep him up, even in a workhouse, deserves only the scoff he has for it. He knows, he says it in field and workshop, that the contingency of disability should be and easily could be provided for, like everything else, out of the earnings of labour, and not as a matter of impertinent charity. As matter of experience he knows that his life is not safe because the little that suffices for life is quite beyond his control. The employer, "the gentleman," he feels—and rightly in the general sense—aims at being master of his life to be master of his labour. "If I had a house and garden of my own," the labourer says, "I would not be so badly off." But the employer says: "I must own his house; he must be my weekly tenant in order that I may command his labour." In the eyes of the last servile labour is "economical;" but the labourer well knows that his very life turns on his having some mastery over his own labour. He rightly perceives that his position depends not on wages alone but on status.

Workhouse pauperism has increased and is increasing in Ireland relatively to population, in spite of rise of wages, just because absolute dependence on wages has increased. For the same reason labour has become, as the farmers themselves say, dear and bad; the labour of the abject hireling whose resource in disability is the workhouse could not be good or cheap.

When the Irish medical officers complain of the penal and deterrent workhouse system as it immediately touches their duties, our Government refers them to its own agency, the local Boards of Guardians; the opinion of these bodies is the opinion to be deferred to. It is consistent, it gives us an example of deference. It will pass an Agricultural Rating Bill whereby the poor-rate of the guardian class is reduced a half or some such proportion, the deficit being thrown on the British taxpayer, made a direct charge on the labour fund of the United Kingdom. Of course the workhouse pauper is to remain as much as ever at the mercy of the guardian's discretionary charity, and the pauperised labourer outside as much as ever his dependent for the means of life. There is money for the *bourgeois* guardian class out of the earnings of labour, but not a penny for the labourer, even to make his death in the workhouse a little more decent.

The Irish Government is—the Irish Government. Everybody knows that the life of the Irish people is not safe in the hands of the Boards of Guardians; that it needs incessant official pressure to make them have any regard for the labourer's life. What is the principal and most difficult duty of the Irish Local Government Board but to exert that pressure? With this record of its own, our Government defers to these bodies. It only intensifies the record against itself in the public mind of Ireland just because that mind is rational. It gives the country over to the petty *bourgeois* class. The action of that class can be stated in the automatic terms of mechanism. In a formula, some 100,000 or so persons will grind the mass into pauperism. It is only a question of

power in them; given the power, they will make Ireland a huge workhouse, and manage it as they do the present workhouses. Their management of the last is a certain indication of how they would use power generally. The subservience of our Government and political leaders to the local bodies is a sign of contempt and disregard of the life and mind alike of the people.

NOTES ON HEALTH RESORTS.

Salt River Valley, Arizona, U.S.A.—Dr. A. R. Becker has sent us notes of the climate and its utility. The valley is about 50 miles long (east and west), averages about 18 miles in width, and is almost surrounded by mountains. Its latitude (33.5° north) is nearly the same as that of Tripolis in North Africa. The valley is nearly level, and has an altitude of 1,100 feet. The air is habitually dry and bracing, clear and free from dust; fogs and dew are never seen. The average of 13 years' rainfall (United States Weather Bureau) is 7.21 inches. The rain (distributed through several or all the months of the year) comes only in showers, and the resulting slight humidity does not last long. The mean relative humidities for the twelve months, beginning from August, 1895, are 44, 42, 53, 68, 58, 55, 45, 38, 33, 28, 26, 49 (without fractions); the 5 A.M. readings give a mean of 59.73, and the 5 P.M. readings show a mean of only 28.73. The average number of sunshiny days is reported at 350, whilst the actual sunshine of the last year was 87.25 per cent. Considering the dryness of the weather, the comparative absence from dust is remarkable, and may be partly accounted for by the usual absence of high winds (average hourly wind velocity for 3 years is given as 2.6 miles). The "sand storms" of Arizona—high east winds with clouds of sand from the desert—only last 15 to 30 minutes, and are invariably followed by showers. The great blizzard of February, 1896, which did enormous damage to Florida, etc., passed through the northern, more elevated, portion of Arizona, but scarcely influenced the normal temperature of the Salt River Valley. The monthly "actual" barometric means from August, 1895, to July, 1896, only varied from 28.65 (August and June) to 28.95 (December). From the town of Phoenix to the eastern end of the valley the soil is a thick heavy clay ("adobe"), which extends up to the sands of the desert, but westwards of Phoenix, the soil is a rich sandy loam, into which rain quickly sinks, very fertile wherever it is sufficiently supplied with water. The mean actual temperatures for the twelve months from August, 1895, were 89°, 82°, 72°, 57°, 49°, 54°, 56°, 62°, 64°, 74°, 88°, 89°. The eight months from October to May form really an "Indian summer," when the nights and mornings are cool and bracing, and the days until sunset sunny and warm. The real summer weather has also a charm of its own, and temperatures of 107° to 115° are sometimes less trying than 90°, or even 80° in humid atmospheres. Zymotic diseases are said to be rare, and cholera infantum to be practically unknown. The climate is recommended in many pulmonary affections; in cases of feebly-acting heart and its results; and in some chronic disturbances of digestion, especially those caused by catarrh and deranged circulation. Phoenix (12,000 inhabitants) is well drained, and has an excellent water supply. Here visitors can find comfortable accommodation, together with the advantages of residence in a town. The roads are satisfactory, and the green fields, the river, and distant mountains afford beautiful views.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday the 20th day of January next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1897.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 20th, April

14th, July 7th, and October 20th, 1897. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely, December 31st, 1896, March 25th, June 17th, and September 30th, 1897.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No members can be elected by a Branch Council unless their names have been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which they seek election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are fitted up for the accommodation of the members in commodious apartments, at the offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the Office.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, BRANCH.

A LARGELY attended meeting of this Branch was held on November 20th, at Halifax, the PRESIDENT (Dr. Tobin) in the chair.

Communications.—Dr. W. H. HATTIE, Provincial Bacteriologist, gave a demonstration on the Test of Typhoid Fever, from the effect of the blood on the micro-organism.—The SECRETARY read a communication from the Hon. D. PARKER, M.D., giving an account of the introduction of anæsthetics into use in Nova Scotia.—Dr. EDWARD FARRELL reported: (1) A case of Persistent Hiccough. (2) A case of Complete Rupture of Tendo Achillis. (3) A case of Carcinoma of Lower Lip. (4) A case of Dupuytren's Contraction.

New Members.—Surgeon-Colonel McWatters, P.M.O.; Dr. George Farrish, of Yarmouth, N.S.; Dr. George Carruthers, of Alberton, P.E.I.; and Dr. James Ross, of Halifax, N.S.

Treasurer's Report.—The Treasurer's report was presented and adopted.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

A Medical Scandal.—Radiography and Foreign Bodies in the Esophagus.—The University of Lyons.—General News.

THE body of Mlle. Maday, who had been treated by Dr. Boisleux for an abdominal tumour, was after exhumation deposited at the Morgue. Dr. Thoinot and Dr. Brouardel, in the presence of the Juge d'Instruction, M. Lemerrier, attempted to examine the body, which was in such an advanced state of decomposition that the result of the examination was almost a negative one. Mlle. Maday was the daughter of the *concierge* of the house where Miss Thomson occupied a flat. Miss Thomson took Mlle. Maday to Dr. Boisleux. During the time she was under treatment her family were prevented from seeing her, and were ignorant that she had contracted a *liaison*. M. Lemerrier has ordered that the cesspool of the house where Dr. Boisleux carried on his clinic should be dragged. Dr. Boisleux, a few days before he was arrested, was present at the Morgue during the necropsy of Miss Thomson's body. These experts called his attention to the "characteristic condition" of the body. Dr. Boisleux declared that the operation he performed was indispensable and perfectly legitimate, and that it was only during the operation that he became aware of the condition of his patient. "Then we shall find the fœtus," exclaimed the experts. Dr. Boisleux, somewhat embarrassed, answered that he was obliged to remove it and do away with it. "Here is its head," he continued, and he drew out of his pocket a bottle containing a