

Facts and observations on the sanitary state of Glasgow during the last year : with statistical tables of the late epidemic, shewing the connection existing between poverty, disease, and crime / by Robt. Perry.

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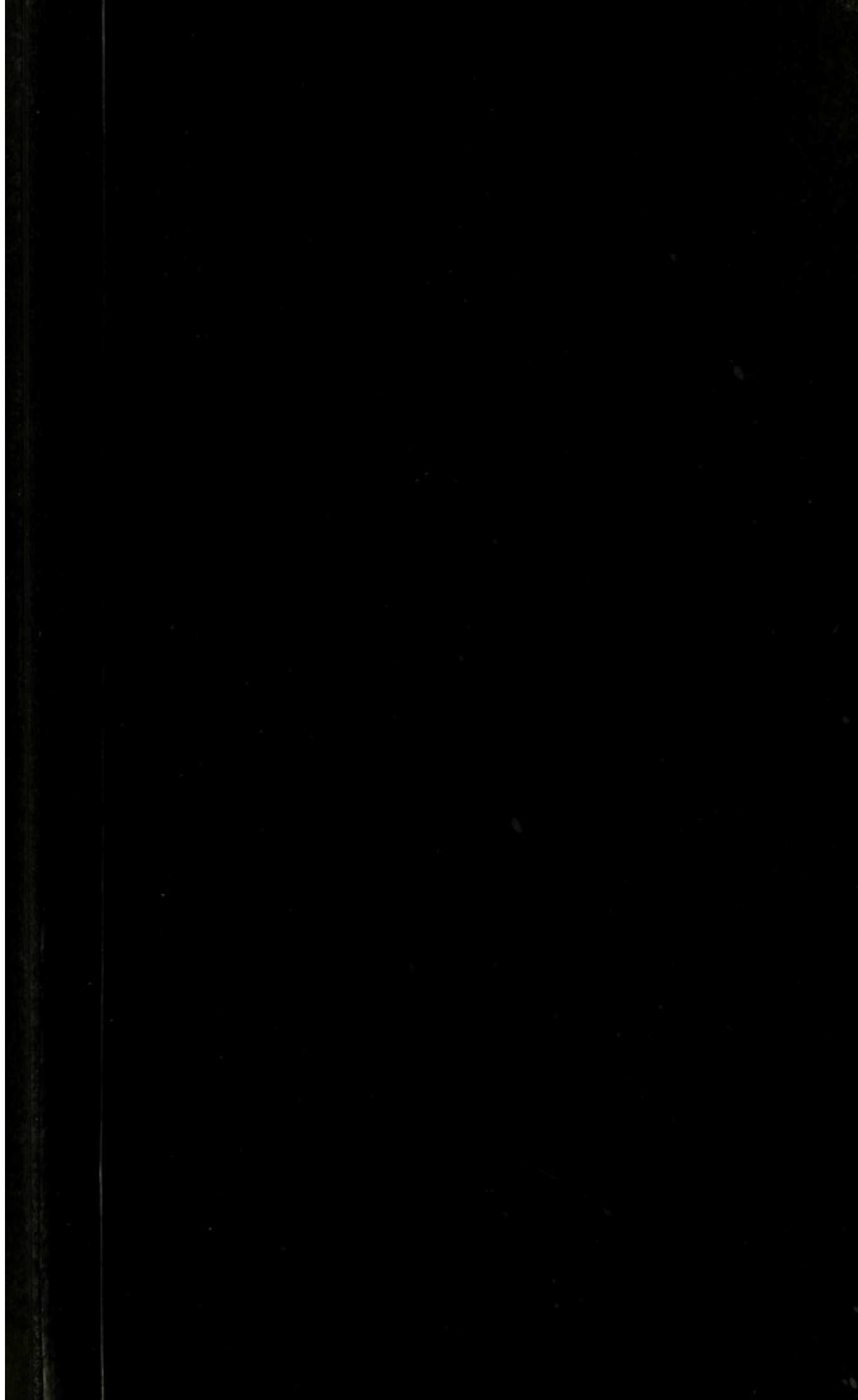
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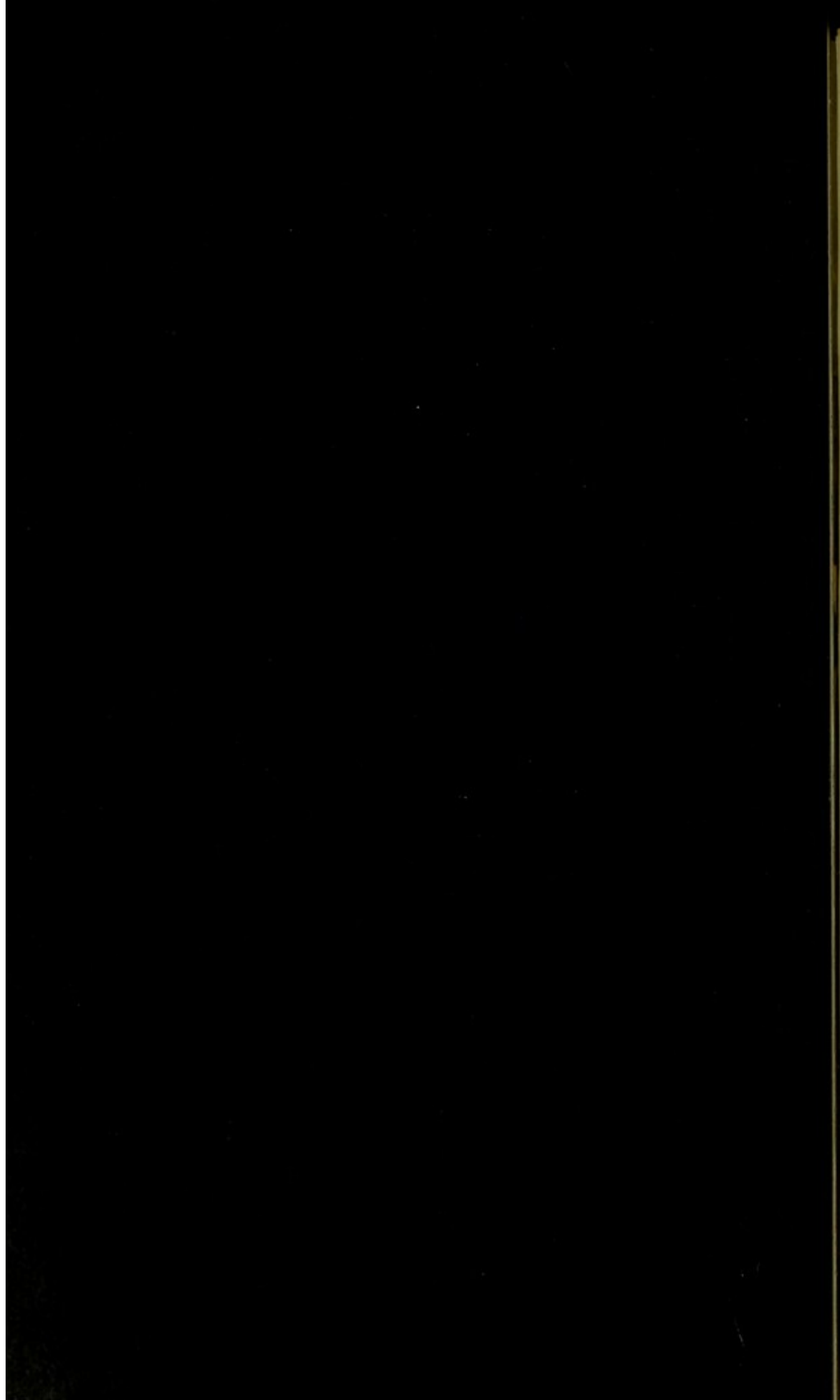
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FACTS
AND
OBSERVATIONS
OF THE SANITARY STATE OF GLASGOW
DURING THE LAST YEAR;
WITH STATISTICAL TABLES OF THE LATE EPIDEMIC,
SHewing THE CONNECTION EXISTING BETWEEN
POVERTY, DISEASE, AND CRIME.

By ROBT. PERRY, M.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, SENIOR
PHYSICIAN TO THE GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY,
&c.

WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING REPORTS
FROM THE DISTRICT SURGEONS.

&c., &c., &c.

GLASGOW:
1844.

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FACTS

AND

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE PHYSICAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

DURING THE LAST YEAR

AND A SUMMARY OF THE YEAR PRECEDING

SHOWING THE CONNECTION EXISTING BETWEEN

POTENTIAL, DRAINAGE, AND CLIMATE

BY ROBT. PENNEY, M.D.

PHYSICIAN OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, AND ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING REPORTS
FROM THE DISTRICT SURVEYORS

CHICAGO

1867

TO THE HONOURABLE
JAMES LUMSDEN,
LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW.

MY DEAR LORD PROVOST,

In dedicating to you the following short Report of the sanitary condition of the poor of this city for the last year, I have been influenced, in the first place, by a desire to express the high sense I entertain, in common with your fellow-citizens, of your active benevolence, and of the deep and sincere interest you take in every measure for the alleviation of disease, and the relief of poverty.

And, secondly, by the knowledge that when you look at the appalling picture, you will employ all your energies, and the influence of your exalted station, in adopting such measures as will be best calculated to insure attention to the wants and circumstances of the poor.

And I take this opportunity unaffectedly to acknowledge my gratitude for the unremitting acts of kindness and friendship with which you have distinguished,

Your very grateful friend,

ROBT. PERRY, M. D.

GLASGOW, MARCH,
1844.

JAMES LUMSDEN
LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW

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and circumstances of the poor.

And I take this opportunity gratefully to acknowledge
my gratitude for the numerous acts of kindness and friend-
ship with which you have distinguished.

Yours very grateful friend,

ROBT. PIRNEY M.D.

GLASGOW, MARCH
1861

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS, ETC.

No apology can be necessary for bringing before the public such facts connected with the progress of the present epidemic as have come under the observation of one connected with a large public hospital, where ample opportunities are presented of tracing the influences which favour its spreading, or increase its virulence.

From the month of December, 1842, when sporadic cases of this epidemic first began to show themselves in this quarter, there was almost a constant prevalence of cold easterly winds. The poorer classes of society had for the last two years suffered great privations in the comforts of life, so that their constitutions might be less able to resist external influences of an injurious tendency: during the months of January and February, catarrhal affections, accompanied with derangements of the biliary organs were more than usually prevalent. Among the more delicate of the female patients in the hospital, it was observed that many were attacked on the least exposure to a stream of cold air by rigors followed by an exacerbation of fever, which at the time was attributed to the nurses having thrown open the windows for the purpose of ventilating the wards. These cases occurred more frequently in ward No. 9, which is colder and more exposed than the other wards, the windows facing the North-east.

As the season advanced these cases became more frequent, and more constantly accompanied with severe headache, vomiting of bilious matter, and yellowness of the eyes and skin, and before the real nature of the epidemic was understood several cases were admitted into the hospital as cases of jaundice. Indeed the first well marked case of the disease which came under my care was admitted in December, 1842, as a case of jaundice; which, on looking over the reports taken of the case in the hospital journal I find the symptoms are all accurately described;—"the rigor, the severe headache, the "bilious vomiting, pain of epigastrium, increased on pressure, "urgent thirst, quick and firm pulse, all abating; and then on "the eighth day the pulse falling to 80, but the patient complaining of rheumatic pains of the joints. On the 14th day "another rigor followed by heat of skin, increase of thirst, and

“on the third day going off by a copious perspiration.” Many of the cases admitted were of a much milder character and less regular in their symptoms than the one noticed, going through all the stages in a modified degree ; and such cases at that period generally received the name of febriculæ, and by the poor among which it was prevalent, influenza. In many of the cases coming from the poorer localities, livid petechiæ were present ; and in the young, epistaxis was not uncommon. Diarrhœa was also frequent, the stools occasionally tinged with blood. As the season advanced the disease spread, and the symptoms became more severe ; on the pains abating, the feet and legs often became œdematous and the patient so weak that several weeks elapsed before he or she were able to resume their usual employment. The average period after the relapse was fully three weeks before the patient was fit to be dismissed and follow his usual employment, and often two months where they had not the means of obtaining nourishing diet and comfortable clothing, which among the poor was generally beyond their reach. In a few cases delirium was present, which seldom lasted above four days and differed much from the delirium of typhus, though in some cases in old people permanent stupor was observed, ending fatally. The having previously passed through typhus was no security against attacks of this disease ; in several instances the persons recovering from the one were seized with the other. As the epidemic spread cases of typhus became more rare. Another circumstance, which was also a very constant concomitant of the disease in females was the occurrence of the menstrual discharge, although not at the stated period ; and, if pregnant, abortion took place. Among the sequelæ of the disease local inflammations as pneumonia, diarrhœa, or dysentery, and occasional amaurosis, occurred. A second attack of the disease after a lapse of a few weeks sometimes took place. It was not uncommon at one period of the epidemic for herpetic eruptions to come out around the mouth and nose about the period of the relapse. Another circumstance which I have not seen anywhere noticed, was the increase of appetite, or craving for food, which the patient felt a day or two before the occurrence of the relapse. Those patients who had formerly passed through typhus described their sufferings from this present disease as being far more severe ; arising I have no doubt from their being less conscious during the former complaint and the memory being generally impaired. The circumstance of this disease attacking those who had formerly passed through eruptive typhus, and being followed by typhus when the patient

was exposed to the infection of the latter, is sufficient to show that they are totally different diseases both in their character and causes : as different as small-pox and scarlatina, or typhus and cholera.

Indeed the present epidemic more closely resembles cholera in its mode and progress throughout the country than any other epidemic I have witnessed. It made its appearance like the cholera in sporadic cases, and in various districts of the country about the same time. It was spreading in Greenock, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and other parts in the west of Scotland, while at the same time it was spreading in other quarters of the east, as in Edinburgh, Dundee, and I believe in Liverpool. It attacked in preference and most severely, the same class of persons as cholera did : viz., the broken down and destitute, and was most severe on those whose constitutions were naturally weak, or had been reduced by want, by age, by disease, or intemperance. In both diseases the blood and biliary systems were severely affected, as evidenced in the present epidemic, by the livid petechiæ, the bilious vomiting, and by the collapsed, or sunk state into which many of those severely affected fell. There are other coincidences which might be mentioned as being occasionally met with ; as the weak or altered voice, the sunk or hollow appearance of the eye, with frequently an injected state of the conjunctiva of one eye, or part of the eye. The two diseases differed however, much in their symptoms, and materially in one important part, in their ratio or law of mortality ; the one cutting off nearly a half of all who were attacked whatever was the treatment ; the other only from three to four per cent., with or without any medical treatment, although in many cases the patients appeared to receive much benefit from the treatment in alleviating the symptoms.

It has been stated that a fever of a similar character to the present prevailed in this country in the year 1818 ; I have been not an inattentive observer for upwards of thirty years, and have never witnessed a similar disease in this city.

The question has been frequently asked, what is the cause of the present epidemic ? Respecting the immediate cause of any epidemic disease with which a community may be visited, very little satisfactory information has hitherto been obtained ; so that to give a definite answer in our present state of knowledge is beyond our power. Attempts have indeed been made, and those who have the least experience generally speak with most certainty on the subject. At present it is the fashion to ascribe every epidemic, whether malignant

fever, cholera, dysentery, or influenza, to malaria arising from decaying animal or vegetable substances, owing to the want of sewers for carrying off such substances, and the scanty supply of water. There are perhaps few places better supplied with water than Glasgow ; and I have observed on more than one occasion during the prevalence of malignant fever, that its progress was equally rapid and violent during a period of intense frost, when everything has been covered with snow, and the whole liquid substances in the streets firmly bound up for weeks together, without the possibility of any putrefaction going on. This was particularly the case in 1837, when the frost continued very intense for upwards of six weeks, when the number of fever cases was greatest ; the same thing was observed at Moscow during the prevalence of cholera.

It appears that some epidemics are spread solely by means of infection ; these are specific poisons, generated in the bodies of those who are undergoing the disease, and spread either by contact or by the emanations from the bodies of those affected by the specific disease. This is the case with all that class of infectious fevers called exanthematæ ; as small-pox, measles, scarlatina, and typhus. There are other epidemics which seem to depend on some peculiar state of the atmosphere pre-disposing the bodies of those whose constitutions are weak to suffer under their influence, of which the present epidemic affords a good example. This brings us to the more practical part of the question ; viz., the causes which predispose persons to be affected by any prevailing epidemic : and in this enquiry very little difficulty presents itself, there are so many facts which attest that it is the poor and indigent part of the population who furnish the earliest and by far the greatest amount of victims.

In bringing the state and sufferings of the poor before those whose duty it is to watch over their welfare it is not my intention to propose any theoretic plan of relief, but to state such facts as have come under my own observation and the observation of those who have had the very best opportunities of witnessing the miserable circumstances in which a great mass of our poor population are situated, and on whose testimony (given as it has been, without knowing what use was to be made of it) every reliance may be placed ; I mean the district surgeons. Most of those gentlemen at my request have kindly furnished me with excellent reports of the state of the poor in the districts they attend. In a few cases I have failed ; whether from apathy in obtaining any statement I am not repared to say. I am certain these reports will be read with

a deep and painful interest by all those who are alive to the welfare of their fellow-creatures, and ought to call forth the immediate exertions of all who have any influence in remedying such a state of things.

In looking over these reports, one striking feature in the circumstances of the thousands who have suffered most from the present epidemic presents itself; that is, the overcrowded state of their houses, families of six, eight, and ten individuals, crowded into one small apartment, without a bed to lie upon, if we except perhaps, a quantity of long used straw or filthy rags, emitting a stench of human impurity so offensive, that to one unaccustomed to it, is wholly insupportable, but to which the wretched inmates from habit appeared totally insensible; those small apartments, being often let by the week, are filthy in the extreme. Being tenants at will, (like tenant at will farmers,) they take no pains to clean or improve their houses, knowing that if they present a greater appearance of comfort, a higher rent will be sought, and if offered by another accepted, and if falling behind in their rent for a week will be ejected. They will not then be at the trouble, far less the expence of improving an uncertain possession, and thus acquire habits of sloth and filthiness.

Some have imagined that by destroying these wretched abodes, by pulling them down and building better houses and wider streets, they would remedy the evil. This is taking a very limited view of the distress, and betrays a lamentable ignorance of the cause; for the poor, not having the means to pay for better than they at present possess, must still continue to huddle together in dwellings scarcely fit for pigs. As to the causes which have led to this state of destitution and wretchedness among the poor, men will differ according to their prejudices and interests, one class ascribing it to restrictions on trade, another to the improvements in machinery, a third to the want of moral training and habits of intemperance, and a fourth to the amount of taxation, often mistaking effects for causes.

That there is a superabundance of labour in the market will readily be admitted, and should the population continue to increase as it has done, at the rate of a thousand per day, and our markets not extend in a similar ratio, the evil must necessarily rapidly increase.

It is in large cities where the greatest amount of misery is to be found, and the darkest picture of the effects of man's cupidity is exhibited. There the human species, more vicious than their inferiors, are seen preying upon each other, each

in his own way, from the monopolist down to the common thief, the former with the sanction of the law, the latter by stealth and violence.

This over crowding in large cities, and consequent accumulation of poverty and vice, is increased by the very improvements which add to the comforts of those who are superior to want. Among the improvements which of late years have led to this increase, railways may be mentioned. It is now found that all the small towns and villages near the tract of the railways are rapidly falling into decay. The facilities afforded to those who have money to spend, encourage them to visit and spend their money in the large cities or towns, where there is a terminus, so that those who were formerly able through their means to obtain a livelihood by their custom, are now forced to follow, and seek the means of subsistence as they best can, among the crowd who are struggling for existence.

In reflecting upon the immense amount of destitution and misery which exists, it is not possible to avoid coming to the conclusion that there must be something wrong in the state of society when the population of a country, acute in intellect and fertile in resources, is plunged into such a state of hopeless misery, a misery which is yearly and daily increasing in intensity, and extending wider among people formerly noted for their sobriety and industry. It is certain that ere long, the rich will be compelled in some shape or other to look to the support of the poor ; let those therefore, who have influence, consider well if nothing be done soon, what the end of this state of things may be. As one means of relieving those who are able and industrious, could an extensive system of emigration to our own colonies not be adopted, which, by extending our markets, would give greater employment to those who remain.

Those individuals from the country villages whose resources are dried up by the means above noticed, are well adapted for colonists ; and besides benefitting themselves, would soon become the employers ; instead of in the city mingling with their families, with those by whom they must almost necessarily be infected both by vice and disease.

In the appendix to the report of the district surgeons, it is stated that, " In 1841-42, 5,296 cases received medical relief. " This year, 19 058 cases ; increase this year, 13,789 cases. " Of this year's report, 12,967 were cases of a peculiarly distressing epidemic fever, and 736 cases of typhus fever. Of " the former 12,967 cases, 12,397 were treated at their own " homes, and 570 sent to the Royal Infirmary. Of those treated " at home, 304 died, being in the ratio of 2.363 per 100 cases."

The extent and progress of the epidemic, and the causes which have favoured this extension, will be best understood by giving a monthly return of the new cases of fever, from the different districts, made up from the weekly reports, accompanied with a map of the city divided into the districts, and marking the localities where the epidemic was most prevalent. The circumstances of the population will be learned from the reports of the district surgeons, in the appendix

To shew the progress of the epidemic throughout Glasgow, I have laid down and numbered the different districts upon a map of the city, as they are attended by the district surgeons, and also those of the barony, marking with a darker shade those parts where the epidemic was most particularly prevalent, which shows that those places most densely inhabited, by the poorest of the people, have suffered most severely. The epidemic, having once got into a densely crowded land or close, never ceased until it had visited every house, and in many of the houses every inmate.

The number of cases of the present epidemic reported to the directors of the town's hospital, as attended by the district surgeons during the last eight months, commencing May, 1843, amounted in round numbers to 14,000, as seen by the table. Of those occurring in Calton, Bridgeton, and Anderston districts, I have got no accurate return, but it is certainly within the mark to estimate it at 7,000 ; those in the Gorbals and Tradeston districts at 2,000 ; those treated in the infirmary during the same period at 3,000 ; those who were attended by private practitioners, not in the poor roll, at 5,500 ; and those treated in the barony parish, in the suburbs, without the parliamentary boundary, at 500 ; making a total of cases of epidemic fever in Glasgow and suburbs, during the last eight months from the beginning of May till 30th December, 32,000, exhibiting a fearful amount of poverty and disease, as it affected the poorest and most destitute of the population. Great as it is, however, I have been assured by the various practitioners who have attended the poor, that the estimate is far too low.

Dr. Garroway, in his excellent report of the Bridgeton district, estimates the number there at 9 per cent. of the whole population ; and at that period, 3d of November, the epidemic had not completed its ravages.

The following Table exhibits a monthly return, for 8 months, of the new cases of Fever, as they occurred in the different Districts throughout the City, among the pauper population ; the progress of the epidemic from one District to another ; also the number sent from each District during the same period to the Infirmary ;---shewing how inefficient were the means employed for checking its progress by isolation.

Since the foregoing table was drawn up, an abstract of the Glasgow Mortality Bill has been published by Mr. Watt, which shows that I have under-estimated both the number of the fever cases and the proportionate amount of mortality, as he shows an increase of the mortality over last year to the extent of 2.340, which is seven and a-half per cent., and this increase wholly confined to the poor.

The following table will show the amount of the population in the different localities, the estimated number of cases of the epidemic, and the percentage they bear to the population, according to the best data which could be procured:—

TABLE II.

| District. | Population. | Cases of epidemic Attended by District Surgeons. | Average per cent. |
|--|-------------|--|-------------------|
| City Districts, | 118,000 | 14,000 | 12 |
| Calton, Bridgeton, Camlachie, Wilton, Blythswood, and Anderston, | 99,000 | 7,000 | 7 |
| Gorbals and Tradeston, | 48,000 | 2,000 | 4.5 |
| Remainder of Barony Parish in the suburbs, without the Parliamentary boundary, | 10,000 | 500 | 5 |
| Cases treated by private practitioners, | | 5,500 | |
| In the Infirmary | | 3,000 | |
| | 275,000 | 32,000 | 11.63 |

The above table shews that of the whole population the epidemic has attacked eleven and a half per cent.

By the kindness of Mr. Strang, City Chamberlain, I have obtained an accurate statement from the Government census of 1841, of the population of six of the densest city districts, where the fever was most prevalent; and the following table will exhibit the actual number of those attacked by the epidemic in these districts, also the average per cent. in reference to the population:—

TABLE III.

| District. | Population. | Cases of the epidemic. | Average per cent. |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 11,910 | 1616 | 13.56 |
| 2 | 7169 | 1038 | 14.47 |
| 3 | 5166 | 1229 | 23.79 |
| 4 | 5466 | 1102 | 20.16 |
| 11 | 5263 | 1404 | 26.65 |
| 12 | 4557 | 831 | 18.23 |

These are the districts within the city where epidemic disease is always most prevalent.

The returns from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary shew a mortality from the fever of 5 per cent. The city district surgeons estimate theirs at 3 per cent., but from the table of the number of coffins given out by the town's hospital to the poor during the epidemic period, it is probable that there is some fallacy, as it is known all the poor on their roll do not apply for coffins, and that during the epidemic period there was a remarkable immunity from all other diseases. If we subtract 500 from 1346 it leaves 846, being more than the whole number of coffins given out during the whole of the previous year, giving a proportion of mortality to the epidemic in the city of about 6 per cent. during the eight months of its prevalence; but taking the whole at 5 per cent., the mortality will amount to 1500 as the result of the present epidemic during a period of eight months.

As comparatively few of the sufferers belong to the middle ranks, being, as already remarked, chiefly confined to the poor and labouring classes, a large proportion of them being adults, some idea will be formed of the amount of suffering among the poor, by considering that on an average they were unable to follow their usual employment, or gain anything for their support for 5 weeks, and calculating their weekly earnings at the small sum of 4 shillings weekly, it exhibits a positive loss to the poor, in eight months, of not less than L.32,000. Had this been the result of a strike among the workmen, the whole newspaper press would have been filled with lamentations, but being the result of causes over which the poor had no control, the press has been comparatively silent, and little has been done for their relief. When it is considered besides, that Glasgow has not suffered alone, but that the epidemic has visited nearly every large town in this country, the effect ought to call forth some effectual means of relief, and the devising of measures for preventing the recurrence of a similar or even worse calamity, which in the present circumstances of the country may with certainty be predicted.

Credit has been taken for the saving supposed to have been effected to the community, by treating the poor in their own houses, in place of sending them to the Infirmary, where their keep and treatment would have cost the community about 15s. or 20s. each, whereas it has been assumed that it only cost the public a few hundred pounds. Against this doctrine I beg to enter my most solemn protest, and if those who hold

this opinion believe the disease to have been contagious, I ask, if the public had possessed the means of isolating the first cases as they appeared, by sending them to an hospital, would the epidemic not have been checked? and in place of having 32,000 cases, with all their accompanying sufferings, it might have been limited to less than 5,000?

It is true that, in the present state of matters, funds might not be forthcoming, nor will they, under the present system, until some serious epidemic, as typhus fever, has made such progress among the community, as to commence its ravages among the upper classes, when fears for their own safety will compel them to take measures when it is too late, to check the progress of the pestilence.

If I am asked what measures I would recommend, I answer in the first place, let the authorities earnestly urge upon the legislature the necessity of a poor law, by which the whole property of the country shall be taxed, for the support of the poor in hospitals, afflicted with epidemic fever. Let there be a board of health established in every large city and town, at the head of which there is placed a medical inspector, whose duty it will be to receive reports, visit, and inspect the different districts of the city. Whenever epidemic disease is reported, let him give in his report to the board of health, whose duty it shall be to cause the proper officers to remove the infected, and have the houses cleaned and purified, and with the assistance of the police keep a strict surveillance over all lodging-houses. We have already part of the machinery constructed under the cholera act, when a board was appointed for the suppression of that pestilence. Such is a short outline of the plan which I think ought to be urged upon the Government by the authorities, and I am satisfied it will not be refused. By such a measure the saving of sufferings to the poor, and of funds to the community, would be incalculable. At the same time hospital accommodation for epidemic fever ought to be provided and kept in readiness for any necessity that may occur.

Another point to which I cannot avoid adverting, as being intimately connected with the poverty and destitution of the poor, is their mental and moral degeneration. The intimate connection with, or dependence of vice on extreme poverty, is too obvious to those who have any intercourse with the poor to require remark. To attempt to remove the one, while the other is allowed to remain, in large cities, is to attempt impossibilities. In small isolated communities the poor may suffer great privations and retain their integrity, not so in cities;

there, if we expect to remove their mental and moral depravity, we must at the same time improve their physical circumstances. As a member of our county prison board, I have paid some attention to the circumstances of that class of the population who are the inmates of our prisons and penitentiaries. In my visits to these places, I have learned something of the feelings and motives by which they are actuated. I have seen the almost total want of shame and consciousness of guilt which they exhibit, covered, when it serves their purpose, with a thin veil of hypocrisy, which they know how and when to assume. Nor is it wonderful, considering the privations and miseries they endure in their miserable abodes, that they should prefer for a few months (to them) comfortable living in a jail. "There I am wretched, filthy, naked, and ill fed, being in the midst of constant quarrels and broils, without a friend who cares for me. In jail I am well fed, and comfortably lodged; what care I what the world thinks of me, they care nothing for me; though confined, the time will soon pass; and if I can do better, I may, if not it is only going back again to my old lodgings for a few weeks or months." Such are the reasonings of many of the inmates of our prisons. Most important and beneficial improvements have taken place in our jails within the last ten years, both in the discipline and attention to the morals of the prisoners, and a laudable desire has been manifested for fitting them for returning to society improved in health and in morals. God grant that anything like a similar desire had been manifested for ameliorating the condition of those whose only crime is poverty, whose dietary is in the majority of cases not half so good as that of the inmates of our prisons. I speak of Scotland.

The dietary of able bodied men in the English workhouse is estimated as equivalent to 24 oz. of wheaten bread in the day, varied as to quality and kind in the different days of the week. In our poor house it varies from 16 to 20 oz. in the day. In our Infirmary, full diet to those who are convalescent is equivalent to only 24 oz. in the day unless when extras are ordered by the medical attendant. The lowest rate of diet in our prisons is equivalent to 24 oz. of wheaten bread in the day, the 2d rate to 30 oz., and the highest, or 3d rate, 36 oz. in the day, and it is recommended by Mr. Hill, inspector of prisons, that at one meal each day the prisoners should have as much plain food, as porridge or potatoes, as he may wish for, while care is taken that they shall have a portion of exercise daily, lest they contract stiffness in their limbs. The work they are employed

in serves also to relieve the tedium of their confinement. They are besides taught to read and write, when their confinement is of more than 3 months duration, and are supplied with books for their amusement, and those who are industrious have part of their earnings reserved for them on leaving the prison. The cleanliness and comfort of their cells and bedding is unexceptionable, and in Glasgow the kindness and attention with which they are treated by Mr. Brebner, our excellent prison Governor, is universally acknowledged. It must be evident that this state of comfort is not the fate of one half of our labouring population ; and what is the result ? The following report of the Superintendent and table will explain :--

TABLE IV.

| Table of previous imprisonment in the Glasgow Prison from 1st of July, 1842, till the last day of June, 1844. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| | One time. | Twice. | 3 times. | 4 times. | 5 times. | 6 times & under 10. | 10 times & under 20. | 20 times & under 50. | 50 times & upwards. | Total. |
| Males. | 337 | 172 | 110 | 90 | 67 | 82 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 872 |
| Females. | 182 | 120 | 91 | 67 | 52 | 100 | 48 | 25 | 1 | 686 |
| Total. | 519 | 292 | 201 | 157 | 119 | 182 | 62 | 25 | 1 | 1558 |

Mr. Hill, in his eighth excellent report, states, that “ at his last visit to our prison, there were 59 boys and 40 girls under 17 years of age, of whom 71 had been in before, 43 of them at least 3 times, and one of them having been in prison 9 times,” which he justly ascribes to destitution. The fact that of 99 persons included in the above have been in prison 320 times, giving an average of 3.23 times for each individual, and that the numbers are every year increasing, last year the average number of prisoners being 600, and the additional fact that many of their own accord apply to be allowed to remain, or to be admitted as inmates ; “ this fact,” as observed by Mr. Hill, “ shews either that the prison has been made too comfortable, or that there is a large class of persons in a state of severe distress ; for which the existing arrangements of society, whether by poor laws or otherwise, afford no sufficient provision.” Either of which facts it is important for the interests of the public should be brought to light. He farther observes, “ that previous to this report there were at one time 40 persons, most of them able bodied, undergoing

"voluntary imprisonment, subject to all the rules and restrictions of the prison." I am much inclined to believe that both of the causes adverted to by Mr. Hill have a decided effect in producing this melancholy state of things

When we consider how much of the destitution arises from the poor being drawn into large cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh ; by there being no proper means of relief provided for them in the counties ; in fact by their being hunted out of the counties to which they belong by the rural police (which seems to be chiefly employed for this purpose, and who in their reports take credit for it), and then taking up their abodes in large cities, by the hopes held out of a greater chance of relief ; particularly of getting a night's shelter in the miserable abodes which are kept for that purpose, and by being allowed to beg and prowl through the streets throughout the day. All afford indubitable evidence of the necessity of some efficient provision being made by Government, by which the property of the counties should be compelled to support their own poor.

The following abstract, furnished me by Captain Miller, Superintendent of Police, shews the number of these lodging houses within the Glasgow police boundary :---

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total number of lodging houses, | 504 |
| Of this number there are situated in the district between Saltmarket and Stockwell Streets, | 240 |
| In the district east of High Street, comprehending the Vennels, Burnside, &c. | 160 |
| In other parts of the City, | 104 |

Note.---The above is the number of lodging houses in which promiscuous persons, or nightly lodgers only are kept.

Police Chambers, } (Signed) W. MILLER, S. P.
Glasgow, 31st Oct., 1843. }

This table does not include either Calton, Bridgeton, Gorbals, or Anderston, in which it may be presumed the number of lodging houses is equally large in proportion to the inhabitants. For the character and effects of these lodging houses see reports of District Surgeons.

From a table kept by me of the admissions into the Glasgow Fever Hospital in the year 1842, and the country and counties in which they were born, I found that out of 1282 patients admitted, there were only 134 males and 131 females, or about 20 per cent. natives of Glasgow. 558, or near 41 per cent., were natives of Ireland.

Since these sheets were sent to the press, a communication, signed by Mr. Bröbner, Prison Superintendent, and Captain

Miller, Superintendent of Police, containing observations and suggestions for the consideration of the Lord Advocate, has been published. The object of these observations is to point out the rapid increase of crime; the increasing number of prisoners beyond the means of accommodation, so as to prevent a proper classification of them; the total number of cells in our prisons being 470, while the number of prisoners on the 2d January, 1844, was 596.

The remedy proposed by these gentlemen is "a house of refuge for disorderly and bad characters, in place of sending them to prison for short periods, from which they are no sooner discharged than they return to their old practices.

Would an hour daily on the treadmill, after the 2d or 3d conviction, not be a cheaper and more effectual preventative? They state, "that there could easily be collected in this city upwards of 1000 juvenile offenders of both sexes, either known to the police as thieves, or the associates of thieves." It is also suggested that for petty offences a longer period of imprisonment would have a salutary effect. While the prison is more comfortable than their own homes, the propriety of either mode is questionable, and while their ranks are augmented by immigrations of poverty stricken families from the country, as well as by those brought up in town, under the guardianship of those struggling for existence, nothing else is to be expected, exposed as they are to privations as well as temptations of every description. To poverty arising from want of profitable employment, owing to restrictions on commerce, is to be traced the greatest amount of misery and crime. And while it is permitted that more than a fourth part of the earnings of the industrious poor is taken from them to keep up the landlords' rents, the wealth of the sugar lords, and an expensive army of civil and military officers to keep them in order, the community must make up their mind to pay the penalty, or levy an assessment upon the land for their support equivalent in amount to what they take from the poor.

I gladly embrace this opportunity of returning my most sincere thanks to those medical gentlemen who have furnished me with valuable reports of the state of their districts, and would earnestly recommend to our civic authorities the careful perusal of these reports. From them they will learn the state of danger in which we live, if matters are allowed to continue as they are.

In the year 1832, the proportion of Irish to the whole pauper population, admitted into the fever hospital, was thirty-

one per cent.; in 1842 it amounted to forty-one per cent.; an increase in ten years of ten per cent.

I trust that the facts stated will lead to the adoption of such measures by the Government as will relieve that high pressure of misery which is ready to burst asunder the social compact, and by judicious means prevent a catastrophe which may possibly soon occur.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT SURGEONS.

DISTRICT I.

3d Nov., 1844.

This district includes the south side of Gallowgate, from the Caltonmouth to the Cross; the east side of Saltmarket, from the Cross to Green Street; with all the streets, lanes, and closes, intervening, and leading from it backwards to the Green and Monteith Row.

The whole district has been visited more or less by the epidemic with a few exceptions. Within the last nine months there have been upwards of 1900 cases in this district; closes 122, 138, and 220, Gallowgate, have nearly escaped; all the closes in Saltmarket, with one exception, have been visited with the epidemic; No. 31 less than the rest. The crowded state of the houses, the filthy and immoral state of the population, and the dirty state in which the houses and closes are kept, is quite disgraceful. To these causes may be ascribed the spreading of the epidemic.

To Dr. Perry.

J. LEITCH, Surgeon.

DISTRICT II.

30th Nov., 1843.

Dear Sir,---Your note of the 28th reminded me of an intention I had sometime ago, to send you a few statistical observations concerning my district.

All the closes in the Bridgegate, from Merchant Lane to Market Lane, are kept in the most abominable manner. I may particularly mention 101 or Miller's Close, 95 or Mitchell's Close, 87 or Glue and Size Close, 81 or Marshall's Close, 71, 65 or Scanlan's Close; but if a prize were to be given for abominations of all kinds, Miller's Close deserves it. Being mostly all densely populated, and the people most filthy in their habits, keeping the carelessness of proprietors out of view, no wonder these have been the very hotbeds of the prevailing epidemic. When this disease entered a family, every member of it sooner or later became affected; and I have known almost whole families attacked with it simultaneously. This was generally the case whether the patients were of the labouring class or of the idle and dissipated; and the infection seemed to spread in consequence of great numbers of ill fed beings living in small, old, dirty, and ill ventilated houses. I have never taken the number of people in any of the low lodgings, which have proved horrid nuisances to the District Surgeons; but the men and women were often very numerous, with perhaps two or three dogs to keep them company. So much for the worst part of Bridgegate under my charge.

The next worst part of my district is that part of west side of Saltmarket, extending from Bridgegate up to Princes' Street. The closes are all thickly peopled, and kept in a most disgraceful state. I may particularise 94 and 62, which goes into Princes' Street; these are absolutely disgusting, and contain a number of these low lodging houses, where the land-

lord or landlady endeavour to drive a good trade by crowding the apartment, or apartments, as much as possible. The Laigh Kirk Close and some parts of Princes' Street are in a very bad state; but those parts of the Bridgegate and Saltmarket already described are by far the worst. With the exception, 47, or Crosbie's Close, I have had comparatively few patients in King Street, and fewer still in Trongate.

Having said as much in a general way as my time will allow, I beg to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

To Dr. Perry.

H. KENNEDY, Surgeon.

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM NO. III. DISTRICT.

DISTRICT IV.

The tenements in which I have visited are occupied from the cellars to the allies, and almost altogether kept for lodging-houses, many of them being more fit for pig-styes than dwellings for human beings; and in not a few the donkey and pigs rest at night in the same apartment with the family. The entrance to these abodes is generally through a close, not unfrequently some inches deep with water, or mud, or the fluid part of every kind of filth, carelessly thrown down, from unwillingness to go with it to the common receptacles; and in every close there is at least one of these places situated, often immediately under the windows of the dwelling houses, or, together with byres, stables, &c., forming the ground floor; while the stench arising therefrom in summer pollutes the neighbourhood, and more especially renders the habitations above almost intolerable.

The beds are variously constructed, some being merely a portion of the floor divided by a piece of wood, kept in its place with stones or brick; others have this space filled with shavings, or straw, without a blanket or coverlet; in other cases the beds are formed in tiers over each other, as in the steerage of an emigrant ship; and in a few there may be found a mattress and bed clothes. Ventilation, even were it possible to be of use, is never attended to, the inmates of these hovels being to all appearance perfectly contented to breathe an atmosphere loaded with tobacco smoke, and the emanations arising from total disregard to cleanliness. Need I add to this, that the inhabitants with whom I have to deal are of the very lowest ranks in society; a few of them are labourers, but the greater majority are hawkers and beggars, thieves and prostitutes. At night whole families sleep in one bed; and as there are several beds in each apartment, several families are made to occupy it. Thus there are sometimes from twelve to eighteen persons huddled together in a space not more than as many feet square, and fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters, dress and undress before each other, and also before strangers. In short, of the moral degradation, grossness, and misery of these people, no adequate description can be given; and few, very few indeed, besides the District Surgeons know the actual condition of the pauper population of Glasgow.

The Highland Close, Jefferies' Close, and Todds' Close, entering from off Goosedubbs; there fever has prevailed to a fearful degree, and all these places abound in filth; are over-crowded with inhabitants, the lowest of our pauper population. The present epidemic has spread most extensively among those who are careless in the cleanliness of their

persons, inhabit houses without attention to ventilation, and are overcrowded.

To Dr. Perry.

D. SMITH, Surgeon.

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM NO. V. DISTRICT,

DISTRICT VI.

18, Renfield Street, 8th Nov., 1843.

Dear Sir,--District No. VI. includes west side of Dixon Street and St. Enoch Square, to Argyle Street; south side of Argyle Street, from St. Enoch Square to boundary store 209; west of M'Alpine Street, and from the boundary store 209 Argyle Street; west of M'Alpine Street, continuing the west boundary line to the boundary store, 210, at the Broomielaw; and from the boundary store, 210, at the Broomielaw, along the north side of Broomielaw and Great Clyde Street, to Dixon Street, the place of beginning.

During my experience of this district, which embraces a period of only three months, the prevailing epidemic fever has occurred almost exclusively in the overcrowded and ill ventilated houses of Buchanan Court, and Wood Lane, Broomielaw, and in the sunk cellars and back lands of Brown Street, Carrick Street, and M'Alpine Street.

During this period 133 cases of Fever have occurred; of these 121 have been cured, 2 died, and 10 have been sent to the Infirmary. One only was a case of typhus, which recovered.

The symptoms were more severe, and the recovery more tedious in the cases occurring in the most overcrowded and worst ventilated houses.

Yours truly,

To Dr. Perry.

— WILLIAM FERRIE, M.D.
DISTRICT VII.

The 7th city district, under the medical charge of Js. Paterson, M.D., includes the east side of Claythorn St., from King St., Calton, to Gallowgate; south side of Gallowgate, from Claythorn St. to Hill St.; east side of Hill St., from Gallowgate to Duke St.; Duke St., from Hill St., by Drygate Toll out to Glenpark; from Glenpark, along Camlachy Burn, by Vinegar Hill and Camlachy Toll, to Crown Point; from Crown Point, by the road to Tylefield; from Tylefield, by Christ's Church, Mile end, to Little St.; north side of Little St. to Abercromby St.; east side of Abercromby St. to Millroad St. north side of Millroad St. to King St.; north side of King St. to Claythorn St., the place of beginning, and including all intermediate streets, squares, lanes, courts, &c.

The district in barony parish embraces the whole of the middle parish of Calton. In the Glasgow district, during six months, including from 1st June to the 1st Dec., 1843, there occurred 693 cases of fever; and in the middle parish of Calton, during the same period, there were 599; making a total of 1292 cases of fever treated by Dr. Paterson.

The localities where the disease principally prevailed are noted with ink upon the map, and will be found as follows, viz.: in several parts of Gallowgate, especially towards the eastern extremity; head of Graham Square, very ill; Duke St., near Cattle Market, ditto; Foundry Lane, near Camlachy; Nelson's Square, foot of White Vale; Crown Point; foot of Tylefield St.; Green Vale St.; Kay's Court, especially; part of

Thomson's Lane ; in Marlborough St., at Nos. 38, 28, 18, and 15, with the back lands ; partly in Abercromby St., (in Coulter's Lane, off Abercromby St. fearfully) ; very ill in Anderson's Square, off Tureen St., and likewise in King St., including the north and south corner of Claythorn St. ; in the middle parish of Calton ; to some extent at lower part of Clyde St., on the west side ; fearfully between Abercromby St. and Bell St. ; the greater part of Bell St., especially Wallace Property ; very ill in M'Dicken's Court, off Millroad St. ; head of Struthers St., No 29 ; head of James' St. ; fearfully at No. 23 ; east side of Green St., from head to foot ; very ill in Union Lane ; fearful at corner of Kirk St. and Green St., and likewise in Clarkson's Court off Kirk St. ; in Stevenson St., east of Police Office, and same side of St. very ill ; the whole of M'Auslan's Lands opposite the Police Office, to a considerable extent ; in Tobago St, rather severe, at Nos. 10, 24, and 19, including back lands ; some families at 9 Cumberland St. ; but comparatively few in Blair St., Catherine St., and north side of Cumming St., from Clyde St, to Green St., which bounds the district on the south.

With respect to the patients, at least one third belonged originally to Ireland ; all of the poorest class, being chiefly weavers and winders, and a majority of them belonging to the Romish persuasion. The houses in most cases were too crowded ; some small apartments containing two, three, and occasionally four families ! In others numerous lodgers, men, women, youths, and children, were huddled indiscriminately together on a cargo of straw upon an earthen floor. It was no uncommon thing to meet with 9, 10, or even 12, in this position, a fruitful source of vice, pollution, and disease. In some houses from 6 to 9, or 10 patients, were ill at the same time, with hardly an individual or neighbour who would give them a drink of water when they required it. Many of the patients were of the most drunken and dissipated habits, and these were uniformly the most severely affected, so that several of them were cut off by death. Still, all circumstances considered, the mortality was remarkably small. When the disease entered a house of the above description, it in most instances spread to all the inmates, and, but for the means of assistance placed at Dr. Paterson's disposal, many must have perished from starvation. He is fully of opinion that much of the prevalence of the disease depended on the great destitution of the poor ; on the overly crowded state of many of the houses ; on the smallness and bad ventilation of the apartments, on the indolent, dissipated, and abominably filthy habits of the poor themselves ; and on the low, damp, and unhealthy condition of many of the lands. He is likewise of opinion that if proper attention were paid to cleanliness, and the suppression of the lodging system, unless properly registered and under the notice of the Police, and also to enforcing landlords and factors to see that their premises, courts, and closes, be regularly and frequently washed ; that their houses be not sublet to more families or individuals than they are capable of accommodating, consistently with comfort and health ; and that the most rigid attention should be paid to the cleaning and airing of all those apartments in which patients have become convalescent, or where they have been removed to the hospital, much would be effected in suppressing the diffusion of the disease, and in mitigating the virulence of its attack.

These remarks refer not only to the existing epidemic, but also to all other contagious diseases to which the poor community is not unfrequently exposed.

To Dr. Perry.

JAMES PATERSON, M.D.

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM NO. VIII. DISTRICT.

DISTRICT IX.

Glasgow, Nov. 29, 1843.

Dear Sir,---On the 28th of July I took charge of a portion of the district under the charge of Mr. J. B. Black, comprehending the east side of High Street, from the Old Vennel to the Cross, there are in all 10 closes.

There can be no doubt, that the crowding together in small space numbers of diseased persons, with little or no clothing, no sustenance, and no idea even of personal cleanliness, contributed much to the propagation of the disease.

In close No. 50 (Leith's Close), a wide court, with stables and byres, and tolerably well kept, there were only 2 cases of fever, and one of these slept in Gallowgate Street.

On the other hand, closes 66 and 72 were miserably ill kept, and filled with crowded lodging houses, and for 3 months were never free from fever. It was in almost every house, and in no instance in these two closes did a single individual escape the contagion, if the disease got into the house in which he or she lived.

A woman named Burke, who keeps a lodging house, 72, High Street: contracted the disease, and every person in the house had it from her; there are in 72, in a house consisting of two apartments, in the outer one no less than 10 persons were ill at one and the same time, and for 3 months there was never fewer than 5 or 6 ill in this lodging house. The same remarks also apply to closes Nos 80, 90, 94, and 100, only they were not quite so crowded. In No. 100, I caused the policeman on the station to summon every tenant in the close before the Police Magistrate. The result was a thorough cleaning out of the filth which had been accumulating for months, and a diminution of the fever cases to less than one half in about a week.

There seemed to be no partiality on the part of the fever for one class more than another. The common thief, the prostitute, of which there are numbers, and the labouring man were all alike liable, and the fatality seemed also to be fairly divided among all classes, ages, and sexes. In every instance where pregnant women were attacked, abortion took place, whatever period of gestation they might be at. The directors of the fever hospital issued printed tickets, value a penny, with which the District Surgeons were supplied. These enabled the surgeons to order milk, soup, bread, &c., to the amount of the ticket, instead of the money formerly given out at the hospital, and which was often spent in drink. In my district this was of incalculable benefit, and contributed in no small degree to lessen the fatality, by supporting the strength with wholesome nutriment.

July 28, 1843, . . . There were 58 cases.
 Nov. 30, 1843, . . . New cases since the above, 673.
 Deaths, about 3 per cent.

At present there are not above twelve cases requiring frequent attendance.

I am afraid the above imperfect report will not be of much service ; if, however, there be any other point on which you wish information, I shall be happy to afford it if I can.

I am,

Dear Sir.

Yours truly,

To Dr. Perry.

WILL. CLERK, Surgeon.

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM DISTRICT X.

DISTRICT XI.

104, George Street, 27th Dec., 1843.

Dear Sir,---The following is a short account of my district. It may be justly said to be all very bad. It ranks as No. 11, and is bounded on the north by Duke St. ; on the south by the front buildings of New Vennel ; on the west by the High St. ; and on the east by the Molandinar Burn. All the throughgoing closes from Havannah St. to New Vennel belong also to my district. The following places are worthy of notice :---No. 22, Havannah St ; 13 families reside in this close ; every member of them has had fever. During the months of May and June I had the greatest number of cases here. 54, Havannah St. : this close has 3 openings into New Vennel, viz., 75, 79, and I believe 61 ; this place is almost filled with thieves and prostitutes ; so notoriously is it that it is known throughout the city by the appellation of the walls of Troy, about midway between Havannah St. and Vennel there is a large irregular building of 3 flats, containing 13 houses ; in each of the houses, in the two upper flats at least, there are prostitutes of the very lowest caste. The size of the apartments will vary from six to ten feet square ; every individual in this building has had fever ; most of them had neither bed, bedding, nor a morsel of food ; their sufferings, therefore, were very great ; yet, strange to say, I had no deaths. Besides the above building, there are several places in this close bearing but a too striking resemblance to the one described. 49, Havannah St., back land ; 4 families of the poorest class of hand-loom weavers ; at one time I had no less than 12 cases of fever under treatment. 64, Havannah St. is not surpassed by any close in the city for filth, misery, crime, and disease ; it contains 59 houses, all inhabited by a most wretched class of individuals ; several of these houses do not exceed 5 feet square, yet they are forced to contain a family of sometimes 6 persons. During, I think, the last week of August, I had no less than 53 cases of fever under treatment ; 5 and 7 cases in a house was quite a common thing ; my first case of this peculiar fever occurred in this close. 64, Havannah St. ; there is a house on the ground floor, back land, possessed by a poor hand-loom weaver, in which I had under treatment at one time 6 cases of fever : they were in absolute starvation when I first visited them. 100 Havannah St. is a large new land of 4 stories, containing 34 houses about 7 feet square, fever has been in every house. Many very poor families reside here. 105, Havannah St was an old carpet factory lately arranged into 36 cells about 7 feet square (exclusive of shops on the ground floor). The proprietor of this " barracks " seems to have fitted it out for the purpose of testing the principle, " how much money can be raised out of house property at the least possible original outlay ; " comfort, convenience, and ventilation, kept out of sight ; there is scarcely a

bed in the whole land but what was supplied by me from the Town's Hospital. As might be supposed, fever raged dreadfully here ; at one time I had as many as 40 cases of fever under treatment in this building ; the whole furniture is not worth a week's rent ; the cellars behind are converted into houses of the worst description. 116 and 118, Havannah St., are very bad, the latter in consequence of a large open dungstead ; of the 6 families residing in this close, I had at one time no less than 13 cases of fever under treatment. The whole of the Burnside, especially the ground floors, are not fit places for pigs : height of ceiling about 4 feet. and at almost every flood in the Clyde they are inundated by the Molindinar Burn : every inhabitant of these dens has had fever ; it literally swarms with prostitutes of the lowest caste. In one of these houses I counted 13 persons whom I was told slept mostly there. Hatters' close is chiefly inhabited by hand-loom weavers, who are all very poor ; several of the ground floors are unfit for anything but coal cellars, yet they are all inhabited. Fever has visited every house, followed in the majority of cases with dysentery, several of which terminated fatally. M'Kinlay's land, Mew's Lane, is a large building containing 21 houses, inhabited principally by stocking weavers, all very poor ; the apartments are of ordinary size, but filthy ; only 3 families have as yet escaped the fever. At the corner of Mew's Lane and Pettigrew St. there is a new building of 4 stories, 5 of which houses do not exceed five and a-half feet square, yet in one of these houses on the ground floor there was a man, his wife, and four children, all of whom had fever at one time. As they occupied the whole space as a bed, I frequently could not gain admission, and had to supply them with what was necessary through the window ; no deaths occurred in this family. 4 and 7, Pettigrew St. ; fever has been very bad ; and in hundreds of cases the only, the chief support these wretched individuals had, was the penny tickets I distributed daily.

The number of cases recorded in the Town's Hospital books belonging to my district, for the last 12 months, is somewhat about 1700.

In conclusion, from what I have seen of fever generally since my connection with the Town's Hospital, as one of their officers, I am decidedly of opinion that pauper patients under fever treated at home have a better recovery than those we send to the Royal Infirmary.

With compliments,

Yours sincerely,

To Dr. Perry.

A. BROWN, M.D.

DISTRICT XII.

District No. XII. comprehends the "West side of High St., from the Cross to Stirling St., south side Stirling St. and Stirling's Square, "from the High St. to South Albion St., west side of South Albion St., "from south side of Stirling Square to Canon St., south side of Canon St., from South Albion St. to Candleriggs, east side of Candleriggs, "from Canon St. to Trongate, north side of Trongate, to Cross, the "place of beginning."

The space here indicated forms part of a district of this great city, which in the opinion of one capable of judging of the subject, "contains a "greater amount of human degradation, both moral and physical, than is "to be found in any corresponding space of the kingdom of Great Britain." I do not think him wrong, for I cannot conceive of human beings more sunk in vice, or labouring under a heavier load of misery, than are the wretched inhabitants of the part to which I refer. It comprises a few of the closes leading from the Trongate near the Cross, the closes in the

High St., in Bell St., and the closes leading from it; in this part all the cases of fever which came under my notice occurred, with a very few exceptions.

I do not know the number of inhabitants in the district, but it no doubt exceeds that of several of the counties of Scotland.

The first case of the present epidemic fever which occurred in the district, was on the 12th April last; and the following are the number of cases, with their results, &c., from that period till the 1st November :—

| No. of Cases. | | Results. | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| From 12th April till 16th May, | 16 | Cured, | 748 |
| “ May, “ August, | 262 | Sent to Hospital, | 24 |
| “ Aug., “ Nov., | 498 | Died, | 4 |
| | <hr/> 776 | | <hr/> 776 |
| Of these there were :— | | There occurred :— | |
| Males, | 339 | In Trongate, | 80 |
| Females, | 437 | “ High St., | 518 |
| | | “ Bell, “ | 169 |
| | | “ Albion, | 2 |
| | | “ Nelson, | 7 |
| | <hr/> 776 | | <hr/> 776 |

All the cases in the Trongate occurred in the Tontine Close, No. 34, and in the Bush Tavern Close, No 38; with two or three exceptions in No. 80 and 88.

The Tontine Close, in which by far the greater number of cases occurred in the Trongate, is famous for the abode of prostitutes of all ages and descriptions. A great number of the patients were of this class, and most of these, in addition to fever, were also labouring under gonorrhoea, or syphilis, in various forms, and all of them, without exception, had constitutions impaired from drunkenness and disease. This close is the cleanest, perhaps, of any of those in which fever occurred, and in none of the houses did I witness any of the signs of extreme poverty which were so visible in many other houses in the district.

The Bush Tavern Close might easily enough be kept clean, for it is all paved; but dirt and filth are always allowed to accumulate in it, so as to render access to the top difficult and unpleasant. About twenty cases occurred in it, and the most of these took place in the families of tradesmen out of employment, or who obviously had not the means of procuring sufficient support for themselves and families. The houses in general are clean, though very destitute of furniture, a remark applicable to almost all the houses in the district. In this close a family of the name of MacDonald resided in a dark, damp cellar underground. I never saw such an abode of misery. It was impossible to see without the light of a candle or lamp. Father, mother, and four of their family, were lying in this hole ill with fever: the father and mother were both upwards of eighty years of age. They both died; the others were long in recovering.

HIGH STREET.

No. 37, a short close, and in general cleanly kept. Fewer cases occurred in it, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, than in any other of the closes in the High St.

No. 43 is a continuation of the Tontine Close, or No. 34 Trongate. The remarks I have made on it are for the most part applicable here. A considerable number of cases occurred in this close. There is at present a family, seven in number, who are lying with fever in one apartment in this close : they appear to be in a very destitute condition.

No. 55 is an entry leading into a court, which also communicates with No. 13 Bell St. This court is kept pretty clean. A great number of cases occurred in it, and of a very distressing nature ; more so that the families were Scotch, and suffering great distress from the want of employment, though evidently generally industrious and of sober habits, which are too seldom admitted, by those in better circumstances, to exist with poverty.

No. 65 also leads into a pretty large court communicating with Bell St. This court, though not so filthy as some of the former mentioned, is still far from clean. The cases in this close were few.

No. 75, a very dirty close, abounding in low Irish lodging houses. The floors of the houses in the ground flats are damp and dirty, in fact little better than cellars. The upper part of the close is very filthy ; the lower flat of one of the houses here was lately appropriated to the breeding of swine, while several families occupied the flats above. The part of close at the side of the house is used as a dunghill, which renders access to it by no means either pleasant or easy. I believe every inhabitant of this tenement has had fever. Upwards of 120 cases occurred in the close.

No. 83, a very filthy close, though perhaps rather better in its general character than many of the previous ones, and having fewer cases of fever in it in proportion to its size and population.

No. 93, or the Pipehouse Close, is the filthiest in the district. It communicates with Nelson St. Seven cases occurred at the Nelson St. end, beside the Lyceum Rooms, and upwards of 150 in other places of the close. It is of the same description as No. 75, but in some parts perhaps in a more aggravated degree of abomination. The lowest Irish lodging houses abound here. Large families are huddled together in low, damp, unwholesome apartments. In some parts of the close the greatest difficulty is experienced in avoiding the collection of mud and water. Till lately this close was altogether an utter disgrace to the city of Glasgow.

BELL STREET.

No. 13, a dirty close, with a dunghill at the head of it. In a small apartment on the top flat of the front land, in this close, a widow and her four children were lying ill with fever. They had no one to assist them, and had neither bed, blankets, food, nor fire. They were lying upon the floor, and only covered with a piece or two of muslin cloth. This was a bad picture of want, brought on by circumstances apparently over which they had no control.

No. 23, a long dirty close. In one house at the top of it several severe cases occurred. Access is obtained to this house, or rather apartment, by an outside stair, by the side of which is a dunghill, the stench from which is intolerable. I have seen the dung reach the landing place on the top of the stair. I attended for fever almost every individual residing in the front land. The number was very great.

Wallace Court, always clean ; the houses in it for the most part are brothels, swarming with prostitutes. I may mention, en passant, that I visited two girls belonging to a house there, only 14 years of age, and who

for two years previous had lived by prostitution. The cases in the locality have been few.

Perhaps more than one-half of the cases were Irish, whose means of obtaining subsistence are very precarious, and difficult to ascertain. The remainder were made up of Scotch tradesmen, or members of their families, who were out of employment, and enfeebled by want. Many of the cases were complicated with other diseases. The fatal cases were in this close.

To Dr. Perry.

ALEX. FISHER, M.D.

DISTRICT XIII.

Glasgow, 22d Nov., 1843.

Dear Sir,---Although this district may be considered one of the best in town, there still remains room for improvement. Regarding it generally, the greatest nuisance in it is the bone manufactory in Shuttle St. The neighbours have frequently complained of it, and have even gone the length of prosecuting the proprietor in the Police Court; yet notwithstanding that proof may be easily adduced of its hurtful effects, it is still permitted to remain, to the great annoyance and prejudice of those resident in its vicinity. Another nuisance arises from the irregularity with which some of the dungsteads are cleaned, and the imperfect arrangements made for the escape of water; then you have animal and vegetable matter, together with stagnant water, collected, and giving off effluvia which most assuredly must prove deleterious to those in the immediate neighbourhood. No. 27, Canon Street, may be mentioned as an instance of this state of matters.

It will not be a matter of surprise, then, that here the District Surgeon is furnished with a higher ratio of patients than from any other portion of the district. During the last quarter when the epidemic fever prevailed, we find that the total number of district cases amounted to 429. Of these there occurred :---

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| In the Broad Close, | . | . | . | . | 79 |
| " 109, High St., | . | . | . | . | 45 |
| " 27, Canon St., | . | . | . | . | 39 |
| " 201, High St., | . | . | . | . | 31 |
| " 125, do., | . | . | . | . | 30 |
| " 20, College Street, | . | . | . | . | 16 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | 240 |

Now, here we find 27 Canon St furnishing 39 cases, although there are not above 24 families altogether in it, while in 125 High St., where above 75 families reside, we have only 30 cases. Moreover, the fever cases are more typhoid, ulcers more difficult of cure, &c., in the former locality.

Were the Police Commissioners to exercise the authority with which they are now empowered, they could easily suppress existing nuisances, and prevent their recurrence, thereby conferring the greatest boon on the poor---the improvement of their comfort and health.

In conclusion, however, I must state that the poor of this district are much better circumstanced than those of a similar class that I have been accustomed to visit in dispensary practice in Edinburgh; and in this opinion I am borne out by a medical friend in Edinburgh, who lately visited

the district along with me.

I remain,

Yours truly,

To Dr. Perry.

ALEX. M'LAVERTY, M.D.

DISTRICT. XIV.

Townhead, 3d Nov., 1843.

Dear Sir,---In consequence of having had occasion to go out of town, I could not get a short account of the 14th District sent you in proper time. However, on the principle that "its better late than never," I beg to submit the following very short statement. By referring to the map of the district, you will see that the 14th is bounded on the north by the Monkland Canal, on the west by High St., and the south by Duke St. Altogether the population in this space is not dense; even in the Drygate, the most populous portion of it, there are numerous open spaces behind the front houses, which keep the place well aired. Nevertheless the prevailing form of fever raged here with great fury; so much so that in bygone three months I treated 891 patients, of whom 4 died, 21 were sent to hospital, and the remaining 279 were cured.

I am decidedly of opinion that the wretched condition of the poorer classes is mainly the cause of the great prevalence of this disease among them. I have been led to this conclusion by observing that in those tenements where the houses are kept clean, and the people tolerably well fed, that although situated in the very midst of the disease, almost no cases occurred in them. For example, in what is called the "Duke's Lodgings," in Drygate, a very extensive old building, formerly the town residence of the Montrose family, the apartments are large, with high roofs; and the occupiers, although poor, pretty well kept: only four cases have occurred, while on the opposite side of this narrow street the fever made great ravage, the houses being very small, crowded with people, and of course very filthy. Also farther down Drygate, and on the same side with "Ducal palace," is an old, small, miserable tenement; yet in this place I had plenty to do; while in what is called the "Mint," a pretty respectable and extensive building, only one case came under my notice. Now, adjoining "the mint" stands the old Glasgow Bridewell or "House of Correction," a most miserable abode for human beings. In this place I must have had upwards of 290 cases since the outbreak of the epidemic. "The cells," for rooms they cannot be called, are in many cases a few feet square; yet here, while families are "stowed away" in a most disgusting manner, almost every apartment had a visit of fever, and nearly every inmate in succession lay down.

Immediately adjoining this mass of filth stands one of a similar character, and here, of course, our hands were full.

In the remaining portion of my district the same rules apply, i. e., where poverty, filth, and dissipation exist, there disease reigns; where comfort, cleanliness, and sobriety prevail, we have almost none of it.

Except what I have mentioned, little can be obtained in the way of information from my district; and I presume it would be a work of supererogation to report the various symptoms the disease has assumed in particular cases, or to attempt an advice on the remedial means.

These must be much more familiar to you than to any comparative young practitioner now holding the situation of district surgeon.

I regret much the imperfect report I have been compelled to lay before you ; but at the same time to have gone more minutely into details would probably only have wasted your time perusing them.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

D. WALKER, Surgeon.

DISTRICT XV.

Hope Place, St. Rollox, 1st Nov., 1843.

Dear Sir,—In compliance with your request, I have much pleasure in furnishing the following remarks on the state of fever in the 15th city district. This district, commencing at George's Street, extends up the west sides of High Street, Kirk Street, and Castle Street ; out the Inchbelly Road to the city boundary at Springburn ; and out the Keppoch-hill Road to the boundary at that place. It includes north side of George's Street, from High Street to Balmano Street ; the east side of the latter ; same side of Taylor Street, and Rotten Row ; from these points to High Street ; both sides of Weaver Street and Dobbie's Loan ; east side of Castle Street ; north of the Monkland Canal Basin and George's Road ; to the city boundary in that direction.

The present epidemic, which for want of a better title I have placed under the name of simple fever, first appeared in my district early in the month of May, previous to which there had been little fever for some time, a case or two of typhus only appearing occasionally ; but since that period pure typhus has been of very rare occurrence. It showed itself at first among the very poorest of the inhabitants, and in the most filthy places, such as the close No. 275, High Street, 46, and 47, Rotten Row, and the adjoining places, whence it has ever since prevailed to a great extent. It has generally extended, and been very prevalent in other parts of district, with the exception of George Street, Balmano and Taylor Streets, where only two or three cases have occurred. At present its principal seats are Rotten Row, High Street, Castle Street, Dobbie's Loan, and Springburn. In the latter it has been as yet almost entirely confined to the west side of village. The greater part of the district, being situated in the country and higher parts of the city, is tolerably well aired, but many of the closes and interior of the dwellings are in a most filthy condition. The state of destitution among some of the inhabitants is most awful. In many cases there is an almost total want of bed coverings, or even beds to lie upon. Sometimes on recovering they have scarcely body clothes enough to cover their nakedness ; and this, I have no doubt, is partly the cause of the numerous relapses which take place. This certainly could be remedied to a considerable extent by the assistance of the humane and charitable. In the present complaint, however, it is some consolation to observe that the mortality has been exceedingly small as compared with typhus fever, when it was the prevailing epidemic. Subjoined is a statement of the number of cases of fever, and the mortality in the quarter ending July 27th. This comprehends the seventeen city districts. There were 209 cases of typhus fever. Of these 106 were sent to hospital, and of the remaining 103 treated at home 11 died, being an average mortality of 1 in 9.3636. There were 4398 cases of simple fever, 226 of which were sent to hospitals. Of the remaining 4172 treated

in their own houses, 74 died ; giving an average mortality of 1 in 56.378. Any remarks of mine on the nature of the complaint, or the means to be had recourse to for its extinction, would be quite unnecessary here. So hoping you will excuse this short and somewhat imperfect account.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

To Robt. Perry, Esq., M.D.

B. HANNAH, Surgeon.

DISTRICT XVI.

This District is as a whole comparatively healthy ; but there are one or two localities which ought to be noticed. First, Dempster St. is inhabited by a very poor class of individuals, amongst whom there are a considerable amount of moral depravity. Intoxicating liquors are very freely made use of. From such improvident habits, and the extreme poverty of the people, their clothing is miserably deficient of what it ought to be. Most of the houses are small and over-crowded. They generally consist of a room and kitchen, which almost invariably contain two or more families, decidedly filthy both in their habitations and persons. I am inclined to think Dempster St. one of the worst ventilated streets in Glasgow (perhaps the very worst). It is as narrow as any of the Wynds in the city. The houses are all of four flats, completely surrounded by other buildings, with the exception of the two northmost tenements, where I seldom have had occasion to visit. In this street there can be no free ventilation, the south end being completely closed up by the back buildings of Frederick Lane. The only exit in this direction is by a low cart entry on the east side. The street is never free from the most obnoxious effluvia arising from its being invariably dirty, its confined situation, the foot of a large open dungstead being situated at the most confined part of the street, and another dungstead within a few yards of it. From a combination of the above particulars I am not astonished that Dempster St. should so severely suffer from the ravages of fever and other diseases. The greater portion of this street I consider totally unfit for the residence of human beings in a healthy state. Similar remarks to the above will apply to the back building of Fredk. Lane. In close 102, Rotten Row St. I have had a considerable number of fever cases. Here the people are cleanly and temperate ; the houses well ventilated ; and I can only account for the prevalence of disease, under such circumstances, to great poverty ; hence arises insufficient food, clothing, and fuel.

To Dr. Perry.

JOHN ROSS, District Surgeon.

George Street, 4th Nov., 1843.

DISTRICT XVII.

58, Rose St., Garnethill, November 2d, 1843.

My Dear Sir,—In reference to your queries, I beg to state that I have acted as surgeon to the 17th district of city poor for nearly three months, and have observed in it a good many cases of the prevailing fever. The localities most affected have been—First, Society Row ; second, Springbank ; third, Brown Street ; fourth, M'Kinnis's Land, Woodside Road ; and fifth, Grove Street, Kelvin Street, &c. I have enumerated the localities in the above order because the greatest number of cases occurred in the places first mentioned. The first well marked case of the disease

was observed in the month of March last, in Cumming's Land, Springbank, a land characterised by having not only a considerable quantity of filth lying behind it, but by having a filthy and impoverished set of inhabitants within. Although, however, the disease first commenced here, and attacked several people one after another, yet Society Row was the place where it was observed in its most concentrated form. This Row is inhabited by individuals of the poorest description, who are very inattentive to cleanliness, and who huddle themselves in considerable numbers in apartments of very inadequate size. The first family attacked in this Row lived in a low earthen floored house consisting of two apartments, the front one tolerably large, but the back one very small, and capable of containing little more than one bed. In these two apartments I from first to last attended eleven individuals, five of them being crowded into this small closet. A neighbouring family, which was more than any other in communication with this one, was next attacked. The apartment which they occupied was almost fourteen feet square; and in this space I attended seven individuals, six of them being laid up at the same time, some with the primary attack of the fever, and some with the relapse. During the convalescence of these, a family named M'Lean, occupying the apartment directly above, was attacked to the number of seven. It may be of importance to observe here, that the separation of these two families was very imperfect, the flooring of the one house serving as the ceiling for the other, there being no plaster between them; and, further, that no individuals in this land have as yet been seized with fever, a fact going as far as one fact can go to prove the propriety of separating as much as possible the sick from the healthy. But to return, many other families were attacked with fever in this locality, the members comprising which were all in the same condition as regarded bad over-crowded lodgings, filthy habits, and in some cases almost absolute starvation. To give you an idea of the size of some of the patients' houses, I measured one in Waddell's Land, Springbank, and found it to be eleven and a-half feet in length by eight and a-half in breadth, and yet in this small space six individuals were at one time lying together labouring under fever.

To shew the injury done by not having sufficient receptacles provided for the sick, I may be permitted to mention that I know of several instances of whole families lying at one time on their lairs of straw, without one healthy individual to attend on them; and yet, from the crowded state of the Infirmary wards, admission could not be obtained for them there. I may also be allowed to mention another fact, proving the existence of negligence in some quarter, but trust it may be an isolated one:—A man residing in Craig's Land, Springbank, got a line from me, for admission into the Fever Hospital, duly countersigned at the Town's Hospital, and forwarded to the Infirmary; but it was never attended to. The case, however, being urgent, I procured a subscriber's line, which met with the most prompt attention.

Not having the district books before me at the present moment, I cannot enumerate all the cases of wretchedness and misery to which I have been witness, but I may relate a somewhat aggravated case, though it is one to which many others do not come far short. A family of the name of Craig, residing in 7, Grove Street, consisting of four individuals, were all seized nearly about the same time with the fever. It appears they had no great intercourse at any time with their neighbours, so that four days had elapsed before any one noticed that their house was shut up.

The door was then forced open ; and, as I was passing at the time, I went in, and witnessed a scene which almost beggars description. The air was loaded with impurities—several utensils were lying exposed filled with excrement—three individuals lay in one bed (one of them in a state of pregnancy) and another on a little straw in a corner of the room. I learned that food had entered none of their lips for several days, and from the condition in which one of the individuals (an old woman upwards of seventy years of age) was, I am sure that in a short time longer she would have died of absolute starvation.

As I have all along been looking more to the phenomena of the fever itself, than to the size and situation of the houses in which it occurred, I am sorry that at present I cannot give you any more particulars on these heads. I would certainly revisit some of the houses in which I observed this fever, and tell you in a particular manner both their size and situation, and the numbers of individuals who were affected in them ; but as that is impossible, I may state in general terms that the most of the individuals seized were crowded together in small apartments were of filthy habits, and destitute of the common necessities of life. Hoping you will excuse the unconnected manner in which haste has compelled me to make the few preceding remarks,

I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

ALEX. MAXWELL ADAMS, Surgeon.

Dr. Perry, St. Vincent Street.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS.

Bridgeton, 29th November, 1843.

Since the beginning of June last, there have occurred in the district practice in Bridgeton about 1200 cases of fever, and these have been almost exclusively amongst the poorest part of the population. As there are, however, other four gentlemen practising in this suburb, who have seen much of the present epidemic, and many cases that have had no medical attendance, the gross amount will not fall much short of 1600 cases, or about one ninth of the whole population.

The disease appears to have confined itself very markedly to those localities where the people were the poorest, the most crammed together, and in want of almost every comfort. The external circumstances of dwellings do not appear in any appreciable degree to have affected the intensity or continuance of the disease ; as in two places where the greatest number of cases occurred, and the disease was the most fatal, the buildings were kept tolerably clean in respect to sewers and dungsteads, and occupied airy and open situations, whilst on the other hand, in many buildings less favourably situated, but where the people were in more comfortable circumstances, fever was frequently observed without that marked tendency to diffuse itself which appeared in the poorer localities.

The present fever first appeared to any extent in Dublin Land, Main Street, a large building of 28 single apartments, but in an open and well-aired space.

The first family attacked in this land consisted of 10 individuals living in a small apartment, with only one bed, which was made of some straw and an old coverlet. The father, who was reduced to mendicity by rheumatism, lay on the naked floor with his clothes unchanged. With the comfort of fresh straw, and some parochial aid, the whole family was treated for fever in this miserable abode.

Since that time there have been in this property 98 cases of fever and 7 deaths. One-half of the inhabitants may be reckoned poor but industrious trades people with families; the other half irregular and improvident, without much regard to cleanness or comfort.

No. 51, Dalmarnock Road, is another single building standing in a free and airy situation, and quite unconfined by any neighbouring houses. It is divided into 32 single apartments, and contains 165 inhabitants, who enter by one common stair. There have been here 107 cases of fever and 10 deaths. Eleven of the householders in this property were widows with families, the others were women deserted by their husbands; of the remainder some were poor weavers, with large families, or men following precarious employments, such as coal carriers; and two or three superannuated persons living chiefly by begging. 14 of the houses possessed almost no furniture but the straw bed and the smallest possible amount of cooking utensils, and the rest were very poorly furnished.

In Shaw's Court, John Street, situated also in an open neighbourhood, but inhabited by very poor people, there have been 70 cases and 4 deaths. Several of the houses here present the same squalid and comfortless appearance with those at 57, Dalmarnock Road, a straw bed and a few dishes comprising all their plenishing.

Horne's Close and Moffat's Land present a very poor locality, situated between Savoy Street and Dale Street. In these there have been 164 cases and 3 deaths. This is the second dirtiest neighbourhood in Bridgeton. The people are poor and improvident, and live, as it were, from hand to mouth. In two small and damp apartments in Moffat's Land there resided 23 inmates; 22 of these had fever, and were long in recovering from ailments consequent to fever, by want of food and other comforts.

In Calderhead's Land, No. 20, Dalmarnock Road, there have been 57 cases and 2 deaths. This place is evidently the dirtiest in the district, and cannot shame its dwellers, as they are equally filthy both in their houses and persons, the proprietor forming no exception. The land is divided into 16 apartments, among the occupants of which are 7 widows, 2 women deserted by their husbands, 3 weavers with families, a person who gathers bones, and one or two paupers and mendicants. Several other places in Bridgeton might be noticed in the same manner. These, however, are always the most prominent during any season of want or sickness, and furnish a painful evidence of the destitution in this class of society.

From a representation made to Mr. M'Laren, of the Barony Parish, I was latterly allowed to furnish straw for those whose beds were worn out, and I find that in a few weeks I have had occasion to give straw for 100 families.

One remarkably fatal instance of the prevailing epidemic occurred in Martin Street. A family named Moffat, consisting of the mother, three

daughters above 20 years of age, and a child, were seized by fever, and all died within three weeks. The three first died without any medical attendance; the fourth died suddenly from collapse during the crisis; and the last was carried off by head affection. The disease prevailed through all the connections of this family.

In the neighbouring district of East Calton (under the care of Mr. Lauderdale), disease has prevailed to a much greater extent, and under precisely the same circumstances of poverty and destitution. In Charley's Close, Merrillie's Close, Landressy Street, and Mill Street, the number of cases has been much larger in the same space, in consequence of the greater density of population; especially in the latter street, where the disease was first observed.

It may be remarked that since the present epidemic has begun in some measure to subside, typhus fever has increased. Within the last six weeks about 14 cases of severe typhus have come under my own notice.

To Dr. Perry.

ROBT. GARROWAY, M.D.

6th Dec, 1843.

Sir,—My district is confined to old Gorbals, where the prevailing epidemic has raged to a very considerable extent; chiefly in Main St., Rutherglen Loan, Malta St., Buchan St., and Clyde Terrace.

In the back lands of closes 6 and 13, Clyde Terrace, not a single family or member of a family has escaped. The inhabitants are composed of fish hawkers, slaughter-house workers, beggars, &c., very dissipated and particularly dirty. The tenements in 13 are unfit for any purpose in the shape of habitation.

In Main St., every close has been overrun with it, particularly more so on the west side.

The closes chiefly worthy of notice, for extent of disease, filth, and destitution, are 14, Sweep's Close, 25; 65, Sun Close, 102; Parker's Close, 108, 112 and 151, and Chapel Close. The inhabitants are of the very lowest order—coal merchants, hawkers, beggars, thieves, &c.—principally Irish. In a lodging house in Parker Close, 102, saw ten individuals lying with the fever at same time, in one apartment, and that den without a window. The Sweep's and Parker's Close are truly miserable places.

Every close on the south side of Rutherglen Loan has been severely affected; 8, 20, and 38, very bad. In the close 17, Malta St., not a single family has escaped. The whole are Irish.

In Moncrieff St. the close 11 has been most seriously affected—in repeated instances from four to seven lying in one small apartment at same time.

In Buchan St., the closes 5, 10, and 21, have suffered most severely. In close 5, which is situated immediately behind the Gorbals slaughter-house, not a single family has escaped. In one apartment, where six were lying huddled together upon the floor among shavings and straw, I refused to enter until it was cleaned, in consequence of the abominable stench. In fact the majority of the houses are neither so clean or well flavoured as their neighbour the slaughter-house.

From the numbers affected at one time, the epidemic would have worn itself out sooner, but for the number of lodging houses which the closes in Gorbals are filled with; every week brings a new set of lodgers, and as a matter of course a new list of patients. A very small portion of the

patients are natives, principally those who have obtained a claim on the parish by residence, or have no claim ; merely temporary lodgers ; chiefly Irish and Highlanders.

WM. STRANG, Surgeon.

16, Clyde Terrace.

1, Cranston Place, Anderston, 13th Dec., 1843.

Sir,—Enclosed is a report of the number of cases of influenza in Anderston amongst the poor. I have not yet procured a map convenient enough to jot the localities where the disease mostly prevailed, but will have it prepared in a short time. Be kind enough to state any particulars I may have omitted in the report which you wish to know ; and

I am,

Yours respectfully,

GEO. M'EWAN, Surgeon.

To Dr. Perry.

Dec., 1843.

In the very outset of this report I would deplore the vast amount of improvidence and intemperance, with an almost total want of moral principle, prevalent among the poor, acting as sources of continuous counteraction to the best endeavours to ameliorate their condition. The point of paramount importance consists not merely in endeavouring to eradicate a pestilence when it has once taken root, but in the absolute necessity of removing the immediate causes, and of unweariedly employing every means of improving the moral and religious character of the population, especially the young, who seem almost alone to be influenced by education.

800 cases of the prevailing epidemic have come under my notice in the short period of six months ; and these for the most part in the dirtiest districts of this burgh—in ill-ventilated under-ground cellars, and in old houses. I have witnessed ten persons prostrate with the disease, besides twelve more, likewise inmates in an under-ground apartment, through a very filthy entrance, with little light in the apartment, and a bundle of shavings, the only bed for these starved and most destitute individuals. 250 cases occurred in one building, which contains 65 houses or departments, entered by a common staircase. This place is called Houldsworth's Barracks, and the moral character of the inmates is in keeping with the wretchedness of their houses. The epidemic has been certainly mild, and the mortality has been very small, except with the aged, the hungered, and debauched. Notwithstanding the extreme mildness of the fever and influenza, they shewed a strong tendency to extend themselves where the slightest encouragement was afforded, and very rarely indeed was such encouragement absent, so that almost invariably in 4 or 5 days the whole occupants of the house were affected ; and the debility succeeding the relapses, and the badly prepared condition of the poor, created more suffering than can well be described. The following suggestions are respectfully submitted for consideration :—

1st, Considering the impropriety of allowing cases of fever to be treated in the wretched houses of the poor, and the great importance of a speedy removal to an hospital, where all the appliances of art can be made available for a speedy restoration to health, without risk of communicating it,

not only to the other inmates of the same dwelling, but most probably to the whole neighbourhood.

2d. That districts be divided into sections, whence overseers would visit a certain number of families, and encourage cleanly habits, and removing those affected with infectious diseases with all proper despatch, and superintend in subsequent fumigation, &c.

3d. To suggest cleanly habits in respect to individuals, as well as enforcing the washing of back closes and passages, and to remove pig houses, &c., &c., from densely populated localities, and other sanitary suggestions too varied to decide upon in a short notice.

GEORGE M'EWAN, Surgeon,
Cranston Place, Anderston.

To Dr. Perry.

32, Eglinton St., 9th Jan., 1844.

Dear Sir,—In compliance with your request, you will find annexed a rough calculation of the majority of the fever patients attended by me during the epidemic lately in Glasgow :—

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Number of females, | 134 |
| do. of males, | 58—192 |
| Of these :— | |
| Above 15 years of age, | 119 |
| Children below that age, | 73—192 |

These were located chiefly in the following places :—Cook St. in Company's Land, Melville St., Wallace St., Dale St., Nelson St., Port Eglinton, Main Street, Gorbals, and Rutherglen Road.

Upwards of three-fourths of the above were very poor individuals, principally weavers and labourers; their houses corresponding with their poverty, being small, and numbers huddled together, without ventilation except through broken panes of glass in their windows. The stench on entering some of their houses was so great that I had sometimes to return to the door till I recovered from the suffocating sensation. Their bed cloth was in numerous instances rags, and far from cleanly.

In one land in Cook St., called the Company's Land, there were upwards of 100 cases alone, some receiving medical advice, while others I believe did not. There are many cases I saw only once, which are not enumerated in the foregoing statement, and which would swell the list considerably, consequently I go within the mark in saying 192.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

To Dr. Perry.

D. THOMAS.

GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS,
GARTNAVEL.

PRINTED AT THE PRESS OF THE INSTITUTION.
1844.



