

Report to the superintendents and visitors of sections in the recent Sanitary Visitation Movement, with suggestions as to a permanent scheme : also, proceedings of public meeting, and appendix of relative documents / submitted by Dr. Gairdner.

Contributors

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REPORT
TO THE
SUPERINTENDENTS AND VISITORS OF
SECTIONS
IN THE RECENT
SANITARY VISITATION MOVEMENT,
WITH SUGGESTIONS AS TO A
PERMANENT SCHEME;
ALSO,
PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC MEETING, AND
APPENDIX OF RELATIVE DOCUMENTS.

*Submitted by Dr. GAIRDNER, Medical Officer for Glasgow, on behalf of the
Authorities, to the Members of a Committee appointed on Friday,
April 19th, 1867, and to others interested in the Sanitary
Visitation Movement above mentioned.*

MAY, 1867:

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REPORT, &c.

I SHALL endeavour in this Report to present, as briefly and clearly as possible, the general result of the answers to questions submitted by me, on January 8th, 1867, with a view to elicit the opinion and suggestions of Superintendents and Visitors on the expediency of a Scheme of Permanent Sanitary Visitation, carried on by voluntary agencies connected with the different Congregations.

The questions submitted were as follows:—

1. In each Section, and in each Subdivision of each Section under a single Superintendent, how many of the families visited are in circumstances to require an occasional visit on sanitary grounds, even when Epidemic Disease is not known to be present or impending?

2. How often—*i.e.*, at what intervals of time on an average—should the visits be repeated in ordinary times, so as to secure the full benefit of the sympathy and support of the Visitors?

3. How many families in each Subdivision could a single Visitor easily overtake at this rate of visitation? or what number of Visitors would permanently supply the Subdivision?

4. Any further suggestions arising from the practical experience of Visitors or Superintendents as to the working of a permanent Scheme on the general basis now in operation?

To these questions the number of formal answers received hitherto amounts to between twenty and thirty, mostly from Superintendents, and, therefore, representing the results of experience in considerable Sections of the recent visitation; besides which, other replies of a less formal kind, or repre-

senting smaller divisions of Visitors, have reached me from time to time in connection with the general correspondence. One or two of the Sections have embodied their experience in minutes, made at a meeting either of Superintendents or of Visitors. One or two gentlemen have written me, at much greater length, their views upon the subject. Except in a few instances, it has been impossible for me to do justice to these valuable communications by separate written acknowledgments; and I have therefore to request that my thanks for all of them, and the chief practical inferences suggested to my mind by the perusal of these communications, may be considered as comprised once for all in this paper.

In general terms it may be stated that, with two exceptions noted below, the tone of the whole of the replies is favourable, without reserve, to a permanent Scheme of the kind indicated. In many instances the Visitors express themselves as being pleased with their charitable and beneficent work, and most anxious to continue it; in others, the Clergymen or Superintendents convey the like impression as to the favour with which the Scheme is regarded in their Districts, and state explicitly that they are prepared to furnish the required number of Visitors for the future. In one or two instances views are advanced which demand consideration, and these will be alluded to immediately in connection with the statements in detail. I think it, however, of more importance to consider, first, the two exceptional cases above alluded to, as involving opinions generally more or less unfavourable to a permanent Scheme. In one of these cases, the Secretary of one of the larger Sections expresses his personal opinion that a permanent Scheme of Visitation can with difficulty be maintained, and (as I understand him) perhaps ought not to be attempted.

In answer to a particular communication from me, this gentleman writes as follows; and as the document is not written officially or in the name of the section, I think it better to withhold the name of the writer, and to deal with it as the opinion of an individual, though of one who has given

us cordial and good assistance in the temporary Visitation Scheme:—

“As stated in my last, I have no doubt much good might be expected from the establishment of a permanent staff of Visitors. Still, I must confess, I do not see very well how such a staff can be kept up. The operations of the past four or five months were understood from the first to be only temporary; and the knowledge of that fact, I believe, contributed to some extent to secure success for the movement. To ask many of the Visitors to undertake the same duty for a permanency, will, I fear, be to ask more than they can well afford to give. Many of them have their hands already pretty well filled with congregational work in their respective churches; and, however willing to aid the movement, could not give the time needful for carrying it on. I only state this to show my mind in the matter: not as reasons why nothing ought to be attempted. If it is decided to go on, I will be ready to lay it before our Congregational Visitors, and report the result if desired.”

It is right to state that this very valuable communication—valuable for its perfect candour and good faith, and from its presenting views that might have been overlooked had they not found a voice in the writer—is from the eastern quarter of the city, where the largest proportion of the Visitors has been drawn from the working-classes, and where, accordingly, the difficulties of finding persons who could give the necessary time to the work were at the highest point. No one will for a moment suppose that there has been any want of sympathy with the object proposed, either on the part of the writer of this letter, or of those whom he represents; on the contrary, I am fully persuaded that the same spirit has reigned throughout all the Sections. But in this particular department of the work, it must be admitted that the practical difficulties have been much greater than elsewhere; and this fact ought not to be lost sight of in any proposal for a general and united effort towards a permanent Visitation.

The official Report from Section VII., which embraces Cam-lachie and Parkhead, London Road and Dalmarnock Road, to the Eastern Boundary, Bridgeton, Mile-End, and the Eastern

Division of Calton to Abercromby Street and William Street, shows that a population of upwards of 50,000 has been diligently visited by about 230 Visitors from 12 different Congregations; including three Established, three United Presbyterian, two Free Church, one Evangelical Union, one Episcopalian, one Roman Catholic, and one Wesleyan. The reception of the Visitors is stated to have been "generally or almost universally favourable," and the improved appearance of many of the dwellings showed that "the advice given was in most cases acted upon." It is, therefore, only a question of time and of men, not in any respect of zeal and goodwill, whether this Section may be able by its own unassisted efforts to support a permanent staff of Visitors upon any plan which may be proposed. It will be observed that the proportion of families to each Visitor during the late crisis cannot have been less than between 40 and 50—a proportion which I should regard as probably too great, especially in the case of a population so largely composed of the working-classes, to be permanently maintained without an undue strain upon this benevolent agency.

The other communication referred to as containing views generally unfavourable to the permanency of the movement, is from one of the Superintendents who has given most unwearied attention to the Visitation in its temporary form, but who, like the preceding, writes only as conveying a personal opinion. It is right, however, to state, that this gentleman is an influential member of the Roman Catholic Church. He writes:—

"I am asked my opinion as to the *permanent action* of the present organization, and I shall give it candidly. It is an extraordinary one, and I think cannot be expected to operate but in extraordinary circumstances, viz., in times of epidemics, cholera, &c. It can be kept in action so long as there is any apprehension of cholera. When that fear ceases, it might also stop working. However, I am of opinion that the organization should remain as it is, but passive; waiting any future occasion, when a word from the Sanitary Department could put the whole machinery in motion."

I shall for the present avoid making any remarks upon this communication. My views on the general subject will appear further on.

Among the much more numerous Reports which may be described as entirely favourable to the principle of a permanent Visitation, on a basis more or less similar to the present, there are few which require to be singled out as placing this opinion on any statement of reasons different from the rest. The Rev. Mr. Macgregor, of the Tron Church, has expressed what I believe to be the general opinion, in terms so brief and yet so clear, that, as coming from one whose work lies in the very centre of the most dangerous district, his few words will add great weight to this Report:—

“The visitors have been very much gratified with the cordial reception which they have almost universally received. It is their unanimous opinion that the present system of visitation should be continued for at least some time to come, although the visits need not be so frequent.”

Not less to the point, though a little more in detail, are the recommendations of the Rev. Mr. M'Coll, in reporting on the operations of Section IV., which includes the whole of the worst districts lying west of the High Street, from the river to Cathedral Street:—

“On all hands the Visitors report a cordial welcome from the people. In some of the places most noted for habitual dirt and disorder—such as Jeffrey's Close and others—the most marked improvement was visible from the first; stairs, as well as houses, being almost models of cleanliness.

There seemed to be no difficulty in securing a sufficient number of intelligent Visitors. The various Congregations engaged had in reserve more visitors than were needed; and the various Superintendents report the utmost diligence and enthusiasm on the part of all engaged.

The Sub-Conveners of this Section are unanimous in their approval of the experiment that has been made. There has been no difficulty in subdividing the work among the various Congregations, or in allocating the Visitors. They believe that a permanent agency of this kind, acting in concert with the regular Sanitary Staff, ought to form one of

the constituted charities of the city. They believe that in any case the present movement will add a new and important element to the Standing Mission Agencies connected with the various Congregations in the city; but there are manifest advantages in having a united effort of this kind brought to bear on the general health of the community. The Districts, it is suggested, might be left with the present Sub-Committees, such a number of Visitors being kept on as may, perhaps at more lengthened intervals than now, preserve an interest in Sanitary Matters, not only in the various localities visited, but among the Visitors themselves. A reserve of Visitors might be kept enrolled, so that on the first note of alarm from the Sanitary Office the various posts might be again, as now, fully occupied."

The Rev. Wm. Scott, of Ebenezer Chapel, Waterloo Street, expresses in like earnest and strong terms his desire for the permanence of the movement; and states, as do the authors of several other communications, that in its future progress it might gradually develop a character more in harmony with its origin, by leaving the "inspection and correction of external nuisances to the police" more than hitherto, and directing the attention of the Visitors more to the internal domestic arrangements. With this letter and its object my sympathy is very great, and I have answered it privately at some length. There can be no doubt that external nuisances are, technically, a matter of police, and that the more the attention of voluntary visitors can be withdrawn from them the better. It is to be remembered, however, that the police force is a fluctuating body of men, chosen, in many instances, from a rank in society that does not always ensure great refinement of habits or accurate knowledge of sanitary details, even as regards the most common nuisances. Moreover, this force numbers only about 700, and the duties of each member of it are very numerous, apart altogether from the detection of causes of physical offence in outlying courts and alleys. I desire neither to criticize nor to defend a body from whom we derive important assistance, when I state advisedly that nuisances of a very serious kind may frequently be in full operation, either unknown to the police, or not considered

by the officer on duty to form a case for his interference. In many of the worst courts there is a state of *normal* uncleanness (as it might be called) due to the almost incorrigible habits of the population, and nothing short of an influence upon them, extending both to the inside and the outside of the dwelling, will awaken a sense of what is due to decency, and to the comfort of their less degraded neighbours. The policeman, observing this daily as a fact beyond his control, becomes gradually accustomed to it; his mind is "subdued to what it works in," and from the nature of his official relation to the people, he is disabled from raising them up to a higher level of physical comfort by the only real remedy of friendly personal intercourse, entitling him to give advice. Under these circumstances, I think the Sanitary Visitor, who carries no official prescription, will often be able to awaken a sense of responsibility on the part of the inhabitants of such places for the state even of the exterior of their houses, and to inform them of the means by which grievous faults of cleanliness, &c., are to be remedied.

In the main, however, I agree with Mr. Scott, that the chief attention of the Sanitary Visitor, under a permanent Scheme, would be devoted to the interior of the dwelling, and the promotion *there* of habits of cleanliness, regularity, temperance, economy, domestic comfort, and happiness, and all that is connected with these, whether as cause or effect. This feeling has been so eloquently and truly expressed in the recently published Report of Section I. (see Newspapers of February 23), that it is unnecessary for me to say more than to express my entire concurrence in the statements in the last half of that excellent Report, with the single qualification above-mentioned as to the question of the competency of the Police, unaided, to deal satisfactorily with external nuisances. It is, however, I trust, by no means improbable that time, and a gradually increasing experience, may develop so much additional efficiency in the different departments of the municipal service, as to dispense with any except occasional causes of complaint on the part of Visitors. In the mean-

time, the Sanitary Office presents itself as a medium of communication for the reporting of such complaints in the proper quarter, and it will continue to perform this duty in the event of a permanent Visitation movement being instituted.*

There is another point on which Mr. Scott's letter is suggestive of ideas that must have occurred to many of the Visitors, but which would form so considerable an extension of the original programme, that they can, in the meantime, only be thrown out as topics for discussion. He writes:—

"The Visitors (of Mr. Scott's Sub-Section) feel deeply that merely to examine the internal state of the dwellings of the poor, and use means for their amelioration—while it may worthily occupy part of a Christian Visitor's attention—ought not to engross the whole. They meet with cases of sickness and destitution, as well as moral and spiritual wants; and they crave the liberty and the means of ministering to these necessities. It seems a mockery to talk of cleanliness and wholesome habits of living to those who, through affliction or dearth of employment, are almost deprived of the means of living at all. . . . Our Visitors therefore ask, could a fund be raised by voluntary subscription, and entrusted to the visitors throughout the city, for distribution to the deserving poor? Could a staff of Visitors be organized from various churches, of sufficient discrimination, and prudence, and energy, to administer such a fund? Or could so great a revolution be effected as this, that the legal poor-rates should be dispensed by the present officials on the recommendation of the district Visitors? If a satisfactory settlement of these questions could be found, we believe that a great deal of good might be done, and a vast amount of secret sorrow might be alleviated."

Mr. Scott is probably more or less aware (but some of the readers of this Report may not) that these are precisely the

* It seems desirable to explain, with reference to certain complaints of representations which have not been attended to, that every complaint made in proper form, and which was found, on examination, to be well founded, and presumably remediable, has been forwarded at once to the proper executive department. In some instances the difficulties experienced have been considerable, and numerous representations have been made to the Sanitary Committee, especially in regard to the more frequent cleansing of ashpits, &c.

questions raised in this city by Dr. Chalmers in 1821, in connection with the missionary operations carried on by him as minister of St. John's Parish, with such marvellous energy and success, during his too brief incumbency; with this difference, that, instead of seeking any share of control over the legal funds for the relief the poor, Dr. Chalmers formally abandoned all claim to these funds; and, without hesitation, assumed the entire relief out of the church-door collections, of a parish of 10,000 inhabitants: acting herein on his cherished and firmly-maintained principle, that legal relief was altogether an error—an extravagant and demoralizing system—and therefore altogether inconsistent with a sound political economy, and an effective administration of Christian charity. The keen and warm debates which attended the promulgation of these views, both at this time and twenty years afterwards, have not, even now, resulted in any approach to uniformity in opinion; and it may therefore be taken for granted, that the relief of destitution in general is too complicated and serious an operation to be contemplated at present in connection with our Visitation movement. At the same time, there is a class of cases to which relief from charitable funds might often be afforded, under a wise and systematic control, so as not to be liable to abuse or excess. When there is sickness, or severe accident of a temporary kind, in a poor family, parochial relief is often inexpedient or impossible; indeed, so long as the head of the family is able to work, relief is absolutely denied by law, however urgent the circumstances. In cases of epidemic disease, under special conditions laid down in the Glasgow Police Act, a limited and exceptional relief may in such cases be afforded by the Magistrates' Committee; and in times of fever or cholera, this mode of relief is sufficiently elastic to cover nearly the whole difficulty as regards these diseases. But in ordinary seasons it would be greatly in the public interest, that some means of protecting the sick poor from sudden destitution and hardship should be vested in hands sufficiently skilled and business-like to guard against imposition and

abuse, and yet so far open to the generous impulses of charity as to meet the case of the deserving and uncomplaining poor, when involved in sudden calamity. Such a fund might surely be so managed as to be available, on the recommendation of Visitors; but I incline to think that its actual administration would require to be in the hands of a careful and permanent small Central Committee, aided by a certain number of officials, who would find ample employment in the investigation of doubtful cases, and the recording of results for future guidance. The whole of this subject, however, might well be remitted for consideration, in connection with the question of a permanent Sanitary Visitation, to those who, by experience of the late movement, and by knowledge of the habits of the poor, may be considered most competent to give advice on such points of administration.

I shall conclude this Report by a very brief statement of the general tenor of the answers which, on the basis of our past experience, may be given to the four questions asked at the commencement.

1. It would appear probable that, *at the least*, 30,000 to 40,000 families, distributed over many parts of the city, will require a considerable amount of permanent sanitary supervision and visitation.

2. To these families a visit once a month, or oftener in some cases (but in others less often), may be required in ordinary seasons.

3. A Visitor can for the most part undertake from 20 to 25 families.

4. It is probable that a total number of from 1500 to 2000 visitors permanently available, and guided by a Central Committee in their operations, and by one or two paid officials to keep books and accounts, and in some cases perhaps to administer funds or distribute clothing, coals, &c., when required for necessitous cases, would suffice for the whole city.

It is to me somewhat doubtful whether the sectional arrangement adopted during the late period of epidemic

sickness ought to be maintained. Arrangements with the Parochial Boards, with the Sanitary Office, and other public departments, would be greatly facilitated by passing all business through a single Committee; and if the administration of pecuniary or other charity comes to form a considerable part of the Scheme, it will be absolutely essential that the books and other information relating to the whole city should be kept, and all such business transacted, from a single office. Moreover, it has become apparent that some of the Sections are much more *self-supporting*, so to speak, than others. Something might be done to reduce this inequality—to bring the strong to the aid of the weak—by means of a Central Committee, who might so arrange that very necessitous districts, with large populations wholly or almost entirely composed of the classes devoid of much leisure, might receive a certain proportion of Visitors or Superintendents from other more favourably situated districts.

All these questions, however, and others, will require careful consideration in connection with past experience, and with a view to future efficiency; and, in submitting these few suggestions, it is not my wish to anticipate the discussion of them, but rather to furnish data for their due consideration by an impartial Representative Committee—the nomination of which, I trust, will be one of the useful results of the aggregate meeting of Visitors and others, which it is proposed to hold on the 19th inst. And as I shall have an opportunity on that occasion of joining with the Authorities in an expression of warm and cordial thanks to all who have given so much of their time and attention to this good work, I may be excused if I simply but gratefully acknowledge at present the personal kindness and courtesy which, in the discharge of public duty, it has been my good fortune to receive from all concerned in the Sanitary Visitation of 1866.

The good results of that movement, in promoting the welfare of the poor, have been not less apparent to me than its admirable influence in kindling, through society at large,

a spirit of humane interest in the less fortunate members of the community. If that noble spirit of sympathy and brotherhood which was thus called out freely in the face of a dangerous crisis, shall become a permanent power for good, through the agency of such an Association as it is the tendency of this Report to encourage, the Cholera of 1866 may well be recorded in history as one of the greatest blessings that has ever come upon the people of Glasgow,—

“The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
With blessings on your head.”

W. T. GAIRDNER.

April 13, 1867.

SANITARY VISITATION MOVEMENT.

MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

A PUBLIC MEETING of those interested in the late Sanitary Visitation Movement in Glasgow, was held in the City Hall, on the evening of Friday, April 19th, 1867, for the purpose of passing resolutions expressive of the thanks of the authorities to the Visitors and others for their energetic support and assistance during the apprehended epidemic of cholera, and appointing a Committee to consider and report as to the best means of securing permanently, by a definite voluntary organization, the objects aimed at by the late Sanitary Visitation and other collateral objects. The Honourable the Lord Provost occupied the chair; and on the platform were ex-Provost Blackie; Dr. W. T. Gairdner (Medical Officer of the City); the Rev. Drs. N. Macleod, Jas. Taylor, M'Taggart, and Joseph Brown; the Rev. Messrs. J. M. Lang, Somerville, Burns (Cathedral), Borland, R. Wallace, M'Dermid, J. A. Johnston, Macgregor, Russell, Monteith, and Robertson; Councillors Ure, Arthur, W. Brown, and Sharp; Deacon-Convener Blyth; Dr. M'Gill; Major Holms; Gilbert Heron, Esq.; George M'Leod, Esq.; Robert Westlands, Esq.; Peter Hamilton, Esq., and other gentlemen.

The proceedings having been opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. M'Taggart,

The LORD PROVOST said—Gentlemen, we are met to-night to return thanks to those gentlemen who have taken a part in a movement which has been a complete success—I mean the Sanitary Visitation of our City. (Applause.) Looking back to the autumn of last year, when we were threatened with a visitation of cholera, a system of house to house visitation was organized, and was carried most successfully into operation. I had the honour shortly after I was called to the civic chair to preside at a meeting in Mr. Somerville's church to hear the report of the First Section of that Visitation Committee; and the other Sections have since given in most satisfactory reports. It is fortunate we have reason to congratulate ourselves that the apprehended visit of cholera passed away—but the works of this sanitary movement have

remained; for there is no doubt that, although the fear which called the movement into operation was happily not realized, still the visitation has been productive of much good to the lower classes; and I hope one result of this evening's deliberations may be that all sections of the community—all the various congregations throughout the city—may unite in making some arrangement by which, in a greater or less degree, this visitation may be continued. (Applause.) We regret exceedingly that, in consequence of this meeting having inadvertently been fixed for Good Friday, many gentlemen who take a deep interest in this movement have been prevented from attending. Numerous letters of apology have been sent, but I will read only one or two of them.—His Lordship then read the following letters from the Revs. R. S. Oldham, Dr. Eadie, and J. Farmer (R.C.C.):—

“194 Renfrew Street, April 17, 1867.

“MY DEAR SIR,—It is a matter of great regret to me that, from the Sanitary Meeting having been called for Good Friday, the Episcopal clergy of the city will be virtually excluded from taking part in it. Apart from all other considerations, most of us have evening services on that day, and so cannot either attend ourselves or ask our people to do so. No doubt the object of the meeting is one quite in harmony with the spirit of the day; and indeed the work of Christian sympathy and kindness which it is called to inaugurate, can only be properly conducted with the spectacle of the first Good Friday in view. But for that very reason I feel disappointed at not being able to take part in it. I feel this the more because it has long been a subject of deep and serious regret to me that there is not a more common and united action among those who are endeavouring to carry out benevolent and philanthropic objects among the poor in Glasgow. The Sanitary Movement seemed likely to achieve in some degree such a result, and I trust may yet be found to do so. I wish to add that I think the thirty-three gentlemen who acted as visitors from my own congregation performed their duty in so efficient a manner as to entitle them to the highest praise. Any services I can render in the same good cause for the future are entirely at the disposal of the Lord Provost; and I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

“Professor Gairdner.

“R. S. OLDHAM.”

“13 Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow, Friday.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I regret that it is out of my power to be at your meeting to-night. The Visitation Scheme has done immense

good, for which I and every one else ought to thank cordially the philanthropic agents. If you or the Lord Provost read any apologies for absence, please present mine.—Yours sincerely,

“JOHN EADIE.”

“St. Joseph's, North Woodside Road, April 13, 1867.

“DEAR DR. GAIRDNER,—I am just in receipt of your circular, and hasten to assure you of my thorough sympathy with the movement; at the same time you must kindly accept my apology for not being able to attend the meeting in the City Hall on Friday. It is, perhaps, of all other days in the year the most inconvenient for Catholics, lay or clerical. We have special services and sermon to commemorate the passion and death of our Lord, beginning in our Church precisely at eight P.M., to which all our good Catholics are sure to come. With this excuse, I trust our absence may not elicit any unfavourable comments.—Yours respectfully,

“J. FARMER.”

His Lordship then said—Those gentlemen from various sections of the clergy, though they are not able to be with us to-night, cordially enter into the feelings of this meeting, and will be most happy to co-operate in carrying out the objects contemplated. (Applause.)

Dr. GAIRDNER was then called upon, and read the following statement:—My Lord Provost, It has been one of the characteristics of the Sanitary Visitation movement that it has not owed its form, or even its existence, to the theories of any individual, whether official or non-official, but has taken shape, as it were, spontaneously, from the desire felt in society at large not to be wanting to the urgency of a grave crisis, the nature and gravity of which were throughout apparent to every one. Hence, in recalling a few of the leading facts and dates connected with this movement, and, with these, its mode of origin, to the notice of this meeting, I shall not be under the necessity of discussing any of the views which may have contributed to give success to the movement up to this point, or which may tend to encourage or to discourage further efforts in the future. It will be sufficient for the purpose at present in view if I can give you a clear and succinct narrative of the past, such as may form part of the history of the movement, to be embodied in the proceedings of this meeting.

It was in the beginning of August, 1866, that indications of

the approach of epidemic cholera became so clearly defined and so threatening as to call for instant preparations on the part of the authorities for a possible outbreak. (See Appendix No. 1.) Among these preparations were many which need scarcely be alluded to here—the organization of medical assistance, of drugs, hospitals, comforts for the sick, transport, a preventive service, regulations for the harbour, an accessory cleansing service, distribution and supervision of water supply, &c., &c. In so far as these powers were to be exercised on a footing of epidemic pressure, they were vested by law in the Magistrates' Committee; in so far as they were mere developments of ordinary powers, they emanated from the Board of Police as a whole, guided, in most instances, by the recommendations of its Sanitary Committee. In the very beginning of August, accordingly, the extraordinary powers of the Magistrates' Committee were brought into operation, and it was seen to be expedient to intrust to the Lord Provost (Mr. John Blackie, jun.), and the medical officer, a large discretion in making appointments and providing material preparations of the kind above referred to. The medical service, though naturally a source of great anxiety and consideration, presented no important difficulty: about eighty medical gentlemen of established reputation, and a considerable number of junior volunteers, were in a short time found ready to act under regulations issued by the Magistrates' Committee, to any extent to which their services might be required in the different districts assigned to them. The steps taken as regards hospitals are already well known to the public; and it is only necessary to state that the Magistrates were most fully prepared for almost any conceivable emergency in the treatment of actual disease, and had formally relieved the parishes from all direct responsibility for choleraic cases, in order to secure to the utmost the simplicity and uniformity of action necessary in giving medical relief in a disease of such extreme and rapid character. But there remained this serious difficulty—How were the instructions thought necessary for the general population of so large a city to be carried to 90,000 households in the spirit of friendly advice, and without creating panic or even undue alarm? How were the great lessons of the epidemic, the well-ascertained facts as to its causation and prevention, the knowledge of the means provided, the errors of detail in individual households, the remedies for these errors, the necessity for instant information in certain cases, the mode of giving that information, to be conveyed simul-

taneously, as it were, to all points of this complicated society of nearly half a million of people? The task was not an easy, perhaps it was an impossible, one; yet it was in the effort to solve this great difficulty that the authorities found themselves face to face with the position that ended in the Sanitary Visitation movement, of which we have met to-night to celebrate the successful issue.

The first attempt to enlist the Christian beneficence of the churches on behalf of the preparations for the epidemic was not, however, of the kind above alluded to. An appeal was made by the Medical Officer on the 16th August, through a circular letter printed under the authority of the Magistrates, to each congregation in Glasgow, to aid in furnishing, 1st, a staff of nurses to be enrolled for active service in case of a severe epidemic; and, 2nd, a certain number of lady superintendents of nurses to control and regulate the new material thus intended to be organized in the face of an emergency. The success of this appeal was very limited; indeed it soon became apparent (as was in some degree foreseen) that the education and training of a staff of efficient nurses, and even the discovery of materials for such a staff, is not at all a work to be done under the pressure of an epidemic season. A few names were enrolled by Dr. Russell at the City of Glasgow Fever Hospital, and every care was taken to develop as far as possible the results of this movement; but it cannot be denied that had cholera appeared in Glasgow last year with anything approaching the severity of previous epidemics, or of the late epidemic in the east end of London, or in many small towns and villages in Scotland, there would have been a frightful amount of suffering due to the inadequate care of the sick, from the nearly absolute want of trustworthy nurses to attend on them at their own homes. I abstain however, from pursuing the subject, as foreign to the object of this meeting.

The appeal to the churches, however, was much more fruitful in another direction. The necessity existing for the services of approved persons as "visitors of districts, to act under the instructions of the Sanitary and Medical Staff," had been brought under the notice of many persons whose spontaneous eagerness for an opportunity of doing good proved in the end much stronger than was at all anticipated; inasmuch as the authorities, however desirous of carrying out the programme of the Medical Officer, had certainly not been led to expect so large a sacrifice of time and of ease on the

part of so many independent and non-official persons as it was subsequently proved could be drawn into the field by the sense of Christian duty. A few days after the letter above referred to, the Medical Officer received a visit from the Rev. J. Marshall Lang, who, speaking on behalf of a number of the clergymen in Anderston with whom he had been in communication, stated that a very strong feeling had been expressed that something of a systematic kind might be done by the various churches acting in combination; not only with the view of supporting the authorities in their preparations against the epidemic, but also in order to give a practical direction to the Christian sympathy of the numerous congregations of the West End, who felt that the critical period demanded more than ordinary exertion, and that these exertions would be more effective if pursued by the churches in common, under the direction of the Medical Officer. It need hardly be added that this generous and well-timed proposal was immediately and gladly accepted, and became the germ of the Sanitary Visitation of 1866. Within a very few days more a committee had been formed, of which the Rev. A. N. Somerville acted as convener, while the Rev. Mr. Lang was honorary secretary. A scheme was next drawn out, which included every congregation having its operations within the district, and, with the aid of Mr. Mortimer Evans, some progress was soon made towards mapping out the western district of the city, so as to show the approximate population of each separate row of buildings, with the view of assigning a field to each congregation corresponding to the number of its volunteers, which was ascertained by frequent conferences, and by the cordial co-operation of the heads and office-bearers in each congregation. In the end, the preliminary work of subdivision was successfully accomplished, chiefly through the personal devotion of the gentlemen above named and a few others, both clergymen and laymen; and on the 12th of September 150 of the visitors were actually at work in their districts. On the evening of that day the whole body of visitors already enrolled was addressed by Dr. Gairdner and Dr. Dunlop on behalf of the Sanitary Authorities, and furnished with information as to the precautionary measures to be adopted against cholera, and as to the nature of the instructions which had been officially prepared, in so far as these could be made available in the houses of the poor by the visitors.

Meantime the contagion of the Anderston movement, so to

speak, had become apparent in the city at large, and as early as the 30th of August the Medical Officer was authorized by the Lord Provost to call a Meeting in the Lesser City Hall, on 3rd September, "for the purpose of consulting as to how far it may be possible or expedient to institute a systematic visitation of districts throughout the city, with the view of bringing the personal influence of members of Christian churches to bear on preparations against cholera." This meeting was largely attended, and resulted in the appointment of a General Committee, which immediately divided the town into nine sections, with a view to commencing operations, the original section in Anderston and the West End being slightly modified into Section I. of the new arrangement. The Rev. Mr. Lang, whose labours had been already so valuable and fruitful, was named Hon. Secretary to the movement, and continued to discharge this duty until Mr. Mark Bannatyne kindly consented to undertake the care of the minutes and general business of correspondence in the sections, which had become very laborious, requiring the aid of a certain number of clerks. Mr. Mortimer Evans continued his services as Surveyor, and ultimately extended them by preparing a complete series of district maps of the whole city, as represented in the nine sections. Each section now worked independently, appointing its own conveners and sub-conveners, and arranging the congregational forces at its disposal in the manner which, on consultation with the sanitary officers, appeared best fitted to accomplish the end in view. Many of the sectional meetings were attended by the medical officers, and altogether the greatest harmony prevailed, not only as between the different denominations engaged in the good work, but between all of them and the authorities. Forms were devised, and placed in the hands of visitors, by which representations could be made to the Sanitary Office; printed instructions were circulated by thousands in every district and left in nearly every house, followed by personal communications and advice; a meeting of visitors was held in the East End similar to the one above described in Anderston; and ere long the work was in operation in every quarter of the city.

It is impossible to estimate aright the amount and quality of the assistance thus afforded to the authorities; but from the hundreds of requisitions that were made through the Sanitary Office, as regards various external improvements—from the very marked effect produced on the operations of

the Cleansing Department, and the almost numberless supplies of whitewash issued to the poor at the instance of visitors through the Sanitary Office, it is beyond all question that a great and useful work was in most districts faithfully and nobly performed. It would be presumption to assert that cholera was arrested by the Sanitary Visitation; but knowing the fact that cholera was most marvellously stayed in Glasgow in 1866, and that its entire victims were not more than 44—or, including choleraic diarrhoea, 68—in a city of nearly half a million of inhabitants, it may be not altogether presumptuous to suppose that this Visitation, among other causes, may have been among the preservative influences by which a great calamity has been, so far, averted from the city. Accordingly, on the 20th December, the Medical Officer having reported to a meeting of conveners of the nine sections that all traces of the epidemic had ceased, it was unanimously agreed “to recommend to the various churches within the sections a service of thanksgiving to Almighty God on the 1st day of 1867, for the merciful preservation of the city from choleraic disease.” This recommendation, though studiously divested of every appearance of authority, and placed upon the footing of a perfectly spontaneous movement of the churches, was very generally followed out at the date recommended; and every one must have been favourably impressed with the solemnity and sincerity of this great act of worship, performed as the fitting close of a work in which all forms and modes of difference of opinion in the things belonging to God had been for a time forgotten. (See Appendix No. 2.)

It is not for me, my Lord Provost, to point the moral of this movement, considered from the religious point of view; but I cannot refrain from one remark, which brings into view an aspect of our Sanitary Visitation not to be lost sight of, I trust, in any future development of it. Those primary needs which are expressed under the term “sanitary”—cleanliness, ventilation, free space in the home, decency, external comfort—may be of small account as compared with greater and more spiritual things in the eye of God, but they lie at the very root of the idea of civilization. And since it has pleased God to place our very highest emotions, in many instances, under the control of the bodily appetites, so that the more urgent need of the body will assert itself even before the soul can begin to be satisfied, may we not find in this order of things which Divine Providence has made for us the

true solution of some of our religious difficulties? Can we not make the care of some of these elementary and physical wants the basis of that union after which all hearts long, but for which, as a matter of religious aspiration, or even in the lower domain of education, we as yet watch in vain? It appears to me that not the least of the advantages of our Sanitary Visitation is to be found in the strictly neutral standing-room—*terra firma*, so to speak—that it has afforded for all religious parties to co-operate, without possible or probable cause of mutual jealousy or suspicion. We all know how difficult this co-operation has been found in the case of education. We all know how hopeless are entanglements which spring apparently from religion itself—at all events, from the partial views of Divine truth which are alone possible to poor human nature. Can we find in sanitary progress, if rightly undertaken as an act of faith and love, a basis for the charity which edifieth, as opposed to the knowledge which puffeth up? An “act of faith,” I said—*auto da fé!*—we know what that was in the vocabulary of a mediæval inquisitor! Can we rise to the conception of a new “act of faith,” one which shall aim at preserving, not destroying, the bodies of men in order to make it even possible to save their souls? and in the doing of which Protestant and Catholic may combine now and henceforth in striving to obliterate for ever the memory of that vile Spanish phrase, and of all the deep disgrace which it involves to our common human nature. That, I think, my Lord Provost, would be a noble work for a Good Friday, even in Presbyterian Scotland.

Councillor URE was next introduced, and said—As Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Board of Police, I am here to-night, to offer the hearty and sincere thanks of the municipal authorities to the gentlemen who have so nobly taken part in the recent Sanitary Visitation movement. From a provision in our local Police Act, the special sanitary supervision of the city, which in ordinary times comes under the charge of the Committee over which I have the honour to preside, is, in time of epidemics, transferred to the Lord Provost and Magistrates' Committee; hence it has not been my privilege to become officially connected with those who have been engaged in the movement: but I have not been, nor have my brethren of the Police Board been, uninterested spectators of the work that has been done; for in many ways it has come under our observation, and we have the greatest pleasure in thus publicly acknowledging it. Councillor Ure

then proposed the following resolution:—"That the thanks of the authorities are hereby most cordially tendered to the superintendents, visitors, and others who, during the late apprehended epidemic of cholera, combined with such promptitude and energy to aid the Magistrates and Sanitary Committee by diffusing information from house to house, and otherwise employing personal influence among the poor and among all classes of the community, so as to secure increased attention to order, sobriety, cleanliness, and other circumstances bearing on the public health. Further, that the thanks of the authorities are due, and are hereby given, to the Rev. J. Marshall Lang, as Honorary Secretary to the General Committee; and also to Mark Bannatyne, Esq., and Mortimer Evans, Esq., C.E., who (the former as Honorary Secretary for sectional business, and the latter as Surveyor in the preparation of district maps) rendered important services to the movement."

Councillor ARTHUR, in seconding the resolution, said—As a member of the section of the Police called the Sanitary Committee, I have had much pleasure, along with Mr. Ure, in hearing from time to time of the great good which has issued from the doings of these Sanitary Visitors. I feel quite satisfied that a meeting like this, gathered to offer the thanks of the public bodies for the services which this Visitation Association has done, would be incomplete indeed if it did not issue in forming something of a permanent nature. Valuable as the results of the past year have been, the objects of the Association have only been in a partial degree accomplished, because there have been given to the people among whom the visitors have gone many general ideas which may yet require more nursing to make them permanent. It would be a pity indeed if the ideas which have been instilled into the minds of so many should not be still further kept in their view, so as to impart to the people a higher estimate of the value of cleanliness, of spacious houses, of the ventilation of those houses, of sobriety, and all the other virtues which have been so properly placed in their view during the past year. I am quite satisfied that, in the hands of the parties by whom it has hitherto been so admirably managed, this work may be carried on to a still more beneficial extent than it has yet been. We who take part in the public business of the city, and, as members of the Police Board, regulate somewhat the *outward* sanitary character of the town, would gladly come here from time to time to tender our most hearty

thanks for such services as this Association has rendered during the past year. We feel certain that, while our labours would be made lighter and more agreeable by its efforts, our citizens would themselves receive larger benefit by the excellent instructions your Association has made it its duty to instil into their minds, and have every confidence that, by a steady prosecution of such agency, more civilizing ideas of what constitutes an attractive and healthful home will tend to lessen the amount of vice and immorality which haunts all great cities like ours, and at the same time purge out those plague-spots where disease has its perpetual nursery. I hope, therefore, that having been so auspiciously commenced, arrangements will be made to carry on continuously the most excellent work undertaken by your Association.

The motion having been cordially agreed to,

Mr. GILBERT HERON said—The vote of thanks, so well and so cordially tendered in the name of the civic authorities by Councillor Ure, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, and by Councillor Arthur, could not be received otherwise than as highly complimentary, and as evincing, on the part of the Magistrates proper appreciation of the services rendered by the visitors in going the rounds of their districts. More than this, my Lord Provost, the superintendents, with the 3000 visitors, and others, who, at the call made by Dr. Gairdner in August last, so promptly volunteered their services, while they have the reward of knowing that they have done a good work, have, in addition, to own, which I am sure they all concur in my now stating, that they may well be proud of this public acknowledgment of their services by the Magistrates of this great city. In addition to being cordially thanked, we are complimented for the zeal and faithfulness with which we have done our work. Judging the other sections by the one with which I am connected, and which embraces about one-seventh of the population, I believe myself warranted in stating that, with very few exceptions, domiciliary visitations have been made, more or less frequently during the winter, in every locality of the city where there is more than one individual to each room of the dwelling. My Lord Provost, I will not further occupy your time than to repeat our acknowledgments of the honour which has just been conferred on us, the superintendents and visitors of the Glasgow Sanitary Visiting Association, which I for one hope will have a useful future. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. MARSHALL LANG said—I have the honour to

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represent the "originators" of this movement, and in their behalf, as well as in my own name, I beg to return the gentlemen—Councillor Ure and Councillor Arthur—who genially proposed a vote of thanks, and the gentlemen present who so heartily received that proposal, our warmest acknowledgments of all the kind and complimentary expressions that have been employed. I do not exactly know who my constituents are. I do not know how many are included in the word "originators;" but whosoever they may be, however many or however few, I am sure that there is no honour which they prize more, and no mark of esteem they ever received which they will value more than the honour conferred, and the mark of esteem granted this evening by the resolution now adopted. (Applause.) I have heard of three gentlemen who may be regarded as the first beginning of this movement. Dr. Gairdner once spoke of a clergyman whom he had met, and to whom he had stated some of his difficulties concerning the procuring of nurses and other officials. The reply was, "You should appeal to the churches, and you will get what you want." I have no right to state who that clergyman was—I have an idea, and, if I am in the right, he is a very distinguished minister of the Free Church in this city. That same day, Dr. Gairdner mentioned, the person who now addresses you called upon him. All I had to do was simply to give Dr. Gairdner the opportunity of developing and carrying out this great movement; and whatever may be said with regard to other sections, I can say of Section No. 1, that we have felt him throughout to be the presiding genius of all our plans and works. (Applause.) It would be out of place, my Lord, if I referred to the past of this noble movement. That has already been touched upon in the beautiful words of Dr. Gairdner, and it would be impertinence in me were I to attempt any thing further in that direction. I believe I know that great *direct* results have been achieved; I believe I know that great *indirect* results have been achieved. If for nothing else, I think this movement marks a new era, in that it has brought together hundreds of Christian men who are constrained by the love of Christ, and who have given shape to the conviction that the "enthusiasm of humanity," of which lately we have read so much, means a love of the brother like unto Christ's for us—a love that takes up and incorporates his whole soul into every good work of faith. (Applause.) May I be allowed a word or two as to the future. I feel that this is the "one

hour"—the one hour of probation for our movement. Let it down just now—let it subside—you will have difficulty in raising it afterwards. Keep on now, and I believe you will give an impetus, not only to the cause of Sanitary Reform, but to other works that may lead to equally important results. And surely we who know how much is to be done, how many "castles of indolence" and ignorance and vice are to be pulled down, we must realize that time is too short to admit of indifference or remission of zeal. If we can, through our efforts as Sanitary Visitors, be brought to find ourselves more and more thoroughly in sympathy with each other—Christian with Christian, Church with Church, mind with mind—if we are brought to say one to another, as the poet represents Adam saying to Eve,

"But rise, let us no more contend nor blame
Each other, blam'd enough elsewhere, but strive
In offices of love, how we may lighten
Each other's burden, in our share of woe"—

a result will have been accomplished for which we shall, every one of us, thank God—a result which will tell upon posterity—a result which, I believe, will make this Friday, the Good Friday, to be remembered with gratitude in Glasgow for many years to come. (Applause.)

Mr. GEORGE M'LEOD—My Lord Provost and Gentlemen, As one of those who took somewhat to do with this movement, and feeling deeply interested in it, I would like to say a few words just now; and probably it would be as well, and help to save time, if I should read that portion of my report to Dr. Gairdner which has a more immediate reference to the general subject. When reporting to Dr. Gairdner, I had special reports to send in, referring exclusively to the localities assigned to each of them; but what I am about to quote is from my own general report on the whole subject of the Visitation. And now, my Lord Provost, in what I am about to state let no one suppose that I am blaming or finding fault with the public authorities; it is with the system at present in use that I find fault. "In all these sections the dwellings are very creditably kept, and the people very civil when the object of the visit is explained to them. This is all that I have got to say as regards the visitation undertaken by Union Free Church, and of which I took the general superintendence, along with the various reports by others, which I herewith enclose. But as you invite "recommendations," I would humbly beg to submit that visitations, such as the pre-

sent, cannot reach the root of the evil. The district that I am reporting on will, I believe, bear a favourable comparison with any portion of Glasgow as densely populated; and yet it is very far from what it should be in point of cleanliness. These crowded courts should be cleaned daily, even twice a day, morning and evening, by the police. Ash-pits and privies should be carefully cleaned morning and evening, the courts swept, and the whole contents carried beyond the boundaries of the city. It is vain to expect cleanliness till this is done. No doubt this would revolutionize the existing system of the Cleansing Department; but the sooner this is done the better. Then, in place of a dozen of scavengers sweeping a street together, sometimes slowly and indifferently, we would have every portion within the police boundaries of the city divided into manageable stations, and a scavenger for every station, whose duty it would be to clean his station morning and evening, in time for the public cart coming round to carry all away. Under an arrangement of this sort, if any street, or lane, or court, or corner was not so clean as it should be, we could lay our hand on the man who was to blame for it: that cannot be done just now. I therefore come to the conclusion, that so long as potato parings, fish bones, night soil, &c., &c., continue to be thrown into ash-pits, and these ash-pits, and their allies the common privies, are left undisturbed for days or weeks together, in densely crowded localities, in many cases within a few feet of dwelling-houses of one or two apartments, containing their full complement of inmates, visitations such as I have been engaged in cannot be anything else than useless. They cannot touch the root of the evil. Valuable time is spent, money in a variety of forms is expended; and after all the reports are given in, and the visitors commended for their diligence, the evil is not as much as touched, far less mitigated or removed. The courts and streets are left as dirty as before, and the ash-pits and their accompaniments are sending in at every open door and window in these back lands the same pestilential fumes which they were wont to do before the Visitation began. If, however, a goodly portion of the visitors should be impressed with the need there now is of a more thorough and systematic mode of keeping the city clean by the public authorities, and if they would just say so, as I now venture to do, the Visitation might yet be productive of great and valuable results. Now, my Lord, one word to my teetotal friends. Let them think how far these filthy courts that I have been describing

are instrumental in driving strong, healthy labouring men from their own firesides in these back lands to the more agreeable and exciting perfumes of the whisky-shop and the alehouse. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I feel delighted at the idea that the Visitation should, in the meantime, be put on a permanent footing; because I do hope and trust, that ere long they will take a leaf out of my book, and press this subject on the attention of the community; and then the authorities will soon adopt an improved system of cleansing, such as Glasgow has not had hitherto, but of which Glasgow stands very much in need.*

Ex-Provost BLACKIE—I have been asked to move the second resolution, which is as follows:—"That the thanks of the whole community are very specially due to the clergy and office-bearers of churches of all denominations, for their cordial co-operation in initiating and supporting the Sanitary Visitation movement, as a measure of Christian beneficence, without distinction of party or sect." Dr. Gairdner has very beautifully and very lucidly narrated the progress of this movement, and given a very clear statement of the first meeting that was held to make a general movement—because it had, before that meeting took place, been begun in the Anderston district by the spontaneous efforts of parties there. As a sectional arrangement, this was, so far as it went, very successful; but it was my duty to call together a meeting of the various clergymen, with the view of organizing visitations in connection with the various churches, and of getting the whole city arranged as far as possible, so that a system of visitation might be brought to bear upon every necessitous part of it. I was greatly gratified with the response given to that call, and it was especially a subject of congratulation to find that the meeting was attended by so large a number of clergymen, who expressed their willingness to aid the movement. They did render it great assistance, and were well supported by an able body of laymen. The result of their efforts has been described in the narrative read by Dr.

* I know that, whilst the Visitation lasted, a certain amount of good must have been done, partly from the exertions of the visitors, but chiefly from the extra efforts of the Cleansing Department. But my statement is based on the idea that, when the Visitation is brought to a close, matters will resume their usual course—that then the Cleansing Department will just do somewhat as it used to do, and no more. It is in that view of the case that I say "the Visitation has not as much as touched the root of the evil." But I stated, on the other hand, "that if the Visitation led to a more thorough and systematic mode of cleansing, it might be productive of great and valuable results." This latter, I trust, will be the case.

Gairdner; and, from what we know of the past, I cannot doubt that a great work was done in this city, the effect of which was to benefit the families visited, and, along with other means, under the blessing of God, to restrain, or at all events to mitigate very decidedly, the threatened visitation of that fearful pestilence, the cholera. I think we cannot but desire, with one heart and with one voice, to tender our thanks to the gentlemen who took so earnestly and heartily the initiative in carrying out the arrangements which were so successfully carried out. Let me say here one or two words in regard to the proposed continuance of this movement, referring also in some measure to what has fallen from the last speaker. I cannot help thinking that, if it shall seem right to the Committee appointed to endeavour to carry out the proper general organisation of a Sanitary Visitation Committee—whether you propose there should simply be sanitary visitation, or that there should be combined with that occasional aid in cases that don't fall directly under the Parochial Boards—I cannot help thinking that it would be a most beneficial work, and that those visitors who might continue it have a very great deal before them, perhaps beyond what they had to do in the past. They have been directing the attention of the people to what is all-important to them—the ventilation and cleansing of their houses, and the cleansing of their persons; but there is something more that the community have to be taught to attend to. They must learn, and have it pressed upon them, that they ought themselves to give some attention to the surroundings of their dwellings—to see that their door-steps, for instance, as well as the inside of the door, is kept clean, and that it is their business to see to that and not only the business of the community. (Applause.) Every householder must see, for his own sake, that a broom is well used at his own door; for unless he is trained to see the importance of this duty, it will be perfectly impossible, under any arrangement whatever, that the public authorities can be able to keep the courts and closes clean. (Applause.) The present arrangements are by no means perfect. New arrangements will come into operation during the present year, giving greater powers to the police authorities in the cleansing department; but I say advisedly, that under the best police arrangements it will be quite impossible to keep these courts and closes clean, unless the inmates of them learn not to throw out those fish bones referred to, not to throw out filth or anything

of that kind into the courts, but to carry it to the proper receptacle, and put it there, and there only. (Applause.) It is in vain that the means of depositing and carrying away filth are provided by the authorities, unless people are at the same time taught that the common conveniences provided for them are only to be used in a proper way, and not to be made the receptacles of what should be deposited in another place. A large amount of this training is open to be impressed on this community in these courts and closes, and till this is attended to it will be quite impracticable, under any arrangements in the cleansing department, to keep these places in the state they should be. It will fall to that department to see to it that what is put into the proper place is frequently and regularly cleared away, and the Cleansing Department will be to blame, and will justly be made responsible, if that is not done; but after all has been done, the keeping of the courts and closes, as well as the interiors of the houses, in a state of thorough cleanliness, must be the work of the residents in these closes and courts themselves. (Applause.)

Major HOLMS—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by Mr. Blackie. Highly as the clergy of all denominations in Glasgow are esteemed for zeal in the discharge of their duties, I believe that they and the office-bearers of their churches have never been engaged in a more philanthropic work than that of co-operating in the promotion and practical carrying out of the Sanitary Visitation movement. There is something noble in those Christian men throwing aside all denominational differences, and, like good Samaritans, uniting their energies to raise from their wretchedness, and to shield from disease, those masses of their fellow-citizens who are huddled together in the wynds and vennels of our city. Next to our eternal well-being, there is no question more important, none more worthy of consideration, than that of understanding and obeying the laws which regulate our physical existence. And yet, even now, we are but beginning to realize the awful penalties which overcrowding, want of ventilation, want of light, bad drainage, and foul air entail upon individuals and communities; they lower the nervous energy of all who live under their baneful influence, and drive them, for stimulants, to the public-house. They fill our infirmaries with their diseased, and our poorhouses with their helpless victims. They cause a moral as well as a physical pestilence, polluting the soul and destroying the body. In this city alone the excess of mortality last year, when com-

pared with country districts, was upwards of 6000, and yet death does his work so quietly, that no cry of alarm is heard. We are sometimes startled by a dozen or twenty persons being killed by a railway accident or colliery explosion, and we call for a searching inquiry, but we scarcely note that every day in this Christian community eighteen souls are prematurely hurried into eternity. If an inquiry were instituted into the cause of this daily recurring calamity, the verdict would be, "Died from ignorance or neglect of sanitary laws." Well might we inscribe over the portals of some of our fever-haunted dwellings the words of Dante, "Farewell to hope, all ye who enter here." But a better time appears to be dawning. We now know that the excessive mortality springs from causes which it is in our power to remove. Large-hearted men have shown that "preservers of health" are not less necessary than "curers of disease." At the last annual meeting of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes in the Metropolis, Lord Shaftesbury stated that the death-rate in their numerous dwellings was only 16 per 1000. In the houses erected by Mr. Peabody, the mortality has been even less. It would be easy to multiply instances; but suffice it to say that I know, on good authority, that throughout the numerous model dwelling-houses in London the average mortality has not exceeded 16 per 1000, and typhus fever is almost unknown, whilst in the immediately surrounding district the average has been 27 to 28 per 1000. In other words, by attention to sanitary laws these abodes have been rendered as healthy as those in country districts. What has thus to some extent been done in London may be accomplished in Glasgow, and as "to know ourselves diseased is half our cure," the thanks of the whole community are specially due to the clergy and those gentlemen who have brought this question so prominently before them. Let us trust that this movement may be continued and extended in its operations till our city shall be as distinguished for its superior sanitary condition as it has hitherto been for its great commercial prosperity. (Applause.)

The thanks of the meeting having been passed in terms of the motion,

The Rev. D. RUSSELL said—My Lord Provost, I did not know till in the ante-room that I should be called on to speak in regard to this motion. I do so as convener of Section IX.; and I have, in my own name and in that of my brethren, cordially to thank you and this meeting for the vote

of thanks which has been accorded to us. I am very sure of this, that the clergymen of Glasgow have done their part in this movement with all their heart. I believe that godliness is profitable for this life, and that the godly man, other things being equal, will ever be found in the van in every moral, religious, philanthropic, and sanitary undertaking. I should be sorry indeed to think that this Visitation Scheme was to be brought to a close. It appears to me that there is a great deal still to do, and perhaps it can be done by voluntary labour much better than by authority. Our visits were not deemed compulsory and obtrusive; they were looked upon as friendly, and were accepted and esteemed in that light. So long as there exist in our city many evils which require to be remedied, we ought, I think, to continue in harness, and not allow fitness for work which has been gained by experience to be thrown away. There is an Association in this city (the Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Benevolent Association) which had its annual dinner last night. A good deal was said in praise of the trade and the respectability of those engaged in it. Some in the Association live in quiet suburban villas, and yet go from day to day to pursue their calling in the worst parts of our city. Indeed, there is no class in Glasgow which bestows so much attention upon the lowest classes as they do. Every day and every night they are at it with an energy and zeal, a toil, and a self-denial which puts all our churches to the blush. Were those who conduct sanitary and benevolent movements as zealous and untiring, we should soon witness changes in our city on which we had never calculated. Whatever our hands find to do, let us do it with our might; for we may be certain of this, that in proportion to the prosperity of the publicans in the districts which we visit, our efforts will be all the more needed.

The Rev. Dr. NORMAN MACLEOD said—My Lord Provost and Gentlemen, I have in my library some publications called "Small Books on Great Subjects," but I think I might designate this meeting "a small meeting upon a great subject." It is not for me to occupy your time in speculating as to why it is so small; but I am not sure if I ever attended a meeting in the City Hall of Glasgow on a greater subject, nor ever attended a smaller meeting. No doubt it has, to a slight extent, been accounted for by the fact of this day being Good Friday; but it seems to be a wonderfully indifferent Friday to a great many of our Presbyterian brethren. I might hazard the conjecture that if all the denominations,

with the Lord Provost as representing the city, were to call a meeting on any Friday with reference to doing good to the Chinese, we would have a very large meeting. I could conjecture, too, that at this moment you might have a bumper meeting to discuss many aspects of the question of the Reform of the House of Commons. I might hazard the conjecture, also, that if there were a large portion of the community, including clergymen, magistrates, and people, to have had last night a serious twinge from cholera, there would be a very large meeting to talk about its cure and prevention. But why are there so few met to consider what affects the good and comfort, not of China, but of Glasgow? not their own, but their neighbour's good? Why so few who come together to express their thanks for cholera having been kept away, and, as wise and sensible men, to consider what is to be done for the prevention of that and similar epidemics in Glasgow? I think there must be some good excuse for the thinness of the meeting; but, for the life of me, I cannot find it out. However, I need not detain you longer with such preliminary remarks, but will proceed to the consideration of this, which, I think, is a very important resolution—

“That a Committee be appointed to consider how far the objects aimed at in the late Sanitary Visitation, and other collateral objects connected with the relief of disease and destitution among the poor, may be accomplished in ordinary as well as epidemic seasons by means of a permanent organization in Glasgow, so constituted as to secure the support and sympathy of all parties, while avoiding interference with the ordinary parochial relief on the one hand, and the missionary operations of the churches on the other.”

As I understand our position, this meeting is the end of the Association, so far that its objects have been accomplished; and we are now in the position of considering whether the Association, or the members of the Association, under this or that name, can now be resuscitated, or must be abandoned. We have, as members of this great Association, I think, obtained some very valuable talents. We have accumulated, and those who have been labouring in it, a great number of well-authenticated facts—facts of immense importance, as bearing upon the physical, moral, and social condition of our fellow-citizens. They have been made vividly to realize, as I take it, as they never did in their lives before, a vast amount of poverty, wretchedness, dissipation,

recklessness, and ignorance; and to witness, also, the noble battles and victories of the deserving poor. They have also acquired very great talents for themselves. They have been made to cultivate habits of perseverance and self-denial, and their sympathies have been kindled in behalf of their suffering brethren. For all these things the citizens of Glasgow have met here to-night—at least their representatives have—to give thanks to those sanitary visitors. And the sanitary visitors have, I doubt not, come to give thanks to those citizens of Glasgow for the good they themselves have obtained in their visitation, and all parties to give thanks to Almighty God for His mercy towards them. The question now presents itself in this form, If we have thus acquired from information and from personal experience—say ten talents—what are we to do with them? Are we to bury them in the earth, and make no further use of our knowledge, our information, or our personal experience? If so, if we bury these talents, when we come to search for them, we will find them no more, but discover that they have become corrupt. But if otherwise, if with a deep sense of responsibility, seeing that those talents were given to us for further good, the question comes to be, How are they now to be used? Now, a Committee is proposed in this motion, in order that it should suggest to those who wish to continue the work, in some form or other, how that work is to be done. Or, to change the simile slightly, we have been as an army fighting an important battle. We have learned a great deal in a campaign: we have learned to march, and how to meet the enemy; we have been enabled, by God's help, to a great extent, to overcome that enemy. Is the army to be disbanded? I say, No; for the very plain and simple reason that the enemy still exists. It is the very nature of that enemy that, when you put him down, you have to keep him down, because the enemy is always present, and may make his appearance at any moment. He can creep into your city by your common sewers, and, as a foul spectre, before you know of it, can enter your houses and attack your nearest and dearest with disease. It becomes, therefore, a very serious and solemn question, which might engage the attention of thousands of the citizens of Glasgow, if they realized their responsibilities, whether this army shall be disbanded, or whether or not, in this or in a new form, it shall become a standing army, even if you should call it an army of observation, but at all events an army to be

called forth for the good of our city. If this meeting, that marks the close of one campaign, is, therefore, willing to elect a Committee, and remit to it for consideration certain questions, what should our remit be? Now, I had nothing to do with the drawing up of this motion. I had not the power of being present at any of the preliminary meetings; nor have I the most distant conception as to who drew it up. I have had no communication up till this moment with any person, not even with Dr. Taylor, my seconder. But it is a motion which was sent to me, and which I have read, and of which I most heartily approve. I must, however, notice here that, in the conclusion of this motion, there are one or two phrases—worded, I admit, with very great caution—which may admit of various interpretations; I may possibly give a wrong interpretation of them. The words are these—"to secure the support and sympathy of all parties, while avoiding interference with the ordinary parochial relief on the one hand, and the missionary operations of the churches on the other." I ask, What do these words mean? Do they really express a proposal that the Committee should be free to consider questions that possibly affect, or are connected with, parochial relief—questions that may affect, or are connected with, missionary operations in churches? I hope this is the meaning of the motion. But when I put the question, I am led to conjecture and to speculate as to what could have suggested this ending of my motion. I can perfectly conceive, however, what will account for it; and if I am wrong I cannot help it. These visitors, in going through the city, seeing this vast amount of misery and wretchedness, may have been led to consider what was the cause of all this. I can quite understand how an intelligent visitor, as he ruminated about all he had seen in his visitation through the day, should have said, "I think the causes of this disease and this wretchedness and uncleanness lie a little deeper down than the surface. I cannot exactly see them on the surface; may they not arise from a want, to some extent, of education—a want that implies a lack of those tastes, that knowledge, those mental habits, those mental enjoyments, all of which have such a direct bearing upon the social and the personal condition of the masses?" I can quite well conceive the same person asking another question—a question that is beyond the mere intellect—a question that goes down into the spiritual man, that has to do with the will, the conscience, with a sense of responsibility, with all the motives that move

man, that move him altogether:—"May we not be able to account for an enormous amount of this misery and this state of things by men who really do not know their duties to God or man, by men who do not know the fact of their relationship to God through Jesus Christ; who do not know that soul and body are redeemed by the Lord, and that it is the highest privilege and the noblest liberty in man to be able to consecrate both to Him, and in whatever he does 'to do all to the glory of God?'" And if a man thinks thus, if a Christian now engaged in Sanitary Visitation felt this strongly and pondered over it, I could conceive how he might put a third question:—"Is it possible, in the present state of Glasgow, that we may be able to rectify this state of things?" And if that question was put by him, I can conceive his going a step farther in his catechism, and asking—"Is it actually possible that, in this great city of intelligent and educated men, nothing more can be done than has been done, either through individuals or congregations, or by advice, in helping on the education and spiritual good of these teeming masses?" If so, he may also have considered what an immense amount of poverty might be prevented by a little timely assistance—what an immense amount of suffering might be relieved by the sympathy of neighbours, by a little assistance in the way of getting work in cases where nothing is done by parochial boards. In a city teeming with clergy, and teeming with Christian congregations, can nothing better be done by the clergy, the elders, and the people, in sinking minor differences, and uniting for the spiritual good of their fellow-men? For myself, I beg here boldly and publicly to declare that I think there is an amount of spiritual agency and force in the congregations in the city of Glasgow that might do the whole work; that without more money, without new organizations, but by the wise, proper, fair, and common-sense union of clergy and people, acting in sympathy through our several churches, we might be able to bring the good of the gospel to every man in Glasgow. I think there is an amount of steam—Christian steam—blowing off at the funnel-head, which, if properly directed, would move ten thousand living machines for the physical, intellectual, spiritual, and social good of the city of Glasgow. I am blaming no one: it may be from want of thought, from want of consideration, from denominational ambition; but, whatever the case may be, there is a large amount of waste power in the city. In some cases you have the missionary of one body in a house, the

missionary of another coming down stairs, and the missionary of a third going up. There is a great deal of work concentrated in one place—I don't say it is from any bad design, but for want of order and organization; while there are other places which exhibit an amount of moral destitution that is most appalling—where the people do not receive instruction—where they have neither churches nor day-schools, nor Sunday-schools, nor missionaries to teach them in regard to their duties to God and man. Our missionaries and clergy are like a number of men, all fishing in a few pools, who are interested in seeing how many each one catches, and who sometimes take fish out of each other's baskets, while there are other pools where they do not fish at all. (Hear, hear.) Am I to be told that clergy and people, with all their knowledge, are not able, as Christian bodies, united together, to do more, not merely for the sanitary good (for that must not be overlooked), but also for the religious good of the city of Glasgow, and so get at the root of the evil? I will never believe it. If we would simply try to forget bubbles that will burst on the threshold of the grave, and remember things eternal; if we would remember that all denominational interests are inferior to the interests of our fellow-men; and if we who have become old and experienced, and care little, perhaps, for things that would have carried us away in younger years—if we would forget our own things and remember the things of Christ, then, I say, there is a power in the churches which already exist, and are themselves divine associations for advancing the temporal and eternal well-being of men—there is a power in our elders, deacons, and the members of all our churches, which, if combined wisely and unselfishly, kindly and honestly—forgetting everything but how we can do the most good to the dear old city of Glasgow, in which our lot is cast—might enable us, ere our names are forgotten on the earth, to do a great and glorious work. My Lord, I pledge this meeting by this motion to no definite plan of operation. I might suppose that every man in this meeting was convinced that nothing can be done, such as I have indicated. What the motion asks is, that a Committee be appointed to consider that question. Do you think the whole of this work is to come to an end? If it is, I think it would be a shame and disgrace to us, with all our preaching and talk about Christianity, if our religion is to evaporate in mere beliefs, and not be put into practical results for the good of the city. Are we to express our thanks to God for what has been done in

the way of preventing cholera—are we to thank the clergy and the committees, and, having done so, and made our bow, to go away, and do no more? Is that to be the conclusion? Impossible! If not, will you then agree to the appointment of a Committee to consider what should be done? And if the Committee, in its wisdom, deem it proper, after serious and prayerful consideration, that we must fall back on the lower platform of merely attending to the body, then so be it. Even this will be a blessing. But, on the other hand, if there be among us that brotherly kindness—that unselfishness—that we believe there is, may we not, in the exercise of these virtues, hope to achieve something higher? Would the Committee be able to suggest what that something should be? Let me say here, that there is a hundred-fold more brotherly kindness, and sympathy, and heartiness among the clergy than many of the laity are perhaps aware. They judge of us by what is seen in Church Courts—they do not see us elsewhere. Why, you see the worst of us there, just as we see the worst of you Magistrates and Town Councillors, when we read the reports of your proceedings in the newspapers. I would be sorry to judge of your habitual temper in that way, for I find when you all meet afterwards in private no one discovers any such differences. So it is with the members of the House of Commons—you would not judge of the personal kindness of these men by the reports of their proceedings. So it is with the clergy—they are like their neighbours. Therefore I believe there is a brotherly kindness and heartiness among them fully able to do every good work. But why always talk about the clergy, as if an old woman could not get a pair of shoes without the clergy to constitute the meeting and give an address? There is a very great number of the Christian laity who have like responsibilities with us. We should not, indeed, be so often called upon to serve mere secular tables, but be kept to do our own special work, and allow the Christian laity, with their knowledge of the world and the city of Glasgow, to take up this sanitary work. Let us seek, as Christian men, to carry out our principles. Allusion has been made to the fact that this is Good Friday. Certainly, I cannot help reflecting on the wondrous spectacle that has been presented to-day, and is being presented at this moment, throughout the greater part of Christendom. When I think of the ten thousand times ten thousand priests who are ministering to millions of prostrate worshippers amid clouds of incense, and amid every thing

that can attract the eye or ear—when I think of the many pious souls who, in hoary minsters or rural chapels, have felt their hearts burn within them as He communed with them by the way—I feel that it would be a most worthy commemoration of the first Good Friday, and one that would be accepted if offered up in the presence of that God whose name is love, in the presence of the Saviour, who, when on earth, spent His life in going about continually doing good, and gave Himself as a sacrifice for a wicked world, and in the presence of mighty angels who are not ashamed to minister to the heirs of salvation, however rude and poor—if we were to consecrate ourselves on this day to a work that would be a blessing to ourselves and others, and if carried out in the spirit of Him who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”—“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. TAYLOR, in seconding the resolution, said no one who had read the appalling facts contained in the letter written by ex-Provost Blackie some months ago, or who had listened to the excellent speech of Mr. Holms that evening, could doubt that a permanent organization for sanitary purposes was imperatively required in Glasgow. The very smallness of the present meeting, on which Dr. Macleod had so justly animadverted, led to the same conclusion, as it showed the prevailing apathy among the great body of the citizens in regard to this matter. He had repeatedly been provoked to say, when witnessing the indifference with which the intellectual and moral, as well as physical destitution of the inhabitants of the wynds and closes of Glasgow is regarded by the great mass of the people, that if they could clap woolly hair and a black skin on these wretched and degraded outcasts, and transport them to a distance of five thousand miles, it would be no difficult matter to excite a strong feeling for their misery, and to obtain both money and agents to ameliorate their condition. But there is no romance about the visitation and instruction of the inhabitants of the Saltmarket and the Goosedubs; and their neighbours have been so long accustomed to see their degraded state that it is nothing thought of. A permanent Association such as was contemplated would do much good, both directly and indirectly. Experience had proved that the labours of intelligent and kind-hearted visitors would greatly diminish the amount of disease which prevailed in Glasgow; and it could not be

doubted that such visits would help to bridge over the chasm which unfortunately separated the higher and the lower classes of society, and to produce mutual respect and kindness. Mr. Holms had noticed the large amount of what might be called preventible disease and mortality which existed in Glasgow. Out of 13,000 persons who died in the city during the last year, at least 6000 were cut off by diseases which were the result of a violation of natural laws. An overwhelming proportion of these deaths took place in the densely-peopled, ill-aired, filthy, and therefore unhealthy districts of the city. There could be no doubt that the victims themselves were in many cases to blame for the loss of health and of life; and the visitors may do a great deal of good by pointing out to the ignorant, careless, and indolent how much the prevention of disease depends upon their own efforts. He heartily concurred in the remarks of Mr. Blackie on this point. The persons in question must be taught, in the first instance, to rely on their own exertions to keep their houses and their persons clean. It would be most mischievous to accustom them to rely on the authorities or on any body else, to do for them, what they ought to do for themselves. But by far the most fertile sources of disease are entirely beyond the control of the poorer classes. They had been assured by Dr. Gairdner—whose authority on this subject was second to none—that, among all the causes which injure health and destroy life, all the others put together are but dust in the balance compared with the one great evil influence of overcrowding, which prevails so much in large towns. Probably very few of the citizens of Glasgow are aware how much worse in this respect their city is than most of the other great cities of the United Kingdom. In London there are 39 inhabitants on each acre; in Edinburgh 39; in Dublin 32; in Birmingham 42; in Manchester 80; and in Glasgow 85—more than double the density even of Birmingham, notoriously an unhealthy town. There is one parish in Glasgow which has a population of 715 on the one acre of which it consists, affording less than 7 square yards to each individual. No wonder that one in eleven of the inhabitants of that parish died in 1865—a fact which he stated on the authority of the invaluable Report prepared by the City Chamberlain. Now, it was quite beyond the power of the lower classes to remove, or even to lessen, this source of disease and death. A work so vast required a united and comprehensive effort on the part of the whole community; and he believed that if a staff of visitors—

such as those who had taken charge of the sanitary state of the city during the past month—had laboured in their respective districts for the last five or six years, this evil would ere this time have been remedied. The citizens of Glasgow are justly proud of the progress of their city. As regards the increase of its population, and trade, and commerce, and wealth, it is equalled by few, and surpassed by none of the cities of Great Britain. But it is lamentable that, amid this growing prosperity, both the physical and the moral condition of a large class of the inhabitants had undergone a change for the worse. The increase of the outcast population—the increase of ignorance, pauperism, and crime, of disease and mortality, has more than kept pace with the increase of population and wealth. The enterprising citizens of Glasgow had built stately mansions, and magnificent warehouses, with untiring energy, and lavish cost; but where could they look for healthy, comfortable dwellings for the men who were the bone and sinew of the prosperity of the city? At the present time a large proportion of the labouring classes return from their daily toil, not to clean, healthy, comfortable homes, where they may rest their bodies, and refresh their minds, in the bosom of their families, but to filthy, squalid, pestiferous hovels, which no exertion can keep clean; where pure air never enters; where not merely comfort, but common decency, can scarcely be found—the nurseries of the whisky-shop, the poorhouse, the infirmary, and the jail. Already Glasgow has paid a heavy penalty for the greed of money, the selfish apathy and neglect which have led to this state of matters—in diminished security for property—in class jealousy, suspicion, and strife—in augmented expenditure for the maintenance of pauperism, and the repression and punishment of crime—and especially in the appalling amount of sickness and mortality for which this city has obtained a bad pre-eminence. In the body politic, as in the physical frame, if one member suffer all the members suffer with it. If one class be degraded and sunk in ignorance, poverty, and wretchedness, the consequences will be injurious to the whole community. If the public look on, unpitying and unconcerned, while multitudes go from bad to worse, and thousands are every year consigned to a premature grave, what can they expect but the curse of Meroz and the judgments of God. It was a reason for thankfulness that they had lived to see at least the dawn of better days. Among the votes of thanks given to-night, there should have been one to the

city authorities, and especially to ex-Provost Blackie, for the comprehensive and well-considered scheme which they had devised to cut out the moral gangrene which was eating into the vitals of the prosperity of Glasgow, and to sweep away the closes and wynds—where filth and fever, misery and crime, existed in every variety of form—and to replace them by well-aired, healthy, and comfortable dwellings for the poorer classes of the community.

The resolution, like the others, was cordially adopted.

The Rev. A. N. SOMERVILLE moved that the following gentlemen be requested to act on the Committee:—

Honourable James Lumsden, Lord Provost, 20 Queen Street.
John Ramsay, Esq. of Kildalton, Lord Dean of Guild, 140
Bath Street.

Bailie Murray, 49 Buchanan Street.

„ William Taylor, 15 Hope Street.

„ William Wilson, 42 Glassford Street.

Councillor Arthur, 29 West George Street.

„ Burt, 143 Great Hamilton Street.

„ William Brown, 24 Dunlop Street.

„ J. Thomson, 106 Great Hamilton Street.

„ Ure, 60 Washington Street.

„ Watson, 12 St. Vincent Place.

Rev. H. Batchelor, 9 Nelson Terrace.

„ J. W. Borland, 5 Annfield Place.

„ Dr. R. Buchanan, 2 Sandyford Place.

„ J. Boyle, Springburn.

„ A. H. Charteris, 4 Crown Circus.

„ W. H. Crosskey, 10 Corunna Street.

„ R. S. Drummond, 18 Carlton Place.

„ Dr. Eadie, 11 Lansdowne Crescent.

„ John Farmer, St. Joseph's, North Woodside Road.

„ F. Ferguson, 11 Walmer Crescent.

„ Dr. Forbes, 100 West Regent Street.

„ Peter Forbes, 68 Abercromby Street.

„ R. Glover, 150 Holland Street.

„ Dr. Jamieson, 156 Randolph Terrace, Garnethill.

„ J. A. Johnston, Springburn.

„ J. Marshall Lang, 4 Hillhead Gardens, Hillhead.

„ D. M'Coll, 276 St. Vincent Street.

„ James Macgregor, 7 Clayton Terrace.

„ Dr. N. Macleod, 204 Bath Street.

„ R. S. Oldham, M.A., 194 Renfrew Street.

„ Dr. Roxburgh, 122 Hill Street, Garnethill.

„ David Russell, Wesley Villa, Crosshill.

- Rev. W. Scott, Laurel Bank, Partick.
 „ A. N. Somerville, 328 Renfrew Street.
 „ W. C. Smith, 146 West Regent Street.
 „ W. Symington, Wester Craigs, Dennistoun.
 „ Dr. Taylor, Oakfield House, Hillhead.
 „ E. Telfer, 122 North Montrose Street.
 „ J. Vassal, 52 Great Clyde Street.
 „ A. Wilson, 285 London Road.
 William Auld, Esq., 4 Park Terrace.
 John Blackie, Jun., Esq. (ex-Lord Provost), Lily Bank, Hillhead.
 Mark Bannatyne, Esq., 151 West George Street.
 Michael Boyle, Esq., Bazaar.
 John Carrick, Esq., 5 Park Quadrant.
 William Callender, Esq., Royal Bank.
 William Collins, Esq., Publisher, Stirling's Road.
 David Cunningham, Esq., 40 Buchanan Street.
 James A. Campbell, Esq., 29 Ingram Street.
 ——— Davidson, Esq., Edgefauld House, Springburn.
 Dr. James Dunlop, 17 Carlton Place.
 Mortimer Evans, Esq., C.E., 97 West Regent Street.
 Alex. A. Ferguson, Esq., 48 M'Alpine Street.
 Dr. W. T. Gairdner, 21 Blythswood Square.
 R. L. Guibara, Esq., 36 Windsor Terrace.
 J. Graham, Esq., 5 Lawrence Place.
 Peter Hamilton, Esq., 22 South Frederick Street.
 R. B. Handyside, Esq., 5 Elmbank Crescent.
 Gilbert Heron, Esq., 80 Gordon Street.
 William Holms, Esq., 9 Park Circus.
 John Ingram, Esq., 13 Bellgrove Street.
 John Lang, Esq., 164 Hill Street, Garnethill.
 H. Lamberton, Esq., Balgray Bank Villa, Springburn.
 James Lynch, Esq., 2 Annfield Terrace, Partick.
 Dr. William M'Gill, 183 George Street.
 J. W. M'Gill, Esq., 2 Clarence Place.
 H. M'Farlane, Esq., 124 Hope Street.
 Artt M'Lauchlin, Esq., 101 Great Clyde Street.
 Norman M'Leod, Esq., 134 Great Hamilton Street.
 Peter M'Leod, Esq., 205 St. Vincent Street.
 J. M'Lagan, Esq., 18 Queen's Crescent.
 Alexander M'Kenzie, Esq., 89 Buchanan Street.
 David M'Cowan, Esq., Royal Exchange.
 Thomas Martin, Esq., 67 Grove Street.
 Alexander Paul, Esq., 41 George Square.
 William Primrose, Esq., Primrose Place, Paisley Road.
 Dr. H. Rainy, 2 Woodside Place.
 Dr. Robert Renfrew, 131 Cambridge Street.

Dr. A. Robertson, Town's Hospital.
 James Smart, Esq., 26 Canning Place.
 Thomas Tiernan, Esq., 6 Crescent Place.
 Andrew Todd, Esq., 33 St. Andrew Square.
 W. West Watson, Esq., 26 Blythswood Square.
 Robert Westlands, Esq., Auburn Cottage, Pollokshields.
 Alexander Waddel, Esq., 33 Monteith Row.
 James Wilson, Esq., 11 Bothwell Circus.
 J. C. Wyper, Esq., 105 Union Street.
 J. H. Young, Esq., 64 Gordon Street.
 Dr. W. Young, 13 James Street, Calton.

With power to add to their number.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. JOSEPH BROWN, and agreed to.

The Rev. Dr. M'TAGGART, in a few brief and cordial expressions, moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Gairdner; and thereupon Dr. GAIRDNER, having acknowledged in few words this expression of the goodwill of the meeting, said—I have just one word to add with respect to the subject for which we have been convened. If I were to cut the society of Glasgow in two by a line of an arbitrary kind—some such line as has been proposed in some of the late political discussions—suppose we take the £5 rental, for instance—if I were to divide society by that line, I should find that there were about 35,000 families upon the lower side of the £5 line, and 55,000 upon the upper side of it. Now, I believe I am correct in saying that the 35,000 families here referred to as below the £5 line, would, for the most part, be families inhabiting a single room, and in those families would be found by far the greater number of those causes of disease and death, and also of immorality and irreligion, and other evils, to which allusion has been made to-night. I do not say this as a reproach; for it is only partly the fault, often much more the misfortune, of these poor and neglected households, that it is so. But if I could manage to secure, as a first step, out of the 55,000 families living above that line, and therefore presumably in much more easy circumstances—say, no more than one man out of every thirty families—to go down and visit a certain number of the 35,000 households below the line of comfort indicated by £5 in the valuation roll—give me this as a basis to work upon, and I do not care what you call the movement—sanitary, educational,

religious—it is equally certain, in any case, that a very great amount of good cannot fail to be done. I have calculated the matter, and I know that one man might easily keep himself on terms of personal acquaintance with from thirty to forty families from year to year. I therefore think, if we could only get it established as a principle, somehow, that one picked man out of every thirty families of the class above the £5 line would engage in a systematic visitation of a corresponding number of the families of the class below the line, we should have done the greater part of the work. Or, to put the matter in another shape:—There are nearly two hundred churches in Glasgow: if each would furnish, say upon an average eight or ten active, thoughtful, generous Christian men or women fitted to keep up this good work, the thing is done. I care not in what capacity the visits are made in the first instance, for I am sure that all the other results—educational, sanitary, religious—that is, the removal by degrees of the greatest obstacles to all of these good objects—the removal of apathy and neglect, pauperism, ignorance, uncleanness, intemperance, and dissipation—will follow in the end, from the mere fact that a friendly observation is being kept up from day to day upon those whose greatest misfortune and greatest temptation it is that they are too often utterly uncared-for, as it is. I was very much struck by an observation, the other day, of a friend of mine, who knows Glasgow well. It was made quite casually in a railway carriage, but it bears very materially upon this subject. The observation was, that my friend had noticed in the course of his duties, pursued steadily over many years among wynds and closes, and in every part of Glasgow, that so long as there is in a wynd or close, however bad in its external conditions, one single respectable family, the other families in that close never sink to the lowest level of degradation; but as soon as the last respectable family—or, let us say, the last well-to-do family—has disappeared from that unhappy wynd or close, it may always be observed that the remaining families become rapidly and progressively worse—you may say that they take a short cut, as it were, to perdition. Now, what I want you to do is, in the first place, to secure permanently a certain amount of this good influence of the mere presence of good and thoughtful men—to keep up the influence, I do not say of one family, but even of one respectable, and considerate, and kindly man or woman, upon all the families in Glasgow that are in any

danger of falling below the line of respectability. And if we can get that—put it upon a sanitary basis, if you like, but in any case do it—I am well assured that all the rest must follow. I conclude by moving a cordial vote of thanks to the Lord Provost for having kindly consented to occupy the chair on this occasion. (Applause.)

The proceedings were brought to a close by the Rev. Mr. Somerville pronouncing the benediction.

APPENDIX No. I.

Letter as regards an Emergency Staff, with a view to a possible Epidemic of Cholera.

GLASGOW, August 6, 1866.

MY LORD PROVOST,—The Magistrates' Committee has placed in your Lordship's hands, in the meantime unconditionally, the authority necessary to support me in forming an *Emergency Staff* for the protection of the public and the treatment of the sick, in the event of an invasion of epidemic cholera. It is of great importance that the names of persons who might be willing to serve on such a staff should be known at the Sanitary Office in time to allow of their qualifications being investigated, and their duties adjusted, before the time of actual pressure; and therefore I venture to submit to your Lordship, for publication in any way you may think fitting, the following brief statement of the different descriptions of public service that would be in my opinion required, should cholera prevail, whether to a greater or a lesser extent, in the city.

We should desire, in such case, to have the benefit of the services of approved persons, many or few according to circumstances, under the following classification:—

1. *Medical Men in Practice* (including, of course, the Parochial Medical Officers).
2. *Medical Men and Advanced Students*, at present unattached, in aid of the above.
3. *Nurses for the Sick*.
4. *Lady-Superintendents of Nurses*.
5. *Visitors of Districts*, to act under the instructions of the Sanitary and Medical Staff, to pave the way for their operations in the houses of the poor, and to inform them as regards the preservation of cleanliness, the use of disinfectants, and all other ordinary and extraordinary precautions necessary to be observed during an epidemic.

From this last class of assistants it might be desirable to require only a few hours' work each in the day, and that as much as possible before or after the regular hours of business. And with regard to the whole staff, it would be desirable to keep in view, as far as possible, the well-known fact that the danger to individuals from contact with the sick is small, provided that they neither eat, drink, nor sleep in the infected places, and are not over-worked; while in the contrary case, the security from infection is much diminished. A just regard to previous experience in this respect would indicate the expediency, or rather the duty of

sparing, so far as can possibly be done, the individual members of the Medical and Nursing Staff, by relieving them at proper intervals, and thus avoiding the necessity of constant residence, or even very protracted and continuous employment, in the infected districts.

It would be of great importance that the names of persons willing to be employed as above should be given in either at the Sanitary Office, 59 College Street, or to one of the District Sanitary Officers, as soon as possible after this notice reaches the public—not necessarily for present employment, but for inquiry and preparation. And, without going into details, I may state that I have no doubt the city of Glasgow will cheerfully accord fitting remuneration to persons so employed; while, at the same time, a debt of gratitude will be due on the part of the public to all who shall perform acceptably and faithfully services of such inestimable importance.

Such, my Lord Provost, in addition to the extraordinary measures of general cleansing which you have already in contemplation, and in part have had for some time in operation, are the suggestions that I have to offer towards our being able to meet the cholera, should it unhappily appear among us, not in "the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."—I am your Lordship's very obedient servant,

W. T. GAIRDNER, *Medical Officer.*

APPENDIX No. II.

Letter from the Medical Officer to the Superintendents, Visitors, and others engaged in the Sanitary Visitation, on the occasion of the day of Thanksgiving (held, according to arrangement, on New-Year's-Day, 1867), for the preservation of the City from Epidemic Cholera.

GLASGOW, December 31st, 1866.

GENTLEMEN,—The solemn act of thanksgiving in which it is proposed to engage to-morrow, and the termination this day of a year fraught with no ordinary anxieties, appear to give a fitting opportunity for addressing to you a few words as regards the success of the mission to which you have so generously devoted yourselves, and the special reasons for thankfulness to God which must be present to the minds of all of us, in connection with the threatened epidemic of cholera. I do not wish, indeed, to be considered as declaring that all danger from the epidemic has passed away, or that precautionary measures need no longer be employed. On the contrary, I believe that persistent watchful-

ness is a duty which we owe to ourselves; and among the objects of our petitions to-morrow, I can conceive of none more becoming, or more likely to be favourably answered, than that our hearts and minds may be so guided from above, and our resolves so confirmed, as to enable us to maintain the advantages already gained, and to extend the benefits of our scheme of visitation in some degree beyond the period of emergency which called forth so much Christian sympathy and active effort on behalf of the neglected poor. It will, however, be no small satisfaction to the citizens of Glasgow to know, that during the entire month of December only one case of cholera has been reported at the Sanitary Office; and that, notwithstanding the almost unnatural mildness of the season, the cases even of diarrhoea reported for some weeks have been quite within the average number. In consequence of these favourable circumstances, it has been determined by the Magistrates to close the Greendyke Cholera Hospital, retaining, however, such arrangements as will enable it to be opened again on very short notice, should this become necessary.

It appears from the Registrar-General's returns, that from August to November cholera proved fatal in Glasgow to 41 persons; and in the eight principal towns of Scotland, during the same period, to 432 persons. Now, as the population of Glasgow is, roundly speaking, to that of the eight towns, nearly in the proportion of 4 to 9, while the deaths from cholera were more than ten times as numerous in the eight towns as in Glasgow, the statement of these facts, even in this very general form, cannot fail to carry the conviction that we have made (considering the character of our population, and their well-known liability to epidemic disease in general) a most marvellous escape. And this conviction will assuredly not be lessened in its force when it is added, that since the 1st October more than 700 cases of diarrhoeal disease have been reported and carefully investigated at the Sanitary Office, 108 of which had more or less resemblance to cholera, and were probably, indeed, due in various degrees to the epidemic influence. By far the greater number of these cases were among the class of the population most prone to epidemic diseases, and not a few of them in localities notorious as the haunts of fever, indigence, destitution, and crime. Yet the cases were mostly scattered, and, as it were, accidental. In no instance, I think, did the disease take firm root in any one locality; and in no instance did it spread to more than two, or at the most three, members of an individual household. We have therefore good reason to believe, that while the poison of cholera has been frequently present in Glasgow during the last four months, its epidemic prevalence has been singularly restrained by conditions of which I will say no more at present than that they afford the

most ample cause for thankfulness to God, by whose power and grace we have been led in comparative safety through this great crisis.

Our immunity has been the more remarkable when it is further noted, as will appear from a table given below, that Glasgow, with its enormous population and unusually high death-rate, has lost only *one* in 10,000 of its inhabitants from cholera in the four months, August to November, 1866, against 7.5 in Edinburgh, 6.2 in Dundee, 7.2 in Aberdeen, 2.5 in Greenock, 5.4 in Perth, and no fewer than 24.4 in Leith.* In other words, had Glasgow suffered in proportion to Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen, we should have lost, instead of 41 cases during the four months, from 250 to 300; if in the proportion of Greenock, 100; of Perth, 220; of Leith, no fewer than 1000 cases. And although the result cannot be at present stated accurately in numbers, there is no doubt of the fact, that in many of the smaller towns or villages attacked in Scotland—as in Fraserburgh, Leven, Methil Hill—the mortality has been much higher in proportion to the population than in Leith; as it was, also, during the summer months, in the east end parishes of London.†

On the whole, then, there seems to be in these facts a good foundation, not only for the great public expression of thankfulness with which we are to be occupied to-morrow, but also for much encouragement and hopefulness as regards the future. Amid a population suffering under many of the worst evils of great cities in their most aggravated forms, we have seen one of the most terrible of epidemics apparently unable to take root, and passing away with an almost inappreciable effect upon the general mortality. Nor is this the only benefit which it has pleased God to confer upon us in connection with cholera. The fear of the threatened epidemic might have spent itself in unreasoning panic. It has been, on the contrary, providentially so guided and controlled as to have been a great, and, indeed, incalculable means of good. Hundreds, nay, thousands of devoted men of all Churches, and of every position in society, have been made to feel it a duty and a pleasure to place themselves in closer relations than before with the poor and helpless, and even with the criminal and degraded inhabitants of this great city. The words of charity and mercy have gone forth from almost every pulpit, and have enforced the great lesson that calamity ought to draw us nearer to our fellow-

* Paisley alone, of all the more considerable towns of Scotland, has suffered less in proportion to its population than this great and teeming centre of industry.

† Dr. Farr has stated the rate of mortality over the eastern districts of London, so far as supplied from the Old Ford Water Reservoirs on the Lea, as being not less than 79 in 10,000; which, over the population of Glasgow, would have amounted to about 3000 deaths. In some other parts of London, however, the mortality was as low as 4 in 10,000 persons.

men. They have been nobly responded to; and for this great lesson of religious duty, so well and heartily performed, we may well thank God, while acknowledging His mercy in sparing us from death.

The object of these few remarks will be attained if they express in any degree the serious conviction of the writer, that the noble work of the sanitary visitors has been, and still is, proceeding with the best results, which will appear in due season. It would be out of place on the present occasion to enter into details, or to express the obligations of the authorities to the promoters of this truly Christian undertaking, further than to express a hope that it may not be allowed to fall to the ground with the apparent cessation of cholera, but may be remoulded in a more permanent form.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. GAIRDNER.

Number of Deaths from Diarrhoeal Diseases and from Cholera in each 10,000 of Population (1861) in each of the following Towns, during the Four Months, August to November, 1866:—

	Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Cholera.
Glasgow,	5'5	1'0
Edinburgh,	11'8	7'5
Dundee,	12'2	6'2
Aberdeen,	10'2	7'2
Paisley,	5'9	0'4
Greenock,	6'3	2'5
Leith,	30'0	24'4
Perth,	9'2	5'4
Eight Towns,	9'6	4'9

APPENDIX No. III.

[The following Reports—one of an entire Section in the best part of the city, the other of a Sub-Section in the very worst—have reached me since the meeting on the 19th; and I gladly insert here the more important portions of each, so as to show at once to the authorities and the public the nature and value of the work done by the visitors.—W. T. G.]

SANITARY VISITATION.—REPORT OF SECTION NO. II.

At a meeting of the Committee of this Section, held in the Sanitary Department of the Police, 31st December, 1866, it was remitted to a Sub-Committee of laymen, to be appointed by the Rev. Messrs. Charteris and Oldham, to frame a general Report

on the visitation of the Section, to be presented for approval at a future meeting. The following report is the result of the remit referred to:—

The boundaries of Section II. are:—On the south—Sauchiehall Street, Sandyford Street, and Dumbarton Road, and so westwards to the Kelvin, and eastwards to Buchanan Street, Garscadden Street, Kyle Street (so as to include the whole district of Port-Dundas); on the east—the city boundaries; as also on the north and west. The number of inhabitants, occupying a great variety of dwellings, though the majority are of a superior class, is about 55,000.

In order to undertake the duties of visitation, the Committee secured the aid of eighteen churches and missions: in one instance the congregation gave up their allotment, which was divided ultimately between two congregations not before engaged. The total number of visitors brought into operation in this way was about three hundred.

As a rule, the minister, in each case, was convener of his District Committee of Visitors; and where this arrangement could not be carried out, some active member of the congregation was found ready for the work. In only one district has no report been given in to the Sectional Committee.

Annexed is a Table, giving the contents of the reports by the conveners.* As a source of encouragement, when occasion again requires that such a Visitation should be renewed, it must be remarked how invariably the visitors were well received by the residents in the various districts.

It is also gratifying to observe with how few exceptions the houses and districts are reported in a generally good condition. Of course, from the situation in the city which this section occupies, a great number of the best residences are included in it; but there are also parts comprising houses and inhabitants of a widely different class; and it is to their uniformly cleanly and comfortable condition that we particularly allude. No doubt, in some cases, particular defects or nuisances are mentioned as requiring removal; but our opinion is that in most of these cases the faults complained of should have been reported to the Sanitary Department by the visitors until they were rectified—our own experience having been that, where delay occurred, it was owing to some temporary obstacle, not the inaction of the authorities, and that in every case sufficiently reported the end was accomplished.

We have no doubt that the work performed throughout the city (of which that in Section II. is a sample) has proved of invaluable

* This tabular statement is one of the greatest value and importance, and forms almost a model for such documents in the event of a permanent Sanitary Visitation. It will receive careful consideration.—W. T. G.

able service to the health of the community. Any one who has not been engaged in the work can hardly form an idea of the *minutiae* that have been brought under notice, and formed the subjects of discussion at the visitors' meetings. These discussions cannot have failed to enlighten those who took part in them as to the sanitary requirements and condition of our fellow-citizens, and to excite an interest in these which must yield useful fruits in the future, as they have undoubtedly done in the past.

There is only too frequent testimony to the insufficiency of accommodation in many places for the requirements of families where one apartment is used for all purposes: the visitors' reports we know to have contained much more ample evidence of this than could be expressed in the conveners' reports; and the authorities, we think, should give their attention to this subject, with a view to the systematic alleviation of this evil, especially where districts are known to be the abode of infectious or epidemic diseases under ordinary circumstances—as it is in these that such scourges as cholera are developed in the most virulent form.

It is a source of great thankfulness that we have hitherto escaped the affliction so entirely which other cities and towns have suffered from in the recent visitation of the last-named disease; and it behoves us to be fully alive to the fact that it has not entirely disappeared from our neighbourhood.* We would most earnestly recommend that the visiting staff be kept together, and that during the present season they should be called upon to visit their respective districts, and report to their conveners the state of the same—giving notice at once of any falling off from the condition of the districts as compared with the state while visitation was going on, or any alterations necessary which have not yet been carried out.

O. T. B. GARDNER.
THOMAS BROWN.

SANITARY VISITATION.

Joint Report by John Street United Presbyterian Congregation, and Elders' Church, Havannah, to the Sanitary Committee of the City of Glasgow Police.

The district allocated to these congregations is bounded by the High Street on the west, New Vennel on the south, Hunter Street on the east, Havannah, Pettigrew Street, and Duke Street on the north. The number of houses to be visited was about 1100.

The congregations having appointed visitors, and the district

* This was written with reference to the reappearance of cholera at Port-Glasgow, twenty miles down the Clyde, on two occasions during the winter. Happily there is now no longer any occasion for the remark.—W. T. G.

having been divided into sections, these visitors duly made returns, the result of which is embodied in the following report:—

The district, which is densely populated by the working and lower orders, consists of small houses, of one, two, and three apartments. Many of them are old, and low in the ceiling, with no ventilation but what is afforded by the windows when kept open. They are situated in closes, many of which are long and narrow. Taking these circumstances into account, the visitors report very favourably of the external condition of the houses. The closes and stairs are generally whitewashed and clean. The close and crowded nature of the buildings preclude the possibility of healthy ventilation to the dwellings, but the inhabitants on the whole endeavour to remedy this by keeping their windows open. It is proper to state that since the visitation of cholera, some cases of which had occurred in the district, more attention has been paid to cleansing the closes by means of a stream of water from hose three times a week; and a continuation of this is highly desirable.

All the houses have been visited twice, and in some instances much oftener. The visitors were on the whole well received. They distributed the circulars put into their hands by the Sanitary Committee, and gave verbal recommendations when these appeared necessary. Generally these recommendations were ascertained to have been adopted, upon a subsequent visit. In the words of one of the visitors, "The visits were favourably received, with scarcely a single exception, the people being apparently fully alive to the necessity of keeping themselves and their houses clean if they would enjoy health." While this satisfactory state of things prevailed to a great extent, the Visitors have reported very differently in regard to some of the closes and dwellings; and one striking feature of the investigation is, how some of these are clean and healthy, while others in immediate proximity are quite the reverse. As to those in this condition, we give the following extracts from the answers to queries.

In the district from 76 to 118 Havannah, the visitors say: "The most of the houses consist of one room, and are generally dirty. Some of the parties said, when we recommended them to be whitewashed, that the walls were so damp that it would not stick: they brushed them with a dry brush."

In the district from 51 to 99 New Vennel, in answer to the question, "What is the condition of the houses in the district?" "They are both badly lighted and badly ventilated, and in many instances overcrowded. The closes are long and narrow, and badly paved, and still worse drained, and some of them very filthy, especially 77 New Vennel." The visitors recommend:—1st, "That the houses of ill fame should be visited by a policeman more frequently than they are, to see that they are not overcrowded, as too many of them are. A week ago, in 77 New

Vennel, I entered several with my Bible-woman, at about twelve o'clock noon, and could scarcely find room to stand, the floor was so completely covered with men and women all fast asleep. 2nd, That the closes should be washed out more frequently than they are at present. 3rd, That the staircases should have some better means of ventilation than they have at present. 4th, That some means should be organized to take away from them the materials upon which they lie, whether shavings, straw, rags, or blankets. 5th, That *very cheap* washing-houses and baths ought to be opened in the district. And, 6th, That the whole district ought to be opened up by the contemplated City Improvement Act."

It requires little consideration to see that any efficient sanitary improvement can never be effected, so long as there exists such an overcrowding of old dilapidated houses, imperfectly supplied with pure air and water. It is suggested by some of the visitors that nothing but the City Improvement Scheme will prove an adequate remedy for the evils. In the meantime there appears an imperative duty upon the landlords and factors in such a locality to improve these dwellings. There is reason to believe that the class of tenants that occupy them dare not make complaints to their landlords or factors without the risk of being turned out of the premises; and it is very desirable that some aid should be afforded to such persons of enforcing their complaints through the Sanitary Committee or the police.* In several instances there is not a sufficient supply of water at the stair-heads for the number of families in the land, nor for the purpose of washing the jawboxes, which are too frequently out of repair and in a state of filth.

We have only farther to add, that the visitation has been attended with most beneficial results, even viewed as a temporary precaution in case of cholera. It is well worthy of consideration whether it should not be continued as a permanent means of amelioration among the dwellings of the poor. If properly organized, and judiciously managed and worked out, it might prove the most effective agency that could be employed with the view of reaching the internal domestic arrangements of the people, and in promoting cleanliness and comfort in their homes.

The returns of the visitors accompany this report.†

For Committee of Visitors,

PETER MACLEOD.

GLASGOW, 17th April, 1867.

* The difficulty usually is not in enforcing improvements where good ground for complaint exists, but much more commonly in the fact that occupiers are either too ignorant or too careless to make complaints in many cases where evils only require to be known in order to be remedied.—W. T. G.

† The omitted portions of the report are not less valuable than those here inserted, though less suitable for publication.—W. T. G.