

paper whilst in course of manufacture) of a fine Damascus pattern, the process for making which was patented by his father (Mr. John Smith) in 1849, the mould being shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

At the benches in this room were stationed in readiness three expert workmen, each provided with an enormous two-inch file or rubber weighing sixteen pounds, and as soon as the seals of the plates, which had previously been brought from the strong rooms under the charge of the bank officials, had been broken by the Governor, the steel plates were fixed in position on the benches and the workmen set to work with a will to obliterate every line of the delicate tracery constituting the design of the plates. With the powerful tools at hand even the hard surface of the three steel plates from which alone the stamps have been printed soon had to yield, and after about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour's hard work the surface of the plates was utterly defaced. The destruction of the steel plates being complete, the attention of the workmen was then directed to the original matrix and die, the raised surface of the designs upon which, being too hard to be much affected by the powerful files which had been used upon the printing plates, were then applied to a grindstone which stood ready at hand, and in a short space of time the designs were ground level with the surface of the matrix and die. The defaced plates and dies were once again consigned to the charge of the Bank officials.

Their Royal Highnesses then proceeded to the Governor's room, where the official certificate of the destruction of the plates was signed by the Duke and Duchess of York, Mr. H. C. Smith, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. J. S. Parcell, C.B., Controller of Stamps, and the following members of the Organising Committee of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund: Lord Rothschild, Lord Rowton, Sir Henry Burdett, the Right Hon. C. Stuart Wortley, Q.C., M.P., Sir Savile Crossley, and Mr. J. G. Craggs.

The certificate is as follows:—

"Certificate of the Destruction of the Dies and Plates employed in the Production of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund Stamps.

"We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the whole of the Dies and Plates used in the production of these Stamps were this day destroyed in our presence."

Here follow the signatures as above.

The Governor of the bank then said: On behalf of the Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund I beg to thank your Royal Highness and the Duchess for coming here to-day to see the plates destroyed. Perhaps you will kindly certify to those present that you are quite satisfied that no more stamps can be printed from the plates.

The Duke of York replied: It has interested both the Duchess and myself a great deal to come to-day and see the destruction of the dies and plates of the stamps which are issued in connexion with the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, and I trust that the remainder of the stamps will be soon sold, as I think there can be no more appropriate souvenir of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee than these Stamps.

His Royal Highness added that the defaced plates and dies might form an interesting exhibit at the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition which he is to open in London on the 22nd inst.

The Royal party afterwards made a tour of the printing department of the bank, where they were much interested in inspecting the details of producing the bank-notes, postal orders, cheques, &c.

THE VICTORIAN ERA EXHIBITION AT EARL'S COURT.

ON Monday members of the press were invited to a private view of the incubators for infants at the Victorian Era Exhibition, Earl's-court. These are exhibited in a building facing the Welcome Club, and divided into three compartments. On one side there is sleeping accommodation for two wet nurses and for *Mdlle. Louise Recht*, who has been specially trained at the Paris Maternity Hospital to look after debilitated and prematurely born infants reared in incubators. A separate service for

this purpose was established at the *Maternité* in 1893, and here some 400 children, born under most unfavourable circumstances, are received annually. On the other side of the building there is a nursery, where the infants are taken to be fed and washed. The public are admitted to the central room, and here they can view the infants lying within the incubators, and are shown how the apparatus is ventilated and warmed and the temperature automatically maintained. The mechanism employed for this purpose has already been fully explained in these columns.¹ Its efficiency is now put to a practical test. Messrs. Coney and Schenkein, who are the representatives in England of this the "Altmann Incubator," invite the criticism of the medical profession, and will supply every possible facility for the fullest investigation. They are ready to take in their charge any prematurely born child, and, apart from the trained nurse and the wet nurses, they have retained the services of two physicians, who attend three or four times a day to watch over the health of the infants. At night the watchman awakes the nurses every three hours so that they may feed the infants, and in the day time the babies are fed, generally from the breast, every two hours. In the nursery there is a small pharmacy, contrivances for sterilising milk, ingenious feeding bottles, and scales so that the infants may be weighed and their progress duly observed. A very large number of persons have already visited this exhibit, including many trained nurses. Much interest is manifested by the visitors. The incubators and the ventilating tubes are silvered, which gives them a bright and cheerful appearance, while the infants within look clean and comfortable, so that altogether it is a pleasant as well as an interesting sight.

It so happens that among the exhibits of the London Hospital to be seen in the main building there is an old-fashioned incubator which serves to illustrate the progress accomplished in modern days. This old incubator is not aseptic, for it is simply a wooden box with a glass lid, nor can the temperature within be automatically maintained. It is warmed by placing underneath three stone bottles containing hot water. Of course, the water becomes cold and the temperature falls unless the attendant is very careful. Nor is there any system for filtering and moistening the air. Instead of breathing pure outside air the infant must breathe the air of the ward or room in which he or she is placed. How all these inconveniences can be avoided will be made manifest to those persons who visit the special exhibit of the Altmann Incubators.

In other respects the exhibits of the London Hospital give a graphic object-lesson of the progress made in medicine, surgery, and nursing. Thus, while Messrs. Krohne and Seemann show the improved and the new surgical instruments they supply to the London Hospital, there is displayed on a table the somewhat primitive instruments that were used at the hospital at the commencement of the century. Among the comparative novelties are the regulating inhalers for the administration of anaesthetics. Messrs. Krohne and Seemann have also an improved patent lever spring for correcting the malposition of the great toe, and there is Largiadier's apparatus for strengthening the chest and limbs, by which home gymnastics may be practised for the modest cost of 7s. 6d. Here, also, will be found Messrs. Allen and Hanburys' well-known pharmaceutical preparations, and their surgical instruments, their furniture for operating theatres, nurses' bags, pocket cases, and other things of interest to the profession, together with a patent portable bed-rest.

The London Hospital exhibits present to the public many of the most striking features of a surgical ward. For instance, there is one bed with a dummy figure representing a man who is supposed to be suffering from fever. From a cradle placed over the bed two large metallic trays are suspended containing ice. Rubber pipes travelling from these trays drain off the water to a bucket under the bed. Formerly a number of little buckets were tied to the cradle. These were more easily upset, and as they retained the water the bed was often wet. For the new beds now used the wire spring mattress is fastened to the iron framework and there is no wood whatsoever. But there are fracture boards that can be introduced to harden that portion of the bed where a spring mattress would interfere with the treatment of the patient. Further, all the heads of the beds can be easily lifted off whenever it is necessary to administer anaesthetics. There is also an ingenious method for lifting

¹ THE LANCET, May 7th, 1897.

off the side of a cot, and it slides down a groove perpendicularly to the floor, so that it takes up no room. Then there is a new table on high legs, which passes over the beds, and can be wheeled up to the patient without resting on the bed clothes. The application of a cradle for fractured tibia is shown on a dummy figure, as also the methods employed for hip extension and the operation of tracheotomy. Among the curiosities, the old operating table used a century ago at the London Hospital and Miss Nightingale's carriage which she employed in the Crimea evoke much interest.

In this section the Jubilee Institute for Nurses have their exhibit. They display the bags they carry about with them, and their various ingenious contrivances for extemporising in the dwellings of the poor, whatever may be required for the successful nursing of the sick. What changes can be thus brought about are illustrated by pictures of the interiors of houses, notably of Irish huts, before and after the nurse's visit.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board, the St. John Ambulance Association, the Army Medical Department, and Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome (outfits for field purposes) have extensive exhibits in another part of the building. The education department was, from the sanitary point of view, a decided disappointment. We did not, for instance, notice the plan or the photograph of a single schoolroom provided with lateral light or any scientific method of warming and ventilating. There were, however, several pictures of class-rooms where these modern improvements and sanitary principles are utterly ignored. The careful treatment of milk and all its products by the London and Provincial Dairy Company was much more satisfactory. Here fresh milk, strawberries and cream, ices, &c., may be enjoyed by the visitor while contemplating cows and calves contentedly chewing the cud in model stables.

Altogether, though the Victorian Era Exhibition is in the main a pleasure resort, still there are some exhibits of technical interest to members of the profession, so that a small portion at least of the time devoted to a visit may be usefully as well as agreeably employed.

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

We continue below our record of some of the principal amounts received at the Mansion House, the lists of which have been forwarded to THE LANCET office. The total sum now amounts to £31,000:—

	£	s.	d.
St. Jude, South Kensington	566	19	5
Church of the Annunciation, St. Marylebone	217	15	9
St. Andrew, Stoke Newington	73	14	8
St. Andrew (Presbyterian), Upper Norwood	53	2	0
Regent-square Presbyterian Church	93	3	8
"F" (a further)	50	0	0
St. George, Tutnell Park	53	7	8
St. Augustine, Kilburn	58	17	9
Putney Parish Church	76	5	9
St. John, Putney	87	6	2
St. Paul, Camden Square	62	2	11
All Saints, Margaret Street	65	11	6
Dulwich College Chapel	67	7	0
Lewisham Parish Church	70	3	3
Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church	78	9	1
Hornsey Parish Church	67	16	5
Christ Church, Gipsy Hill	133	17	6
St. Thomas, Fortnam Square	74	6	10
Holy Trinity, Upper Tooting	54	3	7
Clapham Parish Church	66	0	0
St. Augustine, Highbury	93	5	8
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Notting-hill	42	11	8
St. Peter, Eltham-road	40	18	9
Bloomsbury Baptist Chapel and Mission	26	17	0
Hammersmith Parish Church and Mission	22	6	6
Christ Church, Mayfair	25	9	0
All Saints, Hatcham	37	6	5
St. Dunstan, East Acton	28	14	2
St. Luke, Old-street	20	1	11
St. Andrew, Stockwell	23	16	5
Wesleyan Church, The Avenue, Blackheath	23	14	0
St. Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth	29	12	6
St. John the Evangelist, Brixton	32	4	11
Holy Trinity, Anerley	30	9	0
St. Matthew, Westminster	22	10	6
Portman Chapel, Baker-street	76	14	7
Highgate Parish Church	70	17	6
St. Peter, Cranley gardens	442	13	2
Holy Trinity, Sloane-street	247	16	0
St. Alban, Streatham-park	142	18	8
Christ Church, Hampstead	158	0	8
St. James, Clapham-park	146	0	6

	£	s.	d.
St. Margaret, Westminster	242	19	6
St. Anne, Soho	95	17	8
Brompton Parish Church	118	16	10
St. Stephen, Westbourne-park	160	0	8
St. Luke, Nutford-place	121	11	1
St. George, Hanover-square	143	0	7
St. Paul, Beckenham	124	6	11
St. Peter, Kensington Park Road	152	2	5
St. John the Evangelist, Penge	80	0	0
Christ Church and St. Saviour, Ealing	64	19	12
St. John, Blackheath	34	5	3
St. Michael, Blackheath Park	35	5	3
St. Stephen, Wandsworth	72	3	6
St. Paul, Hamlet road, Norwood	88	18	9
Grafton-square Congregational Church, Clapham	53	16	0
St. Matthew, Upper Clapton	53	1	9
Streatham Parish Church and All Saints	88	0	7
All Saints, Blackheath	64	7	7
Chipping Barnet Parish and District Churches	44	12	9
Chapel Royal, St. James's	39	3	0
St. Pancras Parish Church	48	9	7
Gray's Inn Chapel	45	17	7
St. James, Hatcham	68	2	3
St. Anne, Highgate-rise	25	16	8
St. Botolph, Aldersgate	20	17	0
Holy Trinity, Lee	21	10	0
St. John, Upper Norwood (part collections)	33	2	7
St. Thomas, Clapton	30	10	9
St. Bartholomew and St. Matthew, Sydenham	178	16	6
Sir Savile Crossley, Bart. (further donation)	500	0	0
St. Michael, Paddington	151	11	1
St. Thomas, Regent-street	27	16	8
All Saints, Shooters-hill	21	5	5
Christ Church, St. Marylebone	35	18	7
Pro-Cathedral, Kensington	23	9	8
St. Mark (Presbyterian), Greenwich	33	18	0
Kilfron-road Unitarian Church, Brixton	29	17	5
Marylebone Presbyterian Church	48	1	0
St. Mark, Notting-hill	23	1	5
All Saints, Child's-hill	33	14	8
St. Andrew, Westminster	57	17	0
Wilkesden Presbyterian Church	42	18	1
St. Mary, Spring Grove	35	8	8
Christ Church, Woburn square	22	2	2
St. James, Garlickhithe	22	17	10
Streatham Congregational Church	30	12	9
Downs Baptist Chapel, Clapton	29	13	2
St. Luke, Hackney	27	17	10
High-road Wesleyan Chapel, Streatham	25	6	9
Christ Church, Westminster	30	0	0
St. Andrew, Watford	21	6	8
Eaton Chapel, Eaton-square	42	14	10
Finsbury-park Wesleyan Circuit	26	9	6
St. Mary, West Kensington	39	6	2
St. Paul, Harringay	26	0	0
Christ Church, with St. Barnabas, N. Finchley	24	7	7
Wilkesden Parish Church	22	6	7
St. John, Ealing	31	3	5
St. Stephen, Westminster	33	0	0
All Saints, Camberwell	32	8	4
Christ Church, Wanstead	22	18	6
St. John, Stratford	20	5	10
St. George, Westcombe-park	26	16	9
St. James, Clapton	25	18	3
St. Saviour, Clapham	24	6	9
Holy Trinity, Islington	21	13	9
Greek Church	93	9	6
Christ Church, Forest-hill	50	9	0
All Saints, Notting-hill	36	2	9
Hendon Parish Church and Christ Church	48	1	0
St. John the Baptist, Hillingdon, and Evelyn School	30	3	3
Box outside Mansion House	15	7	0

VITAL STATISTICS.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

IN thirty-three of the largest English towns 6790 births and 3192 deaths were registered during the week ending July 10th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had declined from 15·8 to 14·7 per 1000 in the three preceding weeks, rose again last week to 15·1. In London the rate was 15·1 per 1000, and almost corresponded with the mean rate in the thirty-two provincial towns, which was 15·2 per 1000. The lowest rates in these towns were 7·3 in Croydon, 8·7 in Huddersfield, 8·8 in Swansea, and 9·3 in West Ham; the highest rates were 20·0 in Liverpool, 20·6 in Burnley, 21·3 in Salford, and 23·1 in Preston. The 3192 deaths included 504 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against 404 and 409 in the two preceding weeks; of these, 170 resulted from diarrhoea, 143 from measles, 75 from whooping-cough, 59 from diphtheria, 33 from scarlet fever, and 24 from "fever" (principally enteric). The lowest death-rates from these diseases were recorded in Bradford, Bristol, Derby, Huddersfield, and Halifax; while they caused the highest rates in Wolverhampton, Birkenhead, Burnley, and Preston. The greatest mortality from measles occurred in Bolton,