LITERATURE, ART, SCIENCE, MUSIC, AND THE DRAMA.

NOTES.

In a pamphlet on "The Medical Acts, and the proposed Medical Acts Amendment Bill" (—published by Mitchell & Co., Red Lion-court, Fleet-street), Dr. Robert Hunter, a physician of some fame, severely censures the general policy of the Medical Council, and advocates the admission to registration, as legally qualified practitioners in Great Britain, of gentlemen who may have passed examinations sufficiently stringent in the colonies or abroad. The impressions we derive from a perusal of the letters and observations which are contained in the pamphlet favour the council rather than Dr. Hunter. That he has a case, and knows its strength is very evident; indeed, he exhibits considerable *animus* against the council, and displays too much prejudice to lead the cooler judgments of men who have neither private pique nor professional exclusiveness to fetter them. The scheme of registration, and the method of licensing, are far from perfect in practice; some of the results we owe to them are calculated to make the public fear for its safety; but striving to destroy the repute of the only corporations the medical profession recognises, can be regarded only as an attempt to create, for private ends, a panic. The public mind needs educating, not inflaming. Dr. Hunter should leave the work of exciting prejudice to those which, public, at all events, can have no sufficient grounds, to quackes whose profits depend upon the fears of the ignorant.

The *Stranger in London* is dead. Its decease is mourned by few friends.

Camberwell and Peckham are disconsolate. Their *Guardian* advertised to appear on Saturday last, and to enjoy a large (imaginary) circulation, has put in no appearance. The vision of the *Argus*, too, becomes more weakly every week, and is expected soon to fall altogether.

The post of principal tenor at St. George's (Roman Catholic) Cathedral, Southwark, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. David Miranda.

An interesting article on "The Concertina," from the pen of Mr. H. Taylor, of Vauxhall, appears in in the *Time Set for Reporter* for the present month.

A new process for producing harmonious and artistic photographic portraits, was described at the Nottingham meeting of the British Association, by Mr. A. Claudet. The *Athenæum*, summarising the paper, observes,—"Perfection in the portrait would be attained, were it possible to do so, first by taking the image of the nose; then, after having altered the focus, the image of the ear; and then, from these various images, forming a collective portrait. Such an idea may appear impracticable; possibly, even absurd; and it is sure, on first thoughts, to be rejected and condemned. Yet the author seriously proposed its adoption as one of the greatest improvements which will have been introduced in photography, since its discovery.

An autograph of Gay, the founder of the great charity, bearing his name, in Southwark, was sold by Messrs. Southgate in March, 1827, for (it is stated) twelve shillings.

The dramatic critic of the *Athenæum*, writing on the Surrey Prize Drama, and its first representation on Saturday, the 8th inst., gives the pleasant bit of gossip which follows:—

For the representation of this drama, a very efficient company has been selected. In the persons of two of its members, old playgoers will recognise actors who, a generation ago, were delighting their art and gaining their bread in the provinces. In 1836, there was a so-called theatre in Magdalen-street, Oxford, upon which there were none but town-folk to go to it. There, Mr. H. Marsden and Mr. Creswick were playing Macbeth and Banquo; and those who wished to see the performance from the boxes were directed to go through "the door adjoining Mr. R. Stevens's, Fruiterer, No. 9, Magdalen-street." These two actors meet again in the prize drama, and, with Mr. Shepherd, unite in securing a triumphant career for the new nautical play, which illustrates a remote nautical period.

CRITICISMS AND REPORTS.

THE MUSICAL PROMENADES OF VAUXHALL AND COVENT GARDEN.

The *Orchestra*, in a recent article, discusses the influence on popular musical culture of the concerts formerly given at Vauxhall gardens, and those now conducted by Mr. Alfred Mellon. The writer states that the Promenade Concerts had for scores of years been the Academy of Music to the middle classes. Where would Handel have been, and how would he have stood with the common people, but for the Promenade Concerts? Vauxhall and Ranelagh Gardens were to him his great annual advertisements to the people of Leghorn, Florence, or Ferrara as these places performed his overtures and his concertos for organ and oboe. He made Stanley and Fischer the favourites of the metropolis; the Irish vocalists of the time came out in his songs; and composers lived and flourished by imitating his style and borrowing his thoughts and expressions. If in spring his Lent oratorios failed, autumn brought the public good, and Handel had his revenge. The nobility might and did drive him out of the opera house, but the public pelted him in the Ranelagh Gardens, and stopped in admiring gaze before his statue in Vauxhall. It was something to say "There stands the only statue of a living man in England; and we, the common people of England, have put him there." The promenade concert did him the good. And when Handel was gone he left his impress. Worgan on the organ, and John Christian Bach were both famous musicians, and some of the best things they ever did were done for Vauxhall. They well knew that walking to music in any comfort or with any pleasure was a severe test of its merit. The hands and feet are the ultimates of the human heart, and it is only the fool that can abide their disservance or discord. The *andante* of the so-called classical symphony must not fail in its rhythm, or the step of the pedestrian will assuredly fall out the blot; and the waltz and quadrille must keep up the *thesis* and *arsis* of the harmony, or the *pose* of the perambulating auditor will miss the power of the chord it expects and wishes to hear with sympathy. Many and many were the charming ballads composed for the walkers in the gardens of Vauxhall; and here Arne, Boyce, Battishill, Worgan, Arnold, Hook, Bishop, and the other melodists of this country came forth with their best essays, and fixed their works in the affections of their countrymen. The writer regards Mr. Mellon as following in the wake of Messrs. Tyers, Gye, and Hughes, and the many spirited lessees of the old Lambeth Gardens; though he considers that a comparison of the programs of the Vauxhall promenade concerts with those of Covent Garden will show the marvellous advance of public education in music in this country.

MR. SPURGEON'S NEW HYMN BOOK.

On Friday, the 14th inst., the new hymn-book, so long promised to the congregation of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, was introduced by Mr. C. H. Spurgeon. The rev. gentleman stated that he had adopted for the title, "Our Own Hymn Book," and though this title was objected to by some persons, he thought it a good one, as most possessors of the book would like to call it their own hymn-book." He acknowledged the assistance he had received in its compilation from Mr. Sedgwick, of Sun-street, Bishopgate, to whom, for his acquaintance with hymnology, his large collection of hymn-books, and the help he had always rendered in their preparation, the public were much indebted. In the present collection would be found a large number of Dr. Watts' hymns, many of the best and most expressive of the doctrines prized by them being altogether omitted from other selections. He had endeavoured to give the original hymns without alteration, and had also given the names of the composers in full, where they were known, and not merely a W where Wesley was meant, and which might be taken for Winkles. Mr. Spurgeon alluded to the struggles for the use of psalmody that were made by the Rev. *James* Keach, one of the early pastors of the church at Park-street. He first obtained the privilege of singing a hymn at the Lord's Supper, and, when, after several years' effort, singing became a part of the service, such was the offence given to many of the members, that a number left his church and formed themselves into a separate body at Maze-pond. He impressed upon the audience the duty of every one learning to sing: their children learned to sing: their children learned to play the piano; but if they learned to sing, they would always have their difficulties with them. Every family should make singing a part of their morning and evening devotional services. He then referred to the Union Tune Book as being the most serviceable collection he included in it. Several tunes, with which Mr. Spurgeon thought the congregation might not be acquainted, were sung by the "leaders," Messrs. Hale and Tuckett. It is a sign of the usefulness of the selection of tunes used at the Tabernacle, that such tunes as "Abbotsford," "Bradford," and "Darwells," were described as being new to the congregation. Mr. Spurgeon concluded by stating that he did not intend to appoint any trustees to the new hymn-book fund,—he thought he should make a sufficiently good trustee. If there were any profits, the first application was to be given to build new almshouses, and any future profits would be given to such objects as he should determine; but he should not make a fortune out of the book. He then said that he should resume the subject on the following Friday evening.

BOWER SALOON.

The *Orchestra* states:—On Friday evening, an amateur performance, which was made the occasion of conferring a complimentary benefit upon a lady, took place, at the Bower Theatre, Stangate. The tragedy of *Othello* was performed very creditably. Mr. S. Hamilton evinced exceptional ability in the title role. Miss Dorothy Emilia was a judicious conception; and the Iago and Cassio of Messrs. H. W. Lindo and J. W. Stanley, were equally effective. The *Honeymoon* followed, and gave occasion for Mr. Hamilton to show his versatile talents as Captain Rolando, while Miss Gordon played Juliana in a manner which earned the encomiums of her audience.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

Mr. Elliot Stock (Paternoster-row) has just published a little work by the Rev. G. D. Evans, of Upton Chapel, Lambeth-road, entitled "Salvation to the Uttermost." The language employed in the work is clear and unpretending. It is too much, perhaps, to anticipate for it a sale universal, and usefulness so extended as that attained by the smaller productions (of which this is an imitation) of Mr. John Vine Hall and his son, the eloquent preacher of Brompton. The work is edited by Mr. Spurgeon, who entertains the most kindly and generous feeling towards Mr. Evans, who was one of his earliest students and is thought most nearly to resemble him still in a great way in commendation of it to a very wide circle of readers. Mr. Spurgeon says, in his preface, referring, of course, to the author—"He speaks plainly, for the utmost simplicity of speech is needed. . . . Our author is very bold . . . he is, moreover, warm and earnest; but this will commend him to all those who love unity of diversity and loving propriety. The end and design of the writer is to win the reader to attention, and by that attention to win him to Christ—a most loving aim, certainly, and one, good reader, which should leaf you to read this volume, if not with favour? Much of this every one who knows Mr. Evans will most cordially endorse.

INSTITUTIONS.

COLLEGE OF LECTURERS.

A College of Lecturers has been founded, about a year, whose objects and plans are by no means widely known or appreciated. The primary aims are to consolidate an Union of Lecturers, for professional purposes; to publish yearly a list of lectures, with particulars of subjects and terms; to make arrangements, obtain and circulate useful information among members; to influence the press; and, generally, to raise the character and social position of lecturers as a body. The objects are good, but, we fear, little has been done towards their accomplishment, and little is likely to be effected. The names of the vice-presidents—two knights, a baronet, and the statistical M.P. for Leeds—are those of men who occupy positions not calculated to inspire confidence in the stability and high character of the College; and the Council bears too ordinarily-professional an appearance. The lecture-lists are too long. Every intelligent person must know that it is impossible for even the most vigorous of intellects to master so many as fifty subjects: and fifty would seem to be a *low* average among the thirteen gentlemen whom the Council of the College delight to honour. The Rev. W. Hickman Smith, of Penge, is the Hon. Secretary; the Secretaryship is filled, and the printing is indifferently performed by Mr. Joseph Simpson, of Newport Pagnell, Bucks.

AMONG THE COOKS.

The annual dinner (after the usual election of Master and Wardens) of the "Worshipful Company of Cooks," took place at Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars, on Friday evening, the 14th inst. Among those who "did" the honours, as the Rathbone warden (who bears the very appropriate name of Hubbard) and others, was our "Critic," Friar Tuck. The Friar had received two invitations on former occasions, but had unfortunately been prevented from enjoying them by the hospitality of the Worshipful Company. The facetious Rotherwarden had heard of the Friar's criticism on the difference in price between French cookery and English, as mentioned in our last number viz: that as good a dinner as would cost half-a-crown in London, can be got in Paris for half-a-crown, where in addition the Emperor's band, in the gardens of the *Palais Royal*, enlivens the feast. The Rentor laughs at this statement; his, notwithstanding its ancestral repute, is anything but a "bare cupboard." He says that if the Friar will only come out of his Hermitage and see things as they ought to be seen, he will find that he can get, what his little Hubbards call "a good tuck out" for nothing. The Friar instantly hesitated. Among so many "cooks," if by great good luck everything was not spoilt, "the broth," or turtle-soup would inevitably be mock turtle. He had heard, too, that the then present master, Mr. Mallett, was a Russian Jew; there was only a enquired whether it was "tallow" or "fibres" in which the master dealt: and being assured, he believes by the new "Rentor," Mr. John Chapman, that it was not fibres, he concluded that it was fruits and plantations of that kind, he would be was not the best for genuine turtle-soup. However, as he knew his friend Renter Hubbard would have to overtake the supply of wine he accepted his invitation. According to the report of the Friar, with which he has forwarded us, the feast consisted of turtle-soup, turbot, salmon, whitebait, venison, partridges, grouse, &c.: a dessert that took longer to bring in than he took to tell us about the dinner, and, of course, champagne, moselle, claret, &c. To make the cookes go down after so many luxuries, the cooks had provided Mr. George Buckland to sing a song about an old man courting a pretty young girl, as though in allusion to the old men present and all the blooming fruits and champagne and claret to which they were paying their devotions. As an appropriate accompaniment to this comic song the facetious Renter-warden had placed several plates of young peaches before elderly gentlemen, including our Friar. These had a blooming, indeed a somewhat rosy appearance, but it could easily be perceived by the wry faces of those who tried them, that though they had checks like Hebe, they tasted of Tartarus. Mr. Buckland's singing and his songs must have approached perfection very nearly, judging from the extraordinary laughter he occasioned. He was well associated with Miss Armygage and Mr. Young, who also contributed greatly to the festive enjoyment. The speeches were excellent, especially that of Mr. Shepherd, who spoke in reply to the toast of "the visitors," and the maiden speech of Mr. Mallet jun., about the maidens in reply to "the ladies." The Friar, however, said that he was not convinced, and that it would take a great deal of that sort of convincing to assure him that he ought to change his opinion as to the respective merits of the cookery in Paris and London.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Southern residents, who occasionally join the congregations worshipping—I ad by the foremost preachers and pulpits of the Established Church, in the grand old Abbey of Westminster, will be glad to know that the building is about to be warmed, for the winter months.

The Bishop of Winchester has licenced the Rev. Albert Channing Abdy, M.A., of Worcester-college, Oxford, to the curacy of St. Leonard's Church, Streatham.

The Rev. George Bailey, M.A., is the new chaplain of the Croydon Union.

A new heresy must now be added to the phenomena of religious thought and ceremonialism described, of late, as the Puseyism of Brighton. The Rev. William Lincoln,—some time Scripture Reader at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, then (after a theological course at King's College, London), curate under the Rev. W. Cadman, M.A., at St. John's (district chapel-of-ease), London-road, and afterwards minister of Beresford (Episcopal) Chapel, Walworth, where, soon after his settlement, he astounded his flock by turning Baptist, and next instituting a faith and priesthood of his own,—has shocked the common sense and decorum of some earnest supporters, and excited the jealousy of the irreligious, by announcing a radical change of discipline to his flock. The ultra-Tractarians have been vigorously assailed for establishing a line of separation, by a rail, between the women, (or, as the irreverent have it, of the "sheep" from the "goats") in the congregations assembling in their churches. Mr. Lincoln aims to out-do them. He means to separate the unmarried men from the converted; placing the former in his chapel galleries, where they may become spectators of the devotions of the peculiar people below!

BATTERSEA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The foundation stone of the Congregational Church about to be erected in Bridge-road, Battersea, was laid on Monday afternoon. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. J. G. Rogers, of Clapham. The Rev. Philip Bailhache, of Hammersmith read the opening hymn, and the Rev. J. M. Soule, offered the dedicatory prayer; after which the Rev. J. S. James, the minister of the congregation for whom the building is intended, gave a statement of what has been done, and what yet still required to carry out the object they had in view.

The Rev. J. G. Rogers then addressed the meeting, and in the course of an interesting and thoughtful speech, drew attention to some of the modern forms of infidelity and to the obstacles that lay in the way of Christian effort; and in a forcible manner pointed out the necessity for Christian men of wealth to place the bulwarks of their faith, and of ever being determined to uphold, with their utmost efforts, the doctrine of the Divinity of Christ, and the efficacy of His blood to save all who believed in Him. The rev. chairman, after urging all to give liberally towards clearing off the debts which would be contracted, proceeded to lay the stone. The ceremony was then duly performed, and subscriptions to a large amount were laid upon the stone.

The Rev. J. Pillans, on behalf of the Surrey Congregational Union, also commended the Battersea Union with the new building, and stated that it was not so much the intention of the Union to build churches, as to set the people to build edifices for their own worship.

The Doxology was sung and the meeting adjourned to the Lammas-hall, where an excellent tea, provided at the cost of three or four lady friends, was partaken of by about two hundred. The place was decorated with flags, and vases of choice flowers ornamented the tables.

In the evening, a public meeting was held, at which the Rev. J. S. James presided. The lower part of the hall was filled, and the proceedings were marked with thorough good feeling and much enthusiasm. After the singing of the hymn, "Let all men praise the Lord," prayer was offered by the Rev. P. H. Davison.

The rev. Chairman, in opening the meeting, stated that, after great difficulty, they had got so far as laying the foundation-stone of their new chapel. As far as monetary matters were concerned, many had come forward generously to their help, and he had no doubt that the inhabitants of Battersea would follow, in the same spirit, and contribute to the utmost of their ability.

The Rev. J. S. Pearsall, of Chelsea, then addressed the meeting. He did not, like many, look at the dark side of things. He followed his Master, and was not discouraged in the face of difficulties but had faith in his Father. He appealed to the growing sympathy towards building new chapels, and said that they would undoubtedly be helped by the neighbouring churches, and by those who had left the spread of the Gospel. He urged upon all of them to cultivate a catholic spirit; the chapel about to be built was not to be in antagonism to others of different denominations, but was to be a different place for the same end. He deplored the amount of unemployed talent in our churches; and referring to a sentence in the *Times* of a few days previously, that they could not build a Christian palace, but not excuse a man doing nothing, he said this was true with regard to their Churches; if a man tried and failed in some work, he was more honoured than he who had tried to do nothing. James Pillans (building) alluded to a former "blessed spirits," workers in Batterses, who had passed away, and to the liberty of worship now enjoyed by all Christian sects, and said that, as their fathers had left them a legacy they would hand it down to their children.

The Rev. J. G. Rogers next addressed the meeting. He said that he never liked to see the place worship, after two or three years of effort, those concerned had been able to clear off their debt, and as the friends at Battersea had only £600 left to raise out of £3,000, he thought they were very fortunate. He thought it was a mistake for people to have a chapel built for them; they should pay for it themselves; and he urged upon all the duty of giving something. Under the old law the Jewish people had to give something to the priests; if he could not give a lamb, then two turtle doves; and if he could not afford these, then a tenth part of an ephah of flour. So everyone must give something, and try to do something, towards building the church, and raising a congregation ready to go to it. He was glad to see the Rev. Mr. Davison present, and thought there was only a slight difference between them respecting water; in all other points they were agreed in working together for the spread of the faith over the land, and the furtherance of the kingdom of God on earth.

Mr. Allport next addressed the meeting from a layman's point of view. Houses were rising up on all sides, and he looked to see if there was adequate accommodation for the spiritual worship of the people. In order to build up the congregation, he urged upon the young ones to begin working early, and upon all to use tact and perseverance in all they were about. Let the church and the minister be the centre of attraction and the centre of emanation, and let them all endeavour to bring people away from their pagan homes, and to bring them into contact with the Gospel of Christ, and a blessing would follow their efforts.

The Rev. W. Roberts, of Islington, spoke on behalf of the Sunday School Union. He expressed a cheerful course in endeavouring to raise money. In remembering that Batterses was what was called a poor district, he trusted that the Church would make a good spiritual refuge for the poorer classes, and that it would prove to be what Christ himself was, the peculiar friend of the poor. He hoped, too, that the present Church would prove the falsity of statements sometimes made, that the nonconformist churches provided for the accommodation of the rich to the exclusion of the poor. In all their doings they must not forget the power of prayer, and must be frequently at the mercy seat.

Mr. Beard, of Clapham, gave a statement of the amount required for the building of the chapel. The builder's contract was £3,450; the ground-rent amounted to £400; and the architect's and clerk's fees, £200; thus making in the whole, £4,050. This was without extras. By this it would be seen that a considerable amount was necessary to be raised. The Clapham people had already sent them £800, and he believed that he could promise £100 more. At his suggestion, slips of paper, containing promises for donations or collections were handed up to the platform, and a considerable sum of money was thus promised before the meeting closed.

The anthem, "Saviour, breathe an evening blessing," was sung, the Benediction pronounced, and the meeting terminated.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE SURREY TABERNACLE.

The services to commemorate the opening of this place of worship before the Sabbath of last week. In the afternoon a sermon was delivered by the Rev. James Wells, after which a tea and public meeting were held. A large number sat down to tea. At seven o'clock, the pastor took the chair, and the proceedings having been opened by prayer, Mr. Butt, one of deacons, read a report, which stated that the deacons had to lament a very small number of members, some had been continued in health, and that the Lord had favoured him with His gracious presence and spirit, and rendered his ministry a blessing to many. They had received into the church, during the year, 95 persons, including 6 standing for baptism on the first Wednesday in October. The new building was invested in trustees as a strict Baptist church. The Building Committee had closed their labours in May, when the accounts were laid before the church. On Good Friday, £500 had been presented to their pastor, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his long and faithful services as pastor. At that meeting a suggestion was made for the collection of £500, £480 towards which had been raised and paid over to the Treasurer, and the remaining £20 would be paid over before the close of the meeting. The deacons had resolved to erect 6 dwelling-houses upon the surplus land at the back of the chapel, which would be quite independent of the chapel subscriptions. The ladies had commenced collecting, and were carrying on their work well. The whole of the subscriptions and collections received from last September to that day amounted to £1,350. In the space of three years the amount of cash received had realised £8,343 11s. 2d; the entire cost of the building was £10,423 19s. 8d, and the debt remaining was £1,489 6s. At this they were by no means discouraged: an old motto abode with them—"Faith laughs at impossibilities, and says it shall be done." The deacons did not wish to press upon their friends, at the same time they would take steps to obtain the balance by Good Friday next. The balance-sheet was as follows: To receipts—Cash received, £8,292 12s. 5d; boxes, 5 months, £50 18s. 9d; interest from bankers, £148 4s.; donation from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, £105; members of the Surrey Tabernacle Benefit Society, £66; sale of old Tabernacle, £406 18s. 3d; loan from an old friend, £1,685; making together, £10,748 13s. 6d. The balance-sheet showed, on the other side, £10,423 19s. 8d; interest on loan, £79; repayment of loan, £390; amounting to the whole to £10,752 19s. 8d. There was a balance, to be paid, of £4 6s. 3d., £50 had been expended for alterations; and this, added to the residue of the loan, £1,435, left the sum of £1,489 6s. 3d. to be raised.

The rev. James J. Wells addressed the meeting, and was repeatedly and enthusiastically cheered. He congratulated them on the successes they had achieved, and urged them all to press on still further for the extension of the doctrines which were so dear to them.

He was followed by Messrs. Carr, T. Stringer, Baugh (of Islington), T. Jones (of Blackheath), Fogogh, C. W. Banks, and T. J. Messer, who, with the exception of the two last-named speakers, referred in highly eulogistic terms to Mr. Wells as being the man to whom they were to look for carrying on the cause they had set out with; Mr. Stringer observing, that though he did not like to imitate another minister, if he found he could not keep close to his Master, he would keep close to Mr. Wells, and he (Mr. Wells) would be sure to keep near to his Master.

The tone of the meeting was one of jubilation at the success attending the ministry of Mr. Wells and the opening of the new chapel; and very little was said respecting the doctrines for which the name of the Surrey Tabernacle has become famous. There was a very large attendance, and great unanimity prevailed throughout the proceedings. The meeting was brought to a close by singing the Doxology, and a collection was made at the doors on behalf of the building fund.

CITY AND TRADE AFFAIRS.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCK.

The half-yearly meeting of shareholders was held on Thursday, the 13th inst., at the offices, Fenchurch-street.

Mr. J. Mews presided.

The secretary presented the report, which showed that the tonnage received into dock prior to the 31st of August comprised 681 wood laden vessels of 270,781 tons, and 84 grain and seed vessels of 130,981 tons; and that the number of vessels of all classes 1,640, and of 482,889 tons. The additional landing ground to be acquired through improvements in progress was considered to be purchased, and the directors anticipated a diminution in the outlay for lighterage and extra labour. Arrangements highly satisfactory as regarding the company had been made with the directors of the East London Railway, which would give them a siding affording communications with the line.

The report was adopted unanimously.

¶A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. for the half year wasdeclared on the ordinary stock; 3 per cent. on the A preference stock; 2½ per cent. on the B preference stock, and 2½ per cent. on the C preference stock, payable on the 5th of October.

INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP OF COPHERS.

A meeting for the winding-up of this company was held on Tuesday, at the Whittington Club; the Rev. Dr. JAMES BURNS presiding.

The Chairman explained the main details of the plan upon which the company was to be established. He dwelt at length upon the successful operation of co-operative companies in various parts of the kingdom, explained the novel features by which this company would be distinguished from other companies, and stated that the desire which animated them was to get two or three thousand workmen to become shareholders.

Mr. Henry Fowler, the secretary, read letters of approval of the project which had been received from Messrs. J. Stuart Mill, M.P., A. R. Layard, M.P., and Lawrence Oliphant, M.P., and from Lord Stanley, M.P., and others.

Mr. J. J. Merriman further explained the objects of the Company.

Mr. Trowbridge, one of the directors; Mr. Harding, the Rev. Isaac Doxsey, of Camberwell; Mr. Green, secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners; Mr. Thomas Connolly, of Lambeth; and Mr. Troy proposed, seconded, and supported resolutions, which the meeting heartily adopted.

The formation of the company was resolved upon; it was proposed to limit the number of shares held by any one proprietor to 50; and several persons in the meeting at once became shareholders.

A new line of omnibuses, built for the purpose, will shortly be running between the stations of the Metropolitan Railway, Farringdon-road, and of the Chatham and Dover Railway at the Elephant and Castle; the projectors being the directors of the above-named railway. The independent omnibus proprietors contemplate organising a determined opposition.

THE GAZETTES.

18 September.

Bankruptcy annulled.—J. Sheffard, High-street, Camberwell, hay and corn merchant.

Bankrupts.—C. J. Cartlar, Greenwich, attorney: D. Lumley, Battersea-park, jeweller; A. C. Living, Clapham-road-place, discount broker; E. Roberts, Pensbury street, Wandsworth road, gardener.

Partnership dissolved.—Walmsley, Cook, and Burgess, Deptford (and City), tar and naphta distillers.

The traffic receipts of the London General Omnibus Company (Limited) for the week ending September 16, were £10,817 6s. 1d.

RAILWAYS.

The South-Western Railway Company's traffic receipts on 500½ miles of railway, last week, were £28,534.

The popular excursion system of the Brighton Railway Company will cease on the 1st of October. Last week, the traffic receipts of the Brighton Railway Company, upon 284½ miles, were £26,790, being £440 in excess of the receipts for the corresponding week of last year, upon 272 miles. There were 473,991 passengers during the week.

BANKRUPTCY.

Before Mr. Commissioner GOULBURN.

On Thursday, at the Court, Basinghall-street, Charles Neale, a builder, of Bermondsey, applied for release. He owed £468, and had no assets. The application was supported by Mr. Doris, and opposed for the official creditor by Mr. Lascan. The case was directed to stand over for Mr. Commissioner Winslow's consideration, the time which had elapsed since the rendering of certain accounts which had been ordered being insufficient for their examination.

PAROCHIAL ITEMS.

Seeking, some days ago, a "short cut,"—if, haply, one existed—from South Lambeth to the Wandsworth-road, I turned from the former place, near the town, into a short street communicating with Bond-street. The movement was, like many another draw at a venture, a mistaken one. There was no short cut, just there; and Archer-street proved to be a very "Short Street, Dead End." The amount of improvement has, apparently, not made its track visible here. Houses are inhabited, and, I dare say, the tax collectors find out that the property is assessed, and certain dues for Her Majesty and others for parochial purposes therefrom; but the contributions of the people who own and tenant the houses are all expended in other and better-known localities. Archer-street is grievously out of the way for the South Western railway. It has no paving, and no roadway—where the road ought to be is something nearly as hilly as Denmark Hill, and slop-shoot. I think it possible that the entry of Lambeth has forgotten the existence of Archer-street, and, as there's not much in the name it bears to mark the condition of the place, I would suggest that it be carefully put on the stage, the scenery excellent, the acting unequal. We can only add that it *Tom is the Guy* represents the Street of the dearest Street in Lambeth, the pride adjudicators have had no agreeable task to perform, those which fell below the literary and dramatic standard of Mr. Sloan's play.

ACCIDENTS, &c.

The imbecility of a man who was driving a heavy and light cart in the Clapham road, on Saturday afternoon last, very nearly caused a fatal accident, close by St. John's Church. The cart, which is made so that it can be tilted up, and thus rendered safe, is certainly, far from narrow, at that spot, the incapable driver had managed to get in the way of a heavily-laden wagon, and there stopped, so as to block the way against any broad carriage on the way to the Common. Several children were in the vehicle, and in an effort to get out, a "Clapham" omnibus struck one of the wheels, and the jolt pitched a child of about three years into the road, where, but for a rush of spectators to the rescue, the horse—conscious of being left to itself—would have drawn its load over the little one's head.

SOUTH LAMBETH.—The son of Mr. Leighton, shoemaker, of Bradley-terrace, Wandsworth-road, has just died of hydrophobia. About six weeks before an unknown dog crossed over in the opposite side of the way, as he was returning from his Sunday school, and bit him. Hearing him make a noise one night, his father went to his bedroom and burnt his hand on the hob of the kitchen grate to melt (instead of in the oven, as directed), and, it is supposed, set fire to her clothing in endeavouring to extinguish the flame which too speedily followed.

HORSELYDOWN.—The body of a young woman named Letitia Leppard, was found drowned, off Horsedown-dock, on Monday morning. The deceased was 17 years of age, and had been in domestic service, and was missing from the 16th inst., when she called upon her parents, in Deptford. She was overheard to remark something about drowning herself sometime ago, but there was thought to be no reason to guard against her committing suicide.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

BATTERSEA.—By Mr. W. Carter, at the "Half-way-House," Battersea-park, on the 12th inst., as to the death of John Smith, labourer, aged 44 years. Deceased had been out of employment, and was engaged, on Friday, the 7th, to remove furniture from a house in Chevert-terrace, and was carrying bedstead chairs in a van, he suddenly fell backwards—dead. Medical evidence proved disease of the heart. Verdict—Natural death.

LAMBETH.—By Mr. Carter, at "The Ship," Tower-street, Church-street, respecting the death of James Saulsman, labourer, aged 47. Deceased, who resided at Franc-street, Vauxhall, was found dead upon a coal barge, by the Thames police, on Sunday morning, the 16th inst. The cause of death was stated to be apoplexy. Verdict—Natural death.

HOLBORN.—By Mr. Lankester, at "The Albion," Albion-street, respecting the death of Elizabeth Eyre, the wife of a builder, aged 27. In this case, death very suddenly followed a fit of coughing, accompanied by the vomiting of blood on the 16th inst. Verdict—Natural death.

The marriage is announced of Mr. E. G. Fitzgerald, of Camberwell, to Miss Ellen Mary Hook, daughter of Mr. W. H. Hook, of Brixton, a musical amateur, who is favourably known to a wide circle of our readers. The union was solemnised at St. Mark's Church, Peckham.

M. Herman Goldschmidt, the well-known astronomer, has just discovered a fourteenth. Though only an amateur in the science, he had discovered 14 telescopic planets, and his only instrument was a common opera-glass.

The *Quebec News* of the 25th says the shore-end of the Atlantic cable narrowly escaped serious injury a few days ago, the anchor of a coal vessel having caught it. It was then buried in a dredge.

A new system has been adopted in Paris for enabling visitors to see at a glance what apartments are to let in the various districts. A register is to be hung up in the hall of each public establishment, showing not only for the district in which the matrie happens to be, but also for the other districts.

H. de Lamartine has just sustained a sad loss in the death of his nephew, M. de Cessiat, which took place on Saturday last at Macon. M. Cessiat was educated as a diplomatist, and in 1848 was French Secretary of Legation at Rome, but he speedily abandoned the diplomatic career.

The Prussian Government has decided to build a bridge on the Elbe between Hamburg and Harburg. The construction of this bridge, which has long been wanted, has hitherto been delayed in consequence of the opposition of the Hanoverian Government.

Two curious sales by auction are advertised in Paris. One is to consist of houses having belonged to various distinguished characters, and the second of newspaper bands of which the most ancient bears the date of 1600.

We have to announce the failure of the well-known and respected firm of Messrs. Ford, Ford, and Ford, tinkers, importers of iron-clasks, &c., whose fall will create the greatest sensation in the River Plate, where they have one hand large and serious engagements.—*Anglo-Brazilian Times.*

"The resignation by the Prince de Metternich," says the *Liberté*, "of his post as Austrian Ambassador at Paris is no longer doubtful; he persists in it, and has only consented to remain in the service that shall be appointed. It will not be without sincere regret that the salons of Paris will see the departure of the Prince and Princess."

The *Memorial Diplomatique* states that the Emperor of Austria, being detained in his capital by serious affairs of state, has been obliged to abandon his projected excursion to Ischl, where his Majesty intended to visit the Empress of Mexico, his sister-in-law, and also to pass in review the squadron commanded by Vice-Admiral de Tegetthof.

Mlle. Caroline Meyerbeer, the youngest daughter of the composer, was married at Wiesbaden on the 27th August to M. Richter, an eminent painter, and a professor in the Berlin School of Fine Arts.

The *Gazette des Etrangers* says that the ex-King Francis II. of Naples will arrive in Paris next month, and intends to purchase the Pompeian Palace, built by Prince Napoleon on the Avenue Montaigne, and lately purchased from him by the Comte de Limsonnac, Arsenne Houssaye, &c.

The *Corriere della Venezia* says:—"General Fabrici, Chief of the Staff Garibaldi, is at present at Padua, to confer, it is said, with General Cialdini relative to the position of the volunteers. According to the accredited rumours the decision has been come to to preserve a nucleus of this corps to serve as a base for a more serious reorganisation, if circumstances should require it."

THE PRESS ON SOUTH LONDON INTERESTS.

THE PRIZE DRAMA AT THE SURREY THEATRE.

The Athenæum, 15 Sept.

. . . We are not quite sure that Cooke would have thought it worth while to make representative of the kind of life which he loved to depict, but if ballet is the condition of this will, at least, in its subject being nautical. The author has placed before us an heroic scene, simply stated, without comic accessories, as the leading point in a drama which, in simplicity of structure, has few examples out of classic literature, but depends almost entirely on the spectacular arrangement of the piece for its effect. It is supposed to take place. . . . The production of such a drama is well calculated to improve and elevate the taste of a Surrey audience. It worthily inaugurates the new management in the new theatre.

Orchestra, 15 Sept.

The workmanship of the piece betrays the hand of a novice, and of one whose inexperience has caused overlook in the intrinsic merit of the play—in the poetry or passion. There is, in fact, no poetry or passion in it. The characters are mere puppets, speaking common-place language; there is no high individuality nor interest about them. . . . There is a little declamation, here and there, but no humanity anywhere. . . . There is an amazing absence of needless characters—characters who have to one good part divided among them. . . . There is no comic element in the drama, nothing to lighten the stillness of the general effect. The play is carefully put on the stage, the scenery excellent, the acting unequal. We can only add that it *Tom is the Guy* represents the Street of the dearest Street in Lambeth, the pride adjudicators have had no agreeable task to perform, those which fell below the literary and dramatic standard of Mr. Sloan's play.

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