

impression, and is indeed dissolved and absorbed as soon as it touches the soil. It is continued until the earth has become too cold to dissolve any more. After a sufficient time has been allowed for it to have become completely cold, the earth is mined around at some distance so as to raise the entire mass in a single piece, cutting afterwards carefully away the superfluous soil. After reversing it on several folds of linen, and surrounding it with a case, plaster is allowed to run in between the case and the reverse of the impression, so as to ensure complete solidity to it. If the soil is muddy or marshy, before commencing these operations, a trench should be dug around, into which plaster is to be introduced, which, on solidifying, will absorb much of the moisture, after which the whole mass may be exposed for some days to the sun and air before commencing to act upon it. M. Hugoulin says this plan is applicable to the most shifting soil, as sand, &c., and indeed to all except snow.—*Annales d'Hygiène.*

#### ON THE DURATION OF LIFE AMONG THE CLERGY.

*By Dr. Schneider.*

In this paper Dr. Schneider furnishes an account of the ages of 794 of the clergy who have died within the bishoprick of Wurzburg since 1824. They belonged to the Catholic religion, and may be compared with the 637, almost all Protestants, recorded by Casper in his work. In the diocese of Wurzburg, including priests, professors, and students, the mean annual number of this profession amount to 1050; and between 1824-47, there have died 800. The ages of 794 persons are indicated, and are thus compared with Casper's numbers:—

|      |    | Ages. |    | Schneider. |     | Casper. |     |
|------|----|-------|----|------------|-----|---------|-----|
| From | 21 | to    | 30 | ...        | 45  | ...     | 21  |
| "    | 30 | "     | 40 | ...        | 66  | ...     | 33  |
| "    | 40 | "     | 50 | ...        | 57  | ...     | 39  |
| "    | 50 | "     | 60 | ...        | 102 | ...     | 95  |
| "    | 60 | "     | 70 | ...        | 188 | ...     | 191 |
| "    | 70 | "     | 80 | ...        | 217 | ...     | 188 |
| "    | 80 | "     | 90 | ...        | 111 | ...     | 62  |
| "    | 90 | "     | 97 | ...        | 8   | ...     | 8   |
|      |    |       |    |            | 794 |         | 637 |

Casper, speaking of the high age which the priestly order attains, refers in explanation to the regularity and sobriety of their lives, the absence of excess of mental or bodily stimulus and efforts, freedom from anxiety, and the wholesome alternation of moderate mental activity with corporeal exertion in the open air. Most of these conditions apply likewise to the Catholic priesthood, and their *celibacy* constitutes their only peculiarity; but this, contrary to what is observed in other positions of life, does not shorten their lives, inasmuch as so large a proportion as 217 out of 794 lived to between 70 and 80. On the contrary, they live longer than the Protestant clergy; for while, according to Casper, the mean duration of life with them is 65, and therefore higher than any other class, that of the Catholics of Wurzburg is 70½. The Protestant clergy have, owing to their families, more cares and anxieties, without better incomes in proportion.—*Casper's Wochenschrift*, 1850.