

SANITATION IN PERSIA.—Amongst other reforms which the Shah of Persia has introduced into his kingdom since his visit to England, is the establishment of a Council of Health, which entertains the idea of instituting a sort of sanitary service all over the dominion. The importance of this step cannot be over estimated, for Persia enjoys the distinction of serving as one of the nearest stages for the periodical cholera invasion from India. The Persians have begun to publish mortality statistics for Teheran, which in accuracy are said to be decidedly superior to those of Constantinople. The information is obtained by means of the licensed and sworn deadwashers, who, as in all Persian towns, have the sole right to perform the ritualistic washing of corpses. The statistics take no account of Jews, Gebers, and Armenians in Teheran.

SIR THOMAS WATSON, looking on the insular position of Great Britain, is sanguine enough to hope that although he—now as he reminds us in his eighty-sixth year—may not see the abolition of zymotic diseases, yet that it will be witnessed in the next generation, or at least by his grand-children. If such a desired result be attained, (says the *Lancet*,) we are sure that the general public will owe a great debt of gratitude to Sir Thomas Watson himself. ‘Prevention is better than cure,’ is a maxim so frequently reiterated that it would almost seem to have lost its value through familiarity, but the profession and the public have yet to learn and appreciate that ‘prevention is also more easy than cure.’ The discovery of the several producing causes of zymotic diseases has been made with an approach to accuracy, and their arrest can therefore be carried out efficiently and certainly.

DUBLIN SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—The fifth annual meeting of this useful public body was held on Thursday, June 14th inst., (*Medical Times & Gaz.*) the chair being occupied by Dr. Gordon, President of the King and Queen’s College of Physicians in Ireland. The report stated that the number of members of the Association was now 263. The income of the year ending May 31, 1877, had been £157 7s., which exceeded the amount received in any previous year. The expenditure, including £21 due to the Assistant-Secretary from the previous year, was £163 14s. 5d. The report concluded by expressing the conviction of the Committee that the Association has done and is doing a most useful work, and that the fruits of its labours are already apparent in the increased interest taken by the public in sanitary administration in the city which have taken place since the formation of the Association.

It is alleged that the children of skilled artisans are, as a rule, more apt at petty manipulations than the children of ordinary laborers, and that hence the population of certain towns—Birmingham for example—has a great advantage over that of other towns in point of manufacturing industry.