

W. Gunner communicated an account of John Fromond, steward to William of Wykeham, and a liberal donor to Winchester College. He erected the beautiful chapel, still to be seen in the centre of the Cloister Court there, and now used as the Library. He had extensive estates in Hampshire and his will, of which a transcript was sent by permission of the Warden of the College, is a very curious document, which throws considerable light upon local history, and upon the manners of the times. Mr. Gunner gave some interesting extracts from Wykeham's Registers, showing his high confidence in Fromond, and the part taken by that official in the great works carried out by the Bishop. An invitation was received by the Institute from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, proposing a meeting at Aylesbury on some future occasion; and most encouraging reports were received from Carlisle regarding the preparations for the Annual Congress of the Institute, to commence there July 26. A communication was received from York, deprecating the threatened Vandalism in that city, where it has been proposed to demolish the Barbican, one of the best-preserved relics of its class in the kingdom; it is hoped, however, that the earnest remonstrances of the chief archaeological societies in the country have been of avail in preventing the needless destruction of a very interesting monument. Mr. Albert Way gave an account of a curious group of family pictures of the period of Elizabeth, brought together from remote parts for the examination of the Society. They portray the numerous members of the family of Honing of Suffolk, who, although they attained to no very eminent stations in that important period of English history, appear to have taken active part in state affairs, in the Wars also probably in the Low Countries, and in the gallant expeditions of Drake and Raleigh. Two of the portraits exhibited, contributed by the Accountant-General, and by Mr. Campion of Danny Park, Sussex, represent a military commander, who appears to have been engaged in distinguished services by sea and land, and who wears on his brow the jewelled medallion of Queen Elizabeth, a token probably of her signal favour. Another curious little portrait of two persons of the same family and age was sent by Mr. Laing, librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh, where it had been regarded as a portrait of Drake. A remarkable painting which represents the whole family, is in possession of the Marquis of Donegal, and of this very curious picture a copy was produced by Mr. Bowyer Nichols. Mr. G. Waller brought an impression of a sepulchral brass in Flanders, of beautiful execution, representing the five ages of human life, introduced in a tasteful border of foliage, &c. This subject is picturesquely represented in the chancel at Canterbury Cathedral. This remarkable example of art exhibited bears date 1489. Mr. Greaves, Q.C., brought an account of a remarkable sculpture in wood, a human bust found at Creswick Creek, Melbourne, at a depth of sixty-six feet, and supposed to be of a very remote antiquity. Mr. Arthur Trollope related the recent discovery of numerous Roman remains of interest at Lincoln, which will no doubt enrich the Museum of the Franklin Institution lately established there as a depository for objects of art and antiquity. The Rev. Dr. Bruce exhibited a massive armlet of bronze found at Birdoswald, on the Roman wall; it is of very unusual form, similar to a pair in the Duke of Northumberland's Museum at Alnwick Castle, and another found by the late Dr. Mantell, in a hill fortress on the Sussex coast. Mr. Hewlett, chief draughtsman of the Ordnance Office, brought a very interesting portfolio of photographs, taken in China by the officers and sappers of the Royal Engineers, and illustrative of the curious architecture and scenery of the country.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.—March 15. Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., Vice-President, in the chair. Dr. Greenhow read a paper, "On a Standard of Public Health for England." The author, as a teacher of sanitary science, had found it desirable to have

a standard of reference, showing what may be termed the normal mortality produced by particular diseases in healthy places. He had, therefore, selected three compact groups of contiguous healthy rural registration districts, one in the North, another in the South, and the third in the south-west of England. The northern group comprises the districts of Glendale, Rothbury, Bellingham, and Haltwhistle in Northumberland, and those of Brampton and Longtown in Cumberland; its total area is 1256 square miles, and its population in 1851 was 56,637. The southern group comprises the districts of Godstone, Reigate, Dorking, and Hambleton in Surrey, and those of Petworth and Midhurst in Sussex; its area is 470 square miles, and its population 71,330. The south-western group comprises the districts of Barnstaple, South Molton, Crediton, Okehampton, Torrington, Bideford, and Holsworthy in Devonshire, and those of Launceston and Camelford in Cornwall; its area is 1449 square miles, and its population 183,154. The death rates in these groups are 16 per 1000 in the northern group, 17½ per 1000 in the southern, and 17 per thousand in the south-western. The calculations extend over the nine years 1847-55, so that the census-year 1851 is the middle year of the series; and the proportions of deaths from all causes, and also from twenty-three of the most prevalent diseases, have been calculated. Three tables have been constructed, the first showing the average proportions of deaths in each group for male and female lives, without distinction of age; the second these proportions for children under five years of age; and the third these proportions for persons above that age. The most important results of the investigation have been arranged in several smaller tables, of which the following is a specimen:

AVERAGE ANNUAL PROPORTION OF DEATHS produced by the several under-mentioned Causes in each Group of Districts, during the nine years 1847-55, for 100,000 persons of all ages and sexes.

Causes of Death.	Northern Group.	Southern Group.	South-Western Group.
All Causes .....	1626	1764	1736
Pulmonary Affections ...	301	432	420
Alvine Flux .....	29	46	29
Typhus .....	50	74	64

The following is an instance of the deductions which may be drawn from these investigations. Pulmonary affections of all kinds, including phthisis, produced 99,000 deaths annually, in England and Wales during the years 1847-55. According to the ratio observed in the northern group, this number should have been 54,000; according to that in the south-western, 74,000; and according to that in the southern, 79,000. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Hondriks, Mr. Goldsmid, Mr. Chadwick, Dr. Farr, Mr. Slaney, Mr. Simon, Mr. Neison, Mr. Donson, and Dr. Guy took part, and thanks having been voted to Dr. Greenhow, the meeting separated.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Tuesday, March 22, Dr. Grey, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Gould exhibited and described two new species of birds, one belonging to the family *Cuculidae*, the other to the *Columbidae*. These birds are very remarkable, as forming probably the smallest species of the groups to which they respectively pertain. For the cuckoo which was killed at Port Essington, on the north coast of Australia, Mr. Gould proposed the name of *Chrysococcyx minutillus*; and the quail which belongs to the genus *Excalfatoria* of Bonaparte he characterised as *Excalfatoria minima*. Mr. S. Stephens read an extract from a letter received by him from Mr. A. R. Wallace, dated Batchian, Moluccas, October 29, 1858, in which Mr. Wallace stated that he had the finest and most wonderful bird in the islands—a new bird of Paradise, of a new genus, quite unlike anything yet known. Mr. Wallace enclosed a rough sketch of the bird. Mr. G. R. Gray having had the above sketch placed in his hands for examination and comparison with the other

known species of *Paradisææ*, agreed with Mr. Wallace that it is an entirely new form, differing from all its congeners, approaching most nearly to the king bird of Paradise, but in place of the lengthened caudal appendages, it has springing from the lesser coverts of each wing two long shafts, each being webbed with white on each side at the apex. The possession of these peculiar winged standards induced Mr. G. R. Gray to propose the subgeneric name of *Semeioptera*, and he further added the provisional specific name of *Wallacei*, in commemoration of the indefatigable energy Mr. Wallace had hitherto shown in the advancement of ornithological knowledge. Mr. G. R. Gray laid before the meeting a drawing of *Tringa pectoralis* made by the late Mr. Adams, surgeon of H.M.S. Enterprise. It exhibits the bird in the act of having inflated its throat and breast in the manner of the pouter pigeon—a habit in all probability peculiar to the breeding season, as the drawing was dated June 1, 1854.

## FINE ARTS.

### INSTITUTION OF THE FINE ARTS.

THE seventeen "proprietary members" of the society at the Portland Gallery have this year adopted a somewhat more modest tone. They no longer hold themselves out (after the fashion of the three tailors of Tooley Street) as The National Institution of the Fine Arts; and their exhibition looks none the worse for having dropped its absurdly magniloquent title.

Like its immediate predecessors, the twelfth exhibition of the Institution of the Fine Arts is an exhibition of works made to sell. The Portland Gallery is a place for earning money, not fame. In its earlier years we used to see some venturesome efforts here. Now the exhibitors rarely aim very high. Their pictures are neat and careful, rather than bold or aspiring; moderate in size, moderate in their demands on the purchaser's pocket, still more moderate in their claims on the visitor's intelligence.

With rare exceptions they are prepared to suit the market. The great picture buyers don't come here; Art-Unionists do; and so do those who buy pictures as a part of the furniture of their houses. Poetical works, and works of imagination therefore do not abound. The staple consists of landscapes of the topographical order; scenes in which children play the chief part; sporting subjects, or those in which grouse are on the wing, or fish on the grass; cottage doors and cottage interiors; and "humorous pieces" in which the humour is not too subtle or too profound. But in much, if not all, of this—however open it may lie to the charge of art-manufacture—there may be much wholesome art, pure taste, and good feeling; and though it is somewhat oppressive to have to look through a whole gallery of such works, the visitor has the comfort of finding rooms so well-lighted, and pictures so reasonably hung, that every one of the 600 can be distinctly seen and conveniently examined.

In the more ambitious walks of art the Messrs. Underhill (for here painting is very commonly a family calling with a strong family likeness between the works of the several members) stand almost alone—size being taken into consideration as well as subject. First, Mr. W. Underhill has a large 'Death of Abel' (54), as unsatisfactory in its way as Gesner's epic, but unluckily for the painter far less likely to win popular favour. Then F. Underhill has a huge picture (matching the preceding in size, colour, and conventionalism), 'The Raft' (111), in which the principal figure is the naked corpse of a woman. Sad as it is to see so much labour spent to so little purpose, it is quite as sad that painters will not reflect a little longer on the choice of a subject, before commencing works which are to cost them weeks, if not months, of labour. It seems as though it were enough that a theme has been chosen by some master of a by-gone school to render the repetition of it a matter of duty by an artist who aspires to be called an historical painter—the different purpose of true art in the present day