

Supposing there are 60,000 still-born children registered each year, and that a fee of 2s. 6d. be paid for each medical certificate of verification of the fact, and the cause of still-birth, and the identity; this would cost the public only £7,500 a year, not a thirty-second of a farthing per head of the population per annum! In Austria, the inspector of dead bodies is paid a fee of from two to three gulden per body, or about 3s. to 4s. 6d.; while in some communes, he is given a yearly salary. This salary is usually paid out of the local rates. In Rome, each municipal medical inspector is paid 1800 lire, or about £72 a year. In Paris, the medical verifying doctor is paid three francs per body inspected. In that city there are about 100 medical verifiers, and about 270,000 francs, or £10,800, are paid in one year out of the municipal rates, for verifying 120,000 deaths, and 150,000 births.

I think it is the duty of medical practitioners to bring this question of registration and inspection to the front. The time is surely ripe for a public protest against the gross indifference of women of all classes, as shown to the infant in the womb. The present state of affairs is a public scandal. A class of political economists may say that the human animal is a "glut" in the market, and so, not having the money value of a pig, calf, or sheep, it may be placed on that little list, from which they hope it may never be missed. On the other hand our words and actions must be made to give a strong colour to public thought—to instil the knowledge that from the moment of conception there is life; that this life has a right to claim our protection; and that it is one of our first duties to bring about registration and inspection of still-born children. And if we can induce our law makers to extend further official recognition to the child in the womb, then we as medical practitioners, possessing the power of harmonising law with medical science, will be able to say that we have not altogether failed in our duty in dealing with this important question. With this aim in view, I gave evidence before the select committee, which recently inquired into the registration of births and deaths. The report of this committee will, I trust, be far-reaching. And, it is to be hoped, that as Drs. Sir W. Foster, Sir C. Cameron, and Farquharson are upon the committee, the Legislature will soon be called upon to consider the entire re-modelling of our Births' and Deaths' Acts—Acts which we all know are shams, and whose working Mr. Braxton Hicks has not failed to describe as a "public farce."

(Concluded.)

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PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has left Bad Nauheim for Darmstadt, where she was joined last week by Princess VICTORIA, who has been staying at Osborne on a visit to the QUEEN during the last month. Princess CHRISTIAN and her daughter are to proceed from Darmstadt to Dessau, to visit Prince and Princess ARIBERT of Anhalt, and later they will be the guests of the Empress

FREDERICK at Cronberg.

\* \* \*  
PRINCESS VICTORIA of Schleswig-Holstein has become President of the Guild of the Good Samaritan, a society whose members make and collect useful garments for the children of the poor.

\* \* \*  
DURING the past month the death-rate at Grimsby has been abnormally high, and over 80 deaths have been registered as from intestinal complaints against 20 during August, 1892. Several of the deaths are certified to have been caused by Asiatic cholera, and the promptitude with which those in authority have acted has been highly commendable. The Cholera Precaution's Committee at once met at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and appointed a sub-committee, to be assisted by the Medical Officer of Health, the Borough Surveyor, and the Sanitary Inspector, and the most complete precautions and arrangements were at once made. A staff of assistant sanitary inspectors has been appointed to cleanse and disinfect thoroughly the whole town, which has been divided into districts for the purpose, with a sufficient staff of men, horses, and carts for each district, the work to be carried out under the supervision of Dr. BRUCE and the permanent Sanitary Inspectors. A special staff of men has been engaged thoroughly to flush all drains and sewers throughout the town with disinfectants in addition to the usual flushing arrangements, which are also being carried out. The Committee are meeting daily, and will issue full reports of the state of the health of the town. Precautionary posters have been freely issued, and handbills containing advice and information delivered at every house in the town. The medical men have been

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