

Mr. Leslie remarked that, at a former court, he had urged the necessity of the court giving a written authority to their officers to cleanse a particular cesspool. He considered the shortest way was the best way, as they could arrive at the point much quicker to try their right. The parish authorities said they had no power, but he believed they were fully authorised under the 49th section; therefore he urged the court to make the order at once, and if the parties were dissatisfied, they could remove the question to the court of Queen's Bench. They could make no bye-laws that were repugnant to the laws of this country, and without any, he believed they had full power under the 49th section to order any cesspool to be at once cleaned.

Mr. Grove said that a bye-law must be reasonable and in conformity with the laws of the land; and what they were unable to do by their Act they could not do by a bye-law. They could not take to themselves that power that Parliament did not give them. As he found a provision on this subject was contained in the Public Health Act, and was not in their own, he thought the less they said upon the subject the better.

Mr. Chadwick believed, if they were compelled to discharge their cesspools in the night-time, it would occasion great additional expense upon the rate-payers. He thought they might stand by the reasonableness of the order and of the bye-law.

The Earl of Carlisle suggested, as doubts had arisen on this point, whether it would not be desirable to have the opinion of counsel as to whether it was necessary to have a bye-law, or could the work be done without it. If there were doubts, he trusted they would not unnecessarily get into law, but do such works as were pressing by night, and in the meantime go to the Legislature for fresh powers in an alteration of the law.

The mover and seconder of the resolution expressed their readiness to withdraw the same, and the suggestion of the Earl of Carlisle was embodied in a resolution—"That, until further orders, all cesspools be cleaned at night." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Public Conveniences.—On the motion of Mr. Bullar, the following resolution was carried:—"That the officers of this commission do report on the most eligible sites for public conveniences; and that they do place themselves in communication with the parochial officers for that purpose."

The Ordnance Survey.—A report was presented from the Ordnance Survey Committee, recommending that the maps of the three-mile radius of the survey, on the enlarged scale of 16 feet to the mile, should be engraved or lithographed, as the original plans would be greatly injured by frequent tracings.

Sir H. De la Beche produced a sheet on the enlarged scale, prepared, according to the order of the court, on the scale of 16 feet to the mile, executed by their own officers, and a more beautiful work, he said, he had never witnessed. This work would be not of value alone to themselves, but would afford the greatest facility in all parochial matters for the supply of gas and water, and in the valuation of property. They would be no longer in the dark as to the fractional part of an inch, and could at once lay down, where desirable, drainage for any part of the metropolis. They would secure these enlarged-plans at an extra expense of 14s. per acre, and that charge would be distributed over a series of years.

Mr. Chadwick said these plans would be very useful, even for the purpose of house-drainage.—Mr. Leslie expressed his entire approbation of the work.

Proposed Drainage for Jennings's Buildings, Kennington.—An elaborate report was presented to the court by Mr. Gotto, surveyor, on the state of the above locality, with a plan for its relief. This place is remarkable from the fact that, in January last, from the 17th to the 29th, twenty-two cases of cholera occurred, of which ten were fatal, many of the houses being very crowded, five or six persons occupying the same bed, and frequently two or three families the same room. This overcrowding would naturally predispose the inhabitants to cholera, yet, in addition to this evil, there was scarcely any drainage, producing atmospheric impurities inviting disease, and upon which it may be said to feed. This locality is occupied almost exclusively by the lower class of Irish, and its dangerous condition has been several times reported upon by Dr. Grainger to the Board of Public Health. Mr. Gotto proposed to lay down a drainage at an expense of 2851. to be paid for by an improvement rate (the first application of this part of the new Act), spread over a period of twenty years, which would amount to only 4s. 4½d. per annum, or about 1d. per week per house.

This report led to a conversation, in which the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Slaney, Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Bullar took part; when it was resolved, "That the recommendations of the surveyor as to works, improvement rate, &c., in Jennings's Buildings, Kennington, be received, and copies of the report be distributed among the owners and occupiers of the property."

It was agreed that separate sewerage districts be formed, under the 34th section, Lord Carlisle urging the necessity of measures being taken to prevent the further pollution of the Thames.

It was ordered that 800 feet of sewers be laid down in the main line of the Counter's Creek Sewer.

Books.

The Historic Lands of England. By J. B. BURKE, Esq., author of the "Landed Gentry," &c. 2 vols. imp. 8vo. London, 1849. Churton.

THIS new and kindred effort of one already so well known as Mr. Burke is for his interesting labours in genealogy and other cognate subjects, is likely not only to sustain but to enhance his reputation as an antiquarian chronicler, while it also affords us evidence of other powers than those of a mere chronicler, the text being full of descriptive imagery, the well-told tale, the quiet quotation, and the poetic fragment of the olden time. That the author is deeply imbued with the right spirit for such a task, and that his labour is one of love, is evident. He chooses his subjects with discrimination, in general avoiding all that is not mellowed by historic interest,—no more allowing his course to be arrested by mere modern topics, "than the picture," to use his own simile, "would pause in a well-filled wine-cellar on a pipe of new wine, when so many others of older vintage were demanding his attention." And many choice old tuns he taps. But, in the meantime, all that we can offer our readers is a sample of the introductory foretaste.

"The subject we have undertaken to illustrate," he with truth remarks, "is one of great national interest. There is scarcely a village or nook in England that has not its local tradition or historical association; and numerous, indeed, would be the volumes necessary to do justice to so important a theme. All we can attempt in the following pages is to afford a rapid glance at the more striking spots of this fair realm, around which the halo of departed greatness sheds a peculiar attraction; and to give a description of some of the most important 'historic lands,' referring, as copiously as our limits will permit, to the annals and ultimate fate of the various families which, in the course of time, succeeded to their possession, and enlivening the narrative with anecdotes and traditional reminiscences. If this endeavour be received with public favour, we hope, in subsequent annual volumes, to carry out the plan fully and completely; and thus to produce an amusing and comprehensive history of the celebrated estates of the kingdom."

The work is of course full of illustrations (some of which might be better), the type is clear and good, and with the general style of the 'getting up' of the book, does credit to the publishers.

Miscellaneous.

MILITARY, NAVAL, AND COUNTY SERVICE CLUB-HOUSE.—The club-house at the Piccadilly end of St. James's-street, formerly known (not well known) as "Crockford's," has been taken by a club of military, naval, and militia officers, and has been decorated and furnished in a costly manner. The walls of the library are sage-green, with the mouldings gilt; the drawing-room cream-colour, mouldings very heavily gilt (the old ceilings, also heavily gilt, remain); and the writing-room has a deep blue paper on the walls, cream-colour wood-work, and more gold mouldings. On the staircase, too, with very good marblings, it is gold, gold, gold; so that it might be thought, whether originally or now, that the tradesman, rather than the artist, had been the director of the works. The effect, nevertheless, is one of magnificence.

EMERSON'S PATENT MINERAL PAINT.—Some who have used this "Patent Mineral Paint" in place of tar for outhouses, fences, &c., give it so good a character, that we are led to name it to those of our correspondents who have inquired for some such cheap material.

MABOGANY.—On Friday a sale of Honduras mahogany took place at Birkenhead. It was well attended, and the spirit of competition ran high. One of the cargoes offered, and sold without reserve, realized the high average value of 8½d. per foot.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—A gentleman formerly in the service of the Electro-telegraphic Company, who, he says, dismissed him in consequence of matters arising out of inventions of his which he calls "current deflectors," for the improvement, we presume, of the electric telegraph, has been lecturing of late against the electric telegraph altogether, and in favour of the hydraulic telegraph,—an invention, we believe, of Mr. Whishaw. The charges brought against the telegraph in ordinary use are, that it is liable to continual disarrangement and uncertainty from fluctuations in the galvanic circuit, and the interference of atmospheric and terrestrial electricity, producing oscillations and variations of the needles, so that "a certainty of accuracy is what cannot be attained so long as the letters of the alphabet are signalled as they now are." The evidence of this brought forward by the lecturer is said to have been very convincing. Perhaps, too, he might have adduced the costly practice of repeating messages without which the company are said to refuse to guarantee the accuracy of their transmission. It seems to be a grave question, however, whether on the whole the hydraulic telegraph would be a desirable substitute, even keeping in view the various other difficulties to contend with in the working of the electric, as also pointed out by the lecturer, such as accidents by high winds, breakage of posts, twisting of wires, and loading and derangement of same with hardened snow, &c.; or the complex arrangement of signals, and accidents in the use of the battery. The hydraulic telegraph, described by him, consists of two cylinders, one at each of two stations, connected by a water-tight tube. In each cylinder is a free moving piston surmounted by its rod, connected to which is the index or pointer, running up and down a graduated scale. That used by the lecturer was the complete alphabet of twenty-six letters, a sign for 'stop,' and the ten numerals. He pointed out how words were to be spelt and read off with scarcely the probability of error. It was also possible to represent entire words, and every letter might be used as a station signal. Modes of preserving the water from frost, and of ascertaining the point at which any accident may have occurred, and leakage taken place, were alluded to, and a patent for a plan by which he should be able to print, not, as by Mr. Brett, merely with marks in a straight line and requiring the assistance of several persons, but so as to be carried on, although no person was at the station to which the message was to be sent. He could also communicate with any number of stations, or select any particular one from the whole. He said the expense of the electro-telegraphic system, where the wires were suspended, had been about 260l. per mile, and was now, he believed, about 200l.—cost of street work, 616l. The hydraulic system, however, would only cost 60l. per mile, and would not be a suspension but a subterranean plan.

SPEDDY SUPPRESSION OF FIRE IN A COAL MINE.—The proprietor of a mine near Manchester describes, in the *Times*, the means whereby Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney has lately effected this important object. In place of either shutting up the mine and keeping it so for months, sometimes for years, and but too often after all unavailingly, or filling it with water at an enormous loss.—Mr. Gurney, by means of a furnace, tank, cylinders, and other apparatus, filled the mine and its galleries and lateral workings, three miles in length, with carbonic acid and nitrogen gases, or almost literally, with choke damp,—completely extinguishing all residue of fire. An equal quantity of fresh air was then thrown in by help of the same apparatus, and the choke damp thus expelled, and the mine so well ventilated, and rid of fire-damp as well as choke damp, that in two days from the commencement of the operations the miners were at work throughout the mine with naked candles! It is "a public remedy for a national loss," as remarked by the grateful owner of the mine in which this invention has been thus for the first time so successfully tested. And henceforth "the mineral property of the kingdom has been insured against the destructive element of fire." Our readers will remember a suggestion to this effect, as referring to ships, discussed some time ago in our pages.