

work in pairs), and the man is obliged to put up with it, or be at the risk of being discharged; he is also required to get over the same quantity of work as if another good mechanic was with him.

I now ask, is it possible for architects and builders to have good work executed under such a system? The mechanic has not time to do it, and these boys or improvers cannot do it. I am not saying that boys must not be taught, but let them be apprenticed or brought up to the trade in a straightforward manner, when we should still be able to have superior operatives. These, I am sorry to say, are fast diminishing.

And what benefit does the builder derive from such a course? he often pays the same price in the end for having his work done; his materials are wasted, owing to the inexperience of the parties employed; the work cracks, and in many cases fails before the building is completed, and he is at the expense of replacing it, the materials, generally, getting the blame. It is earnestly to be desired that builders will consider these facts, and abandon a system which (as I have said before) is injurious to themselves, and highly prejudicial to the interests of the working classes.

A PLASTERER.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The intramural churchyard of All Saints, Stamford, being totally insufficient to bury the dead in any longer, a space on the north-east side has been appropriated for that purpose, and the tender of Mr. Robert Woolston, for 50*l.*, to do the work in three or four weeks accepted. The new catacomb will contain 100 to 120 coffins, and may last, they say, two years.—At Romford, the more sensible proceeding of at once opening a piece of ground outside the town has been adopted. It is to be enclosed and planted, and a chapel erected from plans already prepared.—The alterations of Huntingdon County Gaol are progressing towards completion. Besides a detached infirmary, there is an additional building with kitchens, bath rooms, laundry, and other offices, on the basement. The interior is open to the roof, with a ventilating shaft, communicating with sixty-two cells ranged round the interior, and approached by a gallery. Hot-air pipes also communicate with all the cells, which are lighted with gas, and have water-closets, water, &c. The dinners are served up by railway from the kitchen, and altogether the arrangements, "but for the solitary confinement, rather hold out a premium for the commission of crime than the shunning it." The whole has been executed by Mr. Parker, of Thrapston, from a plan provided by Mr. Smith, and at a cost of 6,000*l.* to 7,000*l.*—The newly-erected church of St. Peter, at Cookley, Worcester, was consecrated on Friday week. The proportions are as follows:—Length of nave, 53 feet by 19 feet; side aisles, each 9 feet wide; chancel, 15 feet by 13 feet; interior of tower, open to the church, 10 feet by 12 feet; exterior height of tower to the top of the battlements, 57 feet. The builder was Mr. E. Smith, and the architect was the builder.—The Committee of Privy Council on Education have awarded a grant of 2,200*l.* towards the construction of the proposed Training School at Salvey, for the diocese of Worcester. The execution of the work is postponed till the spring of next year. A deficiency in the funds of nearly 3,000*l.* still exists.—A new church is to be erected at North Malvern.—At Nettleton, Wilts. last week, the foundation-stone of a new school-room and house of residence for the teachers was laid. The ground was given by Mr. G. P. Scrope.—Frankleigh House, near Bradford, Wiltshire, in course of reconstruction in the Elizabethan style, is now nearly completed. The architect is Mr. Henry Clutton; and the builders are Messrs. D. and C. Jones, of Bradford.—On Thursday week, at Leamington, the first stone was laid of a "Poor Man's Church," in High-street, in connection with the national schools at present in Court-street.—St. Asaph Cathedral has been beautified by the Bishop of the diocese with two painted windows, in memory of Mrs. Short.—St. Mark's Church, Penzance, was consecrated on Tuesday week. It is cruciform, with nave and aisles, north and south tran-

septs, chancel, and chancel aisles, or chapels. The style is First Pointed. The breadth from north to south across the transept is about 70 feet, and the length from west to east about 133, of which 38 are given to the chancel. The tower, which is to be enlarged and completed hereafter, stands in the position of a south porch, and is to be carried to the height of 180 feet. The interior of the church presents a dark brown colour of roof and seats, with walls relieved by red sandstone in the arches and pillars, and black, red, and buff tiles in floor. The organ, by Bishop and Sons, cost from 400*l.* to 500*l.* The aisle, transept, and chapel windows have been filled with glass, on which tint and diaper patterns have been painted and burnt in, fendering them permanent. The sittings for at least 1,000 persons are to be chiefly free. A stone-arched gateway, in a boundary wall, leads to the church through a graveyard enclosure.—On the corporation gas-works at Manchester, this year, there has been an increased profit of at least 4,000*l.* over and above previous splendid returns. Almost 25,000,000 feet of gas more than in 1848 have been made since the previous reduction in price. Amongst the disbursements during the past year we perceive a sum of 27,665*l.* odds put to the credit of the Improvement Committee, over and above 1,624*l.* odds to the Chorlton-on-Medlock Committee.—The Springfield-lane bridge improvement at Salford will cost 1,500*l.* Its progress has been delayed. A contract for the erection of the bridge here over the Irwell, according to the plans and specifications, has been authorised by the Improvement Committee, the council to pay 1,000*l.* of the whole, and the landowners the balance.—A dispute has been in progress at Sunderland between the engineer and directors of the dock and Mr. Craven, the contractor. Barricades were erected and alternately occupied by the belligerent parties, who shot shovelfuls of water at each other, till the police interfered. The right of the directors to enter on the premises having at length been recognized by Mr. Craven, the dispute terminated, and the contractor proceeded with his work.—The alteration of the screen-wall of the Edinburgh Register House is to be proceeded with, on a plan by Messrs. Burn and Bryce, approved of by the trustees of the Register House. It proposes to throw back the wall about 9 feet, and the pavement 5½ feet. But 15 to 16 feet of additional carriage-way are demanded at the head of Leith-street, where a corner house juts on the street, opposite the Register House, and really constitutes the obstacle in the way. The alteration is to cost 162*l.*—St. Andrew's new parish school at Glasgow has been opened. Mr. Kirkland was the architect. The building fronts the green, and consists of two school-rooms for 400 scholars in all.

THE DRAINAGE OF LONDON.

We have already expressed our opinion as to the error of the course adopted by the commissioners in the attempt to obtain plans for the drainage of London. A satisfactory result is impossible: the time of the competitors has been thrown away. We have only space in our present number for a report of the meeting of commissioners to receive the plans, and must defer the consideration of several letters on the subject till next week.

A special court of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers was held on Wednesday last, at the Court-house, Greek-street, pursuant to adjournment, for the purpose of receiving the plans proposed for a permanent and efficient drainage of the metropolis. Present—Sir John Burgoyne (in the chair), Mr. Alderman Lawrence, Capt. Vetch, Capt. Dawson, the Rev. E. Murray, Rev. M. Cowie, Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Bain, Dr. Southwood Smith, Sir H. de la Beche, Mr. Lucas, Mr. R. L. Jones, Mr. Hawes, the Rev. W. Stone, Mr. Norris, &c.

Mr. Woolrych, the clerk, read the resolutions passed at the former court on this subject, and stated that, of the sixty-two plans sent in up to that time, fifty-one descriptive statements had been received, in compliance with a resolution passed to that effect; fifty-four new plans had been sent in, thereby increasing the number of plans to one hundred and sixteen. In addition to these, those who had originally sent in their plans had subsequently sent in thirty-two supplementary statements; so

that there were, in fact, no less than one hundred and forty-eight schemes for the consideration of the court. Mr. Woolrych then read the names of the competitors whose projects had been sent in since the 20th of August last.

Mr. Alderman Lawrence objected to the names being read, as such a course might influence the selection of a particular plan. It was a well-known fact that the work of any individual whose name was familiar was received with favour.

Mr. Chadwick believed that the mention of names had in some measure been brought about by the resolution of the court.

The Rev. Mr. Cowie said, before any further steps were taken on the question, he must, on his own part, protest against the course they were pursuing altogether. He might be alone in his views, as he had spoken to no commissioner upon the subject, but he felt it to be his duty to embody his opinions in a protest, which he would read. (Mr. Cowie then read the protest, which set forth that before receiving any plans for the proposed object, the court should have laid down certain rules for the guidance of the competing engineers, embracing the main features, and also with reference to the disposal of the sewage manure. Another essential point to be determined was the water supply, without which subject being settled no practical benefit could be derived. In conclusion, it stated that what had been done was a most ill-judged proceeding, urged on prematurely by the chief surveyor and a portion of the public press.) Mr. C. then spoke at great length in support of his views in general condemnation of proceeding at all.

Mr. Chadwick said, as they had only within a few days received the plans, he thought a short time should be given for their consideration and classification, either as a part or as the whole of a plan when brought together. He thought the best course to pursue would be, that the author of each new plan should send a concise statement of his plan, whether in principle or detail, which should be printed for the consideration of the commissioners as soon as possible, and that a special court should be called to receive the same. He regretted that the proceedings of the Works Committee, the Sewage Manure Committee, and the Trial Works Committee, with their approximate works under consideration, had not been made known, as thereby a great deal of labour might have been saved or more efficiently directed. He agreed with Mr. Cowie that they had been unduly hurried into the matter, as it was his opinion that no plan could be adopted until the completion of the survey. They were now on the eve of completing the surface and subterranean survey, with a variety of important trial works, which would be found highly essential and govern the preparation of plans. He, therefore, thought the statements should be printed, and that they should adjourn the whole question.

Mr. R. L. Jones protested against the court coming then to any decision on the subject.

Mr. Alderman Lawrence was opposed to leaving the question to the members of the court, and, as one of those representing the City of London, he could state that no plan would give satisfaction to that body, nor would there be any security for persons submitting the designs, unless they were referred to the first engineers of the day, to gentlemen who were conversant with the subject, and competent to judge of the respective merits, and not submitted to those who had come to foregone conclusions.

Sir H. de la Beche believed that the court could not do better than adopt the course proposed by Mr. Chadwick, and that by so doing they would do their best to place the question in such a light that the public should eventually be satisfied with the decision that they might come to. Whether it were prudent to print the names of the candidates he would offer no opinion—perhaps it might have admitted of a question—but as the statements of the plans formerly received had been printed, he thought it would be only fair that those who had subsequently sent in should be placed on a precisely similar footing.

The Rev. E. Murray agreed in the view taken by Mr. Chadwick, although at first sight it might appear as a postponement of the question. Still he thought they might enter upon the first stage of a subject that must be carried on with the most deliberate consideration. Mr. Chadwick had spoken of the necessity of a classification, and in looking over them he believed those classes might be reduced to a very small number developing general plans. For the larger class, he found nineteen advocating the principle of two tunnels. The second class comprised twenty-one plans of a miscellaneous character, different in their principles and mode of action, amongst which would be found that of Mr. Austin, their consulting engineer. Three others involved the question of filtration,—a question that had never received the consideration that was necessary; while another was contingent on a certain supply of water, so large that it might almost be considered unlimited; and to an extent never hitherto considered necessary. There were fifty other plans, unaccompanied by any statement, but