

Total of children boarded out in January, 1873, 1,542.

Total of persons relieved by the 92 boarding-out unions in year ending 29th September, 1873, 230,937.

Total of persons relieved by all the unions in same year, 320,242.

71 *Unions from which no Children were boarded-out in January, 1873, arranged according to Inspectors' Districts.*

- (A) Enniscorthy, Wexford.
- (B) Galway, Tuam, Loughrea, Portumna, Mountbellew, Oughterard, Clifden, Athlone, Parsonstown, Ballinrobe, Roscommon, Castlerea
- (C) Bandon, Clonakilty, Fermoy, Kinsale, Middleton, Mitchelstown.
- (D) Armagh, Cookstown, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Magherafelt, Newtownards.
- (E) Cootehill, Granard, Kells, Monaghan, Oldcastle
- (F) Ennistymon, Ballyvaughan, Corofin, Killadysert, Kilrush, Scariff, Tulla, Borrisokane, Roscrea
- (G) Enniskillen, Dunfanaghy, Ballyshannon, Coleraine, Ballycastle.
- (H) Ballina, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar, Manorhamilton, Mohill, Newport, Tobercurry, Swineford, Westport, Claremorris, Belmullet.
- (I) Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel, Castlecomer, Clogheen, Thurles, Tipperary, Uringford
- (J) Bantry, Kenmare, Killarney, Listowel, Skibbereen, Skull, Tralee.

Total relieved by these unions in year ending 1873, 89,305.

II.—*Report of the Council at the opening of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Society.*

[Read, 16th November, 1875.]

THREE out of the six ordinary meetings were devoted to the important subject of Local Government.

Mr. Joseph T. Pim read a paper on "Municipal Government and Taxation," a matter of growing importance, having regard to the great increase of duties cast on municipal authorities and the large expenditure of money necessarily entrusted to them. The main suggestion of the paper was an equal division of taxation and representation between owners and occupiers.

Dr. Norwood took up another branch of the same subject in a paper on "Suggested Improvements in Private Bill Legislation." He suggested that the judicial inquiries should be held in the several counties in Ireland before the county court judge, and that the investigation into the merits of the bill should be referred to the judges.

Dr. Hancock read a paper on "Scotch and Irish Local Government Compared," which arose out of Mr. MacNeel Caird's Essay on Scotland, in the Cobden Club Series. A valuable provision of the Scotch law for dealing with ruined houses in towns was, by Mr. Caird's essay, brought under our notice. The fall of several houses in Dublin in the Autumn—in one case attended with loss of life—showed the importance of this provision; and the suggested extension of the law to Ireland has been taken into consideration by one of the committees of the Town Council, and has been by them referred to their law agent and engineer for report.

One meeting was devoted to an important branch of jurisprudence, when Mr. John O'Hagan, Q.C., read a paper on "The Exclusion of the Evidence of the Accused in Criminal Cases," in which he recommended the abolition of the exclusion, so as to complete the reform in the law of evidence which has been going on for some years in the gradual removal of restrictions on the reception of evidence.

Mr. William John Hancock, F.I.A., read a paper on "Friendly Societies," in which he pointed out the distinction between the temporary risks to the working classes which these societies could guarantee against, and the more permanent provisions that could be best met by the Post Office system of Insurance, Annuities, and Saving Banks.

Two papers were read about Habitual Drunkards, a class which appears to be, from all the statistics, the most prolific source of crime. Miss Tod's paper dealt with the principles on which plans for the Curative Treatment of Habitual Drunkards should be based, and Mr. Ross's paper suggested practical checks on excessive drinking and habitual drunkenness. The principal of those checks were—reformatories for drunkards, a reformed statutory power of appointing a guardian over the property of drunkards for the protection of their wives and children, and an extension to Ireland of the Scotch law as to prodigals.

Dr. Hancock read a paper on some complaints against the Land Act on account of the effect of sheriffs' sales. He showed that the defects in the constitution of the office of sheriff had been pointed out by a Royal Commission so far back as 1826, and by a Committee of the House of Commons in 1830, and he recommended a reform in the office of sub-sheriff, by making it permanent, on the Scotch model. The defective state of the law as to the recovery of debts by writs of *fieri facias*, and the want of equitable jurisdiction in the local courts, pointed out in this paper, have a most important bearing upon the question that has been raised as to the very limited extent to which the accumulated capital of the country is lent to farmers in Ireland, compared with the accommodation afforded to the same class in Scotland under the much more satisfactory provision on this subject contained in the Scotch laws.

The Council have to announce the selection of Mr. William Husten Dodd, and Mr. Francis Nolan, Jun., as essayists on "The Differences of Laws in different parts of the United Kingdom."

Mr. Dodd's essay is to be on the difference in the division of jurisdiction between local and central courts in Ireland, Scotland, and England in bankruptcy, in the recovery of debts, and in the enforcement of liabilities and charges against goods, and against the ownership and other interests in land.

Mr. Nolan's essay is to be on the simplification effected by the codes of law prepared and adopted for British India, and on the extent to which any parts of such codes can be applied to the assimilation of the corresponding branches of Irish, Scotch, and English law.