that of ejectment for non-payment of rent, is, notwithstanding the outcry raised against evictions, at once the mildest and most equitable. It would be like the case of a tradesman who should refuse to furnish any more goods to a man who had neglected to pay his last account. A tenant who cannot raise money enough to pay his rent cannot cultivate his farm skilfully. At present it may be said that the law of distress, and the large arrears that are legally recoverable, prevent the tenant from getting credit elsewhere. But if the law of distress was abolished, and only one year's arrears of rent made legally recoverable, every tenant with an adequately stocked farm would possess sufficient credit with his banker or the tradesman in his neighbourhood. Of all the people with whom he deals there is probably not one who cannot give him credit more conveniently, and therefore on better terms than the landlord can, for the latter is frequently himself an embarrassed man. In many instances the embarrassments of the landlords have been much increased by their ignorance of the exact state of their affairs, and their inability to calculate how much they might be certain of receiving each year from their tenants. The man who owes £5,000, and has no money to pay it, is in reality not in so bad a condition as the man who owes £10,000, but has £5,000 due to him on indifferent security; but the latter is more likely to be ignorant of the deplorable state of his affairs—whenever he thinks of any particular debt, he is able to comfort himself with the thought of some credit that he can set off against it.

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[Read Saturday, 26th November, 1864.]

The review of the past session of the Society affords abundant matter for congratulation, and permits of the council to indulge in sanguine anticipations for that which is to-night inaugurated.

At the opening meeting of the past session Dr. Hancock, one of your honorary secretaries, read an obituary notice of the late President of the Society, Archbishop Whately, and brought to your recollection such portions of his life as indicated the extent of his services to the advancement of social science, and as showed the lively interest he so long took in our advancement and prosperity. The presidency of this Society, vacated by the death of that distinguished prelate, was during the past session conferred upon, and is now held by, one who has taken a no less warm interest in our welfare, and the pursuits which engross our attention,—himself an eminent economist and deep thinker upon social problems,—the Honorable Judge Longfield.

The address by which Dr. Ingram, V.P., inaugurated the past session laid before you considerations on the present economic circumstances of Ireland, and the measures which appeared to him
necessary to insure her future prosperity. That address attracted to this Society a very large share of public attention, and was vigorously criticised in England, and Scotland, as well as Ireland. Dr. Ingram himself contributed to the discussion, and read during one of the ordinary monthly meetings of the session a paper comparing the English and Irish poor laws with respect to the conditions of relief—in which he advocated the extension of the English system to Ireland, and the introduction of what in his opinion would be a more just and generous administration of our poor laws, particularly in the granting of an extension of out-door relief.

PAPERS READ DURING THE SESSION.

Mr. Heron, Q.C., in a paper entitled "Ireland in 1864," stated views very much opposed to those advocated by Dr. Ingram, and contended that the emigration going on from this country should be regarded as a sign of the existence of evils of long standing and still in active operation. The result of this wide and able discussion of the position and future of Ireland was decidedly beneficial, and tended very materially to a right understanding of this great problem, and by dispelling prejudices and narrowing the ground within whose limits a solution was to be found, tended also to lighten the labors of those whose duty it may be to investigate what is now known as "the case of Ireland."

Mr. Jonathan Pim, V.P., brought before the Society the claims of some helpless classes who most require an advocate, and in a paper "On the necessity of a state provision for the deaf and dumb, the blind and the imbecile," clearly pointed out the several wants of each of those afflicted classes, and indicated what in his opinion were their claims upon the State for a provision. At the close of the paper Mr. O'Shaughnessy, one of your honorary secretaries, mentioned statistics calculated to shew how pressing the evil had become in Ireland, by reason of a large increase in the number of idiots and insane people, and forcibly pointed out the evil results of confining these latter classes in workhouses and prisons. It appeared from the discussions, that whilst the recent act for England, 25 and 26 Vic., c. 43, § 10, enabled guardians to pay for lame, deformed, and idiotic persons in public institutions, the statute for Ireland, 7 Vic., c. 92, § 14, applied to the deaf, dumb, and blind only, and did not extend to the deformed or idiotic. There is reason to hope that the attention attracted to this important question, the publicity given to many painful cases in England, and the representations of the government departments connected with such classes in Ireland, will induce that legislative interference the necessity for which was so clearly demonstrated by Mr. Pim and Mr. O'Shaughnessy.

Mr. urlin, in a paper entitled "Remarks on the dwellings of working men," and Professor Houston, in one "on recent efforts to provide cheap and wholesome diet for the laboring classes," brought under the notice of the Society the manner in which the humbler classes are housed and fed, and pointed out remedies for what are admitted to be crying evils. Dr. Mapother, also, in a valuable paper on "the present sanitary condition of Dublin," further elucidated the subject. It is satisfactory to know that Dr. Mapother
has been since appointed to the post of Officer of Health for this city, which will give him ample opportunities of diffusing information necessary for the maintenance of health and the preservation of life.

Mr. Joseph John Murphy, in a paper "On the debt and taxation of Ireland," carefully considered the report of the special committee of the Municipal Council of Dublin on the state of the public accounts between Ireland and Great Britain, and stated, as the result of his investigations, that the figures of that report did not support its inferences, and that in his opinion the taxation of Ireland was not excessive as compared with that of Great Britain. In the discussion which followed, the opposite view was ably supported by Alderman Dillon and Mr. Michael Morris, Q.C. The Society was thus afforded an opportunity of judging of the merits of a grave and important controversy, which afterwards engaged a committee of the House of Commons for a considerable part of the last session. The subject was also inquired into by Dr. Hancock, by the direction of the Irish Government, and Dr. Hancock's afterwards published "Report on the state of Public Accounts between Great Britain and Ireland," contains much valuable information.

The other subjects more immediately connected with Ireland which were brought under consideration, were "The Reform of the Grand Jury Laws," by Mr. John L. Conn; "Female Emigration from Workhouses," by Mrs. Charlotte Stoker; and "Criminal Statistics, especially with reference to population, education, and distress in Ireland," by Mr. O'Shaugnessy.

The incompleteness of the criminal and other judicial statistics heretofore in Ireland, which the writer of that paper called attention to, has since been in a great degree remedied, by the publication, under the authority of government, of a body of useful information, compiled by Dr. Hancock, upon the plan of the Judicial Statistics issued for some years past in England.

In the department of jurisprudence, papers on "Trial by Jury in relation to the subject of unanimity," by Mr. Henry Dix; and (suggested by a contemplated measure of Lord Westbury), "Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt," by Mr. Richard P. Carton, were brought before the Society during the session.

Lastly, one of your Vice-Presidents, Mr. James Haughton, laid before the Society his views upon "Free Trade—the abolition of Customs and Excise Duties—and a sketch of a simpler and better mode of raising a revenue."

The Journal of the Society placed in the hands of members many of these papers very shortly after each had been delivered. The practice of printing after each paper a résumé of the discussion it had called forth has been attended with great advantage. Views either corroborative or corrective of those of the writer of the paper thus get the same publicity.

The secretaries of departments have revised the topics suggested for investigation and discussion, and they have been inserted in the number of the Journal, which has just been placed in the hands of the members.
BARRINGTON LECTURES.

In the management of the Barrington fund for providing lecturers upon political economy, the council granted a course of lectures to Lisburn, Belfast, Cork and Kingstown. The subjects which the lecturer (Mr. A. M. Porter) selected were of a practical kind; the leading popular topics of the day being used to illustrate general principles, and in this manner he has, in the opinion of the Council, borne fully in mind the special wish of the generous founder, namely, to diffuse the knowledge of the principles which should regulate the relationship between the employer and the employed, to teach to master and to workmen their reciprocal rights, duties and responsibilities. The term of three years for which Mr. Porter was appointed having terminated during the past session, your Council are glad to be able to express their entire satisfaction with the manner in which that gentleman discharged his duties, and also their belief that through his able agency sound views of economic science have been very widely diffused.

When the period of Mr. Porter's office drew to a close, the Council in the month of May last caused advertisements for candidates for the office to be inserted in the leading papers of England and Ireland. Candidates were thus apprised that they would be tested as to their knowledge of economic science by an oral examination, to be conducted by three members of Council, being professors or ex-professors of political economy in the University of Dublin; and that their ability to address a public audience would be tested by the delivery of a lecture by each candidate on a subject selected by himself, the lecture to be of not more than a half hour in duration, and to be delivered in the presence of the Council. Judge Longfield and Professors Cairnes and Houston undertook the conduct of the preliminary examination in political economy, and deserve the marked thanks of the Society for their able and efficient discharge of a laborious task. Of the candidates who presented themselves, six passed a highly satisfactory examination in economic science, and subsequently delivered lectures of no ordinary merit before your Council, who, after anxious consideration, elected Mr. John Munroe, barrister, M.A. (Queen's University), to the vacant office.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.—The Council have to acknowledge the receipt of some valuable statistical returns, published by the Government of the kingdom of Holland, and forwarded by M. de Baumhan; also from Mr. Archer, Register-General, the statistics of the colony of Victoria; and from the Librarian of the Institute National of Geneva, the Bulletin of that Society.

The financial affairs of the Society are in an excellent state, and the large increase in the number of members which marked the last session will ensure the continuance of our present efficiency. The expenditure of the Society has been carefully analysed, and many valuable reforms suggested in an able report by Messrs. Pim and Todhunter have been carried out.

In fine, the Council, on a retrospect of the past session, are able to report that the reputation of the Society has increased—its advantages have been widely diffused—the study and solution of those social and economic problems which are our peculiar province have
On the Dwellings of Working Men in Cities, and the efforts that have been made to improve them. — By R. Denny Urlin, Barrister-at-law.

[Read Wednesday, 16th December, 1863.]

I have undertaken to bring forward this subject, not that I hope to state anything which shall be new, but because the subject appears one which should no longer be overlooked by this Society.

In the first place, I venture to lay it down as undeniable that the condition of the working people in our cities is very much to be deplored. It is sufficient to quote from an address delivered by the Earl of Shaftesbury, a description which is nearly as applicable to Dublin as to London:—

"The domiciliary state of whole legions of our fellow citizens has been with me, for some time, a subject of observation and inquiry; and I do not hesitate to assert that it lies at the root of nineteen-twentieths of the mischiefs that we seek to redress. Not only the actual dwelling, but the situation of it, the character, physical and structural, of the locality, whether it be street, or court, or alley, or some deep, dark, and poisonous recess, never penetrated, except by its own wild and unknown inhabitants, must be included within the term 'domiciliary state'; and in those places,—low, narrow, with a death-like darkness, impervious to light or air (the work of greedy speculators uncontrolled by law) —are aggregated all the fearful influences that breed evil, and neutralize good wherever it seeks to establish a footing among those neglected classes. Fever and disease of every kind prevail; a poor standard of physical strength, the result of the fetid atmosphere they inhale by day and by night, deprives them of power to do able-bodied work; while loss of energy and depression of spirits drive them to seek life and support in vice and intoxication."

"Their modes of existence are sometimes diametrically opposite. A large mass is found in the perpetual din and whirl of close-packed multitudes. A smaller, in the remote and silent retreats of filth and pestilence (through which no thoroughfare passes), dwells in a kind of savage solitude, seldom emerging by day from their hiding places, and rarely visited. But whether in great or small numbers, whether in the most active or the most tranquil quarters, all are equally shut out from the possibility of domestic life. A dozen families in a single house, though barely sufficient for two; as many individuals of both sexes and of all ages in a single room, the common and only place for cooking, washing, and sleeping; the want of fresh air, the defect of water, of every decency, and of every comfort, give proof enough. We need not wonder why the gin-shop and the tap-room are frequented; why crime is so rife; why children are ragged and ignorant; and the honest dignity of the working-man’s home degraded or forgotten. These poor people, by no fault of their own—for they did not create the evil, nor can they remedy it—are plunged into a social state which is alike dishonourable and unsafe to our common country."

It matters little where the enquiry is made, the artizan will usually be found living in a room where there is too little light, too little air, bad drainage, an insufficient water supply, and a disregard of cleanliness. There is in every city a number of gloomy streets