

including January 15th was 19.7, the rates for the four weeks being—December 29th, 5.5; January 5th, 3.7; January 12th, 27.3, and January 19th, 16.4. The average death rate for the four weeks in the 22 own districts registered was 23.7. The highest death rates were at Clonmel, 28.2 and Dublin, 27.8, the lowest death rates being at Queenstown, 11.6, and Armagh, 13.7.

SUCCESSFUL DUCK-KEEPING

There is probably no branch of utility poultry keeping which pays so well as duck rearing; but in this, as in every other other branch, the profits are often seriously diminished through mismanagement. In the first place (advises a correspondent of "Feathered Life") the choice of a breed is of much importance. Thus, if table qualities are the points of excellence aimed at, the breeds most suitable are Aylesbury and Pekin. Should, however, a large egg yield be required, Indian Runners are by far the best, for not only are these the most prolific layers, being very similar, both in size and taste, to those of hens, command a readier sale.

DANCING'S DECAY.

It may be (thinks "Vanity Fair") that the dearth of dances is attributable to the disinclination of a large portion of the younger generation to that form of amusement. Only last week, continues the writer I heard of some young people home for the holidays who were asked whether they would prefer the pantomime, a magic lantern, or a dance. Although they were quite civil about it, one and all looked a little disappointed, and when encouraged to say what they really would like, confessed that a bridge party had been their ambition, or at any rate, if it had to be a dance, that there should be bridge tables for the elder ones.

UNLUCKY NINES.

On the subject of the "unlucky" attributes of nines in dates a lady correspondent of a weekly paper mentions the following series of fatal coincidences with regard to a friendship which made a very marked impression on her life, but, unfortunately, lasted only a short time. There was nine years and nineteen days between her and her friend. The friendship began when there was a nine in her age, and ended in the following year when there was a nine in his. It began on June 9th in the one year, it was violently shaken on May 19th of the following year, and it practically ended on July 27th (three times nine) of the same year. She attributes the fiasco entirely to the evil influence of the nines, for she wears a piece of lucky white heather set in crystal, a six pointed star in gold and jewels, and a real Egyptian scarab to bring her good luck.

WAR OFFICE UP-TO-DATEISM.

Parties, like the Tennysonian Brook, come and parties go, but the War Office goes on for ever. There is a fine sense of security in this thought, and that is why we hear with so much satisfaction that an order issued from Whitehall fifty years ago was duly executed one day last week. The order was

regret were posted yesterday.

ILLNESS OF THE BISHOP OF FERNS

The Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Ferns, who has been unwell for the past few weeks at his residence, Summerhill, Wexford, is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

LIMERICK BUS SERVICE.

The Limerick Bus Company have procured a third new car for service in the city. It is said that authority will shortly be asked of the Corporation to open up a second route for the Bus system of locomotion in Limerick.

CHIEF LAND COMMISSION.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, who has been hearing appeals from Sub-Commissioners and Civil Bill Courts in the County Courthouse since Tuesday resumed the business of the court this morning, with Mr. G. N. Callwell as Assessor

THE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY

It is officially announced that the following appointments have been made:—Mr. A. Birrell, M.P., to be Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in place of Mr. James Bryce, M.P.; Mr. Reginald McKenna, M.P., to be President of the Board of Education in place of Mr. Birrell.

DEATH OF MRS. HOBSON.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Emma Margaret Hobson, relict of the late Wm Doyle Hobson, of Moylar's Park, Co. Wexford, which took place yesterday after a brief illness at her residence, Roseneath, Corbally. The deceased lady, who had attained the age of 74 years, was daughter of the late Mr. Timothy O'Brien, of Limerick, and was connected with many of the oldest families in Limerick and Clare. Her gentle and unassuming manner won for her the esteem of a wide circle of friends, and she was a liberal and unostentatious supporter of the cause of charity. Deep sympathy is expressed with Mr. F. St. C. Hobson and the other members of the family in their sorrow. The funeral will take place for St. Munchin's at ten o'clock on Saturday.

At the County Petty Sessions to-day the magistrates, Mr. Hickson, R.M., and Mr. Nolan expressed their sympathy with Mr. Hobson, C.P.S., and the other members of the family in their bereavement.

VAN DRIVER RETURNED FOR TRIAL.

Mr. Hickson, R.M., presided at a special court yesterday in the Police Court for the purpose of completing depositions in the charge of alleged embezzlement preferred against Denis Madden, van driver, Croom Mills Bakery Company. The remaining witnesses having been examined, the accused was returned for trial to the next Assizes for the city in a personal bail of £50 and two sureties of £25.

to Mrs. Bunbury and A tribute to the late at the afternoon service held on Sunday by Canon a kindly genial man Churchman. He had Dr. Bunbury in recentness at his hands.

The following show the list of those attending the late Bishop of Limerick, Hunt, Frarstowna, Mount Rivers, Newport Lord Montagu, account of unavoidable was prevented from Limerick's funeral.

The names of Alder Sheriff; Mr. T. H. St. E. A. Wickham, Messrs Ledger, (George omitted).

The list of wreaths from the Associates of the Friendly Society, Lin Mrs. George Furn carriage.

At a meeting of Association last night the family of the late Mrs. Quin, seconded unanimously.

We are asked to state C.E., was unable to funeral through indisposition.

By an inadvertance Madden was inserted of the late Bishop, a name should have been rector, who was present.

P. Y. M. A. L.

Owing to the death of the Bishop, the Literary meeting on Friday night

THE VACANCY

PRAYER FOR VACANCY

The following prayer His Grace the Archbishop the Churches of the University vacancy in the See:— O Almighty and merciful Thy Holy Spirit doth guide them into all truth These, to send down Diocese the spirit of wisdom grant that all their ordered by Thy Government Church who by faith holiness of life may be and who by wisdom attain glory and the good Jesus our Lord. Amen

DEATH OF

Lord Field died at his residence, Isle of Wight yesterday.