

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.

London, April 14, 1851.

SIR,—I am desirous, through the medium of your eminently useful Magazine, to give publicity to the existence of a Society recently formed, which bids fair to furnish information of much value in a department of medical knowledge hitherto greatly neglected. This Society has for its object the investigation of Epidemics—a class of diseases which has from time to time proved more fatal to the human race than any other, or perhaps than all the other classes put together. The Epidemiological Society is chiefly, but not exclusively, composed of medical men, laymen being also admitted to unite in a cause which is of equal interest and importance to all mankind.

The methods by which the Society pursues its inquiries are, *first*, by holding periodical meetings, at which papers are read and discussed; *secondly*, by forming committees for investigating particular subjects; *thirdly*, by encouraging and aiding experimental researches in chemistry, meteorology and other sciences, upon such points as bear upon epidemic diseases, and seem likely to throw light upon their origin; *fourthly*, by supplying a library, apparatus and other facilities for those engaged in such inquiries.

The objects of the Society, as above stated, will be perceived to be of great importance as respects life insurance, as well because they tend, by improving our knowledge of the causes of disease, to enable us to avoid them, and thus to increase the probabilities of life, as because they will furnish medical men with surer data on which to estimate its value. It is hoped, therefore, that Insurance Companies, bearing in mind the duty they have to perform to the public as well as to themselves, will not refuse to become contributors either by donation or annual subscription to the funds of so useful an institution.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient Servant,

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D.