

CLINICAL THERMOMETERS.

From the very earliest times, the heat of the body was regarded as an important consideration in dealing with disease, and early in the seventeenth century a professor of medicine at Padua invented a thermometer by which he attempted to ascertain his patients' temperatures, but although a hundred years later (1745) reliable thermometers were made and used clinically by Dr. Haen and others in Vienna, thermometry was not looked upon as of much practical value until the middle of the nineteenth century.

Taking temperatures by the non-registering thermometers then used was a very tedious affair, and it was long before physicians came to prefer thermometry to their old habit of estimating the degree of pulse or rise of temperature in a patient by the sense of touch. The physician simply laid his hand upon the patient's chest and relied upon his judgment as to how far the temperature deviated from normal; this method had one advantage—it conveyed information not only as to the heat of the patient's body, but also as to the condition of the skin, dry and harsh, soft and perspiring, &c. The first results arrived at by the pioneers in clinical thermometry was approximate rather than accurate. Some of the earliest experiments published were observations taken by Dr. Haen, of Vienna (1745). It is interesting to observe his method—"he was accustomed to leave the instrument in situ for seven and a half minutes, and then add 1° or 2° F. to the temperature registered, because he had found that the mercury would rise as much if left longer in position" !—*British Journal of Nursing*.

A commercial journal of this city has recently made an investigation with the object of ascertaining the difference between the death-rate in the twelfth ward, where the "plutocrats" live, and the thirteenth, inhabited by the "lower classes." The former has sixty-one dwellers to the acre, the latter 539. The figures show that, whether one takes the deaths of children under five or of the general population at all ages, the comparison between the two wards is unfavorable to the twelfth ward. The writer concludes that "the poorer classes, eating plainer and more nutritious food, seem to prosper constitutionally better than the eaters of rich foods."—*Med. Times*, N. Y.

HOMŒOPATHY AND CHILDREN'S DISEASES.

BY HUGH HASTINGS, M.D.

According to the Registrar General's report, about *one-third* of the children born die before they attain the age of five years. Now, as the diseases which cause this fearful mortality are generally what are called eruptive diseases, *i.e.*, measles, scarlet fever, chicken-pox, together with croup, bronchitis, diphtheria, and those diseases incidental to the teething and nursing periods, it becomes us, socially, politically, and medically, to determine if anything can be done to arrest this mortality.

I affirm, from an experience of *twenty-six years'* active and extensive homœopathic practice, that much can be done if the medical men and the public would only act rationally, and allow science and facts to guide them, instead of routine and prejudice. I fearlessly state, without fear of contradiction, *that ever since I practised as a homœopath I have not had a single death from any of the above diseases.* Should any one doubt this, I refer such to the Registrar General, whose register will at once testify whether a death from any of these diseases has been certified by me.

(I had one case of diphtheria which was really cured, but the patient's mother brought him, when convalescent, into a cold room *without a fire*, in the month of March; the consequence was he caught a severe chill, which produced a relapse, and he died in a few days.)

Was this result owing to skill, or the efficacy of the remedies used? To both, but chiefly to the efficacy of the medicines and the manner in which they were used, as the greatest scientific skill and knowledge of the etiology, physiology, and pathology of these diseases avail but little if proper therapeutic medicine be not prescribed. This is sufficiently evident by the immense mortality of these diseases under the most skilful allopathic treatment.

Now, each of these children's diseases, as well as each of their infantile ailments, incidental to the stage of *teething*, *improper food*, bad nursing, etc., begin with feverish symptoms, which are almost easily arrested by a few doses of *Aconite*, *Pulsatilla*, *Chamomilla*, *Belladonna*, *Spongia*, *tartaric acid of antimony*, etc., and the consequence is that those families