

ed sometimes from the shot and adhere to portions of the interior of the bottle, from which they cannot be dislodged by after brushing.

THE NAIL BRUSH question and sub-nail cleanliness has recently been considerably discussed in the British Medical Journal. "Nail Brush" writes: the indications are to keep the under nail space as small as possible, and to wash the boundaries of it with soap and water. The first indication

is met partly by keeping the nails trimmed short, but partly, also by avoiding, under any circumstances, the use of a penknife or other similar instrument for scraping the space. Such a practice obviously deepens it, and renders its capacity for collecting dirt greater. To make it really clean, its walls must be washed with soap and water. Now, I submit that for this purpose the only means is me (the nail brush.)

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

CANADIAN CITIES.—The total number of deaths recorded for November in the twenty-eight principal cities and towns which make monthly returns to the Department of Agriculture, in Ottawa, was 1,290; 36 less than in the previous month. For the corresponding month of last year the record was 1,371 with two cities less making returns, which, with the increase of population, gives a decidedly lower rate for last month than in 1887. No deaths from small-pox were reported for November. From measles there were 22 deaths, 8 of which were in Halifax, 6 in Hull and 4 in Montreal. In the previous month there were only 16 deaths from measles. From scarlet fever there were 28 deaths, the same number as in October. St. John, N. B., returned 18 of the 28 in November, and 17 in October. From diphtheria 59 deaths were recorded in November; 3 less than in October; 20 of the 59 were in Montreal, 18 in Ottawa, 4 in Toronto, 4 in Victoria and 3 in Quebec. With the colder weather there was a large fall in the mortality from fevers.

ENGLISH TOWNS.—In the twenty-eight large English towns dealt with by the Registrar-General in his Weekly Return, with an estimated population of nearly nine and a half millions of persons, 22,627 births and 13,471 deaths were registered during the four weeks ending the 1st of December. The annual birth-rate, rose to 31.4 during the month, but was below that recorded in the corresponding period of any of the five preceding years. The lowest birth-rates in these were 23.6 in Brighton and 25.5 in Huddersfield.

THE ANNUAL DEATH-RATE in the twenty-eight towns, which had risen in the four preceding months from 15.6 to 20.3 per 1,000, declined to 18.7 and was below that recorded in the corresponding period of any of the six preceding years. The lowest rates last month was 13.8 in Hull; Leicester 14.1; Brighton, 14.5; Nottingham, 14.9; and Derby 15.9. The highest rate during the month was 26.8 in Cardiff.

The mean death-rate in the twenty-seven provincial towns was 21.3 per 1,000, and exceeded by 1.3 the rate recorded in London, which was only 18.0 per 1,000. There were 903 deaths from measles, 239 from scarlet fever, 217 from diphtheria, 203 from diarrhoea, 202 from whooping-cough, 184 from 'fever' (principally enteric) and 7 from small-pox: equal to an annual rate, from zymotics, of 2.7 per 1,000. Measles was the most fatal zymotic disease, the rate of mortality from which had been 0.24 and 0.65 per 1,000 in the two preceding months, further rose to 1.25 during November, against an average rate of only 0.51 in the corresponding periods of the five previous years. In London the death-rate from measles was as high as 1.54 per 1,000.

IN OTHER CITIES, the mortality in November was reported as follows: New York, 21.4 per 1,000—zymotics 4; Brooklyn, 18.5—zymotics, 3.9; Philadelphia, 17 and 2.7; Washington, 18 and 3; Baltimore, 17 and 3; Boston 21 and 3.4; Chicago, 15.9 and 4; Cincinnati, 14.1 and 3; Cleveland, 23.6 and 9.9; Milwaukee, 13.8 and 1.17; Minneapolis, 12.4 and 3; St. Louis, 16.7 and 3.4; New Orleans, 24.3 and 3.8; San Francisco, 20.7 and 2.9; Copenhagen, 19.8; Frankfurt 13.8; Hague, 17.3; Christiania, 20.5; Paris, 20.5; Lyons, 18.7; Rome, 21.6; St. Petersburg, 23.2; Cairo, 44.5; Alexandria, 35.5; 15 towns in Lower Egypt, 44.9; 12 do in Upper Egypt, 49.4; Madras, 37.7. In Victoria, Australia, the mortality in 1887 was 15.69.

IN MICHIGAN, compared with the average of the month of November in the nine years, 1879-1887, diphtheria, intermittent fever, consumption of the lungs, typhoid fever, whooping-cough and remittent fever were less prevalent in November, 1888.

THE DIPHTHERIA epidemic in London, Eng., which had assumed serious proportion during the summer, still continues. During October, November and up to this time, nearly the end of December, there are reported to have been from 25 to 40 deaths weekly from this cause.