

of moulds at any time present in the air. Contrary to his expectations he found that the air of the infectious wards (scarlet fever and diphtheria) showed a freedom from micro-organisms not to be found in any other part of the hospital; this he very naturally attributes to the more modern construction and more efficient ventilation of these wards.

WHY IS IT that the mortality among members of the House of Commons of this Dominion has been, for several years, at the rate of over 21 per 1,000 per annum, while in the English army at home the death-rate is only 8 per 1,000, and in the German army 5 per 1,000 per annum? Can any one give a reason for this, or suggest causes that will be entertainable? Certainly this is a subject worthy of serious consideration. But, like the terrible mortality among young infants in some of our cities during the hot season, it seems to attract but little notice. When deaths occur more lives roll in to fill up the vacant places. Yet all are anxious for a large increase in the population of the Dominion.

CERTAIN persons interested in alum baking powders have long contended that these powders were not injurious. Prof. Mallett, of the University of Virginia, has been making a series of experiments, some of which were upon himself, in regard to the alum powders. While on occasions, particularly with the smallest doses, there was no observable effect, the general tenor of the experiments seemed to establish beyond doubt on his part, that the ingestion of aluminium compounds retarded gastric digestion. There was no pain, nor symptom of gastric or intestinal irritation, but the well known sensation of weight or oppression due to indigestion, and lasting two to three hours. He regards it as a fair conclusion "that not only alum, but the residues which its baking powder leaves in bread, cannot be viewed as harmless, but must be ranked as objectionable, and should be avoided when the object aimed at is the production of wholesome bread."

AT A RECENT meeting of the Chicago Master Plumbers' Association Mr. David Whiteford read a valuable paper relative to licensing plumbers (in the Sanitary News), and in conclusion said: In reviewing the thoughts which have been presented, there grow out of them several essential points for the training of men to carry on the business of a plumber. First, that the apprentice to the trade must be required to attend one year in the daytime, or its equivalent

at night, during the term of the apprenticeship, a manual training-school where a special branch can be given covering the knotty points of the trade. Second, the registration and examination of journeymen plumbers under state law would correct two existing evils: (a) No apprentice at the trade should be examined and registered for journeyman until he has served his stated time; (b) The journeyman should not apply for a license to carry on the plumbing business until he is a registered journeyman in good standing. Third, state legislation and the unity of the craft, protecting and upholding the Board of Health, will go far toward weeding out and furnishing to the trade a class of competent master plumbers.

THE British Medical Journal seems to doubt the wisdom of closing schools during the prevalence of scarlet fever. It says: The closure of schools is at all times a measure of doubtful value for the limitation of scarlet fever, seeing that the children are sure to play together in the streets where they live. Sometimes the number of absentees is so great when scarlet fever is very prevalent, that the school naturally closes itself, but when the absentees are but a small proportion of the whole number of school children, it is doubtful whether in towns the risks or the spread of infection are diminished by preventing the children congregating at the schools.

THE FOLLOWING official statistics relating to tuberculous cattle at the public slaughter-house of Augsburg are of interest: During 1889, of 23,592 calves slaughtered, only one (an animal three weeks old) was found to be tuberculous. Of 13,679 head of older cattle, 612, or 4.4 per cent., were tuberculous. Of 8,537 oxen, 167, or 1.94 per cent., were tuberculous; while of 5,008 cows, 445, or 8.88 per cent., were affected with that disease. In 4 cases, or almost 1 per cent. of the cows, the udder was the seat of tuberculosis. In 67 of the 612 cases in which disease was discovered, the flesh was declared unfit for food on account of generalised tuberculosis and destroyed.

PROFESSOR MARK, on the instruction of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, undertook a course of experiments in order to determine the methods by which trichinosis is usually spread amongst swine. He found that amongst hogs reared in the vicinity of Boston, and fed mainly on the offal of the city, no less than 12.86