

HEAT OF THE PRESENT SUMMER AND ITS EFFECT ON MORTALITY.

The temperature during the last week in June and the two first weeks in July has been almost unprecedentedly high, and with the result of largely increasing the mortality in our large cities, the principal victims being the very young and those of great age. The total number of deaths in Philadelphia during the week ending July 6th was 746, the largest number ever recorded here in any one week. Of these deaths, 512 were of children under five years of age, and 476 of children under two years of age. Cholera infantum claimed 274 victims, sunstroke 22, old age 20. In New York during the same week the mortality was even larger, having been 1,567, more than 100 per cent. greater than in Philadelphia, while the population of the former is only about 40 per cent. greater than that of the latter.

The mortality in Philadelphia during the week ending July 13th was 852, of which number 497 were infants under two years of age; 383 of them being under one year. Cholera infantum had 310 victims, sunstroke 68, old age 29. In New York during the same week the mortality was 1,056.

The heat in Philadelphia during the week ending July 20th was considerably lessened, and the mortality for the week was 587, being a decrease of 265 from those of the previous week. The deaths from cholera infantum were 210, from old age 14, sunstroke 10. From small-pox the deaths were reduced to only 6.

In New York the mortality was, during the same week, 961.

The extreme heat of the summer is not confined to this country. In Paris the heat was great, but the mortality had not increased at latest reports (28th June).

In India the heat has been, it is stated, (*Lancet*, July 6th), exceptionally great. At Allahabad, at latest accounts, it had reached 115 ° in the shade, while at Hyderabad it was 116 °.—*Medical News*.

TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS.

Hæmorrhoids, connected with prolapsus, were successfully operated upon by the application of nitric acid, some thirty years ago, by Dr. Houston of Dublin. The method found great favour at the time, but has been somewhat displaced by the ligature, and the section followed by the actual cautery. Billroth, of Vienna, has of late revived Houston's operation, and reports excellent results, especially in those cases where frequent and dangerous hæmorrhage had occurred.—*Lancet*.