

"St. Lawrence, &c." Congress was recommended to provide for "local safeguards" in the different states when necessary. The report on the whole is disappointing, especially inasmuch as the chief reliance in the prophylactic measures are shown to be in quarantines, even locally, rather than in measures for the promotion of absolute cleanliness, which is not in accordance with late experience and the best authorities in Europe. The conference, with additional delegates from Canadian and U. S. cities meet in Washington early in December, and we hope for something better.

A SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC of considerable magnitude having broken out in several townships in the county of Hastings, prompt measures were taken by the local authorities to prevent the spread of the disease. Hungerford, we learn, was through its council very liberal in providing means for prophylactics. There had been, it appears, over 100 cases of the disease and between 20 and 30 deaths up to nearly the end of the present month. The people were naturally considerably alarmed; and two Sisters of Mercy were sent for to nurse the sick. Arrangements have been made with the Canadian Pacific Railway that trains should not stop at stations in the infected districts, and no one was permitted to leave the locality without an order from the attending physician, Dr. Pomeroy. A red flag was waved as a signal for the stoppage of the trains when the doctor's certificate was granted.

THE MYSTERIOUS DISEASE in Virginia and Kentucky has shown in a very plain manner the danger of using foul water, as the use of foul water has, almost without doubt, been the cause of the terrible visitation. Most likely due to the existence in the water of vast multitudes of vegetable, or possibly animal organisms: developed rapidly by reason of the large proportion of dissolved organic matter in the scanty water. It is to be hoped that the national board of health or the state boards will have a careful and scientific investigation made that the exact nature and origin of the disease may be ascertained if possible. This probably will be done. It is time however investigators

were about it. We have not learned of any attempt at it yet being made.

LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS.—According to the report of the secretary of the provincial board of health there are now 304 local boards of health in Ontario; considerably more than one half of the municipalities having local boards. There are 184 boards in townships, out of a total of 447 townships. Of these 184 boards, 25 have medical health officers; 19 have sanitary inspectors, while 17 have both medical health officers and sanitary inspectors. Of the 203 cities, towns, and villages in Ontario, 180, or more than six-sevenths of them, have local boards. 145 of them have medical health officers or sanitary inspectors, while 63 have medical health officers, and 92 sanitary inspectors. 44 have both medical health officers and sanitary inspectors. Up to the 25th inst 44 boards had sent in their reports, and other reports were coming in.

TO THE RESCUE.—The chairman of the provincial board stated at the recent meeting of the board that he thought they should take some action and assist the Toronto city medical health officer by expressing an opinion upon the existing condition of privies. He had read that there were 450 privies in Toronto which emptied into sewers where there were no sewer traps. If this were true, he considered it outrageous. It appears, as stated in this JOURNAL some months ago, there are there about 4000 full privies, and no one knows how many there are just about as injurious to health which are not full—probably 8000. And so Toronto supports about twice as many practising physicians proportionately as do Ottawa and some other cities.

REFUSE "destructors" are now being used in Great Britain capable of destroying 20 tons of refuse per day at a cost of 10 cents per ton. They cost, with chimney, from \$1000 to \$1200 each, it appears. The refuse from the "destructor" is well adapted for forming a foundation for street pavements, and may be used for filling up hollows and would be a safe material to build upon. It is to be hoped the "destructor" will soon come into general use in Canada.