

There were differences in population to be considered, too, and the sewer and sanitary census shows that in the sewered district the population was five times that of the population in the unsewered district. This is a fact to be borne most prominently in mind in considering the result, that the sewered district outnumbered the unsewered district five to one, offering 80 per cent. more population in which sickness might spread, and yet the following results are shown :

In the sewered district, with its great population, there were reported, in 1898, twenty-eight cases of diphtheria, while in the unsewered district, with only 20 per cent. of the population, there were thirty-eight cases, showing an increased difference of ten cases.

In the unsewered district, with its small population, there were reported during the year forty cases of scarlet fever, while in the sewered district, with five times the population, there were only twenty-four cases, very nearly a 50 per cent. reduction, with every reason, in point of numbers, why the percentage should have been reversed.

There were twenty-three deaths from typhoid fever, thirteen of the fatalities occurring in the place they were first reported from in the unsewered district. Six cases were reported from the sewered district and four cases died in the city hospital, having been carried there from the annexed territory, showing really that seventeen of the fatalities from typhoid occurred in the unsewered district and only six in the sewered district.

The report on cases of malaria was not kept up, but the physicians of the city can judge best where they visited the most cases. Dr. Jones says that the record, had it been kept, would have offered still more convincing proof of the efficiency of the sewer system in promoting good health.

These facts are correctly arrived at because the Board of Health was anxious to ascertain what was the direct benefit to be derived from sewers, and the result has been more than satisfactory.

Dr. Jones says he is going to show next year, when the sewerage system of Greater Memphis is nearly completed, other facts of interest, and he expects to see a decrease in the death rate of $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or very nearly that, and will compare the death rate of 1900 with years in the past.

Lead Poisoning from Water Pipes.

At the present time the State Board of Health of Massachusetts and the local Board of Milford are engaged in a discussion of alleged cases of lead poisoning, arising, as is alleged, from a certain excess of carbon dioxide in the water supply. Some difference of opinion exists as to the number and nature of the cases and the causes of it.