

DR. J. S. TENNANT, medical officer of Kinloss Township, regrets to have *again* to draw the attention of the Provincial Board of Health to the very unsatisfactory sanitary state of the schools and school grounds in Kinloss. "The ventilation of the school room has received little if any attention, the only supply of air being from the door or peradventure a broken window. No attempt has been made to drain the grounds and nature has been left to adorn them. It is to be hoped that during the next season some efforts will be made to remedy these evils."

ON DRAINS and diphtheria. Dr. Thorne Thorne, in his recent Milroy lectures before the Royal College of Physicians says, drains may possibly retain a diphtheria contagium received through the sputa and dejecta of the sick; but the main influence of drain effluvia in relation to diphtheria is held to be the preparation of a soil by means of a morbid surface of the fauces, ready to receive and promote the development of the wandering specific organism.

RELATIVE to poisonous baking powders again, observe that the Scientific American recently published a list of ninety-five baking-powders, including the Royal (which is claimed by its manufacturers to be absolutely pure), everyone of which contained either alum or ammonia. Ammonia, as well as alum, is harmful, and should never be used, in any form, in connection with foods.

THE Minnesota State Legislature has recently passed a law requiring that all baking powders containing alum shall be labeled, "This baking-powder contains alum." "Every body ought to know that alum is a poisonous substance, and is productive of serious diseases when used in the form of baking powder." Nearly all baking-powders now selling in the market contain alum or ammonia.

TO DETECT alum in bread, an exchange says: "macerate in three or four table-spoonfuls of water a half slice of bread. Strain off the water, and add to it twenty drops of a strong solution of logwood. Then add a large teaspoonful of a strong solution of carbonate of ammonium. If alum be present, the mixture will be changed from pink to a lavender-blue. This test will discover a grain of alum in a pound of bread.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER of the Township of Ops, Dr. T. W. Poole of Lindsay, in his report to the Provincial Board of Health says: "As in this community, as well as in extensive areas of country both in Europe and America, by far the greater number of deaths, amounting to about one in seven, is due to pulmonary consumption, I think the fact now fairly established, that this terrible disease is contagious, ought to be more widely known, and greater precautions taken both in public and private to protect the healthy from a source of danger to which they are often unwittingly exposed."

WIRE is rapidly replacing hems, linen, &c. in cloths lines. It was found that the old fashioned ropes harbored minute life, and in some instances were infected with the germs of malignant diseases. This caused a rush for wire clothes-lines, which are becoming almost universal. There are now also manufactured wire pillows, wire bolsters, and wire upholstery lining, all of which meet with large and increasing sale. Wire affords no soil for vermin or disease germs.

IN A NEW BOOK, by Dr. Pauline Tarnowsky, the author believes, with Lombroso, Morel, and others, that the criminal is a degenerate, pathological being, in whom are accumulated the morbid elements of his ancestors, whose diseases (such as phthisis, syphilis, and alcoholism) give rise to weakened vitality and the anatomical and psychical deviations from the normal type in their offspring. Hence, to diminish crime it is not sufficient to punish the criminal, but the social conditions from which he springs must also be ameliorated.

PEOPLE are willing and eager to speak in warmest praise of the physician who has brought them safely through some awful crisis, of disease; and rightly. But how seldom do they recognize or appreciate that greater skill which prevents disease on that detects it in its early stages, and so promptly and wisely treats it that the patient does not go down into the shadow of death. The greatest skill is habitually displayed in treating the every day ailments, so commonly regarded as trivial and unimportant; and almost every physician of large experience knows that much of his best work passes unrecognized and unthought of.