

PUBLIC BATHS.

It has been aptly said that the virtue of "cleanliness is next to godliness. This virtue which is also so necessary to health, is one to which very little attention has been paid by the civic authorities. Every day or so we read of casualties resulting from bathing in our bays and rivers, and the wonder is that they are not of more frequent occurrence. Boys are instinctively fond of swimming and paddling about in the water, whenever it is sufficiently warm to admit of it. During the hot weather in summer they often shock the modesty of delicate ladies and gentlemen by performing their ablutions in some of our public places, when not prevented by the police. The severe heat of the last two months has rendered frequent ablutions not only essential to comfort but also beneficial to health, and since many of the houses in which the laboring classes live, and many of the better classes also, are unprovided with suitable conveniences for bathing, a large proportion of the community must either have dispensed with that requisite altogether, or have had recourse to our bays and rivers. Of course there are in the cities of Montreal, Toronto, and many other towns and villages, a few institutions where baths may be obtained, but these are few, and some of them filthy and entirely inadequate to meet the wants of the community. What are really required are large bathing houses, where only a small fee is charged. They might be floated in the bays and rivers, as they are in Paris and other places, where attention is paid to cleanliness. Such establishments properly built and conducted would not only be a strong inducement to habits of cleanliness, but also afford an opportunity for learning and practising the art of swimming. We would therefore desire to press upon our civic authorities the propriety of erecting such establishments, and have them in readiness for next summer. After the experience of the present season, we consider them wanting in their duty if they fail to make some adequate provision for the health, comfort and cleanliness of the community.

MEDICAL JOURNALISM.

There are 55 medical journals published in the United States. Forty-one of these are Allopathic, 9 Homœopathic, and 5 Eclectic. The circulation of the majority of these varies from 500 to 1,000, a