

THE MEDICAL ACADEMY of Paris calculates that there are at the present time 189,000 doctors scattered over the world. Of these, 65,000 are in the United States, 26,000 in France, 32,000 Germany and Austria, 35,000 in Great Britain and the Colonies, 10,000 in Italy, and 5,000 in Spain. Putting aside pamphlets and memoirs innumerable, it is estimated that 121,000 works have been published on medical subject. Of the writers 2,800 are American, 2,600 French, 2,300 German and Austrian, and 2,100 English.

MEAT INSPECTION IN GERMANY is very minute. All inspectors are required to provide themselves with microscopes, and the instruments must be officially proved and declared fit for use. The proprietor of every slaughtered hog must pay 25 cents for inspection and the issuing of a certificate. For the inspection, a piece of the meat is cut from each of the following parts: the muscles of the diaphragm; short ribs; larynx; root of the Tongue; jaw; eye; the thigh; shoulder-blade; upper part of the neck; and back. Statistics show that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent of all German hogs are trichinous, while of the imported hogs about 4 per cent are infected. Warnings have been issued against the consumption of raw pork.

PURIFICATION OF WATER BY MOTION.—The water of the river Neva is very free from bacteria, having only about 300 germs in a cubic centimeter. In the canals of St. Petersburg, on the contrary, their number reach 110,000 in a cubic centimeter, even during good weather. Dr. Pehl explains this by the rapidity of the motion of the water, and he has made direct experiments in order to ascertain that. When water was brought into rapid motion for an hour, by means of the centrifugal machine, the number of developing germs was reduced by 90 per cent. Further experiments will show if this destruction of germs is due to the motion of the mass of water, or to molecular motion.

Leading Articles.

ON THE REPORTING OF DISEASES.

It had been hoped by many that a system for obtaining reports of prevailing diseases from definite localities in all parts of the Dominion would have been put in operation before this. Such a system is much needed in the interests of the public health. There is now seemingly entire unanimity in the profession as to the necessity for it. While of course mortuary statistics are regarded as indispensable, it is now considered that reports of the prevailing, and especially of the infectious diseases, in fixed localities, will be of more practical value than even the mortuary returns. This was placed strongly before Sir John Macdonald during the last session of the House, especially by Dr. Church, of Ottawa, during the interview accorded by Sir John to the special committee appointed to bring before him the desirability of having a Dominion Health Bureau established.

From time to time we are in receipt of "crop bulletins," especially from Manitoba, giving reports of the condition of the crops throughout the country. Is it of any greater importance to have frequent reports relating to the crops than it is to have reports relating to the condition of the health of the people? Certainly, to say the least, the latter would prove of as much practical value as the former. And the cost to the country of the disease reports would be comparatively very little.

Two years ago, a plan for obtaining fortnightly reports of prevailing diseases was submitted by Dr. Playter, editor of this JOURNAL, which was endorsed at the time by the profession in Ontario; in the early part of this year, the sanitary association of the Province of Quebec recommended in a memorial to the Department of Agriculture that the plan should be carried out, but, in accordance with a previous alteration, that the