

NOTES OF THE HEALTH OFFICERS MEETING AT TRENTON.

THE annual meeting last month at Trenton of the health officers of Ontario seems to have been a fairly successful one. Below are a few notes bearing on the work of the meeting which appears to have been of most practical value and interest.

Dr. Coventry, of Windsor, in a suggestive paper on "Auxiliaries to the Health Office," encouraged the general introduction and encouragement of gymnasia. Gymnastics, he believed, were destined to rescue the youth of the land, now being emasculated by the high-pressure system of education. It was to be hoped that within the next ten years gymnasiums would be erected in every city and town of 5,000 inhabitants and upwards. Women also, as the mothers of the race, should be educated in laws of health. Monthly forms should be required from all medical health officers, and it should be made a statutory obligation for the medical health officer to deliver at least four lectures or readings on sanitary subjects in his municipality during the year. Dr. Coventry had recently addressed a circular to 35 cities and towns in the Dominion having a population of 5,000 and upwards. Replies from 27 of these gave medical officers' salaries varying from zero to \$3,000. Seven towns pay nothing, while twelve pay less than \$300 per annum; and such small pay should make the people of Canada blush for shame. He believed that the Dominion Government ought to make a special grant for the maintenance of general health work.

Public water supplies was the subject of an interesting paper by Mr. W. Chipman, C. E., of Brockville. He said, the first public water supply known of in Canada was introduced by a company in Montreal in 1801, the city purchasing it in 1845. The next was at St. John's N. E., in 1836, sold to the city in 1855. The third was established by a company in Toronto in 1841, and was purchased by the city in 1893 for \$200,000. In 1880 there were 33 towns or cities in Canada having a water

system, and in the present year the number was about 100. Of these works about 60 per cent. are owned by the municipal corporations and 40 per cent. by private companies, but the population served by the private companies was probably not over 30 per cent. of the total population served by a public water supply. The average total family rate in Ontario is about \$20 per annum in works owned by municipal corporations and \$25 where owned by companies. In Ontario the first cost of private works is 35 per cent. less per family, and they charge 20 per cent. more than the municipal works.

Of 40 works built by municipal corporations thirteen were built for fire protection only. In many of these cases an expenditure of a small extra amount would have secured a domestic supply of pure water. Of the remaining 27 works the following can claim to have supplies above suspicion:—Brantford, Dundas, London, Newmarket, Morrisburg, Niagara Falls, Owen Sound, Paris, Sarnia, Woodstock, Galt and Walkertown. Those water supplies which are now of sufficient purity, but liable to pollution and therefore placed in the second class, are Collingwood, Guelph, Hamilton, Brampton, Merriton, Ottawa, St. Catherines, Tilbury Centre, Toronto, Welland, Windsor and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those classed as suspicious were Kingston, Picton, St. Thomas and Toronto Junction. Those controlled by private companies and condemned by the speaker were Berlin and Belleville.

In a lengthy discussion which followed, Mr. Ball, C. E., stated that Berlin had recently cleaned out its water pond, greatly improving the quality of the water. Dr. Griffin, of Brantford, said that that city had purchased the system at a cost of \$215,000, and he had no doubt but that \$100,000 had been saved by it. Dr. Herod, of Kingston, said the water works of that city had been purchased from a private company for \$120,000 and \$175,000 had been expended since in improving it; and they had recently decided to extend the intake pipe farther