

Whitehall, might be advantageously followed. Then we might also suggest that Whitehall might in turn enlarge its record of diseases, so as to admit at least cancer.

Leaving the purely statistical portion of the report, many of the appended special reports it contains are of the highest interest and importance, and to some of these we will briefly call attention. One reporting health officer attributes a case of typhoid fever directly emanating from an imperfect drain. Another records a case of death 'attributed to the use of water contaminated by leakage from a slop-stone.' Another records 'an instance of apparent communication of typhoid fever by the poison of one sick with it.

A report on dangerous illuminating oils is full of 'kerosine horrors,' but it appears that the vigilance of the board is beginning to bear good fruit. There is a special report on lead poisoning from the use of tinned, glazed, and enamelled ware, from which it seems that some of the best-looking domestic utensils often contain much lead, and even arsenic, in a form which is very liable to be taken up by the food cooked in them. One curious report deals with the question of 'cancer not caused by tomatoes.' It appears that there is a popular belief in America that tomatoes produce cancer. This delusion the paper referred to labours to dispel.

Considerable prominence is given to an abstract of a paper read at the American Social Science Association, in which Dr. Bartholow combats the idea that sewer gases can cause specific diseases. The belief that they can do so is branded as 'pseudo-scientific.' Dr. Kedzie, the president of the State Board, combats Dr. Bartholow's views. From a report on the opium habit in Michigan, it is evident that opium-eating is very prevalent in America, and that the so-called antidotes are themselves banes rather than antidotes. On diphtheria there is a highly important report, the gist of which is that there is strong evidence to connect the causation of diphtheria with the unsanitary condition of ordinary cellars, privies, wells, cesspools, etc., and that the weight of evidence is strongly in favour of the contagious nature of the disease.

There is a valuable paper on 'Climate and Topography,' and another section deals with the 'Principal Meteorological Conditions in Michigan during 1877.' These records remind us of a somewhat similar series which are published yearly by the Salford Health Department, and which are, we believe, the joint publication of Mr. Mackereth and the medical officer of health. Salford and Michigan