

Among the "dont's" contained in the slip for the child are the following:

"I must not put money in my mouth," "I must not bite off my schoolmate's apple," "I must not drink from my schoolmate's cup," "I must not use my schoolmate's pencil," "I must not put anything near my mouth which has been in or about any person's mouth."

New York and the Registration of Births and Deaths.

The State of New York has taken a very important step forward in the matter of the registration of births and deaths through the setting forth of an opinion by Attorney-General Carmody that the license to practise medicine may be revoked if a physician fails promptly to report these items. The opinion was one given in response to the request of the State Board of Health, and is one that should be of greatest importance in the securing of reliable statistics. It seems strange that in the United States, whose citizens are boastful of the progress of the country, and do not fail to vaunt its superiority over European empires, republics and monarchies, there should be such utter neglect of the foundation stones of a knowledge of vital statistics. And yet it has been said by an authority that in that country, as well as in Canada, there is not a single state-wide system of registration. Those who have attempted, as has *The Public Health Journal*, to make comparisons of different items of vital statistics are aware that for less than a score of cities on the continent are there re-

liable data of the details of mortality; and as for registration of births, there were a year or two ago not more than half-a-dozen of the largest cities that could furnish them at all. In view of this unbelievable demoralization of vital statistics such a position as that established in New York is of great consequence, and the position of the State Board is most strongly to be commended. "The commissioner of health," writes Dr. Eugene H. Porter, himself, the commissioner, "regards the decision of the attorney-general as a very important document. The responsibilities resting upon local Boards of Health are clearly outlined and it is the intention of the department to see that their duties are carried out. The commissioner will take active steps to that end where the local Boards of Health fail to do so." The wider question of notification of disease is a thorn in the flesh of many lands. English physicians are demurring to some extent, and writing to the journals: "What right has the municipality to demand the confidential information in the possession of the family physician?" But there are only a few who disagree, the consensus of opinion being that infectious disease is to be fought at the bedside of the patient. It becomes the duty of the family physician to aid in the fight by giving to the authorities that information which will enable them to begin their work at the earliest moment. And as for registration of births, upon the faithfulness with which this is carried out depends the sight of hundreds of new-born babies. Truly registration is of enormous importance.

THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

Royal Institute of Public Health Congress at Dublin.

On the 15th August last the Royal Institute of Public Health held its annual congress in Dublin for the third time. The first congress was held in that city in the year 1892, and since that time the institute has held its meetings in many cities of the Empire. The scene of the congress was within the walls of Trinity College,

the University Board having placed the halls at the disposal of the organizers of the congress. The congress was under the presidency of the Countess of Aberdeen.

Health of English Towns.

In seventy-seven of the largest English towns 7,092 births and 775 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, June 10th. The annual rate of mor-