

Annotations.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The regular quarterly meeting of this State board of health was held on July 10th, at Lansing. The following portions of the proceedings are of general interest.

Dr. Kedzie made a short report on the chemical examination of a specimen of cheese believed to have caused sickness in several families. He examined it for all the mineral poisons but found none. He concluded that the poison must be organic in its nature, and that it might come from one of three causes. 1st, diseased milk; 2nd, chemical decomposition after it was made; and 3rd, bad rennet. This poisoning by cheese being so common, he was authorized to visit various cheese factories and investigate the subject.

Dr. Kedzie also made a report on the illuminating oils, in which he stated that the legislature had maintained the standard flash test of 140°F. and had provided a chill test for parafine which will require an improved quality of oil.

The board adopted the following :

‘WHEREAS, by means of vaccination and re-vaccination the people may secure immunity from small-pox. *Resolved*, that all local boards of health be advised and requested to direct their health physicians to offer every year vaccination with bovine vaccine virus to every child not vaccinated within five years, without cost to the vaccinated, but at the general expense of the locality, as provided for townships in section 1736, compiled laws 1871.

The secretary was directed to have the document relating to treatment of the drowned reprinted, and to secure 6,000 copies for gratuitous distribution.

Dr. John S. Calkins, a regular correspondent of the board, was requested to investigate the outbreak of diphtheria at Rochester.

Secretary Baker made a report concerning work done in his office during the last quarter. It mentioned the distribution of 10,094 copies of a pamphlet on the restriction and prevention of scarlet fever. These have been distributed to a little less than 10,000 persons in various parts of the state.

The amount of work accomplished by the board, and that transacted in the secretary's office seemed to be a surprise to the new members of the board, and Rev. Mr. Jakes urged the importance of placing some account of it before the people.

The English ivy, growing over the walls of a building, instead of promoting dampness, as many persons suppose, is said to be a remedy for it; and it is mentioned as a fact, that in a room where damp had prevailed for a length of time, the affected parts inside had become dry when ivy had grown up to cover the opposite exterior side. The close, overhanging pendant leaves prevent the rain or moisture from penetrating the wall. Beauty and utility, in this case, go hand in hand.