

It is hoped that an oculist and a neurologist may soon be added to the staff. The prevention of tuberculosis is also to be made an important feature of the work of the Department of Health. It is also proposed to issue a bulletin, giving useful information for the staff and the public.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

Some time ago we referred to this subject, and took the position that the death penalty does not deter from murder. This is amply borne out, both by science and history. The insane person has no fears, the man in passion is forgetful for the moment, and the man killing for gain plans to escape. History shows that those places that have discarded capital punishment have no more murders than similar peoples that retain the practice.

In the United States in some portion or other of the Union there are eleven crimes for which the death penalty may be imposed, namely: Robbery, burglary, arson, second degree murder, rape, first degree murder, treason, piracy, rescue of a convict going to execution, burning a vessel of war, and corruptly destroying a private vessel.

In England there are four crimes for which a person may be put to death. France and Austria have five.

A number of countries do not have capital punishment. These are Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Holland, Tuscany, San Marino, Roumania, Belgium, Columbia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Germany, Michigan, Maine, Rhode Island, Kansas and Wisconsin. In the State of Maine for twenty years before the abolition of the death penalty there were 253 murders while in the twenty years following its abolition there were only 162, and yet the State was becoming more populous.

Rhode Island, without capital punishment, had seven murders, while the State of Connecticut had 28 executions. Both States are of about the same size. In ten years prior to abolition Belgium had 921 murders, and in ten years after there were only 703. In Italy during ten years before abolition there were 16 murders per 100,000, and in the ten years following the rate fell to 11.

The history of England is very interesting. When there were some 600 offences for which the death penalty was meted out these offences were committed very frequently. Gradually as the law abolished the death penalty for these crimes the commitment of them became less frequent. This quite proves that this form of punishment is not a deterrent. But another matter of the utmost importance is that when the punishment is the death penalty a very large number of cul-