

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IS TYPHOID FEVER a disease "dangerous to the public health" and therefore to be placed in the list of diseases demanding notification? is a question agitating the health authorities of Michigan. In the American Lancet (of Detroit, the able President of the state board of health) Dr. Baker, contends, and properly we think, that it is. He says:—The circulars of instructions issued by the Michigan State Board of Health, designed to be distributed to the neighbors of those sick with typhoid fever, do not teach that typhoid fever is usually communicated by "contagion" or by "infection." Although the term "infectious" may be applied to it, a comparatively new term is now generally employed, namely, "communicable," spread usually by the bowel-discharges of the sick.

WITH ABSOLUTE CLEANLINESS and proper disinfection typhoid fever can hardly be regarded as infectious in the sense that scarletina and smallpox are so regarded. But, and this cannot be too often reiterated, if any of the bowel-discharges not fully disinfected, be allowed to get out and remain on the bedding or clothing of the patient, then this excrement may soon become a foci for the spread of the disease. The germs of this disease, as we have repeated by stated, unlike many other germs, seem to pass through another phase of existence after leaving the body of a patient, before they can infect or take root in the body of another. So that with great care in regard to cleanliness and disinfection we may prevent "infection" and the spread of the disease.

ANOTHER CASE of actinomycosis hominis has just been reported in the N. Y. Medical Journal, by Dr. Byron, Director of the Bacteriological Laboratory of the University of New York. It was only detected by microscopical examination of the pus extracted by an aspirator from the chest. The disease, as readers of this JOURNAL will remember, is believed to be communicable from animals to man. Dr. Byron says: "It is not so rare as was once supposed. If relatively few cases have been observed, it is principally due to the difficulty of diagnosis and a symptomatology that makes it resemble a great deal of other diseases, . . . and probably a great many cases of it pass under other names."

IN THE Ottawa Citizen Mr. Jas. G. Kingston very properly urges that the "Citizens adopt the suggestion of the provincial board and elect a board of health from among the private citizens." We agree with him that it is not the men who aspire to be aldermen who should be members of the health board; indeed the average alderman is about the last man to select for such a board. As Mr. Kingston writes: The health laws have not been carried out in this city. "If they were, the treasury might have been enriched through fines, for there are things occurring daily that are a violation of the Statutes." And his concluding remarks should be strongly impressed upon everybody: "Public health is public wealth and the poor man is the greatest sufferer through any non-observance of the health laws." "Epidemics are no respectors of persons, and many a man who has spent time and money on his property and had everything in a sanitary condition has lost his life through the criminal stupidity or carelessness of his neighbour or his neighbour's house owner."

COMFORT may often be extracted from discouraging circumstances. Dr. Clarke, medical officer of Peterborough, brings out in the Daily Evening Review of that town what, although not new, is suggestive of the value of abstemiousness and temperance in all things. "Any medical man knows," he says, "that sickness is less frequent, other things being equal, in periods of financial depression. It is not that people consult a physician less readily, but the sum total of illness is actually less. Greater abstemiousness in living, the avoidance of excesses in eating and drinking are part of the cause. Rich food and frequent late suppers induce a plethora of the system which predisposes to disease. Then in busy times the wear and tear of money making, the rush and hurry of life, reduce nervous strength, bring on fatigue and thus render the constitution less capable of resisting attack. Thus dull times, though a financial misfortune, are often a physical blessing. A bow string must sometimes be relaxed in order to preserve its tone, and the human system follows the same law."

THE VALUE of a correct and broad view of the causes of disease is well illustrated in the fol