

mixed twice daily before distribution on four milk routes. The interest alludes to the fact that the percentage of incidence on each milk walk was practically the same except when there was a difference in the relative members of 1st and 2nd classes. Further, on every walk the better class households were invaded to a four-fold extent as compared with the 2nd class. Amongst the 1st class the milk averaged daily 5.2 pints per household, while for the 2nd class it averaged only 0.8 pints daily per household. Escapes from the disease amongst all ages of the 1st class were but 3 to 1 attacked. The results were to be expected, if milk were the cause inasmuch as in the one case it was largely a diet of children, while in the other cases it was mostly used in small amounts with tea.

It is stated that only ten children in eight households are recorded as not consuming milk and of these but one was attacked, while of thirty-three other children in eighteen households who did consume milk twenty-three (or seventy per cent.) were attacked. A very difficult part of the problem was to trace the original infection to the dairy. Dr. Power failed to find any local conditions which seemed to explain it; indeed the farmer had taken most minute pains to protect himself and customers against disaster. The only cause which seemed to have any probable basis of fact was that the milk of two cows which had calved some three weeks before the outbreak began, was about this time added to the other milk. As, however, no positive evidence of infectiveness derivable from this cause has yet been demonstrated, the point must still remain *subjudice*. The extreme interest attaching to the whole question is of much importance to our Medical Health Officers and Local Boards who have recently been urged by the Pro-

vincial Board to take definite action to secure a uniform and thorough inspection of public milk supplies.

On the Germs contained in Soaps and Dressing Materials.

By Dr. A. von Eiselberg (Billroth's clinic), *Wien. Med. Woch.* The investigation covered a variety of soaps (surface as well as centre of the samples examined), almond paste, white (hydrophile) gauze, both fresh and such as had been cut up and distributed for use, sterilized gauze-compresses, iodoform and carbolic gauze, iodoform wicking, absorbent cotton, the centre of dressings already used, calico, wood wool, plughawar Djambi (a styptic) and contents of sponge, tupelo, and laminaria.

The almond, glycerine, potash and sublimate soaps are in general free from bacteria so that their immediate use for washing the surgeon's hands and the operative field is admissible.

Other cheaper soaps are not so free from germs, but may be used, preferably after longer heating to 100° or soaking for $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in 1-10% sublimate.

Almond paste is so rich in germs that it ought to be sterilized by drying in cotton-plugged glass receptacles. White gauze should be boiled just before impregnation with iodoform mixture. This latter procedure and the subsequent drying ought not to be carried on in sick rooms, but in pure, dust free air. For the various dressing materials he advises sterilization by drying at 100° C. and preservation in air-tight glass receptacles. It is advisable to treat the different tents, especially those of sponge, in like manner. Laminaria sometimes splits longitudinally on heating the requisite 10 minutes.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society.

At the regular meeting, held on Friday 16th December, the question of the epidemic prevailing in this city was brought under discussion. Doctor Baptie introduced the subject by a paper on "Courses of Fever." He reviewed the several theories as to the course of the phenomena of fever and the external influences that originated the several forms. Applying these facts to the epi-

demic, he at some length discussed the possibility of malaria being present, and excluding this, concluded that it was purely typhoid and due to specific contamination of the water-supply.

Doctor Robillard congratulated the reader of the paper on its excellence. The subject was one of great importance to the city. In October the place was suddenly overrun with the fever, the majority of the cases were undoubtedly typhoid but others were more of a malarial type.