

special law, so that hereafter there is to be a local board of health in every township, village and city in the State; another makes it the duty of health officers of cities and villages to notify the prosecuting attorney of any neglect by householders or physicians to report cases of disease dangerous to the public health; and the third authorizes boards of health in cities, villages and townships to furnish free vaccination to the inhabitants thereof. The Secretary is to prepare a circular to health officers in cities, townships, and villages, calling attention to some of their duties under the new laws, and otherwise setting forth their duties as health officers.

A communication was received from Wm. M. Evarts, secretary of state, giving notice of a prize of £100 offered by the Royal College of Physicians of London for the best essay on hydrophobia, its nature, prevention, and treatment.

Dr. Lyster read a paper relative to the reclamation of overflowed or saturated lands. Reference was made to large tracts of lands on the Crapo farm, the Chandler farm, near Detroit, and descriptions given of the methods adopted and their results.

Dr. Kedzie referred to a paper by Judge Miller, of Bay City, on the same subject, giving his experience in the Saginaw valley, where he is reclaiming a section of very valuable land by protecting it with dykes, pumping the water out with steam pumps, and then keeping down the leakage by means of wind-mills.

Dr. Lyster made a report on the proposition, originally made by him, that the board shall offer to examine candidates in sanitary science and its different branches, recommending that the board make preparations for examinations by its different committees on subjects assigned to them, and that certificates be given to those who ask for and sustain examinations. It was thought that the publication of the examination papers would tend to increase the interest and knowledge concerning the subject among the people generally, and that the examinations would tend to secure throughout the state a class of physicians especially intelligent on the subject of sanitary science, and the public could have proof of their qualifications by means of these certificates. If the people see fit to select such persons for health officers, it would react well on the interest of public health, which it is the duty of the board to promote.

Dr. Baker favored it, and suggested that schedules of questions in each of the several branches of sanitary science be prepared for this purpose. The secretary was directed to procure copies of the examination papers in sanitary science from different colleges in foreign countries.

A communication was received from Dr. Peters, of Tecumseh, inviting the board to hold a sanitary convention at that place. The board voted to hold two public sanitary conventions next winter, and each member pledged himself to make them a success. It is desired to procure at these meetings the greatest collection of sanitary utensils which can be obtained, from a common pie-dish to the most elaborate apparatus for heating and ventilation. The time and place for holding such conventions will be announced as soon as determined; and it is hoped that dealers in sanitary appliances will exhibit their wares, and describe their uses and advantages. Drs. Hitchcock, Lyster and Baker were appointed a committee to prepare for the details of these sanitary conventions.

The Secretary presented a report of work done in the office during the quarter. It included the distribution of over 1,000 copies of the sixth annual report, the printing and mailing of about 2,500 blanks for return of annual reports of health officers, and clerks of local boards of health. A circular, relative to diseases in Michigan in 1878, had been sent to each correspondent, and replies from 26 persons had been received, examined and filed. Meteorological observations had been taken at the office during the quarter. Meteorological registers and reports of diseases had been received from observers, to whom, also, the regular distribution of blanks had been made. Work had been done in compiling the weekly reports of diseases, and the meteorological data for 1878.

Books and Pamphlets.

DANGERS TO HEALTH, A Pictorial Guide to Domestic and Sanitary Defects, by T. Prigden Teale, Surgeon to the General Infirmary, Leeds. London: J. & A. Churchill, New Burlington-st. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

This is one of the most practically instructive books we have ever taken up. It is, in very truth, a "pictorial guide," for its fifty-five illustrative plates may, of themselves, serve as a treatise on the department of sanitation treated of without