

take the statistics in regard to typhoid and enteric fevers as an indication of what has been accomplished. The figures as to the former disease show a decrease in mortality of about 40 per cent., and a steady decline in the number of cases. As regards enteric, too, it is very satisfactory to observe that the prevalence of this disease during the period 1906-9 was 50 per cent. less than in 1903-6, while the triennium 1909-11 showed a further decline of 41 per cent. Dr. Porter fairly points out that there is still considerable room for improvement, but, having regard to the peculiar local circumstances, the results are very encouraging and reflect great credit upon all who are immediately responsible for the public health of the city.

Health and Sanitation in Ashanti.

Mr. J. J. Thornburn, C.M.G., Governor of Ashanti, in his annual report for 1911, recently received at the Colonial Office, states that the most important event of the year was the taking of the census of the population, which showed a total of 287,814—141,231 males and 146,583 females. It is generally admitted, however, that these numbers do not represent the true state of affairs by at least 20 to 25 per cent., as the returns invariably underestimated the population, probably owing to a nervous feeling with regard to future taxation. The figures cover an area of roughly 20,000 square miles, or a population of 14.4 per square mile. The Europeans numbered 223. The health of the latter during the year was good. There are in Coomassie 23 Syrians, who suffer considerably. They live with their wives and children among the native population in more or less a state of squalor. They seldom take quinine, and suffer from malaria in consequence. There were three cases of hæmoglobinuric fever among them, one ending fatally. In Coomassie Native Hospital the admissions for the year numbered 657 and the deaths 27, whilst the out-patients, including new cases and old, totalled 41,058. The Ashantis have not as yet much faith in European medicine, and trouble the doctors but little, and then only at the eleventh hour. The outbreak of smallpox, which commenced in 1910, continued for the first four months of 1911. Thirty-seven cases

were treated in the isolation hospital at Coomassie, 11 ending fatally. A native public vaccinator has been appointed who travels through the country vaccinating the inhabitants. He has met with marked success, the people willingly presenting themselves for vaccination, about two-thirds of those vaccinated being successful. The vaccine lymph, as supplied from the Government lymph establishment, Accra, was found very successful when it was used as soon after receipt as possible. Four cases of trypanosomiasis were treated in Coomassie during the year; among these one death occurred, whilst in the other three it is recorded that the disease disappeared after a period of treatment. Four more cases were under observation in a village near Coomassie, and after a long course of atoxyl treatment the parasites disappeared from their blood and the people are stated to remain in a healthy condition. The following medical officers were on special sleeping sickness duty at British Kratchi during the year: Mr. G. J. W. Keigwin, Dr. E. Slack, and Mr. A. M. Dowdall. Amongst the cases they treated they record three deaths and five recoveries after long courses of atoxyl. In Northwestern Ashanti there were 17 deaths. The sanitation of the four centres of administration—viz., Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Kintampo—was kept in an efficient state. The incinerators in Coomassie and Obuasi work fairly well, considering the amount of refuse they have to deal with. An incinerator has also been built at Kintampo. A permanent gang of 75 scavengers under one inspector and three headmen was kept busy in looking after the sanitation of Coomassie, as the town is rapidly growing, being now of about 19,000 inhabitants. Mosquitoes were few in cantonments and in the European quarters, but more numerous in the native quarter. Good vegetable gardens were maintained by the medical officers at the various stations.

Dr. Gaston Odin's Report on Cancer.

A discovery concerning cancer is announced by Dr. Gaston Odin, a French physician.

Dr. Odin announces that he has positive proof that cancer is a germ disease; that