

HEALTH REPORTS.

FROM PETERBOROUGH, the Medical officer, Dr. J. Clarke, reports that the past year has been notable for the almost perfect freedom of the town from infectious disease, a single death only, and that from diphtheria, which originated elsewhere, being the total mortality from this class of diseases. A very few mild cases of typhoid and scarlet fever were reported, but none fatal. In the four years previous to last year the mortality had fallen from 18.5 per 1000 to 16, while last year it was less than 13 per 1,000; "a remarkable showing," certainly.

Peterborough is most favorably situated as regards salubrity, but doubtless, as Dr. Clarke says, sanitary work must have had a great share in producing the result. "Tons and tons of garbage and refuse that were formerly allowed to remain festering and polluting both air and water are now carted away every year. Isolation and disinfection have done their work. Besides there is a vast and unmeasured benefit in the value of sanitary precautions being thus brought before each individual, and the constantly growing feeling that these matters are of the highest importance, and in the care which is the practical outcome of this feeling." The removal of garbage had been carried out to a greater extent than ever before. The fouling of the stream which flows through the town was being abated, especially by the larger manufacturers discontinuing the pollution. Yards and premises had been better kept than usual, and medical practitioners had pretty faithfully reported cases of infectious disease.

The question of sewage was being considered, but in view of investigations that are being made in various places as to the best mode of treating sewage, the Town Council are wisely exercising caution. "Electricity is being brought into use for this purpose and there is a war between different systems of chemicals; hence it is better to wait and see which wins, than to plunge into a large expenditure without definite and accurate information." The JOURNAL this month may assist them somewhat.

ELMIRA village, the medical officer, Dr. Walmsley, reports, has "had no epidemic form of disease during the year and very little sickness of any kind, probably, due to the carefully carried out sanitary measures laid down." The medical officer finds it necessary to urge that

the law regarding the placarding of houses with infectious disease therein be carried out and that children be prohibited attending school until the law be complied with regarding these diseases, and also that the vaccination regulations be attended to.

Dr. Walmsley says:—"It is perhaps humiliating to note, in this 19th century of christian civilization, the Jewish sanitary principle invading our ranks; yet, it is a laudable fact, that the Jewish system of sanitary principles underlying the religious rite was of first importance, viz., the inspection of all animals or meats slaughtered before being sold or consumed. If the germ theory be right, and we firmly believe it is right, it is highly important that all animals slaughtered for consumption should be free from disease, otherwise disease may be introduced into our systems by the use of such meats."

THE Report of the Sanitary State of Montreal for 1888, by the medical officer, Dr. La-berge, is a volume of nearly 100 pages and contains a great deal of suggestive matter. Much is being done by the health authorities there, yet the mortality runs high. The report states that, the proprietors of 22 houses were notified to make the repairs necessary to put their properties in a sanitary condition or else they would be closed up, the result being that 10 were closed up, 8 were put in a sanitary condition and in the other 4 cases, action is still pending in court. Five houses were reported as being overcrowded, and in each case a number of the occupants were compelled to seek lodgings elsewhere. Twenty-eight houses were found in a dirty condition. The occupants were in all cases compelled to clean them. The plumbing regulations are stringent, but we would urge the use of the earth closet instead of any manner of privy pit, in streets without sewers.

IN THE Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into tuberculosis in the United Kingdom (Great Britain) last year, on which were, among other eminent men, Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., Prof. Brown, C. B., and Richard Dawson, we find the following opinion in reference to unhealthy conditions causing a predisposition to tuberculosis in man or animals: (1) Starvation. (2) Deficiency of oxygen by bad ventilation. (3) Exhausting secretions, such as prolonged lactation (or nursing). (4) Possibly hereditary. (5) Certain food, (doubtful).