

public health work, being in fact, nearly half as much as the entire amounts required to sustain the State government and all the State institutions. From an unhealthy State, Michigan is fast becoming one of the most healthful.—*State Republican*, Nov. 25, 1896.

The basis on which this estimate is made is as follows: For medical attendance and other necessary expenses in each case of sickness, \$20; for each funeral prevented, \$40; value of each life saved, \$500. (Before the late war a slave was worth about \$800, for what he would earn over and above the cost of his maintenance, and now the courts count an average person's life worth about \$5,000—ten times the amount used in this estimate.)

CEREBRAL ABSCESES IN CHILDREN.—At a recent meeting of the American Pediatric Society, Dr. HOLT gave an account of four cases of this condition which had come under his notice. Details were published in *Pediatrics* of June 1. The first case was that of a child, aged six weeks, and this has the peculiar interest of being the earliest age at which an intracranial abscess has been described. The child was born easily and naturally, and there was no history of injury or disease. It was a fat, healthy-looking infant, with nothing abnormal until four days before death, when swelling of the left thigh commenced. On admission to the hospital the child was found to be almost moribund, with a feeble, almost imperceptible pulse, and a temperature of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit, but without coma. The thigh was incised, but no pus was found, only disorganized blood. The patient died, and examination of the brain revealed an abscess in the parietal lobe, with some recent local meningitis on the inner surface of the dura mater. The abscess cavity was 7 cm. long and 5 cm. deep, and contained two ounces of pus. The only likely source of infection was from the external ears, each of which had been punctured, and the punctures were found covered with dirty fluid encrusted with pus. The second child was three months old. The symptoms developed acutely—viz., irregular shallow respiration, retracted abdomen and fever. There was also opisthotonos in the last few days and convulsions on the last of all. There was found to be a large abscess of the right parietal lobe, which communicated with the ventricles, and pus was found in the left petrous bone, although there was no discharge from the ear during life. The third patient was also three months old and was said to have been well and strong until seven weeks before, when it fell from the bed on to the floor. Three days later the patient