

NOTES ON HEALTH REPORTS.

NEW BRUNSWICK Prov. Board of Health's Third Annual Report, for the year 1889, is a very creditable volume, and its early issue so soon after the close of the year, much enhances its value. It gives the vital statistics of the Province, the names of the members of the Local Board in each of the twenty-five districts into which the province is divided, and a brief report from each one of these boards, besides Rules and Regulations of the Board, with amendments to the Public Health Act. It also gives its readers a full report on "Pollution of Water Supplies," by the Special Committee of the American Public Health Association, as presented at the Milwaukee Meeting, Nov. 20th, 1888, as given in this JOURNAL, January, '89.

During the early part of the year 1889, the report says: our ordinary infectious diseases were quite prevalent throughout the whole Province. However the rate of mortality from these sources was not high. Of 181 cases of diphtheria reported to the Provincial Board, but eighteen, or about one in ten were fatal; and of 474 cases of Scarlatina but 23 or about one in seventeen were fatal.

The account of the following instances as given in the Report will prove of interest and profit: In January, 1889, a child four years of age, in the family of S — m, was attacked with diphtheria. The remaining children were sent from home at once, and none of them then contracted the disease. After the recovery of the child the family removed to Fredericton Junction, a distance of eleven miles. The other children did not return home for one month afterward. In the meantime thorough cleansing and fumigation of their effects had been carried out by the family but without any special instructions in reference to it. Within the first ten days after the return of the other children, two of them were attacked with diphtheria. After their recovery the house was thoroughly cleansed, fumigated, whitewashed and papered. In November a child twelve years of age was attacked with the same disease. Just before being attacked some winter bedding which had been in use during the attack of the previous winter, was put on the child's bed; undoubtedly the source of the disease in this instance. The nature of the disease

was not recognized for some time, and the whole family, consisting of the father, mother, four children and nurse were infected. The child first attacked died of the disease. The nurse and one child were attacked five days after the first illness, the mother one week later, the father and another child five days later. The bedding from which this first child evidently contracted the disease had been washed after being in use during the first attack of disease in the winter and had been stored away about nine months. From this family the disease spread to two other families, in one of which five persons had the disease. The medium of infection was the man who visited the house for the purpose of supplying the house with groceries, etc. Some of the members of his own family were first attacked and from them the second family contracted the disease.

Another: During the month of April, 1889, Diphtheria spread from Fredericton Junction to McAdam Junction. A music teacher at the former place, who boarded in a house where the children had been attacked with diphtheria, had a sore throat. It was of a very slight nature and but little importance was attached to it. In a few days she resumed her ordinary work. A daughter of Mr. B., of McAdam Junction, went to take her usual music lesson at Fredericton Junction, and about a week after her return was attacked with diphtheria. The house was quarantined and with other precautions the disease did not spread from this family.

We purpose giving more extracts from this report including the reports from the Local Boards, in our next number.

THE ST. LAWRENCE quarantine service report for 1889, by the Superintendent, Frederic Montzambert, M.D., F.R.C., D.C.L., &c., is a pamphlet containing much of interest to Sanitarians. The doctor complains of ship surgeons relative to vaccination on board ship. He says: In the case of one of the mail steamers I came up on, her surgeon took and signed the oath to the truth of his written statement that each of the passengers on board had signs of having "been vaccinated within seven years, or of having had the small pox within that period." After leaving Rimouski I made a personal examination of the steerage passengers, working in the steerage all day as the vessel continued her way up the river, and found and vaccinated 195 persons not protected as the law requires;