

form of negro frivolity, one can only deplore such an exhibition being indulged in by any one higher in social rank than negro porters and the like.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK CITY is actively combatting the "white plague," as consumption is frequently termed, and much of its energy is directed toward improving tenement house conditions. Improved sanitary regulations and the enforcement of preventive measures, together with more intelligent treatment of the disease on the part of physicians, is working a decrease in the number of deaths annually from tuberculosis, as shown by the records of the department. In 1881 the death rate in New York city from this disease per 1,000 inhabitants was 4.2. It has steadily fallen since then, until in 1902 it was only 2.29 per 1,000, a reduction of over forty per cent. In other words, in 1881, with a population of 1,244,511, there were 5,312 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, while in 1902, when the population had increased to 2,139,000, there were only 4,893 deaths from this disease—418 less than eighteen years previously, although the population had increased more than 700,000. The above from "The Spectator," is encouraging to those who, in this city, are endeavouring to abate this terrible evil.

"THE STANDARD'S" FIRE LOSS REPORT differs from that of the New York "Commercial Bulletin," but in collecting the data for these returns so extensive a field has to be covered, and the information available is so often erratic in quality, that it would require a miracle to get two independent reports alike. We give the "Standard's" figures:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
January	\$9,967,050	\$13,607,720	\$11,650,650
February	14,628,755	22,169,930	13,939,150
March	7,322,500	10,852,780	15,620,450
April	11,586,200	13,310,560	10,796,200
May	13,350,495	11,052,600	21,985,700
June	10,463,000	9,663,750	8,200,650
July	11,816,500	8,725,075	13,957,550
August	8,232,500	6,546,085	8,062,650
September	9,734,500	9,237,600	7,466,950
October	9,273,500	9,200,000	12,673,000
November	13,216,000	8,895,600	14,861,450

Totals for 11 mos. \$119,591,000 \$123,261,700 \$139,214,400

The two reports for November are quite near, the New York figures are \$13,589,500, and the "Standard's" \$13,216,000.

THE STANSTEAD AND SHERBROOKE MUTUAL Fire Insurance Company, reports heavier losses than last year. The property covered by the Company is valued at \$7,213,417. The causes of 108 fires were, chimneys and sparks, 29; lightning, 28; stoves and pipes, 10; smoking, 8; matches, coal oil lamps, 10; burning of other buildings, 9; incendiary, 7; sundry, 7.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & Co., patent solicitors, Canada Life bldg., furnish us with the following weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. CANADIAN PATENTS—R. Oliver, shocking machine. D. R. Gardiner, apparatus for picking or treating grain. P. H. Cowper, hydraulic valves. J. W. Provan, litter and feed carriers. J. W. Provan, hoisting apparatus. R. O. Dobbin, smoke consumers. H. Hamel, cattle guard. H. & S. Fox, tongue supports. G. A. Roedde, loose leaf binders. W. B. Stevens, par-

turition forceps. W. Lavigne, aux ressorts a voitures. L. R. Lemm, boat checks. E. B. Jarvis, moulds for artificial stone. H. W. Smith & M. F. Smith, pneumatic straw stackers. H. B. Frost, H. L. Frost and A. Robertson, barbed wire fences. M. Turnbull, wire stretching machines. E. A. LeSuer, art of causing evaporation. L. A. Melanson, auxiliary thill coupling. J. Hauser, hose couplings. J. B. Percy, brake shoes. T. E. Ayotte & A. A. Charbonneau, brick machines. T. N. Stubbs, weather strips. T. J. Watkinson, balanced roller blind. A. Johnston, harrows. AMERICAN PATENTS—G. M. Absalom, threshing-machines. E. Brougham, pneumatic seat-post for bicycles. A. B. Callin, scale or weighing beam. E. F. Comber, boiler-furnace. J. W. Glaholm and G. T. Kent, parallel-ruler. A. Guindon, rotary engine. E. Montreuil, oar-lock. E. G. Overholt, fence weaving machine. N. Prince, voting machine. T. M. Ramsay, adjustable driver's set. A. Sonsthagen, bracket or clamp.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

NEW YORK STOCK LETTER.

New York, December 16, 1903.

A review of the week shows the development of several price movements and some very interesting questions. The activity in Brooklyn Rapid Transit carried over from the previous week, carried the price up to 53%, and had a stimulating effect upon the other traction shares. One of the theories regarding these properties is that the incoming civic authorities will be more favourable to such properties than is the present regime. In other words, the idea seems to be that it would be cheaper to pay Graft than to pay taxes. How much of truth there may be in this remains to be seen, but certain it is that some one has made a very good turn in the stock and the market has had the benefit of considerable activity. Amalgamated copper. Southern Pacific. Pennsylvania. Sugar, and the Steel Stocks have all been fairly active, and while the market has been a very limited one, it is undeniable that there is a steady absorption of stocks both for European account, and by home investors, and some issues are becoming decidedly scarce.

The most interesting question has been the argument of the Northern Securities case before the Supreme Court, at Washington, which began on Monday, and was concluded yesterday, and is now before the court for decision. On both sides the briefs and arguments have been voluminous and presented by the leading minds of the country, and it is exceedingly difficult to find any point which has been left uncovered on either side. Opinions differ as to when a decision may be expected, but considering the importance of the case, it is generally believed that it will be handed down some time in April. As has been said before in these letters, many able lawyers adhere to the belief that the decision will be in favour of the Northern Securities Company, but a discussion of the points involved cannot be undertaken here, but it may be said that should it be favourable to the Northern Securities Company, it would undoubtedly have a stimulating effect upon the market, and be the signal for the announcement of several other combina-