

tisticians have estimated that in that country for every death there are two constantly sick ; in other words, that 'every death implies a total average of 730 days of sickness.' Basing calculations upon this estimate, 1480 persons have been constantly sick during the year."

The report goes on to show the evil results of overcrowding in tenement houses, especially with reference to other cities, notably New York. The city of Toledo takes foremost rank among the cities of the United States for healthfulness.

The following order was issued by the Board, to prevent the spread of small-pox in Toledo in the early part of last year :

"That the Health Officer, on the discovery or report of the existence of a case of small-pox in any house, building or premises in this city, is hereby directed and empowered to cause such case, or person having small-pox, to be removed forthwith to the small-pox hospital, if in his discretion he considers such action necessary for the protection of the public health, or to prevent the spread of the disease ; and for the purpose of carrying out this order, he is hereby empowered to summon to his assistance the police force of the city, if necessary."

These measures seemed harsh and arbitrary, but the result proved the wisdom of the course pursued. Other cities where the disease occurred about the same time have been less fortunate, and are still battling with it.

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MEETING OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.—The annual meeting of the Medical Council is expected to take place on or about the 26th inst.

DIATOMS.—We have received a selection of these interesting objects from Dr. Peticolas of Richmond, Va., whose advertisement will be found in our advertising columns. They are most beautiful specimens, and those who take a delight in such preparations, should send for some mounted slides.

AN EXCELLENT REMEDY FOR ASTHMA. — Saturate with strong solution of nitrate of potash, one part of coarsely powered belladonna leaves and two parts stramonium and allow it to dry. On igniting a portion on a plate, combustion readily takes place and the fumes are to be inhaled. Relief is usually obtained in a few minutes.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—The medical department of the University of Pennsylvania has adopted a three years' graded course of study, similar to that in Harvard Medical College, with an examination at the end of each year. The salaries of the professors are fixed, and will be paid by the trustees, so that they are no longer dependent on the number of students in attendance. The University of Michigan has *decided to lengthen its term to nine months*, and there is also to be a gradation of studies extending over a three years' course.

OVIOTOMY.—Spencer Wells has performed the operation of ovariectomy 800 times. The mortality in the fifth series of one hundred cases was 28 ; in the sixth and seventh, 24. He recommends drainage only in a few cases.

HYDATIDS OF THE LIVER.—A very interesting case of this kind is at present under treatment in the Toronto General Hospital. The patient, an Iclander, female of robust habit, first noticed a swelling in the region of the liver, about six years ago. It has gradually been increasing ever since until it has formed a large tumour, presenting somewhat the appearance of ovarian disease. The "hydatid fremitus" is very distinct ; the patient suffers very little pain from the tumor. An aspirator needle was introduced, and about 10 oz of clear fluid withdrawn which abounded with hydatids, and their characteristic hooklets. The operation will be again repeated in a few days.

CARELESS PRESCRIBING.—Several mistakes have occurred lately from carelessness in writing prescriptions. In one case a physician ordered *Hyd. Chlor.*, and the compounder put up corrosive sublimate. The patient had a narrow escape from poisoning. The drug produced emesis almost immediately after swallowing, and thus the patient's life was saved. In another case a physician wrote *Hydrargyri Chloridi* grs. vi, and the clerk put up six grains of corrosive sublimate. The patient took the dose, and only by prompt measures was rescued from poisoning.

William Wood, the well-known medical-book publisher and founder of the house of William Wood & Co., died in New York, on April 9th, of cardiac disease, aged eighty years.