

"From the Country." In estimating the rate per thousand of deaths in the city these will have to be discarded.

Infant Mortality.—By reference to these tables it will be found that the mortality among children is particularly high. They are chiefly among the children of the poor, in numerous instances the fatal result may be attributable to improper care, an indifference on the part of parents to seek medical aid, if not the inability (through poverty) of obtaining it.

By this I would not have it inferred that medical relief would not be given, and given cheerfully if sought, as the marked benevolence of the medical staff of our city, as of all the world over, is proverbial. But parents too often, probably through delicacy or a disinclination of incurring obligations which, through, straightened circumstances, they feel they cannot discharge, are induced to resort to a host of domestic remedies, and we are called in when our services are of no avail.

Of the 3173 deaths recorded during the past year 2182 are of children under 8 years of age. The cause of this sacrifice of infant life is not alone to be attributed to neglect on the part of their guardians; it is readily traceable to improper food, badly constructed habitations, over-crowded courts, back alleys, without drainage or ventilation, surrounded by filth, foul air, and deadly emanations, is it a wonder so large a mortality has to be chronicled. The remedy for all this is a proper system of drainage and a thorough cleansing of these purlieus of disease; and as a means to relieve the present necessity, the establishment of an hospital or infirmary for the children of the destitute is actually indispensable. A hospital with the above objects exists, but in name; I trust however that before many months have passed, a flourishing institution for the relief of the children of the poor, will be in active operation. If this benevolent charity is properly carried out it will afford the means at least of removing sick children of the destitute, from these nurseries, so to speak, of disease and death, to a place of refuge, where they can have wholesome air, proper food, and medical relief.

The necessity of a general system of statistical registration should occupy the earnest attention of our city authorities.

Through the kindness of Mr. J. Desturnell I am enabled to quote from the laws and ordinances relative to the preservation of the public health in the City of New York, under the heading, "Article second," page 35, section 10, we find:

"It shall be the duty of each and every physician in the City of New York, to report to the City Inspector, when required by the Board of Health, the death of any of his patients who shall have died of disease within 24 hours thereafter and to state in such report the specific name and type of such disease."

A little further on we find that:

"Every practising physician who shall refuse or neglect to perform the duties enjoined on him by the 10th section of this article shall be considered guilty of a misdemeanor and shall also forfeit for each offence the sum of \$250, to be sued for and recovered by the Board of Health."

A little further on we find at page 135, section 10:

"No sexton or other person having charge of any place of interment in the City of New York, shall, under a penalty of two hundred and fifty dollars, inter or permit to