

property alone; that as the entire population is benefited directly and indirectly by good roads, all property ought to contribute through the medium of a State tax. The Higbee-Armstrong law, by which State aid has been introduced in New York, is popular. It provides for a division of the cost of road construction among the State, the county and the local township, and it is said, many of the towns availing themselves of it will secure from outside sources four or five times the sum they raise themselves, while in the large cities, which will pay most of the fund, the tax will not fall more heavily than 1 per cent. per thousand dollars of the assessed valuation."

### The Administration of Somatose.

Joachim (*Pharm. Zeit.*) has found that patients are often unable to prepare solutions of somatose. The best method of preparing it is as follows: Fill a wineglass with cold water, and then add three teaspoonfuls of somatose, which must be sprinkled on the top of the water. The wineglass should be moved as little as possible, so that the somatose remains on the surface of the water. After a few hours the solution is ready for use. The quantity required during the day is best prepared the evening before. The three teaspoonfuls of somatose is sufficient for the day. In the morning a third part may be taken with milk, at lunch, and later at dinner; the remainder should be mixed with soup or porter. —*Brit. Med. Jour.*

### The Etiology and Prophylaxis of Tuberculosis.

Andvord (*Norsk. Mag. for Lægevid.*) bases his paper partly on the extraordinary constancy of the death-rate from tuberculosis at all ages in any particular locality, and partly on the after-history of 814 children who had been treated in hospital for "scrophulo-tuberculosis." It was found that 60 per cent. of these were in excellent health, while a third had either succumbed to tuberculosis or were suffering from it at the time the inquiry was made. This shows that the percentage of persons with tuberculous phthisis rises with increasing age. The writer, therefore, comes to the conclusion that infection with the tubercle bacilli begins, as a rule, in childhood, and that in crowded areas the whole population is more or less infected, and inherits the predisposition to infection. The tuberculosis death-rate in any locality depends on a local constant, which Andvord considers to be the inherited or acquired power of resistance of its inhabitants to the infection. The practical conclusion is that, in the battle against tuberculosis, the chief point is to protect the children from infection, and therefore to attack all enlarged tuberculous glands.