

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

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The Density of Population in foreign countries has recently been computed. Great Britain takes the lead with 132 inhabitants per square kilometer, which is equal to 0.3861 per square mile; then come Japan, 144.4; Italy, 106.6, the German Empire, 104.2; Austria, 87; Hungary, 59.6; France, 72.2; Spain, 35.9; the United States, 8.4; and Russia, 5.9.

Insanity in Women Teachers has been investigated by Professor Zimmer, of Berlin, who has derived his information from all the asylums in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Russia, and found that in every 85 female patients there is one school teacher. In Prussia there is one school teacher to every 350 women of the population.

The Journal of the Sanitary Institute, published quarterly in London, contains (Jan., 1902) the full report of the conference on Water Supply and River Pollution. The proceedings are interesting and highly important. At the next sessional meeting of the Institute, Feb. 12, 1902. Mr. A. W. Blyth, M.R.C.S., Barrister-at-Law, and Medical Officer of Health, St. Marylebone, will open a discussion on the timely subject of "The Prevention of Smallpox in the Metropolis."

Compulsory Vaccination.—The Board of Health of Boston has recently ordered that all inhabitants who have not been successfully vaccinated since January 1, 1897, "shall be vaccinated or revaccinated forthwith." This is done to effectually control the present epidemic of smallpox. A few months ago an average of twenty cases a day were

reported; this led to free vaccination stations being opened in all sections of the city, and as a result about 400,000 people were vaccinated. This wholesale vaccination proved so effective that for some time past the average number of cases reported has not been more than five a day. If the present law is enforced about 170,000 people will have to be vaccinated.

The cleansing effect upon the atmosphere of snowfall is illustrated by a report of the Chicago Board of Health. On January 18, shallow glass dishes containing the usual preparation favorable to the growth of atmospheric germs were exposed to the air for three minutes in ten different localities within a half a mile, bounded by South Water, State, and Adams Streets, and fifth Ave. After seventy-two hours' incubation these showed an average of 630 colonies of growing germs, the greatest number, 1,050, being found at the northeast corner of Dearborn and Washington Streets, a few feet above the street level; the least, 330, in the south court between the City Hall and the County Building; and the next fewest, 835, on the roof of the City Hall, about 130 feet above street level. On the 21st snow fell to the equivalent of 0.28 of an inch of rain, and the experiment was repeated on the 22nd. The average colonies from these latter exposures numbered sixty-six, ranging from nineteen at the south-east corner of LaSalle and South Water Streets, to 180 at the south-east corner of Washington and Fifth Avenue. The atmosphere was nearly 90% purer on the 22nd after the snowfall than it was before.