

A NEW SANITARY INSTITUTE IN FRANCE.—The French have formed a society, independent alike of State control and patronage, for the purpose of encouraging sanitary reform throughout France. This new body will be called the Société Française d'Hygiène, and, in its general organization, is not unlike the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain. The support of many eminent men has been secured. Professor A. Chevallier, was elected president. Dr. de Pietra Santa, to whose energetic advocacy the formation of this society is in part due, has been appointed one of the secretaries. The administrative council is composed of several eminent medical men, and also includes three civil engineers, and a well-known dispensing chemist. The object of the society will be 'vulgarise in the most extensive manner, possible' all that appertains to public health. For this purpose meetings will be held, correspondence opened with all similar societies existing in other countries, documents collected and a library formed. A laboratory will also be opened, analytic researches instituted, and prizes accorded for the best results attained.

HOW FEVER IS SPREAD.—A woman living in a cottage near a railway station received the visit of a friend, who came from London with her child. After a few days stay in the country, the London child was seized with scarlet fever, and its mother, anxious to be at home during the illness, did not scruple to travel back to town though the child was covered with eruption. She had, however, remained long enough in the village to sow the seeds of an epidemic. The children of the woman with whom she had been staying were the first to show signs of the fever; but this person, nevertheless, took them to a school feast. The vicar of the parish, however, discerned the true character of the rash, and at once ordered both mother and children off the premises. But the precaution was taken too late. Several of the school children contracted the fever, and the school had to be closed until the epidemic was over.

MOVEMENT OF THE POPULATION IN THE CHIEF EUROPEAN STATES.—The *Gazette Medicale* (No. 38) extracts the following figures from a table recently published by the *Journal Officiel* relating to the period 1872-75:—1. *Births*: These were 16·27 per 1000 inhabitants in France; 34·23 in Great Britain; 36·65 in Italy; 39·71 in Germany; 40 in Austro-Hungary; and 47·20 in Russia. 2. *Mortality*: There were 21·35 deaths per 1000 in Great Britain; 22·46 in France; 27·72 in Germany; 30·40 in Italy; 34 in Russia; and 38·96 in Austro-Hungary. 3. *Proposition of Excess of Births*: By the two tables given above, we find that the excess of births over deaths per 1000 is 13·20 in Russia; 12·88 in Great Britain; 11·90 in Germany; 6·25 in Italy; 3·81 in France; and 1·04 in Austro-Hungary. Thus, although France occupies the second rank with respect to her slight mortality, she is last but one among the great Powers as regards the excess of births over deaths.