

The City Hospital for contagious diseases question still remains unsettled. The latest proposition is to allow the General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu each to erect an annex for this class of patients as the Victoria Hospital has done. The building of the latter institution is, however, in a very different locality to those of other hospitals; it is far more isolated now, and the new structure is never likely to be less isolated in the future, whereas the General Hospital is in the midst of a densely populated district, and the Hotel Dieu is on the verge of the people's favourite health resort and playground.

The very pleasant announcement has been made that the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire will be held in Montreal in August next year. Doubtless the city has to thank Lord Strathcona for securing this distinction. He has written to the Board of Trade as follows:—

"The advantages to Canada from the gathering cannot be over-estimated. It would bring the resources and capabilities of the Dominion before a body of commercial gentlemen from the United Kingdom and from the other parts of the Empire. They would be able to see for themselves what trade Canada is likely to do in the future, both as regards imports and exports, and be in a position personally to make connections of a business character that could not be otherwise than valuable. Similar advantages would of course accrue from the opportunity Canadian merchants and shippers would have of getting into personal communication with such a body of gentlemen as would meet together in Montreal, especially as, after the termination of the meeting, they would probably take advantage of the opportunities which I understand are to be afforded of visiting the various parts of the Dominion.

Work on the new Board of Trade building should be pushed on so as to ensure its completion before the Congress.

The visit of the Boer generals to France and Germany for the purpose of collecting funds for their distressed fellow country people has resulted in their obtaining the paltry sum of \$103,000 from their millions of friends in these countries, which is about half a cent from each family. So much for popular enthusiasm.

It is objected that it would be discreditable for this city to accept the proffered gift of Mr. Carnegie of money to erect a Library building. Which is the more so, the acceptance of so munificent an offer, or, the leaving this metropolitan city wholly without a City Library? It takes more intelligence to appreciate the advantages of a free Library for a city, than seems possessed by those who obstruct the establishment of one in Montreal.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

HIRAM J. NOLAN, alias "William J. Nolan," was convicted last week before Judge Endicott and sentenced to one year in the State prison on a charge of carrying on a fraudulent insurance business.

THE POPULATION OF IRELAND in 1901 was 4,458,775, which is half a million less than in 1800 and 4 millions less than in the famine year, 1846. The population is still decreasing.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 15th October, 1902, clearings, \$1,587,280; balances, \$157,777. Corresponding week last year, clearings, \$1,911,881; balances, \$452,744.

THE PRAIRIE LANDS of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are spoken of in "The Daily Chronicle," a London paper, as "the desert." Although its ignorance is so dense it discusses one of the problems of those regions.

THE NUMBER OF SHARES sold in N. Y. Stock Exchange to end of September this year was 216,842,630, their par value was, \$21,134,928,325, and actual value, \$16,581,239,345, the actual or market value, being \$4,553,697,980 below par.

THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE is graphically illustrated by there having been 248 persons insured in the Equitable Life, who died last year, each one of whom had passed a rigid medical examination in that year.

AUTOMOBILISTS need be rich, as they are liable to have damages to pay for accidents caused by their reckless driving. In New Jersey a man got a verdict of \$12,070 for damages from the owner of a scorching automobile.

INTERNATIONAL FIRE EXHIBITION, 1903.—The Committee in charge of this enterprise has arranged for representatives from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France and other European countries, also from the United States. Canada should be represented.

GERMAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES require certificates of origin of reputed American grain which is done to shut out Canadian wheat, because Canada discriminates against Germany by giving imports of British goods a rebate of one third off the ordinary duties.

AN INDUSTRIAL LIFE COMPANY in Scotland has made its accounts still more tedious to keep and examine by introducing farthings. Thus we get items like this £9.17.11¼. The labour involved by stating money in four denominations, each having a different relative value to the next higher, will some day be realized in the old country. For a life company to aggravate the evil by introducing farthings seems to us a bit of irrational perversity.

MORE THAN 150 PERSONS AT DERBY have been suffering from ptomaine poisoning from eating pork pies. It was shown on the inquest that the meat was not impure of itself, nor were any of the ingredients, but the place where the pies were made is close to an open ash-pit from whence no doubt the poison emanated by which one life was lost and large numbers jeopardized. This case is worthy the attention of the City's Health Department.