

Selections.

Autumnal Typhoid.—There is much reason to fear that the autumnal increase in the prevalence of typhoid fever, which long experience has taught us annually to expect, is this year of more than average severity. There are few things about the infectious fevers more striking than their seasonal prevalence. We know that some—such as typhoid fever and diphtheria—are due to infection by specific microbes, and we surmise the same to be true of all. We know also that the insanitary conditions which favour the spread of the infective principle of typhoid fever are always present, in March and April, as widely as in October and November, yet the number of cases in the former months is scanty, in the latter large. The fact is so well known that it is hardly necessary to prove it; but if further proof is wanted, it may be found in the Statistical Report of the Metropolitan Asylums Board published this week. The admissions of patients suffering from typhoid fever have been recorded month by month since 1872: the numbers, it is found, have fallen to the minimum three times each in March and April, five times in May, seven times in June, and once in July; they have risen to the maximum once in September, eleven times in October, six times in November, and once in December.* In tropical

* The figures for this year are not yet available, but some indication of the severity and prolonged character of the present prevalence may be gathered from the following table of deaths:—

Deaths from Typhoid Fever 1891.

		28 Principal English Towns.		Dublin.
Week ending	August	1	30	—
"	"	8	22	1
"	"	15	26	2
"	"	22	32	—
"	"	29	40	4
"	September	5	34	2
"	"	12	32	3
"	"	19	46	4
"	"	26	41	3
"	October	3	45	5
"	"	10	54	3
"	"	17	72	9
"	"	24	66	5
"	"	31	56	7
"	November	7	68	14
"	"	14	59	—