

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

THE LEPROSY QUESTION.—At the recent dinner in London in aid of the National Leprosy Fund, the Prince of Wales in the chair, Sir Andrew Clark said :—The evidence was conclusive that not only did leprosy exist in larger measure than in recent years, but that new centres were springing up in various quarters and the old centres were widening, and before England and the civilised world there was looming a condition of affairs which might by growth threaten civilization. . . . The present condition of lepers was terrible enough ; but the disease was slumbering, and it took a long time to develop into greater proportions. If it ever assumed a certain growth, its devastations would be terrible." The objects of this fund, the Prince of Wales said, was this : if a sufficient sum could be collected it had been decided that a portion should be set apart for the endowment of two scholarships, the holder of one of which would make it his business to study the disease in the United Kingdom and in Europe, while the holder of the other would go abroad and study the disease in India, China, the Colonies, and elsewhere.

THE CONTAGIOUSNESS of leprosy is doubted by some authorities, although we think the weight of evidence is in favor of the contagious theory. It appears to be plainly contagious in certain circumstances. That is, those who are susceptible, who provide a soil for it, through certain habits of living, especially of diet, become infected. It would seem that these predisposing causes are peculiar and not very general. There must be a special soil. Mr. Johnathan Hutchinson, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, at the London dinner said : As to what His Royal Highness had said about the segregation of lepers, that was a matter on which further investigation might prove that two opinions were tenable. In England there were a certain number of lepers residing, not in the least isolated, and yet no focus of leprosy was created. Some of the lepers coming to England grew well, the great majority improved, and in no case was there any necessity for segregation.

AS TO CANADA, there is not much to be feared. The Empire recently gave a timely article, and in referring to the Lazaretto

in New Brunswick said the matter was "worthy of the attention of those persons to whom the care of the community was intrusted." We believe this care should be rather on behalf of those who are as yet unaffected, in order that they shall not become predisposed to the disease. Dr. Hansen, the Norwegian discoverer of what is thought to be the bacillus of leprosy, came over long ago to trace the history of leper immigrants who had settled in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota. Of 160 original leper immigrants he was able to find only 13 ; a few more may have been living, but nearly 147 were dead. Of all their descendants, so far as great-grandchildren, not one had become a leper. The failure to spread there was thought to be due to the improved conditions of living which the immigrants are able to secure on this side of the ocean.

IMPORTANT TO FATHERS—A STRIKING CASE.

—The following from the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter. A Weekly periodical of high standing, is very suggestive and is being published in other medical journals. A mother said :—I have one child, a little girl not two years old, who was as healthy as the birds when she was born. Ever since she was old enough to be less in the nursery and more with her father and me, she has ailed mysteriously. I could not say she was ill, yet she was hardly ever well. I was in a perpetual state of anxiety about her. The symptoms were absence of appetite, complaints of sickness, stomach and digestion out of order. Last August I took her to a country town for two months. After the first week, she flourished like a young bay tree, ate, and drank, and laughed, and played, and slept, and kept me forever busy enlarging her garments. I brought her home rosy and robust. In one week all the old symptoms reappeared—loss of appetite, dark lines under the eyes, listless ways, restless nights. Some one suggested that the neighborhood did not suit her ; she caught a severe cold and was confined entirely to one room for three weeks. She recovered her health completely. Appetite, spirits, sleep, all returned. It could not