

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "BETTER PAY" of Medical officers of local boards of health is a subject which might well and profitably engage the attention of the public. Medical officers are a very badly paid class, and in an age when all professional people are expected to live in a certain style, physicians, in common justice to their families, cannot well afford to give their time and hardly earned skill for nothing, or almost nothing, as the great majority of health officers do, all in Canada indeed, except in two or three of the largest cities, where they are forced to give all their time to the onerous duties of their office, and even here they get but mean pay as compared with that of much less valuable officers. Think of the City of Toronto paying at the rate of less than two cents per head of her population to her Medical officer for preventing disease!

BUT LITTLE GLORY is attached to the office, and as a class, or a large portion of it, it is to be hoped the members of the profession are too philanthropic, professional and dignified to "stand" or bargain individually about the remuneration they shall receive, and they quietly accept the position, and, as a rule, endeavor to do their duty,—their best to fill the position, and so to actually and directly reduce their own private practice and means of livelihood. We would respectfully urge upon municipal authorities, now that sanitary systems are becoming well established in several of the provinces, local boards of health numerous, the duties of the medical officers fairly defined, and much good is being accomplished by them, and moreover as they have heretofore given their services for the most part for little or nothing, that the subject of better remuneration to these officers from the public funds of the various municipalities be taken into consideration. These philanthropic laborers will then feel that their services are appreciated, and they will have more "heart" to make every possible effort for the public weal in the way of preventing disease. It will undoubtedly "pay" municipalities well to be more liberal in this regard, to their medical officers.

TWO AND A-HALF CENTS per head of her population is about the rate paid by the capital of the Dominion to her medical officer;—Toronto less than two cents. It is hardly a matter of wonder that epidemic diseases prevail and that the death rate is high in these cities.

Each city pays at the rate of at least from one to two dollars per head of population for medical treatment :—a cent for prevention to a dollar for cure. Toronto pays probably at least a million dollars a year for medical attendance, medicine and nursing, and Ottawa, probably, a hundred and fifty thousand dollars (there is a much larger proportion of medical practitioners in Toronto than in Ottawa) thirty or forty times as much as the costs of the respective health departments. Do the people really believe, have they yet learned, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?

THE QUESTION of how best to dispose of the garbage of cities and towns is engaging the attention of sanitary officers all over the continent. The Boston Board of Health reports sensibly on this question. It costs that city more than \$100,000 to collect the garbage, most of which is from the kitchen, and the Board contends that it should be burned in the kitchen and save this expense.

IT IS A MISTAKE to throw the kitchen refuse fresh upon the fire, for then the combustion is imperfect, and very offensive odors are given off. It should always be placed in a receptacle specially arranged for the purpose at the stove. The ordinary heat of the stove will dry out all moisture and leave charcoal, which may be burned like other fuel. There are several patented devices already in the market for this purpose. One of them is obtained only in the construction of the stove, and consists of a receptacle in the side of the stove in which the garbage is put, completely desiccated, and then dumped into the fire. Another consists of a small pail arranged for the purpose, it can be applied to any stove, and is said to answer the needs well.

THE AMOUNT of heat necessary to destroy tuberculous virus in milk, has been engaging the attention of M. Bang. He found that 186 F was the lowest degree permissible, but that in 212 F, water boiling point, there is perfect safety. This corresponds with the well known conclusions of MM. Chauvau and Arloing. M. Bang fed rabbits and hogs on tuberculous milk heated to various temperatures. Rabbits which drank this milk unheated died of intense intestinal tuberculosis. Of six drinking it at 175 F none showed any trace of the disease after four