Boards of Health.

In view of the fact, that the Provincial Board of Health has recommended that consumption be placed on list of infectious diseases, the action of the Ontario Legislature in reference thereto will be awaited with interest.

* * TUBERCULOSIS IN THE PAN-AMERICAN

MEDICAL CONGRESS.

An interesting discussion took place in the section of hygiene on leprosy and tuberculosis. Dr. Lee, of Philadelphia, read a paper on the former subject and Dr. Lawerence F. Flick of the same city one on "The contagiousness of pulmonary consumption." As to the need of measures for the prevention of the spread of these two diseases, the opinion of the section was very pronounced that stricter precautions are much more needed against consumption than against leprosy. We have more positive testimony that tuberculosis is infectious than has been presented that leprosy is communicable. One member only uttered a doubt as to the contagiousness of tuberculosis, and it is quite likely that the emphatic opinion of the other members and the unamimous vote against him have caused him to modify his way of thinking. Dr. Flick referred to the error that the germs of this disease may be inhaled with impunity by the healthy, and he was strongly of the opinion that the most healthy persons are very sure to come down with the disease if habitually exposed to the bacilli of tuberculosis in badly ventilated apartments.

The following resolutions were adopted by the section :

Resolved, That it is the view of the section on hygiene, etc., that in view of the fact that tuberculosis causes more deaths than any other disease, that it is known to be communicable, especially to persons living in houses and shops with consumptives, that the attention of national, state and municipal authorities be directed to the necessity for controlling the dissemination of the disease.

1. By notification by physicians and householders.

2. By regulation of the residences of the tuberculized.

3. By controlling their movements so far as possible.

4. By the establishment of hospitals and homes for the infected poor.
* *

The secretary of a local board of health writes about a man who kicked up a row, because his house, infected with scarlet fever, was placarded. How silly his misdemeanor ought to seem to him when he learns that the president of the United States set him an example of a good lawabiding citizen by having the White House placarded last year on account of the same disease.

A Municipal Reform.

The city of Haverhill, Mass., with a population of about 28,000, have adopted the Swiss system of Referendum and Initiative. This means that any measure, by-law or ordinance passed by the council, except such as are declared urgent, shall not go into force for thirty days, during which period the people may petition to have the matter submitted to a general vote, and if signed by 15 per cent. of the electors, an election must be This is the Referendum. The held. Initiative provides that the electors may petition to have any measure they desire, introduced and passed by the council. If the council refuses to pass the measure thus introduced it may go to a vote of the electors, and it amended in council both the original proposition and the amendment must be voted on. A writer who has investigated the workings of the Referendum in Switzerland, testifies that "jobbery and extravagance are unknown, and politics, as there is no money in it, has ceased to be a trade. The men elected to office are taken from the ranks of the citizens, and are chosen because of their fitness for the work. The people take an intelligent interest in every kind of local and federal legislation, and have a full sense of their political responsibility. The mass of useless or evil laws which legislatures in other countries are constantly passing with little consideration, and which have constantly to be repealed, are in Switzerland not passed at all."

The county council of Victoria by bylaw at their November session ordered the following amendment to sec. 5 of the Municipal Amendment Act, 1893, which calls into requisition in every municipality a treasurer's cash book and other regula tions :

That the word "day-book" shall be substituted for the word "cash-book" in subsections 1 and 2 respectively; that the provisions of sub-section 1 shall not apply to the receipts on account of nonresident taxes and percentages, the treasurer to be at liberty to enter the receipts mentioned, in the day-book periodically as heretofore; that for the purposes of sub-section 2, relating to the exhibibition of certain books at meetings of the council, when so directed, it shall be sufficient to show the totals of all the receipts and payments up to the day on which the meeting shall be held, and to account for the amount at the credit of the municipality, by the production of the bank passbook and the cash in the treasurer's hands; and that sub-section 3 be, and is hereby declared not to be in force.

The fact that the section of the act referred to provides that it may be changed by by-law of the council shows that the legislature did not consider it perfect. The reason sections are passed in this way is that councils often neglect the regulation of the manner in which their financial business is conducted, and in some municipalities where the treasurer has been in office for some time, such interference on the part of the council might be looked upon as a reflection on a capable man's system. We recommend all councils to consider the regulations and only amend them when they ascertain a that change is actually necessary.

We notice that some county councils have decided to petition the local legislature to provide for the reduction of county councils by raising the number of voters required for a deputy reeve from 500 to 800. We see no objection to this, if at the same time the act is amended by requiring a village to contain the same number of voters before becoming incorporat ed, and by providing that when a village voters' list shows less than that number of names they shall be attached for the purpose of representation in the county council, to the township or townships to which the village originally belonged. This would in some instances entitle the village and township combined to a representative and effect no saving. Until the district system is advocated for the election of county councils, no move for reform in this direction will ever be successful.

A correspondent in the *Globe* writes in reference to the effort of the Prison Reform Association to bring before municipal authorities the necessity of classification of prisoners in county goals, as follows :

* *

I have not a little experience with county councils, and I must say frankly, though regretfully, that I see very little hope of accomplishing anything in county goal reform through moral suasion. County councillors, are unfortunately, elected yearly, instead of for a longer time, as they should be, and, as a result, they will incur no expense that will in any way lessen their chances of reelection. The only remedy, in my judgment, is a radical one, viz: Firstly, to make it compulsory on the part of county councils to make special provision for the poor of the county; and secondly, for the government to assume absolute control of common goal management. On general principles, I am opposed to the centralization of increased power and patronage in the hands of the government, but this is an exceptional case, and necessity knows no law.

Our prison system requires unification with a central controlling power, the same as our educational system, if not made a part thereof, and the sooner this is brought about the better.

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A county clerk and practicing barrister writes : I find your paper very entertaining and valuable, and I must take occasion to compliment you and your co-editors on the success that has attended your efforts. The different heads are carefully and ably managed and are authorities on the various subjects on which they treat. The legal branch is of great interest to me, not only as county clerk, but in my profession, as all the recent decisions on municipal law are carefully and correctly reported. The correspondents' branch, too, is a great boon to municipal officers, as it gives them an opportunity of ventilating their respective grievances, real or imaginary, in such a manner as to bring them prominently before those concerned.