

every member of the family of eight was ultimately infected. The first case was a child of two years; then the mother, aged 34; then two girls, aged 9 and 14 respectively; then a boy of four; then a girl of seven; and then a nurseling, aged six months. The father escaped until the last; but late in the spring he came to the clinic with a characteristic eruption, alopecia, etc. The cases were all severe; there were several irites; all had obstinate and some very extensive mucous patches; and the two-year-old child had a syphilitic pneumonia. The site of inoculation was discoverable in two cases only, probably on account of the lateness and irregularity with which the patients were brought to the clinic. In the mother it was upon the centre of the cheek, and in one girl it was upon the eyelid. The family were very poor, living in one room, and their habits were very uncleanly.—*Author's Abstract.*

A CURIOUS POCKET-PIECE.

IN the *New York Medical Journal* of February 4th, 1899, Dr. William S. Gottheil describes a case in which a woman carried a piece of her own skull in her pocket for years, "for good luck." She appeared for treatment for a different affection, and it was discovered incidentally that a syphilitic periostitis had begun again around the scar left by the ulceration from which her piece of bone had come twelve years before. As in the present case, she had not at that time attached sufficient importance to the matter to consult a physician about it. The sequestrum, of which she was quite proud, was an ovoid piece of bone measuring $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches, and was composed of two adjacent portions of the two parietal bones, the sagittal suture in the middle showing beautifully. Its upper convex surface showed the outer table of the skull intact. The under concave surface was composed mostly of cancellous tissue; but all along the middle line, at the suture, the inner table was present, showing that at that place the entire thickness of the skull had been lost.

Apart from its curiosity, the case is of interest as showing the very extensive destruction of important organs that can take place in syphilis without systemic reaction or much personal inconvenience. The entire thickness of the skull had been desolved, and the meninges necessarily exposed; yet the inflammation had not spread to those membranes, and the patient had hardly considered herself sick.—*Author's Abstract.*

THE annual report of the Ontario Board of Health for 1898 is just to hand and contains much important information on matters pertaining to the health of the Province.