

VALUE OF SANITARY WORK.

The inestimable value of sanitary work in the maintenance of public health cannot be too frequently brought under the notice and attention of the profession and the public. Dr. Baker, the indefatigable secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health, has recently issued a circular setting forth the good results to health from sanitary work to which we desire to give special prominence. He says: Sanitary authorities have claimed that the work which they have recommended to be done as a preparation for cholera—such as preventing and abating nuisances; attending to drains, sewers, privies, and cesspools; cleaning up generally, and unusual carefulness in regard to foods and drinks—would reduce the sickness and deaths from other diseases, even if cholera did not come. The weekly reports for July, 1885, to the Michigan State Board of Health, by physicians in different parts of the State, indicate that this claim is being realized in Michigan, so far as relates to the lessened sickness—it having been lessened from nearly every disease, and greatly lessened from fevers and from diarrheal and other diseases believed to be especially influenced by sanitary conditions; and this is true notwithstanding the fact that the meteorological conditions in that month were rather more than usually unfavorable to health. It is proper to state, however, that the sickness in any month is influenced by the meteorological conditions in the preceding month, and that the meteorological conditions in June, 1885, were favorable to health.

Observations in Michigan for many years have shown that in July the meteorological conditions especially unfavorable to health are: high temperature, excessive humidity of the atmosphere, and deficiency of ozone. The bulletin of "Health in Michigan, July, 1885, says: "For the month of July, 1885, compared with the average of corresponding months for the seven years, 1879-1885, the temperature was slightly higher, the absolute and the relative humidity were more, and the day and the night ozone were less." Compared with the average for the months of July in the seven years, 1879-1885, remittent fever, intermittent fever, dysentery, consumption of lungs, cholera infantum, diarrhœa, cholera morbus, measles, and whooping-cough were less prevalent in July, 1885." A large part of this decrease in sickness has undoubtedly

been due to the medical and sanitary journals and the newspapers, which have constantly kept before the people the necessity for sanitary work, and the facts as to the spread of cholera in Europe.

It remains to be seen to what extent efforts for the exclusion of cholera from this country, and the general preparation for cholera by boards of health and the people, shall prove effectual; but even if cholera shall not be entirely prevented, there will remain the belief that the measures which have so greatly decreased the sickness from other diseases cannot but have had their influence in decreasing it; and if cholera does not occur in this country it seems quite probable that, by reason of the suffering elsewhere, there may be as many cases of serious sickness prevented in this country as there have been cases of cholera in Europe. But this may not continue without continued vigilance and effort.

CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The following are the papers promised up to the 19th ult. for the Chatham meeting: Dr. Osler (Philadelphia), "The Clinical and Pathological Relations of the Cæcum and Appendix;" Dr. A. Grant (Ottawa), "Aortic Aneurism, with a specimen;" Dr. W. B. Geikie (Toronto), "Retroversion of the Gravid Uterus;" Dr. Burt (Paris), "Internal Urethrotomy;" Dr. Holmes (Chatham), "Puerperal Mania;" Dr. Kerr (Winnipeg), "Fractures in the Neighborhood of Joints;" Dr. Fenwick (Montreal), "Amputation of the Breast, with cases;" Dr. Bethune (Wingham), exhibition of specimens: 1. "Parasite from an Abscess of the Thigh," 2. "Aneurism of the Pulmonary Artery;" Dr. Worthington (Clinton), "Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis;" Dr. Fulton (Toronto), "Subperiosteal Amputation;" Dr. Campbell (Seaforth), "Trephining the Mastoid Bone;" Dr. Rutherford (Chatham), "Supra-Pubic Urination;" Dr. Lett (Guelph), "Inebriety, a Disease the Result of Physical Causes;" Dr. A. H. Wright (Toronto), "Phlegmasia Dolens;" Dr. McKeough (Chatham), "Pilocarpine in Puerperal Eclampsia;" Dr. J. E. Graham (Toronto), "Dissecting Aneurism of the Thoracic Aorta, with specimen;" Dr. Shepherd (Montreal), "Excision of the Tongue;" Dr. Alloway (Montreal), "Puerperal Septicæmia;" Dr. Ryerson (Toronto), "Atrophic Nasal Catarrh;"