

in the seventeenth century, many of them having already existed for over 130 years. The "Ottawa Valley Provident and Life Association," of this city, of which Mr. Sparling, 2^d Rideau street, is the manager, offers some superior advantages for family protection; and special advantages are given to physicians who desire to become members.

THE LABORATORY AND FACTORY of Messrs. Read & Carnrick, New York, have been entirely destroyed by fire, through an explosion of a boiler, involving a loss of \$200,000. We are requested to state that the firm have already secured new buildings, and are working day and night getting up machinery, &c., and expect to be able by the 1st prox. to fill all orders for their specialties as usual. In the meantime they request the kind indulgence of the profession for any delay suffered in having their orders filled.

THE LATEST advices indicate that the bill prepared by the recent conference of state boards of health, at Washington, does not meet with the approval of the committee of the House of Representatives. It is thought the proposed board would be too large and unwieldy. The committee may recommend that the present board be continued.

IN THE SENATE, Senator Palmer, of Michigan, has presented a bill which provides for a bureau of health connected with the Treasury Department. It provides for a commissioner of public health, with a salary of \$4,500; seven superintendents at \$3,600; an inspector of ventilation, drainage and plumbing, at \$3,600, and a public analyst, at \$3,600.

IN THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE REPORT for 1883, Mr. F. G. Grensides, the veterinary surgeon, refers strongly to the danger to which the public are exposed from the consumption of meat from tuberculous animals. He thinks the loss to stock raisers, too, "must be very great, and will continue to become greater" unless more care is exercised in the selection of dams and sires. Greater care, too, should be exercised in the hygienic management of cattle, which require well ventilated but not too cold stables, and plenty of exercise in the open air. The choicest cattle often do not get exercise enough.

SEWAGE FOR FUEL.—Dr. Von Klein, of Dayton, O., claims to have perfected a process which will disinfect, solidify, and render sewage capable of being used as fuel. His process is altogether chemical, and the sewage may be treated under any condition of storage. Salt is added, then lime, which forms a chlorine gas that disinfects and deodorizes the sewage, and begins the process of solidification. Iron and nitrate of silver are then added, and this completes the process. In a few days the substance is ready to be made into conveniently-sized blocks for fuel. Two dollars worth of the sewage-fuel is said to be equal in heat-giving power to a ton of coal. The bricks resemble blocks of peat, and have no odor. When placed in a stove they burn readily with a strong blaze, and give out much heat.

THE WATER SUPPLY in rural districts is attracting a good deal of attention in England. The soil around all occupied premises, on farms as well as in towns, soon becomes saturated with waste excrete matters, and then the water of adjacent wells is sure to become impure. The connection between typhoid fever and foul water is universally recognized. Water seems to be the common vehicle by which the typhoid poison is received into the body. Water for domestic purposes should be obtained by boring deeply down into the earth, beyond the possibility of contamination.

SEVERAL DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA, according to the *Sanitary News*, have recently occurred among the children attending a school in Chicago. Complaint was made to the board by several citizens, whose families had been afflicted, and the board called for a meeting of all who had any complaint to make, or information to give. A preliminary examination of the buildings did not reveal any serious defects in the sewerage, but a deplorable state of affairs so far as ventilation was concerned. "A pretense of ventilation was found, which was worse than none at all. The children were fed not only with the poisonous emanations from their own lungs, but the foul air from other rooms in the building—the air being passed around from one room to another." Many physicians have drawn attention to the seeming