

## DIPHTHERIA AND SEWER GAS.

The opinions recently expressed in this country (*The Doc'or*, London, England) are corroborated by some statements made by Dr. W. Snively, physician to the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Board of Health, in a paper on an outbreak of the disease in Pittsburgh during the year 1877. Out of 856 cases, the total number reported, there were 366 deaths. Of these 457, with 141 deaths, occurred in a particular district of the city in which the sewerage was almost criminally defective—*i.e.*, there was insufficient grade, inadequate diameter of the main at certain points, absence of traps at the street drops, private connection-points and main termini, while the man-holes were tightly covered and there was an utter lack of ventilation. Slaughter-houses near the termini drained their offal and refuse through connections having no traps; and one of the latter emptied directly into an untrapped drop. The epidemic set in during July, and raged about five months. During most of this period one main was choked for a distance exceeding 2,000 feet. Two heavy rainfalls occurred in July, two in August. Hence he thinks sewer-gas emanations, propagating the disease in the poisoned human system, caused the epidemic.

## BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, Province of Ontario. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

The subject matter of this report was referred to at length in the last number of this JOURNAL, and elsewhere in this number are brief extracts, which foreshadow something which we have no doubt will bear much good fruit. Most of our readers have, however, probably seen the report, and we need not notice it further here.

THE INTRA-VENUS INJECTION OF MILK AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD, by T. G. Thomas, M.D. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

In this the writer gives due credit to the late Dr. Hodder, of Toronto, as being the first to perform this operation, twenty-eight years ago, the recollection of Dr. Hodder's cases suggested the idea to the writer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, U.S. A bound volume of over 200 pages.

THE SCHOOLS OF FORESTRY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS OF EUROPE; —AND ECONOMIC TREE PLANTING: By B. G. Northrop. New York: Orang Judd & Comp.

MEDICINE, THE PRESENT AND FUTURE: By J. W. Compton, M.D.