

of a more immediately useful, practical character than any other health statistics.

Disease statistics, as records and reports of the most prevalent diseases in the various localities may be called, until a more suitable term shall have been thought out by some one specially given to nomenclature, are of the most immediate, practical value, as they may be acted upon even before the deaths take place. They are but recently attracting attention, but are obviously of the utmost importance.

The provinces, therefore, whatever may be their powers in relation to preventive or public health measures, can do but im-

perfect work without a system of vital or health statistics. Certainly it would not be the best, most practical and economical way by any means for each separate province to have a complete organized system for collecting statistics of this kind and to tabulate and publish the results monthly or weekly. It could be better and much more economically done by the Federal Government; thus performing as Dr. Platt recently said in Parliament here, at one centre what otherwise will have to be done by each province—by many centres.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY AS A SANITARY MEASURE.

Joseph Wetzel, in Scribner's magazine for April says: The rapid extension of the electric street car system which has taken place (especially in this country), naturally leads to the question of the cause thereof. To have gained such pre-eminence it must be able to do not only what other systems can do, but, still more, it must be able to do it at a decreased cost. Again, removal of thousands of horses from the streets of a city, involving, as it does, the doing away with the noise and dirt, is another distinct gain to its residents. But if one goes still further, and contemplates the difference between a stable housing thousands of horses, and an electric-car station of sufficient size to operate a road with the same efficiency, one is at once struck with the advantages on the side of the electric system, which, indeed, are incontrovertible. Instead of a large, ill-smelling building whose odors are wafted for many blocks (making the tenancy of houses within half a mile almost unbearable, and involving a large depreciation of property in the neighborhood), there is a neat substantial building equipped with a steam plant and dynamos, and occupying hardly one-tenth the space required for an equivalent number of horses. Therefore, not only is their effected a removal of the nuisances attached to a stable, but a large saving in the cost of real estate, and the far greater

amount involved in the known depreciation of the surrounding property. Besides this, the stables are of necessity required to be close proximity to the track, whereas the electric power station, which furnishes current to the car, may be situated a mile from the track in some suitable place, as for instance, beside a river, where, with condensing engines, power may be generated at a minimum of cost.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

At a general meeting of the Association of public Sanitary Inspectors held recently in London, a report was presented by the Council embodying its recommendations upon the question of the status of the Sanitary Inspector, which it had been instructed to consider. The Council came to the conclusion that in the various Acts of Parliament referring to the position and work of the Sanitary Inspector, there were five defects which it was desirable to remove in future legislation, and the report therefore recommended the Association to endeavor to secure the following amendments in sanitary law: 1. That every candidate for the position of Sanitary Inspector shall have a general knowledge of the building trades, and in addition, shall possess a certificate in Sanitary Science. 2. That Sanitary Inspectors shall have a permanent tenure of office, and shall only be dismissible for misconduct, or proved incompetence, with right of appeal to the Local Government Board. 3. That it shall be the duty of Sanitary Inspectors to periodically inspect