

THE American Association of Obstetricians and Gynæcologists, at its ninth annual meeting held at Richmond, Va., elected the following-named officers for the ensuing year: President, James F. W. Ross, M.D., Toronto; vice-presidents, George Ben Johnston, M.D., Richmond, and John C. Sexton, M.D., Rushville, Ind.; secretary, William Warren Potter, M.D., Buffalo; treasurer, Xavier O. Werder, M.D., Pittsburg. Executive council: Charles A. L. Reed, M.D., Cincinnati; Lewis S. McMurtry, M.D., Louisville; A. Vander Veer, M.D., Albany; J. Henry Carstens, M.D., Detroit; and William E. B. Davis, M.D., Birmingham. The next annual meeting was appointed to be held at the Cataract House, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 17, 18, 19, and 20, 1897.

DAMAGES FROM DEFECTIVE SANITATION.—A verdict for £3,500 as damages for defective sanitation is a severe warning to those whose duty it is to look after the health of the public. This is a judgment that has just been pronounced at the Birmingham Assizes in an action brought against the King's Norton District Council by the executors of Mr. Thomas Smith, brother of the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, with relation to that gentleman's death, which was due to blood-poisoning, the alleged consequence of a defective sewer ventilator carried up the chimney of his house. In the course of the evidence it came out that, on being requested to do so, the local authority had stopped the connection with the sewer; but it was the plaintiff's case that this work had been done in an imperfect manner, and that in consequence of this carelessness blood-poisoning had been caused, and death had ensued. As the action was defended it would be expected that the local authority had something to say for themselves, at all events as to the amount sued for, which was no less than £10,000; and, as a matter of fact, we find that, although it seems to have been admitted that death really resulted from defective sanitation, the defence was put forth that the house in question was in an insanitary condition from causes over which the local authority had no control. However this might be, the jury decided that the district council must be held responsible for the consequences of the action of their sanitary officers, and they accordingly found for the plaintiffs, although with modified damages. District and parish councils throughout the country should take a note of their responsibility.

OBITUARY.

HENRY MANLEY, M.R.C.S. ENG.—Dr. Manley died at his residence, Owen Sound, October 19, aged seventy-seven. He was a native of Devonshire, England, and became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, in 1841. He came to Canada in 1847, and first settled in Toronto. The following year he went to Owen Sound, where he remained up to the time of his death. He was for many years surgeon to the gaol in Owen Sound. During the latter years of his life he did but little practice, but, being active in his habits, he was well and favorably known by the citizens of Owen Sound, where he had lived forty-eight years.