

HEALTH OF NEW YORK.—Through the kindness of Dr. Nagle, medical health officer of New York city, we have been favored with the report of the health department for the year ending December 31st, 1877. There were, during the year, 26,203 deaths from all causes, which makes an annual death rate of 24.50 per 1,000. Of these, 8,042 were from zymotic diseases; 5,800 from constitutional diseases; 9,720 from local diseases; 1,615 from developmental diseases; and 1,026 by violence.

There were only 14 deaths from small-pox, but scarlatina and diphtheria each show a mortality of upwards of 950. There were 3,557 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases; 4,044 from phthisis; 2,148 from pneumonia; 2,378 from diseases of the brain and nervous system, and 1,139 from diseases of the kidney. Infant mortality, as usual, brings up the rear with a frightful holocaust, the number under five years being no less than 12,307.

SULPHUR IN SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.—Since Dr. Pigeon recommended the treatment of scarlatina by sulphur, in the *London Lancet*, others have been induced to try it, with marvelous success. The plan adopted, is to thoroughly anoint the patient twice daily with sulphur ointment made with oil. Burn sufficient sulphur, on coals on a shovel to fill the room with the fumes, which are of course inhaled by the patient. With this mode of treatment the most severe cases do well, and none are over eight days in making a complete recovery. In diphtheria the sulphur treatment excels every other. A few grains of precipitated sulphur are blown upon the fauces every half hour through a glass tube, and the throat is gargled frequently with sulphurous acid and water 1 part in 16.

PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF HARE-LIP AND CLEFT-PALATE.—In an article in the *Practitioner*, Dec. '78, the writer, Dr. Tuckey, recommends the use of the salts as found in bone as a preventive of these deformities. He would prefer to administer bone reduced to powder, and recommends its administration during the first three months of utero-gestation. Cases are given in which this treatment has been successful, even where all the previous children were deformed.

CANADIANS IN ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed the examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, Eng., in November last:—

Chas. Sheard, M.B., Luke Teskey, M.B., and Wm. E. Winskill, M.B., all of Trinity College; the two former passed the primary, and the latter the final examination. Dr. Teskey has returned to Toronto for the winter to attend to his duties in the Dental College here, but will revisit England again in the spring, to complete his course.

CURARE IN EPILEPSY.—Curare has been highly extolled of late, for the treatment of this hitherto intractable disease. It is claimed that it will cure where all other remedies have failed, and that even the very worst cases are benefited by its use. It is administered hypodermically in small quantities prepared as follows. Seven and a half grains of curare are dissolved in one and one fourth drachms of water, to which a drop or two of hydrochloric is added to favor solution. Of this solution 8 drops are injected under the skin every 5 or 6 days.

DEATH.—The *Kingston News* announces the death of Mr. R. A. Lavell, from throat disease, son of Dr. Lavell, of Kingston, in his 17th year. He was a young man of great promise, having carried off the Watkin's Scholarship in Queen's University. A resolution expressive of sympathy with the family in their deep affliction, was presented by his classmates.

SPONTANEOUS DISLOCATIONS.—A celebrated contortionist gave an exhibition of his wonderful powers a short time ago at the Toronto Hospital. He possesses the rare power of being able to dislocate at will all his joints except the elbow, even the phalangeal. In his case there was no doubt left on the minds of those who examined him, that the dislocations were complete in every case.

APPOINTMENTS.—Dr. Forrest has been appointed head master of the Bradford High School. Dr. Atkinson, of Prescott, has been appointed head master of the High School, Brockville. Dr. R. Zimmerman has been appointed one of the pathologists to the Toronto General Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA AND SCARLET FEVER.—Diphtheria is very prevalent at present in Bridgewater, N.S. A very fatal type of this disease is also raging at Stanbridge, Que., and scarlet fever is prevalent in Lennoxville, Que.

DR. YATES, of Kingston, has returned from a trip to Bermuda, very much improved in health.