

THE CITY WATER.—It is a matter of very great regret that the water supply of Toronto is in such an unsatisfactory condition, after so much money has been expended on it. It can hardly be doubted that with a properly constructed filtering basin, either on the Island or on the high ground north of the city, an unexceptionable supply from the lake might be obtained. We hope to be able to give a valuable paper on the Water Supply of Towns, especially in reference to that of Toronto, in the next number of the Journal.

REGISTRATION OF SICKNESS.—Almost from its commencement the SANITARY JOURNAL has advocated the registration of diseases as well as of deaths. There would of course be difficulties in the way of registering every case of disease, and the dividing line between sickness and health might not always be easily discriminated, but provision might be made for the registry of all cases of the more important or distinct diseases, more especially for those of a contagious character. Provisions are made in localities in Great Britain, and throughout the State of Michigan for the registration, and notification to the health officers of the localities, of all cases of contagious diseases. And such provision is indispensable for the proper isolation of such cases, and preventing the spread of the diseases.

At a late meeting of the Toronto Medical Society a resolution was passed endorsing a scheme of health registration.

We purpose entering more fully into the discussion of this subject in our next issue.

A NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.—Since our last issue a National Board of Health has been established in the United States, with headquarters at Washington. The sum of fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for its expenses, and that sum has since, we believe, been very largely increased. The duties of the National Board of Health shall be to obtain information upon all matters affecting the public health, to advise the several departments of the government, the executives of the several States, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, on all questions submitted by them, or whenever in the opinion of the Board such advice may tend to the preservation and improvement of the public health.

The Board shall report to congress a full statement of its transactions, together with a plan for a national public health organization, which plan shall be prepared after consultation with the principal sanitary organizations and the sanitarians of the several States of the United States, special attention being given to the subject of quarantine, both marine and inland. This action will probably lead to a department of health in the Government.