

Editor's Special Corner.

THE NEW YORK Board of Health report the number of deaths last year in that city from zymotic diseases, which were influenced or aggravated by defective plumbing, to have been 3,894, out of a total of 31,866 from all causes.

THE CHICAGO *Tribune* "Health Commissioners" have found a row of very handsome dwellings, belonging to the mayor of that city, Mr. Harrison, a very good mayor, it is said, which tell a tale of woe—*i. e.*, the inhabitants of the houses do—about the deadly sewer gases in the houses, from defective plumbing and want of ventilation, the occupants suffer from chronic sore throat and diphtheria.

EAR-ACHE.—In his late work upon the ear, which we noticed in the January number of this JOURNAL, Dr. Buck says, undoubtedly very truly, that every ear-ache should be considered as the beginning of what later may prove to be a fatal disease. It should receive early and constant attention from a physician who is able to examine the ear with speculum and reflected light.

THE JAPANESE are beginning to recognize the value of public sanitary regulations. Every prefecture in the Empire has its health Bureau. European exhortations did much to produce this effect, but the cholera did more. The people everywhere recognize the efficacy of disinfectants, and use all imported from Europe or America.

A SIMPLE FIRE ESCAPE is suggested by the *Fireman's Journal*. A piece of netting such as trapeze performers use to break their fall in case of accident, might be carried in small compass, attached to the hook and ladder truck, and could be readily fastened by ropes to lamp-posts or the like, or held by a dozen or two willing hands, and might save many lives of persons compelled to jump from upper windows. It has been tried with good success in Germany.

FOR TESTING THE AGE OF EGGS.—*Les Mondes* gives the following:—Dissolve 120 grammes of common salt in a liter of water.

An egg put in this solution on the day it is laid will sink to the bottom; one a day old will not reach quite to the bottom of the vessel; an egg three days old will swim in the liquid; while more than three days old will swim on the surface.

TESTING DRAIN PIPES.—A writer in the *Ironmonger*, (*Scientific American*), from long practical experience in testing drain pipes, confidently recommends for that purpose what he terms a "smoke test," and which gives evidence as to leaks both to the sight and smell. The materials that he employs are soiled cotton waste and sulphur, the smoke from which, after ignition, is blown into the drain or pipes. If leakages exist in the latter inside of the house the smoke and smell both issue forth and show that something is wrong, and generally tell also just where the fault or faults are. Sulphur, as well known, is one of the best of disinfectants, and a dose of the fumes from this to the drains, after disease has been in a house, would effect much good.

SPECIAL TO TOWN CLERKS, REEVES, AND OTHERS.—While many corporations have taken advantage of our offer to supply clubs of 3 copies or more at reduced rates, there are many who have not done so. Council men and clerks are ex-officio health officers, and should keep "posted" on health matters.

We supply 3 copies for \$4.00; 5 copies for \$6.50, and 6 copies for \$7.50.

IF MUNICIPAL CLERKS would bring this fact and the JOURNAL before their councils we should hope to receive many more orders than we do for 5 and 6 copies. Please do this, friends, and help to "scatter the good seed."

MANY TO WHOM BILLS were sent with last number have not yet "responded." Will these please kindly not forget us.

We desire to apologise to our readers for the late appearance of the JOURNAL this month, owing to several circumstances, which were uncontrollable.