

## Editor's Special Corner.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE. By the time this number of the JOURNAL reaches its readers, the old year, another one, will have passed away; with its pleasures and pains, its joys and griefs. We wish all who read this a very happy new year, and many more of the same sort.

THIS SECOND ITEM in the "corner" alludes to that which concerns in no small degree the happiness of the editor—that by means of which the necessaries of this mortal life are for the most part obtained. It is not well calculated to promote the usual pleasing effect of the first greeting, above; yet we venture to hint that our happiness will be promoted at this season by being enabled to mark "paid up" opposite many names—old familiar names as well as new ones.

POSTAGE STAMPS are good in their way, and one cannot have too many of them; but we lose money on them when we have to dispose of them as we sometimes do. We would be glad if those who remit the amount of subscription would send paper currency instead of stamps, when possible.

ONE MEDICAL MAN we are glad to observe is "coming out" for alderman in this city. We trust he may be elected; whatever political leanings he may have, about which we know nothing. Were there three or four physicians in the Council and on the "Market and Health Committee," one might perchance sometimes see in the report of the proceedings of that committee that some allusion at least had been made by it to public health matters.

WANTED.—PURE WATER.—The people of Dallas, Texas, want a supply of pure water. The town is rendered unhealthy and liable at any time to an epidemic, says an exchange, on account of the entire absence of any arrangement for procuring clear water and disposing of sewage and foul water. Wells are used for water supply, and cess-pools in their vicinity for the filth and waste. There is a city not nearly so far away as Dallas, called Toronto, much in the same unenviable con-

dition; the principal difference being that the people of Toronto do not, first, want for means of disposing of sewage and waste water, but team them into the source of the principal water supply; and, second, they do not seem to want a supply of pure water, at least they do not manifest very plainly such want, using the foul water drawn from the Bay into which the sewage is poured, or that, possibly worse, from wells near cesspools and privy vaults, and waiting patiently and submissively for the epidemic—the "visitation of providence," which is sure sooner or later to come, if there is not a great change brought about by somebody.

REGISTRATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. We have many times urged the importance of this subject; it is one of the most vital in connection with the public health. Many cities and towns in Great Britain and the United States have adopted the plan. A year ago the Corporation of Edinburgh commenced a system of compulsory registration, and required physicians to report all cases of infectious disease, allowing for each report 2s. 6d. In the first six months upwards of \$3,000 was thus disbursed. So convinced is the Corporation of the value of the information obtained that the sum of \$5,000 has been appropriated for the purpose during the coming year. The *Sanitary Record* reports that there is likely to be a satisfactory increase in the number of towns where registration is compulsory.

WE DIRECT THE ATTENTION of our readers to a paper in this number by Dr. White, Health Officer of Milwaukee, read at the meeting, in December, of the American Public Health Association, at New Orleans, which shows how they prevent the spread of infectious diseases in that Western City; by registration carried into practice.

GLASS CLOTHING appears to be among the near possibilities. A Pittsburg firm has succeeded in producing glass threads of sufficient fineness and elasticity to permit of their being woven into fabrics; and a tablecloth of glass is on exhibition in New York, so says the *Scientific American*. We cannot imagine glass making a very comfortable undershirt for cold weather.