

honorary except when engaged in attendance upon the meetings of the Board or any of its Committees, when they shall be allowed such *per diem* as shall from time to time be determined and their travelling and other necessary expenses when so occupied; that the Act of 1882 be amended as follows:—The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a competent and suitable person as Secretary of the Board, who shall hold office during pleasure and who shall be the chief health officer of the Province; that such legislation be adopted as shall give the local Boards of Health the power of ordering an examination to be made of the water or waters used by any of the inhabitants for their respective municipalities and of regulating the construction and cleansing of wells, and for closing wells or other sources of water supply the water of which shall be found unfit for use; that the Registration Act be amended by the addition of the following clause:—"The public carrier or other persons shall not remove the dead bodies out of any municipality without first having obtained a certificate from the Divisional Registrar that the particulars relating to the death of such persons have been duly registered with him under the provisions of said Act, and said certificate shall be known as a transient burial permit." The above clauses of the report was adopted.

It was moved that a committee consisting of Dr. Oldright and Prof. Galbraith be authorized to issue a circular to Municipal Councils and local Boards of Health setting forth the evils of the privy-pit and cess-pool systems, and endeavouring to induce them to adopt such systems of disposal of sewage as shall be best adapted to the preservation of health and the circumstances of their respective municipalities, and explaining these various methods.

It was stated that a number of cases of remittent and intermittent fever at Madoc and Wingham were attributed to the unsanitary conditions which prevailed in the vicinity of these places caused by the overflow of certain dams. It was decided that the Board of Health represent the matter to the Provincial Secretary, that it might be remedied according to the Public Works Act.

DR. COVERNTON read an interesting report of his visit to England, and his inspection of the system of the Health Boards there. The report stated that during the five years preceding the introduction of an Act in England regarding infectious diseases, which provided for disinfection and isolation, the annual average of deaths from contagious diseases was as follows:—Scarlet fever, 92; smallpox, 55; measles, 50; typhus, 29; enteric or typhoid fever, 36. During the five years following the introduction of the Act the number of deaths from these diseases was reduced to the following annual average:—Scarlet fever, 64; Smallpox, 28; measles, 22; typhus, 12; and typhoid to 19. The effect of the introduction of the Act was a reduction of eleven deaths per thousand inhabitants.

The Secretary, Dr. Bryce, read the report of the Special Committee appointed to visit the Boards of Health of Boston, New York, and Albany to inquire into the details of the modes of working of Boards of Health at those places.

Dr. CASSIDY read the concluding part of the report of his recent investigation into the outbreak of typhoid fever at Stratford in the form of a letter which he had forwarded to the Chairman of the Board of Health at that place. After explaining that the fever had been contracted by impure water, which contained sewage matter he made the following suggestions:—"That pure water be obtained for drinking purposes: that until it can be obtained the water used for drinking purposes be boiled and filtered; that privy pits and cesspools be discarded for the earth closet or some similar inexpensive plan; that house drains be properly trapped and ventilated." The report was adopted.

In the evening session the report of the Convention at St. Thomas was read and adopted; also Dr. Covernton's report of the International Congress at Geneva was received.

A report of the outbreak of Enteric Fever at Lambton Mills was read. The probabilities with regard to the spread of the epidemic are that it was caused by infected linen thrown from the houses, and that the presence of a slaughter-house in rear of the houses where the disease broke out, contributed to give to the fever a malignant and fatal character.

It was moved by Dr. Cassidy, seconded by Dr. Covernton, that "Whereas typhoid fever and scarlet fever have been clearly traced, both in Europe and America, to the adulteration of the milk with water contaminated with sewage, and in other instances to the washing of the milk cans with water similarly contaminated, and the direct absorption of germs by the milk, and where other diseases such as milk sickness and *ulcerative stomatitis* have been traced to the use of milk from cows infected either with milk sickness or foot and mouth disease, this Board would recommend the local boards of health that a proper inspection of dairies should be made in order to prevent the occurrence or continuation of such evils."—Carried.

### Selected Articles.

#### CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM.

*Its Pathological Aspects.*—Excerpts from an article by G. K. Sabine, M. D., in Boston Medical and Surgical Journal:

*Changes in the Skin:* In the early stages of this affection the skin is remarkably smooth and soft, owing to an increase in the fatty tissue. Later on the skin becomes dry and on the extremities hard and inelastic.

*The Blood:* The most striking change in the