

upon "the education of the masses as the real groundwork of national health." By transgression against the laws that govern life in civilized communities man creates in a great measure the scourges for his own back. The vast amount of injury caused by preventible disease is hardly likely to be materially affected until the people work hand-in-hand with the authorities for its removal. Otherwise, medical men may theorise and Parliaments legislate in vain.

THE LANCET summarizes some of the results given in the fifty-first annual report of the Registrar-General of Great Britain. In this volume the vital statistics of 1888 are reviewed and dealt with in detail. The death-rate was in that year as low as 17.8 in a 1,000, being the lowest death-rate recorded, the next lowest being 18.8, the year immediately preceding. The Registrar-General now reports for 1889 that the death-rate of that year was a fraction higher, being 17.9 in a 1,000. For the nine years 1881 to 1889 the death-rate was lower than the rate recorded in any year prior to 1881. The mean annual death-rate in those nine years was 18.9 in a 1,000, being no less than 2.5 below the mean rate in any preceding decennium. The Registrar-General points out that 600,000 more persons were alive in England and Wales at the end of last year than there would have been if the rate of mortality in the nine years 1881 to 1889 had equaled that which prevailed in the ten years 1871 to 1880.

ON THE "Causation and Restriction of Infantile Mortality," Dr. Vaughn (of the Michigan State Board of Health) says: 1. One-fourth of the children born in the United States die before they reach the end of the fifth year of life. 2. Derangements of digestion cause more than fifty per cent. of these deaths which may be prevented by proper attention to the food. 3. Infectious diseases are serious in their effects upon infants, and may be restricted by isolating the sick and disinfecting clothing and rooms. 4. About three-eighths of the total deaths from pneumonia occur among those under five years of age. Proper clothing and lessened exposure to extremes of temperature will do much to protect against this disease.

THE "FRENCH," the British Medical Journal (of Feb. 22) says, "are a long way ahead of us [the English] in many ways." They "are eminently scientific" and "at the same time eminently practical." The Report of the first

Congress on Tuberculosis held in Paris in the summer of 1889 has just been issued (G. Masson, Paris), and the Journal says, "the best phases of the French scientific method will be found mirrored in it." The recommendations of the Congress to the French Government were such that, as the Journal adds, "if the outcome of such a meeting had been nothing more than the framing of such a series of regulations as those now known as the French tuberculosis regulations, the sitting would not have been in vain. The French Government, unlike some other governments, it will be remembered, as we stated at that time, acted at once on the recommendations of the Congress.

A "FAMILY TYPHOID" outbreak in Philadelphia illustrates one of the peculiarities of this fever. A bath tub, with old-fashioned pan-closet adjoining, had been leaking from time to time, for two years, and recently had dripped down into the kitchen, onto the range and sink below. A case of typhoid fever appeared in September in the youngest boy of the family, who was ill in bed two months. His mother was taken ill with typhoid fever, November 23rd; one sister, November 29; a second, December 4; a third, December 5; a fourth, December 6; and a fifth, December 8. The plumbing had been defective for a long time, but it did not make the family really ill until a case of typhoid fever was introduced into the house, and then after a sufficient time had elapsed the six others were taken in quick succession. It is presumed the first case was caused by the city water from which so many suffer there.

AN INTERESTING account has just been given by French journals (noted in Sant. Inspector) of a local epidemic of pulmonary consumption which appears to have been due to infection. In the centre of Paris an office gave employment to 22 clerks. The wooden floor was old and uneven. In 1878, a man who had been in the office twenty-four years, died of consumption after a sickness of three years, during all of which time, excepting the last six months, he had been at his desk in the office, coughing and spitting upon the floor. Since this time, of the 22 employees, 15 have died, one of cancer, and all the others of consumption. Before the death of the first, two other men who had been in the office six years, began to cough and spit upon the floor. They died in 1885.