

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC in regard to the great value of attending to all sanitary requirements in domestic and social life, and in the ways and means of preventing disease, is one of the great necessities of the present age. It is not so much the enactment of sanitary laws and regulations as the enlightenment of the great masses of the people on health subjects. In this way more than in any other, real and lasting happiness and prosperity among the people will be secured. The causes of disease, both individual and public, are caused of inability to achieve prosperity and success. Remove and avoid the causes of the former and we remove one of the most common and universal causes of the latter. Few men or women who have not good health can live a successful, happy life. No man depending for a livelihood upon his daily labor can prosper with cases of sickness frequently in his family. Disease is caused chiefly through ignorance and not wilful neglect of nature's laws.

THE PROPER EDUCATION OF THE MOTHER would soon reduce the enormous infant mortality in our cities. Dr. Moreau Morris of the New York Health Department, who had charge of the summer corps of visiting physicians, in presenting to the Board of Health his final report of the work done by the doctors, says that the testimony of the physicians goes to show that one of the principal causes of the illness and excessive mortality among young children is the ignorance displayed by the mothers in preparing the food for and in looking after their infants. The doctor suggests the organization of a corps of trained and properly-instructed nurses to visit the tenement houses at the approach of the hot weather, and instruct the mothers in the proper manner of preparing food for their young children and the care of them during the heated term.

RELATIVE TO THIS point is the question of teething as a cause of disease. Dr. S. S. Adams (in Arch. of Pediatrics) says: "After careful observation and study of the diseases of infants during the period of dentition, I am free to assert that neither the evolution nor eruption of the teeth has ever been accepted as an etiological factor in any of them. I accept dentition as a purely physiological phenomenon which may be subject to perversion. I would

not be dogmatic in the assertion that dentition is never a cause of disease, but such, indeed, has been my experience in pediatrics. 'If those interested in this subject will pursue such an investigation they will eventually conclude that improper alimentation, and not 'teething,' is the most potent factor in causing the disorders of the alimentary tract of infants. This is in accordance with the views of the medical profession generally.

PROPER NOTIFICATION to the health authorities of Municipalities of all cases of outbreak of infectious disease is indispensable to the prompt suppression of such outbreaks; and their prompt suppression means sickness and death prevented. At the eleventh congress, of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, held last month, Mr. G. W. Hastings, M. P., in the course of the presidential address said: this system, after years of trial, has been thoroughly approved by the profession. Notification had, by a recent Act, been made compulsory in the metropolis (London). It now extended over more than eight millions of population; and what was good for so large a proportion of the people must surely be good for the whole. It was to be hoped that the sanitary authorities, both in town and country, would see the expediency of adopting, by every means, this easy and efficacious preventive against the spread of disease. The universal success of this preventive measure depends much more upon education than upon compulsion.

AGAIN, WANT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION and development is a direct cause of want of self control, and this want of self control is the one great first cause of intemperance in alcoholic spirits, while in the train of such intemperance follows incalculable misery and failure in life. In this connection we would notice M. Paul Sollier's Aubanel prize essay on the "Role of Heredity in Alcoholism" in *Progres Medical*. A more suggestive study for the physician, and a more saddening one for the philanthropist, as the British Medical Journal says, it would be difficult to imagine. "Here is original sin in terms of modern science, and the punishment threatened in the decalogue to 'the third and fourth generation' is exhibited at work in perhaps its most terrible form. By abundant and well-arranged statistics M. Sollier traces