

THE REMUNERATION OF PHYSICIANS.

An interesting item appears in the "New York Health Report for 1896," which shows the working of what is known as the "summer corps." The Health Board receives every year the sum of \$10,000, which is called the "Tenement-house" Fund. They then engage the services of fifty physicians for the months of July and August. The duty of these physicians is to visit every tenement house, "especially in the poor and crowded districts of the city, prescribe for the helpless sick, give needful advice, distribute rules for the care of infants, and cause to be corrected all unsanitary conditions." The city is divided into fifty districts, each under the charge of one of these physicians. The total number of visits to families was 274,742, or about 5,495 per physician. The physician received \$200, or a little over 4 cents a visit. In other words, at this rate, if a young physician here wished to write to his parents after making a visit, collecting his fee, buying stationery and stamps, he would have nothing left for himself. And yet we wonder that doctors die poor.

SPITTING IN PUBLIC PLACES.

In travelling on the other side, more especially in New York State, one cannot fail to notice the general distribution of notices in reference to spitting. Much of this is due to the efficient work of New York Board of Health, who, in May, 1896, inserted the following section in their sanitary code, one which should be copied all through Canada: "Section 222—Spitting upon the floors of public buildings, and of railway cars, and of ferry boats, is hereby forbidden. Officers in charge of all such buildings and cars and boats will keep posted permanently in such buildings, and in every railway car, and in every

ferry boat, a sufficient number of notices forbidding spitting upon the floors; and janitors of buildings, conductors of cars, and employees of ferry boats shall call the attention of all violators of this ordinance to such notice."

There is no doubt that the section is thoroughly carried out, for in all the cities we were in these notices appeared in large buildings, in street-cars, in fact, almost everywhere; and, as the Board remarks, have no doubt greatly diminished the practice of public expectoration. The ordinance could be made to include sidewalks, without special inconvenience to the public expectorators, and with much added cleanliness and comfort to other people.

We regret to announce the death of two members of the council, both eminent in their profession, Dr. Jas. H. Burns, Toronto, and Dr. G. Shaw, Hamilton. Brief biographies will appear in our next issue.

"THE Lofoten Islands and their Principal Product," is the title of one of the handsomest brochures we have seen for sometime. It describes the country in which the codfish is caught and the method of extracting the oil. The beautiful engravings of scenery, with fish scenes, characteristic of the section, abound in the text. Anyone sufficiently interested in natural history or the source of one of our chief medicinal products, cannot do better than write Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, for a copy of this elegant brochure.

DAVID STARR JORDAN, President of the Leland Stanford University, will have an article on "The Evolution of the mind" in *Appletons' Popular Science Monthly* for February.