

tions are known to be especially objectionable, having regard to the contamination of the wells or to the pollution of the soil from long saturation with liquid refuse.

OF DIPHTHERIA there were 58 cases in Brantford in the year. Dr. Griffin states that 7 of the deaths from it, or over one half of all the fatal cases, besides a number of other cases not fatal, sprang from the case of one little girl. In a healthy neighborhood in a clean and tidy kitchen this child was accustomed to play at the kitchen sink, to pump water and watch it run down the water pipe which led to a *buried sink pit*. She contracted fatal diphtheria; her father took the disease from her and also died; and the other five deaths occurred in one house, that of an immediate neighbor visiting and directly exposed to this case. Nine other non-fatal cases occurred among the immediate neighbors also exposed. A rigid exclusion of the children from school and isolation of exposed persons prevented the wide extension of this local attack. We should be glad if Dr. Griffin would inform us if the sink was trapped in any way.

THE SUCCESS of the Dry Earth system, Dr. Griffin says, has been something remarkable. No new pit has been allowed to be constructed for four years, and many hundreds of old ones had been emptied, cleaned and filled up with clean fresh earth. "The system is now exclusively in operation in all the public schools, the county and other public buildings and factories, and in nearly one thousand private premises. Of the 425 pits emptied during the year, 190 were forever abolished, the pits being refilled with fresh earth." This is a good showing, and will give good results. The public milk supply had received a great deal of attention. The mortality had been at the rate of only 14.3 per 1000 of population (14,272) during the year, but 16.25 during the two previous years. The city expects to soon have a new sewerage system, which a new system of water supply will render indispensable. The Health department have now a steam sterilizer, operated by means of a gas jet, for disinfecting books and other small articles.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. Hutchinson, medical officer of London, Ont., as given in the Free Press of that city, has just reached us. It is for the year ending October 31st last. It states that, "the health of the city during the year has been exceedingly good.

Much good work has been done; innumerable complaints have been attended to; many have been compelled to connect their yards and premises with the public sewers; forty-seven wells have been closed, and a large number cleaned; and sixty-eight samples of well water and ninety of milk were analyzed at this office. 365 deaths took place during the year, 438 last year and 455 the year before. Estimating the population at 27,000, this gives a death rate of 13.14 in the 1,000, last year it was 16 and the year before 17 per 1,000. The death rate has decreased in four years from 23 in each 1,000 to 13.14. The mortality from preventable diseases largely decreased, except from consumption, which as usual, carried off the largest number—30.

TYPHOID FEVER of mild form prevailed in London during the autumn, which, with the exception of three imported cases and four doubtful ones, were all traced to the contaminated well water. In a group of six dwellings, five families used well water, which, upon examination, was found to be wholly unfit for domestic purposes. These five families—of fifteen persons—contracted typhoid, while the families living in the centre of the group used the city water and remained entirely free from the disease. Seventy per cent. of all the wells examined in the city this year were found more or less contaminated. Some discussion followed the reading of the report at the board meeting, relative to a certain creek reported to be a cause of disease, which shows how reluctant the non-medical mind is to admit that certain sanitary defects are certain to give rise to effects.

DR. SMALL, of Ottawa, in a paper on the Classification and Nomenclature of Mineral Springs, read at the Banff meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, suggested a simple and convenient classification. He would have three divisions, according as the waters are neutral, alkaline or acid. No classes for sulphur, iron, etc.; but, when any of these constituents were present the term would be used as a prefix, and we would refer to waters as sulphuretted salines, sulphuretted alkalines, sulphuretted acids; or ferrated salines, ferrated alkalines or acids, as the case might be. The Banff springs, commonly known as *thermal sulphur*, if called *thermal sulphuretted alkaline water* this at once conveys an idea of its nature.