

13.07 per 1,000 for 1886 The reduction in deaths from zymotic diseases, where the effects of sanitary policing is chiefly felt, is still more noticeable; the average of such deaths having been reduced, since the separate Board of Health came into existence, from about twenty-six per cent. of the whole number of deaths to less than fifteen per cent., the proportion last year having been but eleven per cent.

THE PRESENT health regulations in Waltham are unusually strict, yet it is stated that the Board find it possible fully to enforce them, and meet with little opposition. The proper disposal of all refuse, vegetable or animal, excreta, house slops, etc., is defined and exacted; the construction of every privy, cesspool, drain, house system, etc., is prescribed according to the best known sanitary rules; and the supervision of all such work by the Board of Health is secured. The keeping of animals and the transaction of any business liable to affect the public health, the management of contagious diseases with respect to the community and especially to the schools, are all very strictly regulated. The *Sanitary Era* suggests that if Waltham would add the dry-earth system and a complete purified water, the next summary of vital statistics would make a more remarkable showing than this last.

IN QUOTING from this JOURNAL, the *Orillia Packet* refers to our remark in the last number, that "Orillia appears to have been unfortunate last year in the selection of its chief officer," and adds, "the JOURNAL does not correctly apprehend the situation. If there was any misfortune it was in having a Town Council which considered it economy to save two or three hundred dollars at the cost of several valuable lives, and no little sickness." To this we can only say, we had decidedly inferred from reports that the chief officer was not very favorable to sanitary reform and progress. If he was, it appears strange that he could not, or did not, prevent the fatal "economy" of the Council.

According to the Brooklyn, (N.Y.) *Eagle* there are over 140 cow stables in Brooklyn which Dr. McLean, (Vet. Inspec) represents to be in a condition wholly at variance with proper sanitary administration. To the filthy state of the stables and the impure

milk is attributed much of the sickness now prevalent in the city. Pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle is said to have attained wide-spread dimensions. Other cases of contagious disease exist and they are either treated lightly by the sanitary authorities or ignored altogether.

CARLYLE, long ago, when less interest was manifested in health matters, in parks, open spaces, &c., said:—"Every toiling Manchester, its smoke and soot all burned, ought it not, among so many world-wide conquests, to have a hundred acres or so of free greenfield, with trees on it, conquered, for its little children to disport in; for its all conquering workers to take a breath of twilight air in? You would say so! A willing Legislature could say so with effect. A willing Legislature could say very many things! And to whatever 'vested interest,' or such like, stood up, gain-saying merely, 'I shall lose profits,' the willing Legislature would answer, 'Yes; but my sons and daughters will gain health, and life, and a soul!'"

HOUSE OR RAIN TRAPS was the subject of a paper, read at the New Jersey Sanitary Convention in November, by George P. Olcott, C.E. The trap was, he said, (*Sanitarium*), simply a bend or enlargement of a waste-pipe, so arranged as to hold a small quantity of water. The function of this water is to close a branch waste against the free passage of air currents. If more than this is expected of a trap, it is sure to disappoint the expectation. The more complex the structure of a trap, with a view to making it secure against influences tending to empty it, the greater the certainty that it will become a conservator of filth and in itself a nuisance. The writer's observations and experience led him to believe that the simplest form of trap, the "S" and "half S," adequately vented from the crown of the bend, is the best, all things considered. Having examined on the average seven new traps a week for the past ten years, the writer does not hesitate to put it on record as his opinion that the simplest trap is the best, and that any complication introduced in its construction tends to impair its value.

"TECHNICS," in commencing volume four, comes out in a new, large page form. We do not like it so well as when in its handy little book shape.