to hold office during life and good behavior, and that the salary should be sufficient to permit general practice to be prohibited, no one being appointed to such a position unless holding the special qualifications in hygiene above noted, and, in addition to his general duties, to have charge of vital statistics, medical registration and public vaccination.

THE INCUBATION PERIOD IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Dr. James Finlayson in preparing a code for the regulation of the school attendance of children exposed to or affected by infectious diseases, found that there was a decided diversity of opinion among authorities as to duration of the incubation period and as to the time of quarantine for children that had been exposed. The incubation period in scarlet fever is given as low as 1 day and as high as 14 days, with an avarage duration of quarantine from 10 to 14 days; measles, from 3 to 17 days—quarantine 16 days; rötheln, from 4 to 21 days—quarantine from 16 to 21 days; mumps, from 4 to 24 days—quarantine from 21 to 24 days; whooping-cough, from 4 to 14 days—quarantine from 16 to 21 days; chicken-pox, from 2 to 18 days—quarantine from 18 to 21 days; small-pox, 5 to 19 days—quarantine from 16 to 18 days; diphtheria, 1 to 14 days—quarantine 10 to 12 days; enteric fever, 1 to 30 days—quarantine 28 days; typhus fever, 1 to 21 days—quarantine 21 to 28 days; erysipelas, 1 to 13 days—quarantine 10 days.

THE INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL CLOSURE ON AN EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES.—The health officer of Cardiff, Dr. Edward Wolford, reports that in the autumn of 1888 an epidemic of measles occurred among the children attending school, and, notwithstanding every effort to stamp out the outbreak by careful inspection, enforcing and advising ordinary precautionary measures, and distributing printed circulars of information, the disease became so prevalent that by the end of November almost one-third of the pupils were ill or confined at home. The schools were closed for four weeks, and the number of cases at once decreased: only four cases appeared among twenty thousand scholars after the schools were reopened. The author considers that the material was not exhausted, but that the comparative isolation of the children stopped the epidemic. This opinion is supported by the fact that in a previous epidemic, when the schools were not closed, the mortality was double that in the present instance.

DISINFECTION BY STEAM AT HIGH PRESSURE.—Dr. A. D. Lubimoff (St. Peters'g Inaug. Dissert.), has experimented with the steam disinfection apparatus of Genest and Herscher and with a disinfection chamber in the St. Petersburg Clinical Military Hospital. The steam current had a pressure of six atmospheres. Strips of Swedish filter paper saturated with various microbes were put into test-tubes, these were placed in pillows, mattresses, and bundles of clothing, and kept in the disinfecting chamber from half an hour to three hours. The inoculated paper was then introduced into agar-agar or broth cultivation media. The experiments demonstrated that sporeless bacteria were killed in half an hour, while pathogenic microbes were entirely destroyed after an exposure to steam at 123° or 114° C.; 140° F., or about 28° F. above boiling water temperature. It is not stated, but we suppose this degree of heat destroyed the spores as well as the bacteria. The disinfecting chamber must be able to maintain this temperature for an hour and distribute the steam uniformly to all parts of the apparatus. Articles to be disinfected must be dry, because if damp they interfere with the height of the temperature; and they should be distributed singly in the chamber, or be done up in small parcels. The management of such chambers should invariably be in the hands of medical men, and each municipality should have a public disinfecting chamber, as in Berlin. The disinfecting apparatus of Geneste and Herscher is a metallic cylinder 1·3 metres (4¼ feet) in diameter, and from 2 to 4 meters (6½ to 13 feet) long. The cylinder is closed and made air-tight by means of two doors, supported on wheels, one at each end, the doors are made steam tight