

## OHIO COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION.

—The collective investigation of the treatment of diphtheria and membranous croup in the State of Ohio for the twelve months ending February 28, 1897, conducted by the Board of Health, report of which is published in the Ohio Sanitary Bulletin under date of June, 1897, was unique and valuable from the fact that comparisons were made between those treated with and those treated without antitoxin. The year was especially favorable for such investigation since diphtheria was very prevalent during a large part of the year and an unusually large percentage of the cases were of laryngeal type. The investigation differed from others made concerning the same disease, also in the fact that all the cases were collected from one well-defined territory, and reports of all cases classed as diphtheria were requested. It is worthy of record that the Board undertook the investigation on a purely scientific basis, having

neither bias in favor of any recognized older course of treatment nor prejudice against any of the newer remedies. In response to over 6,000 blanks distributed through the friendly cooperation of the health officers of the cities and towns of the State, upwards of 3,000 cases of diphtheria occurring in the State during the year were reported. Among these there were nearly 400 deaths. About 500 cases which did not appear from the data submitted to be undoubtedly cases of diphtheria were excluded from the report. Nearly half (44 per cent.) of the cases included had been treated with antitoxic serum. In the latter group the mortality was 11.9 per cent. In the group of cases treated without antitoxin the mortality rate was 16.9 per cent. It is to be noted that many physicians reporting cases had employed antitoxin for the first time, and frequently only when other remedies had been tried without success. Mild cases in many instances



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