

and 35 over 90 years of age. The season of year at which most deaths occur is, of course, the summer months, June and July, with the death rate somewhat less for August. Next to these months come December and March. The number of deaths is nearly the same for the two sexes, with a slight preponderance of males.

A register for the civil registration of unbaptised children was inaugurated and 162 births were thus registered. Why should not registration of birth be compulsory? Then a check would be kept whether vaccination was performed or not, and the number of unvaccinated children would not reach its present total for the year of 14,354. However, vaccination has been energetically carried out by the public vaccinators and has somewhat reduced this total. The question of a better system of disposal of the garbage of the city began to agitate the minds of the city fathers in August and a committee was then appointed to enquire into the matter and gather information. At the time of writing no practical result has come of all this gathering of information, so probably the process is still going on. The garbage of the city continues to be collected in the same perfunctory manner, and no proper system of incineration is carried out, most of the refuse being dumped on vacant ground. We are glad to note that the barbarous practice of cutting off the water supply for non-payment of taxes has been discontinued. This is a distinct advance in sanitation, for the old method was most inhuman and should never have been sanctioned. Imagine the state of a house with a water-closet and several sinks, but no water; the traps are soon emptied by evaporation and become merely ventilators for the sewers. What good is the endeavour to prevent the spread of diphtheria, typhoid and kindred diseases by isolation and disinfection when sewer gas is allowed, nay, encouraged to pour into the dwellings of people already, perhaps, reduced by poverty and want until their powers of resistance are no longer able to cope with the diseases arrayed against them.

The table of contagious diseases according to ages is very interesting. It shows that among the 230 cases of diphtheria reported none were under six months nor over 50 years of age, two were under one year, 88 were between one and five, and