

## SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet fever is a disease of much greater importance in this State than is small-pox. Whenever our health officers shall protect us from scarlet fever we will be spared a very considerable proportion of our present death-rate and a vast amount of suffering which now follows children through life, for scarlet fever leaves many who linger on through years of imperfect life. In this disease, as in small-pox, the special ferment seems to be reproduced on the outer surface of the body, perhaps, also in the throat and throughout the body, so that the discharges and everything which comes near the body should either be disinfected or destroyed.

## DUTIES OF THE HEALTH OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH SCARLET FEVER, ETC.

The health officer should, next to the attending physician, be the first to visit the premises where scarlet fever occurs, and in the interest of the community should superintend and enforce measures for the restriction of the disease. The physician is employed and paid only for the benefit of the family who employs him. If the community expects to have its interests subserved, it must employ and pay some one to attend to them. The health officer should put up a notice to warn those who might otherwise enter into danger. He should leave with the family plainly printed instructions, and before he leaves he should make sure that the methods for the restriction of the disease are understood by the family. A city might even pay skilled nurses to remain with the sick, with a view to preventing the spread of the disease, than have such a disease as scarlet fever through the city with all the chances for its germs to remain for all time to come, to break out again whenever a sufficient number of children come to be of the most susceptible age.

## DIPHThERIA.

Diphtheria is another disease which is being allowed to destroy the children in this State, in some parts of the State, without any proper effort for its restriction. Its special poison is believed to enter the body by way of the mouth and air passages, and to be communicated by whatever comes in contact with the inhalations and excretions from the body of the sick person.

In the restriction of diphtheria, and of the other communicable