

of very young infants, a large number of which cases were due to the carelessness of parents in the neglect of the sanitary precautions persistently impressed upon them by the officials of the Health Department in the matter of feeding and attention to general cleanliness. With the single exception of this disease all the zymotic diseases had shown a satisfactory diminution. Typhus fever still lingered in squalid areas of the city, the deaths due to which amounted to 17, against 26 during the previous year. Not a single death was due to small-pox. A remarkable diminution in the number of deaths from typhoid fever occurred during the first nine months of the present year, which reached 76, as compared with 107 during a similar period in the previous year. With regard to this disease it had again been proved that food had been the medium of infection, close upon 30 patients having been infected by eating ice-cream which it was found had been manufactured under conditions which admitted of no doubt as to the source of contamination. The proposed clause in the Liverpool Improvement Act for licensing itinerant vendors and registering premises where food disposed of by them was manufactured or stored would be of unquestionable benefit. Great benefit had accrued by the amount of street-washing which was constantly taking place, and stress was laid on the injury to public health caused by rubbish and litter being thrown into the public thoroughfares, which under the Liverpool Improvement Act was a punishable offence. The birth-rate of the city had continued to be high, and in the older parts of the city reached 37.7 per 1000, while in the added and more aristocratic areas a lower rate prevailed—viz., 24.9 per 1000.

#### BOARD SCHOOLS AND MEASLES.

MEASLES is a disease which is apt to be thought lightly of, but it is making its importance felt very unpleasantly in two ways—first by its fatality and secondly by its interference with attendance at board schools. The latter inconvenience has been brought almost accidentally to the notice of the medical officer of health of Islington. Not being a notifiable disease he does not receive information of it as he would of other diseases from medical men. But he is disappointed at not getting information of it from school authorities. He has narrated to his public health committee the way in which he came to find out quite casually that up to Friday, Oct. 22nd, no less than 99 children had been excluded from school either because they were attacked or lived in homes where there were cases. The regulations of the School Board require the medical officer of health of the district to be informed of the child's exclusion on account of symptoms of infectious disease. But they seem rather vague as to the particular officer who is to convey this information. Apparently the duty devolves upon the head teacher. This doubt ought not to exist a single day longer, and we feel sure that the medical officer of the School Board will be glad to see that more precise instructions are given. Undoubtedly, as the medical officer of health of Islington says, the sanitary authorities do much for the health of board schools, and it is but fit that the authorities of the board schools should facilitate the efforts of the medical officers of health in minimising the evil of the spread of infection which seems so much to attach to the board school system. Apart from the mere local incidence of measles, its gravity as a cause of infantile death is becoming more and more serious. In London in the week before last the deaths from measles, which had been 19, 41, and 48 in the preceding three weeks, further rose to 53, or 20 above the average, and far exceeded the deaths (39) from both scarlet fever and whooping-cough. This is a state of matters that calls for the serious consideration of the Local Government Board. In well-ordered private practice measles

in this country is scarcely ever a fatal disease. Its fatality among the poorer classes is a matter of grave significance. The first step to any efficient remedy of the evil must be in early information being supplied to the health officers. The Board has its rules and it is for the Board to insist upon these rules being obeyed.

#### MAYORAL HONOURS FOR MEDICAL MEN.

UP to the time of going to press we have received the following names of medical practitioners who have been elected to the office of Mayor: *Bootle*: John McMurray, M.D., M.S., M.A.O., R.U.I. *Carnarvon*: Robert Parry, M.B., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. *Coventry*: T. Webb Fowler, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., L.S.A. *Hastings*: Frederic Bagshawe, M.D. Camb., F.R.C.P. Lond. *Hedon (Hull)*: James Soutter, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. *Henley-on-Thames*: James Lidderdale, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. *Marlborough*: James Blake Maurice, M.D. St. And., F.R.C.S. Eng. *Ruthin*: Job Medwyn Hughes, M.B., C.M. Edin. *Saltash*: Robert Thornton Meadows, M.D., M.S. Edin.

#### MOTOR CARS AND HEALTH.

AS we have before pointed out, if motor cars should supplant vehicular traffic in our crowded towns the innovation would have an important bearing upon sanitation. Other and important possibilities of good from a health point of view suggest themselves if the experiment reported by the *Engineer* should prove successful. Says that journal:—

“A member of the Automobile Club de France has just had a steam house constructed to his order ..... in Paris. .... The vehicle is in the form of a railway car, drawn by a Dion steam tractor of 30 horse power. It has a length of 7.70 metres and is 2.60 metres in width and height. .... Entrance may be gained either by the folding doors at the side or by a door at the rear. Down the side of the car runs a corridor, with doors opening into the different rooms. The first room is used during the day as a salon, and at night as a sleeping-room, the transformation being effected by a couple of divans which may be turned down to form a bed 1.80 metre long and 70 centimetres wide. .... Another room of the same size adjoining is to be used as a dining-room, and when not employed for this purpose the wooden partitions at the back and side may be folded up, thus making a large salon. There is also a lavatory and bathroom which will be fitted up with all the necessary accessories, and behind this is the kitchen, containing a cooking range, a cupboard for the utensils, and under the floor is a safe for the provisions. On the top of the car seats are provided for three or four persons, while here also are carried the supplies of water and coke. Enough combustible can be stored away, it is said, to last for a run of 500 kilometres.”

#### THE SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF TYPHOID FEVER.

THE simple technique for the serum diagnosis of typhoid fever recommended by the Laboratory of the Board of Health for the Province of Quebec, which was started at Montreal and is under the bacteriological management of Dr. Wyatt Johnston, has been found after a year's trial to be quite satisfactory from a practical point of view. Dr. Wyatt Johnston has recently reported to the President of the Board of Health that he does not find quantitative work necessary for routine diagnosis, although for recording scientific observations quantitative methods must be selected. For the routine of official work he states that he prefers to employ cultures having a sensitiveness so low as to give no reaction at all with non-typhoid blood. Dr. Johnston wishes further to call attention to the importance of paying special care to the reaction of the test culture media. “Bouillon cultures,” he writes, “showing after twenty-four hours' growth of typhoid at 37° C. a slight uniform cloudiness only and quite free from scum or sediment offer the greatest security against pseudo reactions. I find that