

requirements nowadays are often fastidious and somewhat exacting—are willing to live in the apartments appropriated to their use. They are generally dark and placed at the back, without any look-out beyond a blank wall, another block of flats, or the gable end of some building. But from a hygienic point of view, can anything be worse than a mansion of flats where each floor ventilates into those above and below, and the lifts, or, as the Americans call them, the elevators, pump the air from one floor to the other as they go up and down just as if they were designed for the purpose? The separate families living on the different flats form a community under one and the same roof, with a common atmosphere and a common funnel for the circulation of that atmosphere, without any renewal from without, from one flat to the other. A recent catastrophe has demonstrated the danger of this state of things in the case of fire, and it has served at the same time to indicate what might very possibly happen in case of an outbreak of infectious disease. This might spread, like a fire, from one tier to the other by means of the lift, with the same facility as a visitor would make a call, or a portmanteau be transported from the first to the fifteenth floor, by that channel of intercommunication—the lift!

SEATS FOR EMPLOYÉS.

No less rational in our opinion than it is just and humane is a practice which is happily gaining favour with employers—namely, that of providing seats for those of their assistants not actually engaged in serving the public. Some shops are blessed with this privilege, and so also of late have been the vehicles of the Road Car Company. We have always maintained the cause of the employed in both cases. It is easy, of course, to understand the objections which might be urged by its opponents against this course. They would say that there are either no such intermissions of work as would permit of sitting down, or that there ought to be none if the employé were sufficiently alert in seeking and using opportunities of service. It must, however, be apparent to everyone that intermissions, though they may be short, do occur, and that frequently. Besides, a conductor may be so placed that he can easily command a view of the whole thoroughfare beside and behind his car. A revolving seat would afford him all needful rest in his momentary intervals of quiet, while affording also every facility for vigilance. The same argument applies with greater force to shop labour. Here women are largely employed. Some relief from the constant strain of standing or walking to and fro is a mere physical necessity, especially during women's occasional periods of malaise. We fail to see therefore why a reasonable concession to this obvious necessity should not rather help than hinder the success of their efforts.

MISSED BIRTH IN ANIMALS.

At a recent meeting of the Yorkshire Veterinary Medical Association a case of missed birth in a mare was introduced by one of the members, the history of which is interesting, as the animal had been under observation during the whole time the foetus was retained, and the period of retention could therefore be fixed. Six years ago the mare was in foal, but owing to having eaten too much rye (which might have had a toxic effect on the foetus) she had a serious attack of indigestion, for which she required medical treatment. This was near her time for foaling, and the foetus was then alive, as its movements were noticed externally for three days, when they ceased. She was unwell for some months and lost condition; but at no time were there any indications of approaching parturition. Eventually she recovered and was put to work, at which she continued

until last June, when she succumbed to strangulation of the intestines. On examination of the uterus the walls of this organ were found to be fully two inches thick, and in its cavity were the remains of the foetus in a mummified condition, all the soft tissues having disappeared except some portions of the skin and its appendages, hair and hoofs and tendons. At the meeting much astonishment was expressed at the description of the case, as well as doubt, and the term "marvellous" was applied to it. But instances of missed birth are not so very rare in the domesticated animals, and they have been even recorded as occurring in those which are not domesticated. Had the members referred to Fleming's "Veterinary Obstetrics," a work specially dealing with the subject of gestation and parturition in the domesticated mammals, they would have found ample reference to this subject as well as a number of illustrative cases. We propose to deal more fully with the relations of this case to human obstetrics in an early issue.

PUBLIC VACCINATION AND SMALL-POX.

THE question raised by Mr. Horder in our issue of August 6th is one of the greatest importance. In reference to this matter we have received a communication from a gentleman who is one of the most determined opponents of vaccination, and it would be easy to apply to him and his followers the deprecating phrase in which he refers to people talking on vaccination as they wish to find the facts. His argument may be summarised as follows: (1) Small-pox mostly prevails among the poor; (2) the poor are mostly vaccinated by public vaccinators; therefore (3) there is more small-pox amongst those who undergo the operation at vaccination stations than at the hands of the private practitioner. May we venture to present him with another syllogism. (1) Small-pox prevails least among the "better-off" classes; (2) revaccinations are more common among these classes; therefore (3) the paucity of small-pox cases depends on the greater protection afforded by revaccination. When consideration is given to the greater facility existing for the spread of the disease in crowded dwellings we cannot be surprised at its extension amongst the class who live under the "worst conditions." Finally, as regards the alleged superiority of "public" vaccination over "private" vaccination, it may be stated in general terms that the regulations under which the public vaccinator acts are such as to produce that degree of vaccination (as regards quality and character) which has been proved to be most protective against or, if that phrase be objected to, most efficient in mitigating the severity of small-pox. Whereas the private practitioner not being controlled by such rules may certify as "successful" a single insertion followed by a vesicle. Of course there are numbers of practitioners who carry out vaccination in private practice as efficiently as it is done at the vaccination stations; but we venture to think that much of the discredit of vaccination and many of its accidents are due to irregular and careless practice.

TRAUMATIC TETANUS AND ZINC SALTS.

A CASE of some interest is published in a recent number of the *Australasian Medical Gazette* by Dr. J. Sidney Hunt of Queensland. The case was one of traumatic tetanus, arising after amputation of a foot on account of a compound comminuted fracture of the fibula, which, owing to the long time which elapsed between the accident and the time of admission, had given rise to a putrid and very offensive condition at the seat of injury. The first symptom of anything serious occurred on the fifth day after the accident, when the patient complained that his teeth were tender—a condition which he ascribed to his clenching them too tightly during