

a distance from the city of not more than five or six miles. Toronto was about to submit a by-law to the ratepayers for funds to the amount of \$50,000 towards this purpose, but the offer of the National Sanitarium Association will now render this unnecessary.

Providing for the Insane in Ontario.

The Government of the Province of Ontario has lately been coming in for some severe criticism at the hands of the medical and lay press for its failure to provide ample and proper accommodation for the insane of the province. Nearly 100 of these unfortunate people can be found in the common gaols, and it is said that in Toronto alone some 49 lunatics are confined who are awaiting transference to the asylums. These, however, are all full, so the lunatics must continue to be housed with thieves and other criminals. Work is being pushed on at the old Victoria College at Coburg, which, when completed, will accommodate 200 patients, and a new boys' reformatory is about to be erected in Oxford county, when the present reformatory at Penetang will be available for further accommodation for the insane. With this added increase to their accommodation the Government will hereafter endeavour to keep abreast of the growing requirements of this unfortunate class of the community.

A Toronto Physicians' Protective Association.

In its November issue the *Dominion Medical Monthly* advocates the formation of the above association. It states that in Detroit an organisation of this character has been formed and that over 400 of the physicians of that city have signed the roll of membership and that the organisation is proving a great benefit to the profession in that city. Other cities of the United States are said to be following in the footsteps of Detroit; in fact, organisation amongst medical men is in the air across the border. It appears that there has been some quiet talk going on among the members of the medical profession in Toronto tending to the formation of some sort of protective association, though on what lines is not apparent. There is, no doubt, wide room for such an organisation, and it is altogether probable that the near future will see something tangible done in the way of lightening the burdens under which the profession suffers in this city. Toronto is a rather conservative city—an attribute which has to a great extent been incorporated in the medical body—but when professional organisation has proved to be successful in neighbouring cities the benefits to be derived therefrom cannot long be resisted.

Toronto, Dec. 17th, 1900.

NEW YORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Typhoid Fever prevented by a Filtering Plant.

THE city of Albany formerly had an evil reputation because of the prevalence of typhoid fever. It obtained most of the water it used from the Hudson river, which was contaminated by sewage from all the towns and cities along the Mohawk and the Hudson rivers and their tributaries, some of which penetrate into Massachusetts and the border factory towns in the Berkshires. Strangers visiting Albany, many of them members of the Legislature or students attending the schools, sickened and died. No family in Albany of any prudence drank water from the Hudson river unless it had been first boiled and put through a good filter. Thousands of persons never drank any of the water provided by the city but bought spring water which was peddled through the streets. Nevertheless, there were a large number of fatal cases of typhoid fever in the city and Albany suffered in reputation. In 1896 the Board of Water Commissioners changed the intake of water for the city, which drew from the Hudson river opposite the heart of the city and below some of its sewers, two miles further up the river, to a point above all the local sources of pollution, and pumped the water by low-lift pumps to a settling basin, from which it could flow to sand filters and be purified. The water after being filtered is pumped to reservoirs on the hills west of Albany and thence is distributed through the city. A small part of the city is, however, still supplied with the unfiltered water. The report of the first year's results is as follows. The bacterial removal has averaged 99 per cent. For nine months of this year there have been reported to the Board of Health 30 deaths from typhoid

fever. Of these, 12 deaths were alien cases—i.e., the attending physician has reported that the patient contracted the disease outside of the city—four cases were "unaccounted for" and occurred in institutions where it was impossible to obtain information concerning them, or else they lived within the city limits, but in localities where they did not have a city water-supply. Of the remaining 14 cases one occurred in the part of the city supplied with unfiltered water, five occurred in the portion of the city supplied with mixed filtered and stream water, and eight occurred in the section of the city supplied with only filtered water. This number of deaths reported, 30, compares favourably with 83 deaths reported for the same months in the year before the filter was put in operation. The average number of deaths for the nine years previously to the construction of the filter plant was 67, so that more than 50 per cent. decrease in the deaths from this disease has followed on the new works.

Bureau of Animal Industry.

This bureau of the United States Government reports that during the year the number of abattoirs and packing-houses receiving the benefit of inspection was 148 in 45 localities, as against 138 in 41 localities in the preceding year. The total ante-mortem inspections of cattle aggregated 53,087,994; the animals rejected, subject to post mortem, were, at abattoirs 5958, and in stock-yards 153,561. The total post-mortem inspections were 34,737,613 and the total carcasses condemned were 61,906. In the microscopic inspection of pork 999,554 carcasses were examined. Of these but 19,448, or 1.95 per cent., were found to contain living trichinæ. The work of preparing serum for treating hog cholera and swine plague and experiments in treatment therewith are continued, with results which, while they do not justify definite conclusions as yet, are sufficiently encouraging to justify continued experiments, including some on entirely new lines. With regard to rabies, the secretary declares that this disease is unfortunately on the increase in the United States and that local authorities in most cases have not efficiently controlled its outbreaks. He also earnestly recommends an inspection of dairy products designed for export. Elaborate work in the investigation of food adulteration has been continued.

Proposed Change in the Management of New York City Hospitals.

The Charter Revision Commission has proposed an amendment which provides that on Feb. 1st, 1902, Bellevue, Gouverneur, Harlem, and Fordham Hospitals, and the Emergency Hospital for Women, shall be taken from the Department of Public Charities and be vested in a board of trustees appointed by the mayor. The city hospitals would, therefore, be brought under the same system of control that prevails in private hospitals.

Massachusetts State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis.

From the fourth annual report of this institution, the first established in this country, the following facts appear. 132 patients remained from one to 19½ months. In 82 incipient cases 53 patients were dismissed as apparently cured, 28 were improved, and one was not improved; none died. Of moderately advanced cases (40 in all) six patients were dismissed as cured or the disease arrested, 18 were improved, 15 were not improved, and one died. Of the patients in 10 far advanced cases three improved, six did not improve, and one died. The total was 132; of these 59 were apparently cured or the disease was arrested, 49 were improved, 22 were not improved, and two died. Dr. Bowditch, the visiting physician, says, "The chief value of such an institution as this sanatorium is its educational influence upon the community at large. Abundant and gratifying proofs of this are constantly being shown to us by the numerous letters received from former patients, telling us of their improved methods of life and their endeavour to teach their relatives and friends the importance of fresh air, good food, and regular living as the best method for the prevention of disease. The sanatorium is, therefore, in one sense a great educational establishment, and as such should receive the hearty and generous support of everyone who is desirous of combating the ravages of tuberculosis."

Separate Prisons for Tuberculous Convicts.

Dr. W. H. Blake, physician to the board of inspectors of convicts for Alabama, states that the statistics of deaths among the convicts in the Alabama State prisons for the

past 20 years show that for the first half of this period tuberculosis caused 20·3 per cent. of the total mortality; for the latter half it caused 42 per cent. In the penitentiaries of the different States, of the total deaths, the percentage caused by tuberculosis reads thus:—Mississippi, 20 per cent.; Arkansas, 20 per cent.; Florida, 30 per cent.; Ohio, 31 per cent.; Michigan, 33 per cent.; Alleghany County Workhouse, Pa., 33½ per cent.; Virginia, 41 per cent.; Kentucky, 42 per cent.; Joliet, Ill., 70 per cent.; Huntsville Penitentiary, Texas, 33 per cent.; Washington, 16 per cent.; Connecticut (1898), 60 per cent.; and in 1897 every death that occurred in this penitentiary was caused by tuberculosis. In the Alabama convict institutions the inmates are not kept in separate cells, but from 50 to 100 are confined together in one large cell. Tuberculous convicts, unless in an advanced stage of the disease, are shut in with the healthy inmates; the consequence is that the prison is to a large extent a death-trap and the mortality from phthisis is increasing. Dr. Blake urges a separate camp for the tuberculous convicts, the further from the other prisons the better, in order to give the non-tuberculous prisoners the greatest possible immunity from the disease. This would give the tuberculous man better treatment and the healthy man a chance to remain well. In this matter the duty of the State is plain—it has the right to deprive the offender of his liberty but it has not the right to deprive him of his health.

Dec. 19th, 1900.

Obituary.

THOMAS TAYLOR, M.R.C.S. ENG., L.S.A.

ON Dec. 23rd there passed away one of the best-known practitioners of East Essex and one of the few now left who have served under the old apprenticeship system. Born in 1819, Thomas Taylor when 15 years of age was apprenticed for five years to Mr. Hester, a prominent surgeon at Abingdon. On the termination of his articles he came to London and entered at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, living whilst there in the house of Mr. Stone, the then medical officer to Christ's Hospital. Here Taylor's love of nature asserted itself, for he did his best to cultivate a window garden. Qualifying M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1842 and L.S.A. in 1843, he shortly afterwards obtained the appointment of house surgeon at the Essex and Colchester Hospital, where he remained till 1853, when, being desirous of settling down, he purchased a practice in the village of Bocking, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Thomas Taylor possessed a strong and attractive personality and was a familiar figure in the district where he lived. He delighted in seizing opportunities for quietly and unostentatiously giving pleasure to others and he was a strong supporter of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, having acted as local secretary for some years. His professional services were highly appreciated, his practice extended over a wide district, his opinion was frequently sought in consultation by his colleagues, and he always kept himself well abreast with the advance of medical knowledge. To his patients he was the same to all alike, gentle and sympathetic; and as he knew the personal history of a large proportion of them and was gifted with sound judgment his advice was often asked on other than professional matters. Taylor's mind was essentially a scientific one; his interests outside his profession were in horticulture, geology, natural history, and microscopy, but particularly the first-named, for his acquaintance with gardening matters and with those interested in the same pursuit was extensive, and there are many gardens scattered over the country containing flowering plants the original stock of which was contributed by him. A few years back he found that he was suffering from glycosuria, on Dec. 20th lung symptoms showed themselves, on the 22nd coma set in, and the end came early and peacefully on the 23rd. The last rites were held on Dec. 27th, when a congregation which filled the parish church of Bocking assembled to express the esteem with which he had been regarded. Mr. Taylor was twice married and leaves behind him a widow, two sons, both in the medical profession, and two daughters, who have each married a medical man.

Medical News.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN LEICESTER.—The Sanitary Committee of the Leicester Town Council report that during the past 12 months the following certificates have been received. Diphtheria, 1415; scarlet fever, 797; erysipelas, 215; typhoid fever, 113; puerperal fever, 14; total, 2554.

THE Ipswich *Evening Star* of Dec. 29th, under the heading of "A Testimony to Antitoxin," gives a brief account of a testimonial recently presented to Mr. E. A. Hunt of Colchester in appreciation of his services during an epidemic of diphtheria which lately prevailed in the village of Old Heath. The testimonial was signed by 140 persons and was accompanied by a silver matchbox and a sovereign-case purchased by subscriptions limited to 6d.

THE LATE DR. A. LOWE.—Dr. Alexander Lowe died at his residence, Bailey-street, Brynmawr, Breconshire, on Dec. 26th. The deceased, who received his medical education at the University of Glasgow, graduated as M.B. and C.M. in 1882, and shortly afterwards commenced practice in Brynmawr. He was medical officer of health of the Llanelly Rural District Council and district medical officer of the parish of Llanelly. He was also surgeon to the collieries and a certifying factory surgeon for the district. Dr. Lowe, who had been for 18 years in practice at Brynmawr, was very highly esteemed in the town and neighbourhood and much regret is felt there at his early death.

FATAL DENTAL CASE.—An inquest was held at Newport (Mon.) on Dec. 28th and 31st, 1900, upon the body of a collier, aged 21 years, who had died on Dec. 27th at the dental surgery of Mr. H. W. Griffiths, L.D.S. R.C.S. Irel., of Newport, after having had 11 teeth extracted under nitrous oxide gas and ether. According to the report which appeared in the *Western Mail* Mr. Griffiths in his evidence stated that shortly after the operation had been successfully performed the deceased sprang up in the chair and gasped. Mr. Griffiths felt for an obstruction in the throat, but could find none. He applied artificial respiration and a medical man was fetched. A post-mortem examination showed that one of the sponges which had been used was fixed in the windpipe. Mr. Griffiths's female attendant stated that she believed she had taken out all the sponges from the patient's mouth. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to misadventure and that everything possible had been done for the deceased.

IMPORTANT SHIPPING CASE.—On Dec. 28th, at the Gravesend police-court, Henry Parry, the master of the steamship *Monterey*, was summoned by the corporation of London, as the port sanitary authority, for an infringement of the by-laws made under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, in failing to report to the medical officer of health on his arrival at Gravesend a case of dangerous infectious disease—viz., typhoid or enteric fever. Mr. Lewis Noad represented the owners, Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Co., of Liverpool, and Mr. T. Vickery, the assistant City solicitor, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the corporation. Mr. Vickery, in opening the case, stated that the vessel arrived at Gravesend on Dec. 7th and was visited by the medical officer of health in conjunction with Her Majesty's Customs. In reply to the usual question as to whether all were well on board the master stated "All well" and subsequently signed a declaration to this effect, and further, that there had been no case of sickness during the voyage. On the following day it was found that the fourth engineer had been taken ill with typhoid fever on Nov. 14th and had been under treatment by the surgeon of the vessel since that date with the full knowledge of the master, who had entered the fact in his official log and had also reported it at Havre. The medical officer of health thereupon removed the patient to hospital and disinfected the vessel. These facts were not disputed by the defence and Mr. Noad on behalf of the master pleaded guilty and stated the circumstances under which the offence was committed. The bench imposed a penalty of 40s. with costs.