

the scale of mortality. Deaths from diphtheria have been below the average. Deaths from phthisis regularly increase in proportion with the increase of population; the decrease in the Parisian mortality is due to fewer deaths from common ailments. M. Rochard attributes this happy change to the fact that a much larger proportion of the Paris population take summer holidays.

The *Bulletin Municipal Officiel* of December 27th, 1894, gives the names of the streets where the house sewage will be directly carried into sewer pipes. These dwellings will be relieved from the nuisance of cesspools, and night carts; but the 631 Paris streets thus benefited represent only a sixth part of what ought to be done. There are 3,655 streets in Paris.

Dr. Bucquoy having reached the age limit, has passed into the list of honorary physicians. A few days ago he bade farewell to his staff and patients in his wards at the Hôtel Dieu Hospital. A considerable number of his colleagues, former house-surgeons, and pupils were present on the occasion. Dr. Bucquoy was presented with a bust of himself. Dr. Bucquoy, in a touching and appropriate speech, said he attributed his success to the influence of the good example he always had before him.

Experiments made on board the *Princess Alice*, the Prince of Monaco's yacht, on the effect of artificial light on certain forms of marine animal life, show that it attracts crustacea, flying fish, eels, and cephalopods. An electric lamp suspended above the sea surface, or lowered into it a distance of two metres, was surrounded by these animals.

ERRATUM.—In the letter of our Paris correspondent published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 12th, the sentence, "The lucky accoucheurs after ten years' service at the Bureau Central, etc.," should read "after two years."

ROME.

The Health of the Pope: The Cold Bath Treatment of Typhoid Fever Half a Century Ago: A Vigorous Octogenarian: An Abstemious Diet: A Long Day's Work.—The Supply of Calf Lymph to Rome.

THE health of Pope Leo XIII is a matter of so much interest to Europe at the present time that I have sought from his physician, Dr. Laponi, some further particulars. The venerable Pontiff has very graciously given his permission to Dr. Laponi to communicate to me the following facts. This permission I esteem the more highly as it is the first time Leo XIII has acceded to such a request. Moreover, the facts themselves are of so much medical, or, perhaps I ought to say, physiological, interest, for it must be remembered that the Pope will complete his 85th year next March, that, having his permission, I need make no apology for writing somewhat at length. The Pope's health at the present time is perfect, and he has not suffered the least indisposition for eight months. This healthy condition is, no doubt, due largely, not alone to his possessing a sound constitution, but also to the regular and abstemious life he has led. Throughout his long and hard-working life he has enjoyed very good health, with the exception of a period when he was about 35 years age, during which he suffered from typhoid fever. The illustrious Pontiff was then residing at Benevento, and he has told Dr. Laponi that the fever was cured by means of three cold baths, administered by Dr. Vulpe, who attended him during his illness. This is probably one of the earliest cases treated by this means; if so, it is a very interesting fact in the history of medicine. Dr. Laponi informs me that all the organs of the body are perfectly healthy, and perform their functions in a normal manner. There are no perceptible indications of atheroma of the arteries, and there is only very slight arcus senilis in the upper portions of the cornea. The pulse is regular with no intermissions, 68 to 70 pulsations per minute. The eyesight is good, slightly presbyopic, but he can read a newspaper without the aid of glasses. The hearing is very good. The Pope has for a great many years eaten very moderately and has been very abstemious in the use of stimulants. The following is his daily regimen: Breakfast: a cup of coffee with milk and a little bread. Dinner: soup, boiled meat or roast lamb, with potatoes or other vegetable, and a small wineglassful of Bordeaux wine.

Supper: soup and bread, and the same quantity of wine as for dinner. His Holiness takes no other stimulant but claret and eschews the heavier wines. On occasions he takes some soup between meals. His digestion is very good. The daily quantity of food he eats is very small, so much so that Dr. Laponi said that he could eat as much at one meal as the Pope does in a week. By the advice of the doctors he rarely abstains, although he is very desirous of doing so. On those occasions he eats sole or codfish. He takes daily exercise in the Vatican gardens when the weather permits, and, when unsuitable, in his apartments. Although he looks very fragile, he possesses much more physical strength than might be imagined. He is accustomed to little sleep, usually from three to four hours a night, with the addition of a short nap after dinner. He retires to bed very late and gets up very early. The chief indication of his age is the muscular trembling from which he suffers.

His mind is very lucid, and his memory, to use Dr. Laponi's expression, is "very prodigious" (*molto prodigiosa*). For his speeches he makes very few notes, a word here and there as headings for the chief divisions of his discourses. As is known to those persons who have had the privilege of hearing the illustrious Pontiff, he speaks with the greatest facility, force, and in most elegant diction. On occasions he has repeated to Dr. Laponi the whole of one of his speeches. He is an indefatigable worker, toiling as a rule about fifteen hours a day. He holds receptions from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., besides the other various duties his position entails. Dr. Laponi states that he himself, who is a young, very active, and, I must add, a very courteous gentleman, "could not dream of getting through the daily work of the Pope." Leo XIII is of a nervous temperament; he has keen powers of perception, and appears to grasp intuitively the fundamental facts of questions with which he has not had previous acquaintance. It may interest some persons to know that he takes snuff largely. Finally, Dr. Laponi gave it as his opinion that, judging from the present condition of the health of the venerable Pontiff, there is no reason why he should not live for many years.

With the view of facilitating private vaccination in Rome and in response to the request of the medical practitioners the communal administration have decided for the future to place at the disposition of the public the calf lymph obtained from the Municipal Institute for Vaccine. The commune will provide the vaccine at the request of the doctors or of private individuals on the following conditions: 1. Whoever desires the lymph must make a verbal or written request at the Office of Hygiene, where the vaccine will be given, or it will be sent to the houses within three days of application. 2. One franc will be charged for a tube containing lymph sufficient for five persons, and 2 francs for twenty-five vaccinations. 3. The doctors will be required to inform the Office of Hygiene of the result of the vaccination according to the instructions sent with the lymph.

CHICAGO.

The Health of Chicago in 1894.—The Zymotic Mortality.—Deaths from Small-pox among the Vaccinated and Unvaccinated.—Proposed Amalgamation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons with the Illinois State University.—Underground Bakeries.

THE annual report of the Health Commissioner was completed and given out on the first day of the new year—that is, the figures were ready, though the report has not been officially tendered. There is much of importance in this record. For instance, based upon the returns it is found that 1894 was a remarkably healthy year. In 1893 the death-rate was 16.9 per 1,000, but it is now stated that during 1894 the total deaths numbered 23,701, which, even on the minimum population of 1,567,727 accorded by the school census of last April, gives Chicago a death-rate of only 15.1 per 1,000. The year has been a phenomenally healthy one in almost all parts of the country, and in nearly all the large cities, but Chicago may safely challenge the health record among cities of the first magnitude in any part of the world. The report states that diseases of the respiratory system—pulmonary