

amount needed as a solvent and preservative, or that it contains some one of the poisons mentioned in the schedule in such quantity as to render the use of such medicine in the doses prescribed dangerous to health or life, or that it contains cocaine or any of its salts, or that it is on any other grounds improper and unfit for sale; and the Minister may thereupon order that the medicine in question shall not be sold unless the formula of ingredients is revised, or unless the formula is legibly printed upon the label; or he may prohibit the manufacture and sale entirely.

No medicine may be sold unless these provisions have been complied with, and in default the Minister may take proceedings without notice to the firm engaged in manufacture or sale of the medicine. No person may distribute from door to door any sample of a patent or proprietary medicine; and no one may advertise that any medicine has passed the Government analysis.

All regulations made under this Bill, whether by the Governor in Council or the Department of Inland Revenue, will have the force of law, and suitable penalties have been imposed for its violation.

Doubtless many changes will appear in the Bill before it passes, but it is welcomed as a step in the right direction, although improvements could well be made in many of its provisions.

THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Board of Health of the Province of Quebec has entered its new quarters on St. James Street, Montreal. The laboratory equipment and library are valued at \$8,000, and the building is probably the best and most complete institution of the sort in Canada. The provincial grant reaches \$12,000 a year, with a special allowance in time of epidemic. The work of the Board was commenced in 1885, and great strides have been made since its actual foundation in 1887. During the present epidemic of typhoid in Montreal, when more than 125 cases were at one time reported in the hospitals alone, the Board notified the city that a part of the water supply was contaminated, and that immediate improvement in this respect was essential to prevent an increase of the epidemic. The problem of pure milk has been attacked, and a decided improvement has been noted. In regard to contagious diseases, Montreal is now well supplied with hospitals—the Alexandra and the St. Paul—and the Board can now with justice begin to insist upon such cases being taken to the hospitals when the surroundings are not suitable for home treatment.

In the annual report of the Alexandra Hospital, Dr. Roddick mentioned that 293 cases were treated, the daily average being 22.15. This institution, together with the St. Paul Hospital, has been suffering from lack of funds for running expenses, and, in spite of the greatest care, it has been found that an additional \$15,000 a year would be necessary to make ends meet. A delegation has waited upon the City Council asking for this substantial increase, and doubtless it will be granted at an early period.

THE OCCURRENCE OF BABINSKI'S SIGN IN NORMAL PEOPLE DURING SLEEP.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Clinical Society Dr. Rudolf of Toronto read a paper in which were embodied the results of an investigation undertaken to determine the frequency of the so-called Babinski's sign in normal people during sleep. As has been pointed out by Collier, this sign, which consists in such a disturbance of the normal plantar reflex that the great toe and often the other toes also become dorsi-flexed, or extended, when the sole of the foot is irritated, instead of being flexed towards the sole, is common in the infant during sleep, a fact generally omitted from the textbooks. The investigation was carried on in the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children and in the Toronto General Hospital by the assistance of house-surgeons in these institutions, and the following conclusions were reached: 35.5 per cent. of sleeping children between the ages of 2 and 15 years show a marked degree of extensor response to plantar stimulation. About the same number give indifferent results, in that response of any kind is absent or is neither markedly flexor nor extensor in type. The rest gave a typical plantar flexion. The cases were classified as the sleep was deep or light,

of those children deeply asleep 47 per cent. gave the sign markedly; in the lighter sleepers the sign was present in 22.7 per cent. Among the marked cases the average age was 6.5 years, and the oldest child was 13 years. Over fifty adults were examined, but it was hard to catch them sufficiently asleep in many cases, and responses other than the Babinski were met with. Sixteen of the cases did not wake up, and of these three gave an extensor response. They were aged respectively 19, 23, and 84 years, and were suffering from pleurisy, convalescing cerebro-spinal meningitis, and senility. The method of testing for the sign was that described by Bramwell, the outer part of the sole was stimulated. From a practical standpoint it is important to remember that in patients examined during sleep, as children so often are, Babinski's sign is of little value.

TORONTO HOSPITAL PATIENTS.

During the past year the City Relief Officer for Toronto had applications from 1,081 people for admission to the hospitals in the city. By nationalities they numbered: Canadians, 421; English, 293; Irish, 132; Scotch, 59; other nationalities, 176. Seventy-six of the applicants had been in the city less than three months.

New South Wales.

SYDNEY.

Recrudescence of Plague.

DURING the last two or three weeks we have had an unpleasant reminder that the plague has not disappeared from Sydney. For some considerable time, although many hundreds of rats and mice were being daily caught and examined in the laboratory of the Board of Health, no plague-infected rat was discovered. During the last month or two of 1906, however, an occasional plague-infected rat was caught, and one or two sporadic cases of plague in human beings were discovered, which could not be traced definitely to any infective focus. On January 26th 2 cases of illness of a suspicious nature were definitely diagnosed as plague, and then 6 or 7 other cases were rapidly brought to light. The source of infection in all was found to be in the heart of the city, in a block of buildings in which the General Post Office is situated. Another focus of infection was found to be in the neighbourhood of the markets. In this latter centre it appears pretty certain that some deaths which had been attributed to ordinary pneumonia were really due to plague pneumonia. The disease has manifested itself in the three forms—bubonic, septicaemic, and pneumonic. Needless to say, the utmost activity prevails in all the departments of public health. The Lord Mayor summoned a special meeting of the City Council, and it was decided to enforce most rigidly the following by-law:

No person shall place, throw, or leave, or suffer to remain, on any premises in the city, any refuse in such a manner or for such a time as to have a tendency to encourage vermin to visit or frequent such premises.

Other by-laws relate to the floors and skirtings of buildings being kept in such a condition as to prevent the harbouring of rats; to the area gratings being rendered rat-proof by wire netting of a certain mesh. Another by-law states that all garbage tins shall be kept properly covered, whether on private premises or when exposed in the street. It is quite obvious that in spite of the constant supervision by the health officials a serious epidemic of plague among the rats in the heart of the city was in full swing before it was discovered, and then only after some cases of disease among human beings had developed. This only points the more strongly to the fact that in dealing with plague, while the health officials may do their utmost, individual citizens—or rather, all the citizens—must co-operate in eradicating all vermin, and at once reporting any unusual number of deaths among rats. Unfortunately, a certain amount of familiarity with the plague has bred a culpable amount of indifference and carelessness among householders, and we are now being painfully reminded that, as regards plague, constant watchfulness is absolutely necessary if we are to escape serious epidemics of this disease. There appears to be a rather widespread infection of the rats—or perhaps, it would be more accurate to say that the infected rats are

being cleared out of the central focus of infection, and are spreading to other parts of the city. It was rather striking to learn that a plague-infected rat had made its way into the Town Hall grounds, and died there. Some two or three cases have also occurred in a country town on one of the northern rivers. It is almost certain that the infection has been conveyed thither by rats in fodder and other produce.

The Labour Party and the Public Health.

A conference of the Political Labour League has just been held in Sydney, and it is interesting to note that this political party is very active in all that concerns the public health. This is manifest from a perusal of the following recommendations made by its Health Committee:

1. That the whole of the Acts dealing with public health, and the sections dealing with public health in the Early Closing and other Acts, be consolidated and administered by the Board of Health, who shall have sole power to appoint inspectors.
2. That sellers of meat and bread be licensed the same as milk vendors.
3. That vendors of meat, bread, and milk shall be liable to forfeit their licence upon the third conviction.
4. That no meat shall be exposed outside shops, or in any place where it is liable to become contaminated with dust.
5. That similar provisions shall apply to the sale of bread.
6. That the premises used for the manufacture or sale of food, or their ingredients, be brought up to a specific standard with regard to sanitation and construction.
7. That the name of the manufacturer must appear on the labels of all foods and drugs.
8. That all packets and bottles of foods and drugs shall bear a copy of the analyst's report.
9. That all patent medicines and foods shall be analysed by the Government analyst, and the result of the analysis published, showing the contents and cost of the same.
10. That the use of antiseptics or preservatives in foods or drugs shall be prohibited. That the penalty for using either of the above shall be very severe, and for the third offence imprisonment.
11. That no chemist shall be allowed to dispense any medicine unless on a doctor's prescription. That no doctor shall, where a chemist is available, be allowed to dispense or sell any medicine.
12. That inspectors shall be appointed for the inspection of hairdressing saloons. That all hairdressing saloons shall be registered. That regulations shall be provided for the proper control and cleanliness of the same.
13. That inspectors concerned in the inspection of foods and drugs, and also sanitary inspectors and inspectors of nuisances, shall hold a certificate of competency, issued by some recognized responsible body.
14. That the Public Health Act be amended to provide a simple and effective method of securing samples of foods and drugs. That the sections dealing with the demolition of premises and the abatement of nuisances be simplified.
15. That an agitation be started with a view to getting municipalities to establish milk dépôts.
16. That all schools be subject to inspection by an officer of the Board of Health.

These recommendations were fully discussed. It was suggested that if the compulsory declaration of the contents of patent medicines was enforced, it would lead to the withdrawal of the better class of proprietary articles from the market. Consequently an amendment of the 9th recommendation was carried as follows:

That all proprietary foods and medicines have the Government analyst's report, certifying that such are not injurious to human life, and guarantee their purity; and all preserved foods shall bear the date of their packing.

We may take these recommendations as the manifesto of the Labour Party, and no doubt much good would result if legislation based upon them could be passed in Parliament and effectively administered afterwards.

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

The population of New South Wales on December 31st last, according to the official estimate just issued by the Bureau of Statistics, was 1,530,940, the number of males being 815,070, and females 715,870, or 114 males to 100 females. The increase during the year was 34,890, of which 25,895 was due to excess of births over deaths, and 8,095 the excess of immigration over emigration. The excess of births over deaths was the largest ever experienced, but the excess of arrivals is 1,000 less than in 1905. The increase during the year, namely, 34,890, was 373 more than in 1905, which showed the largest increase for any year since 1891. The number of births during the year was 40,898, the largest number ever regis-

tered in any year. The rate was 27 per 1,000 of population, which is satisfactory as compared with the rate during the three preceding years, but still much below the rate for even so late a year as 1897. The deaths numbered 15,003, of which 8,709 were of males, and 6,294 of females. The rate was 9.91 per 1,000 of the population, that is, less than 1 per cent., the first time it has stood so low. The rates for 1904 and 1905 were both very low, but that for 1906 shows a still further improvement. The marriages were 11,530, the largest number on record, and 500 more than in 1905. The rate is 7.64 per 1,000 of the population, which is a trifle lower than that for 1901, but otherwise is the highest for twenty years.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Recent Vaccinations in Paris.—Injection of Fresh Serum as a Haemostatic in Haemophilia.—Proposed Memorial to the late Professor Budin.

At the last meeting of the Académie de Médecine M. Kelsch made some remarks on the vaccination undertaken in Paris during the last fortnight in March. An epidemic of black small-pox has been going on at Dunkerque, and two fatal cases occurred in Paris. There has been no epidemic of small-pox in Paris; in fact, the number of fresh cases notified weekly has been below the average, but owing to the publicity given to the matter by the press, a panic seized the population and accomplished in a few days what the law and the recommendations of medical men were powerless to bring about. It is estimated that nearly 500,000 vaccinations and revaccinations have been performed. At the Académie de Médecine, where free vaccinations are performed, the average number of persons attending till the middle of March was 0 to 5 at each sitting. The numbers rose suddenly to 1,000, 1,500 to 2,000 at each sitting, and it became necessary to have police to maintain order. The sittings were held daily from 9 a.m. to noon, and from March 16th M. Kelsch and his assistant, Dr. Cassius, have performed 6,254 inoculations. Small-pox exists permanently in France, and epidemic outbreaks occur at different points. Among sixty departments about which reports were sent in to the Minister of the Interior in 1904, 15—that is, a quarter—had epidemics of small-pox, with a total of 1,000 cases and 130 deaths. Vaccination (in infancy) is usually carried out in France, although a few children of 2 to 6 years came for vaccination during the recent panic. The population, however, does not so readily come for revaccination, and many stop coming, as they say it never takes with them. M. Kelsch, however, said that when revaccination is followed by the appearance of simple papules, which are irritable and appear on the third day, it is as efficient as when pustules appear, while it is rare for revaccination to be followed by such marked pustules as a first vaccination in infancy. M. Chantemesse said it would be very desirable to organize compulsory vaccination for the crews and passengers who came to France from places where small-pox was raging or had been epidemic (Spain, Algeria, Tunis, etc.), as there was a risk of these introducing the disease into the ports; the recent epidemic at Dunkerque was probably thus produced.

At a recent meeting of the Société de Chirurgie, M. Broca made an interesting report on a communication by M. P. Emile Weil, who has observed that the subcutaneous injection of fresh serum from animals or man favours to a remarkable degree the coagulation of the blood in cases of haemophilia; he quoted several cases which demonstrate this action incontestably, both as regards prevention and cure, in cases of haemorrhage in such persons. The serums of man, the rabbit, the horse, the ox, were equally efficacious, but the serum must be fresh if a rapid therapeutic effect was to be obtained. The average dose for the adult was 20 to 30 c.cm. of serum injected under the skin; in children half the dose would be sufficient. In practice it might be difficult to obtain fresh serum quickly, and then antidiphtherial serum might be used, which was furnished fresh every month by the Pasteur Institute. Before operating on a haemophilic patient it would be advisable to give a preliminary injection of serum. M. Toussaint, at a subsequent meeting of the Society, said he had obtained the same good results