

made until five years after the commencement of the construction of the works—until the scheme became remunerative. In 1908, when the first section of the scheme would be taken in hand, a halfpenny rate would suffice, in the next year a penny rate, and afterwards the rate would be increased to a maximum of 1½d. In 1911 they would be in a position to supply water, and the average cost for the whole of the first six years would represent only a halfpenny rate. After that period they would have a surplus and the scheme would be self-supporting. The Chairman, in conclusion, urged upon the meeting the importance of conserving the present water area for the county. In reply to Colonel Currie (Chepstow), the Chairman said that if the whole county were not rated the scheme ceased to be a county scheme. Certain districts might combine to form a Water Board, but the weakness of such a step would be that only those not in possession of a water supply would join. Colonel Currie said his council was of opinion that the rural districts should not be brought in. Councillor Price (Tredegar) believed in the principle of the scheme, but he pointed out that it would be a great hardship in districts like Tredegar and Ebbw Vale, which had expended a large sum of money on a water supply, to be again asked to contribute towards another scheme. The rates at Tredegar were 8s. in the £, and there was a fear of an increase if they joined the Western Valleys Sewerage Board. Mr. Morgan (Ebbw Vale) concurred. Mr. Onions supported the scheme, and contended that it would in a short time be self-supporting; it was necessary to look ahead and provide for the needs of the rapidly-increasing population. Alderman Harris contended that the scheme was weak, in so far as it saddled those already overburdened, and did not tax the people who would chiefly benefit. The scheme needed amendment. Councillor A. Jones (Ebbw Vale) said the financial aspect had been too favourably represented, but Sir Henry Jackson supported the scheme, and pointed out that the water, even in those districts which had their supplies, was not unlimited. After further discussion it was decided to adjourn the conference for three weeks.

Lancashire.

MANCHESTER PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THE Medical Officer of the Manchester Port Sanitary Authority has reported that during the month ended October 25th, 246 vessels were found to be infected; 92 were insanitary, but most of the insanitary conditions were of a trifling nature. It was resolved to prosecute in the case of a ship which reached Salford on September 28th; the captain on arriving in the Mersey had stated in reply to the usual questions that all on board were well, and that there had been no sickness or death during the voyage. It was ascertained at Salford that the vessel had left Colon on July 20th, and that two deaths had occurred before arrival at New Orleans on August 1st. At New Orleans the second mate and eleven of the crew were removed to hospital, and the vessel fumigated. The second mate died on August 4th, the cause of death as certified being "chagres fever," a malignant variety of malaria prevalent in Central America. No other case occurred during the forty-two days of the voyage to the Mersey.

MILK AND TUBERCULOSIS.

A farmer at Alderley Edge was charged before the justices in Manchester on November 2nd with having neglected to notify that a cow in her possession showed signs of, or was suspected of, being affected by tuberculosis. The defendant was in the habit of sending milk to a local dealer for sale. Samples are taken promiscuously from the cans of milk arriving daily at the railway stations. Should evidence of tuberculosis be found in any sample, the farm from which it has come is visited, and an investigation is made on the spot. In this case an inspector visited the farm and found a cow with a tuberculous udder. It was the defendant's duty to have informed the medical authority of the condition of the cow. She pleaded ignorance, but it was stated that the condition of the animal was such as might have been

ascertained by any local veterinary surgeon if the proper steps had been taken. The defendant was fined, with costs, 5 guineas.

CORONER'S NEW COURT.

At last the Manchester City Coroner is to have a new court in the new Fire Brigade premises which have just been erected by the Corporation. The new court is about six times the size of the old dingy court in Minshall Street. Fifteen or twenty cases a week may have to be dealt with by the Coroner. About 900 inquests are held per annum, and the number of cases notified to the Coroner is about 1,200 in all.

Birmingham.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY AND HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

THE result of the Hospital Saturday collection has recently been announced. The sum collected in the manufactories of the city reached the large amount of £19,200 12s. 2d., which is £535 13s. 5d. more than last year, and there are still a few contributions to be received. With the interest up to date the total is £19,280 14s. 5d. This is the largest sum ever yet collected, and the Committee consider that the steady increase in the collections every year is due to the extension of the weekly system, and to the greater appreciation of the work done at the convalescent homes. The sum of £10,000 is to be distributed to the various institutions as follows: General Hospital, £3,150; Queen's Hospital, £2,100; General Dispensary, £1,040; Children's Hospital, £800; Eye Hospital, £400; Birmingham and Midland Counties Sanatorium, £100; Homoeopathic Hospital, £200; Women's Hospital, £475; Lying-in Charity, £180; Orthopaedic Hospital, £300; Ear and Throat Hospital, £100; Dental Hospital, £50; Skin and Urinary Hospital, £200; District Nursing Society, £150; Jaffray Suburban Branch Hospital, £400; Moseley Hall Convalescent Home for Children, £200; and six other institutions sums varying from £75 to £10. October 27th was Hospital Sunday, and although the sum collected was not quite as large this year as last, nevertheless it amounted to about £4,300.

North Staffordshire.

LEAD POISONING AND SMOKING.

THREE potters were summoned at Longton on October 31st for smoking their pipes while engaged in certain processes of china manufacture, in contravention of the special rules made under the Factory Act. The defence offered by one, a worker in lead glaze, was that he had not been warned not to smoke at work. The stipendiary magistrate, in imposing fines, remarked that the men were very silly not to take notice of rules passed for their own health, and that though the employer in this case had continually reminded them about the rules, this was not to be expected in all cases.

LEEK SEWAGE WORKS.

Lord Harrowby and the County Medical Officer of Health on October 30th inspected the additions to the Leek Sewage Works on behalf of the Staffordshire County Council, many members of which were present. The sum of £10,000 had previously been spent on the 26 acres of land in use. The effluent being unsatisfactory, £5,000 has been spent on installing bacterial treatment.

PORTUGAL AND COMPULSORY VACCINATION.—The Portuguese Conselho Superior de Hygiene has under consideration the details of a scheme of compulsory vaccination, and it is said by the political press that the measure, which was passed by the Legislative Chambers in 1897, will shortly become law. The medical press, with the experience of the numerous impediments which stand in the way of sanitary legislation in Portugal, is by no means optimistic. *A Medicina Contemporanea* anticipates that this measure, like its predecessors, will come to nothing, that small-pox will continue to prevail in Lisbon and throughout the country, that the dead will be buried without any certificate as to the cause, that patients will be treated by barbers, and that the laws of hygiene will be defied by the very officials appointed to secure their observance.