

the occupiers of premises within a certain distance of the mains may be compelled to lay it on to their premises.

In addition to specific duties which are cast upon the central and local authorities, very wide powers are given to the former in the direction of framing, altering, or repealing regulations with respect to a variety of purposes, including the drainage and proper construction of dwelling houses, the control of dairies, slaughter-houses, eating-houses, laundries, and public baths and wash-houses. It was, no doubt, prudent on the part of the Legislative Council to defer definite legislation on these and kindred matters, for time alone will show the precise lines that should be followed. The Ordinance has been conceived in a broad and enlightened spirit, and if the central authority carry it out in a proper manner, it cannot fail to be of the greatest benefit to the inhabitants of the Orange River Colony.

India.

THE HEALTH OF CALCUTTA.

THE report submitted by the health officer, Dr. J. Neill Cook, D.P.H., for the year 1906 is full of interest. The area reported on consists of two parts—a central or urban, bounded roughly by the old Mahrata ditch, and a circumferential or suburban, consisting of a series of municipalities surrounding the city proper. Both areas have now been placed under the same municipal government. The former is more crowded but better sanitated in respect of water supply, drainage, conservancy, and general cleanliness; the latter is less crowded, but more backward as regards sanitation. The latter is also more rural than the former and constitutes a transition between the town and the district beyond. The birth-rate of 1906 was 17.7 per 1,000. Its lowness is due to the fact that the male population exceeds the female by 2 to 1. Calculated on the population of females between the ages of 15 and 45, the rate is 100.2 against 111.1 in England. Defective registration is held to account for the defect. The suburban rate is somewhat higher than the urban. The number of stillbirths was 6.1 per 1,000 of total births. The death-rate was 35.7 against a quinquennial rate of 38.1. The suburban rate was higher than the urban (42.7 against 32.8). Cholera mortality was high and the suburbs suffered more than the town (3.9 against 2.5), the surrounding district presenting still higher figures. Religious festivals appear to have caused the outbreak. The bacillus was found in the water at Kalighat where the pilgrims bathed. Dr. Cook is disposed to attribute the conveyance of the disease largely to flies. Small-pox was severe in the town—less so in the suburbs. Better means of segregation and conveyance of the sick are needed. Vaccination was vigorously resorted to, but as the law allows twelve months to elapse between birth and vaccination, young children succumb largely to infection. The health officer considers that the period might and ought to be shortened. Plague deaths amounted to 2,606 against 7,372 in 1905. The urban mortality was also considerably higher than the suburban. The highest mortality was in the district where grain deposits exist. Rat destruction was resorted to on a considerable but evidently quite inadequate scale. A special report by Dr. T. F. Pearse, special plague officer, indicates the difficulties in carrying out preventive measures in Calcutta. The inhabitants are either passive or hostile, and the problem of prevention is one of almost unaccountable gravity. Fevers and bowel complaints were about the average. Both are more severe in the suburbs. Attempts to destroy mosquitos by larvicides have been disappointing, and drainage is considered a more effective protection against malaria. Enteric fever and cerebrospinal meningitis occur to some extent in Calcutta, but to what extent it is not easy to discover. Dr. Cook draws pointed attention to the great mortality caused by tuberculosis, and earnestly urges the necessity of resort to special preventive measures. He also dwells on the large infantile mortality, amounting to 34.1 per 1,000 births. He attributes it to (1) the insanitary conditions of the dwelling, (2) insufficient nutrition of the mother combined with manual labour, (3) bad midwifery, and (4) improper feeding and inadequate clothing of the infant.

He enters into considerable detail on these subjects, and advances sound recommendations with a view to remedying the lethal conditions indicated. The record of sanitary work done by the health department is elaborate, and indicates well-devised and well-directed energy.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Presentation of Charcot's Library to the Salpêtrière Hospital.
—Proposed Hotel Keepers' Sanatorium for Use of Travellers.

AN interesting ceremony took place on Tuesday, November 19th, in the Clinic Charcot. In the presence of M. Briand, the Minister of Public Instruction, Dr. Jean Charcot handed over the library of his famous father to the Administration of the Assistance Publique. The library, which was slowly collected by Professor Charcot, and contains works in all languages on diseases of the nervous system, is now permanently housed in the Salpêtrière Hospital, in the actual bookshelves and surrounded by all the consulting-room furniture and ornaments amidst which Charcot lived and worked. In addition to the Minister and Dr. Jean Charcot there were present on the platform M. Mesureur, the Director of the Assistance Publique; Professor Raymond, Charcot's successor in the clinical chair of diseases of the nervous system; Professors Bouchard, Marie, Brissaud, Déjerine, Segond, Madame Jean Charcot, Madame Jeanne Charcot, Madame Raymond, and many old pupils and friends of Charcot. Dr. Jean Charcot, in making the gift, said that it was not without a pang that he separated himself from these souvenirs, among which he had grown up, and which he had seen his father collecting and adding to, searching among the bookstalls on the quays, where he was well known, but he thought his father would have approved his action, seeing that he himself had sought other outlets for his energies. Professor Raymond thanked the Minister for coming and Dr. Jean Charcot for his gift, which, when it was originally offered to the Faculty of Medicine to be placed in the Salpêtrière, had been refused owing to lack of funds. The money, however, was offered by the Assistance Publique, and the library would always be open to workers from France and abroad. On Charcot's death his son refused a large German offer for the valuable library, and proposed that it should form part of the clinique which his father founded and made famous. M. Mesureur also thanked Dr. Jean Charcot for his act of filial piety. The Assistance Publique was glad to be associated with the State in the matter of teaching, for with its numerous hospitals and organizations for the relief of the poor, it really formed a large school of medicine. M. Mesureur expressed hope that the State would give further help to different clinics which were in want of funds, and thus increase the renown of medical teaching in France. The Minister added a few words of thanks to Dr. Jean Charcot for his abnegation in the higher interests of science and of the university, and hoped that his example would be followed in others. After the distribution of medals to some of the nurses and the gardener of the Salpêtrière, the library was visited by all present.

A largely-attended meeting of the Hotel-keepers' Association was held in Paris last week, when, amongst other business, it was proposed that the Paris hotel-keepers should build a sanatorium for the use of their clients attacked with infective or other serious disease while in Paris, the accommodation in hotels in cases of serious illness being quite inadequate. Practical means of realizing this project are to be considered and brought before the next annual meeting of the Association.

BERLIN.

The "Berliner klinische Wochenschrift."—Practical Measures to Discourage Alcoholism.—Statistics of the Boelitz Sanatorium.—Professor Koch's Return to Berlin.

PROFESSOR C. A. EWALD has announced his intention of retiring from the editorship of Berlin's celebrated medical journal, the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, on January 1st, 1908. Keenly as Ewald's loss will be felt in an undertaking at the head of which he has now been for full