

by the National Board, and the Auxiliary Sanitary Association concentrated their utmost efforts in the sanitation of the infected area, and, indeed, accomplished the actual and complete cleansing of this part of the city. The pestilence subsided coincidentally with the thorough cleaning of this locality.

"Of three things we are certainly assured: We know that perfect sanitation is the one great experiment yet to be tried in the solution of the yellow fever problem; that the disease has ceased to occur epidemically in certain cities, heretofore scourged, coincidentally with an improved municipal sanitation; and, finally, that every city, town, or ship in which the disease breaks out and spreads is a city, town, or ship in a *foul and most unsanitary* condition."

It is doubtless to the labors of such men as Drs. Woodhull and Holt that we must look for the ultimate solution of the problem of the origin and spread of yellow fever.

— Dr. C. F. Folsom, of Boston, and Dr. Billings, of the army, were in New Orleans two days ago, consulting with representatives of the commercial interests of the city with reference to establishing a national quarantine station at Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico.

— The health of the city remains excellent, the death-rate for last week being only a small fraction over twenty per thousand.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

MR. EDITOR, — The JOURNAL for December 11th, page 853, contains a letter evidently written or inspired by some one in intimate relations with the United States Marine Hospital Service, if not at some time an officer of it; and his statement of what he calls "our position" may probably be taken as meaning the position of that service. Other anonymous articles have been published, it is true, of a similar character and from a kindred source; for it is well known that the United States Marine Hospital Service is very desirous that the National Board of Health should be abolished and its duties and powers transferred to the supervising surgeon-general of the marine hospital service, — a position which has been already condemned in strong terms by the united voice of the sanitarian and medical profession of the country. Some of the statements in that letter are so untrue that I feel it my duty to reply to them. It is not true that Dr. Woodworth was the man who above all others was the moving spirit in making the Public Health Association a success, as every one of the older members of the association knows. Dr. Woodworth, too, did his best, up to the last moment, to prevent the organization of the National Board of Health; and all its work has been on a different basis and carried out in a different way than he proposed and planned. It is not true that the work of the board, as insinuated, is the same as that projected by him. The statement that "all the power of the board during the past summer has been vested in one man" is untrue, and insulting to the gentlemen who compose it, as are the insinuations of intrigues for the present arrangement of officers of the board and in regard to the refrigerating ship. The statements concerning the inspectors of the board are false. The resolutions adopted at Nashville represented the opinions of the sanitarians assembled there, otherwise they would not have passed; no one of the National Board of Health was on the committee which framed them. Having been present at the Nashville meeting, I think I have a right to express the opinion that there was a general and strong wish to know just what President Cabell stated in his address.

I have no desire to appear as the advocate of the National Board of Health, for it can be safely left to the judgment of competent and disinterested persons who will soon have an opportunity of studying its report; but I do protest against respectable journals publishing calumnious letters without giving the names of their authors, if at all. That there should be

some way of bringing them to the light and making them responsible for what they say seems to me very clear. Let us have a code of ethics at once. CHARLES F. FOLSOM.

[We had the customary securities for the good faith of our correspondent, to whom we leave the defense of his views, feeling in the mean time no uneasiness in behalf of our "respectability." The opinions and statements of our correspondent do not appear for the first time in print in his letter, and if erroneous or false it is better that they should be corrected or exposed. Public affairs must bear public discussion. — ED.]

PERINEAL LACERATIONS.

MR. EDITOR, — The cicatrix referred to on page 883 (JOURNAL, December 18th) was *two thirds of an inch* long, instead of an inch and a half, as reported. I have had several extensive perineal lacerations in my practice (not one only, as stated in the report), and have used stitches in all but the case mentioned, with good results, except in one, in which the union was incomplete. My remarks had reference mainly to the slight lacerations which are comparatively frequent, and are usually regarded as of no serious importance.

S. L. ABBOT.

REPORTED MORTALITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 13, 1879.

Cities.	Population estimated for July, 1879.	Reported Deaths in each.	Deaths under Five Years.	Percentage of total Deaths from					
				The Principal "Zymotic" Diseases.	Lung Diseases.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	
New York.....	1,085,000	480	181	20.63	18.13	7.71	1.88	1.67	
Philadelphia.....	901,380	282	68	10.99	7.09	4.96	.71	2.48	
Brooklyn.....	564,400	212	84	18.40	23.58	12.74	.47	—	
Chicago.....	—	151	73	37.75	3.97	23.13	5.96	2.65	
St. Louis.....	—	97	34	18.56	8.25	6.15	—	2.06	
Baltimore.....	398,796	141	54	24.11	6.33	7.80	11.35	3.55	
Boston.....	860,000	134	49	17.16	8.96	10.45	—	.75	
Cincinnati.....	280,000	75	28	17.33	6.67	2.67	4.00	6.67	
New Orleans.....	210,000	70	31	10.00	8.57	1.43	—	—	
District of Columbia.....	170,000	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	
Cleveland.....	160,000	48	28	33.33	4.17	8.33	20.83	2.08	
Pittsburgh.....	—	52	24	26.92	15.38	11.54	3.85	3.85	
Milwaukee.....	127,000	29	17	27.59	17.24	20.69	3.48	—	
Providence.....	101,500	40	16	55.00	2.50	10.00	40.00	2.50	
New Haven.....	60,000	25	14	12.00	12.00	4.00	—	—	
Charleston.....	57,000	32	14	9.38	6.25	—	—	3.13	
Nashville.....	27,000	12	4	33.33	—	—	—	16.67	
Lowell.....	53,300	15	4	—	6.67	—	—	—	
Worcester.....	52,500	16	5	31.25	12.50	6.25	6.25	6.25	
Cambridge.....	50,000	18	2	22.22	11.11	5.55	—	11.11	
Fall River.....	48,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lawrence.....	38,200	12	4	8.33	25.00	8.33	—	—	
Lynn.....	34,000	11	—	9.09	—	9.09	—	—	
Springfield.....	31,500	14	6	21.43	—	21.43	—	—	
New Bedford.....	27,000	16	6	6.25	6.25	6.25	—	—	
Salem.....	26,400	11	4	45.45	9.09	27.27	9.09	9.09	
Somerville.....	23,350	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chelsea.....	20,800	6	2	66.67	33.33	66.67	—	—	
Taunton.....	20,200	9	—	22.22	11.11	22.22	—	—	
Holyoke.....	18,200	8	4	25.00	12.50	—	25.00	—	
Gloucester.....	17,100	6	4	33.33	—	—	33.33	—	
Newton.....	17,100	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Haverhill.....	15,300	7	—	28.57	—	14.28	—	—	
Newburyport.....	13,500	3	0	—	—	—	—	—	
Pittsfield.....	12,650	5	—	20.00	40.00	20.00	—	—	
Fitchburg.....	12,500	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Milford.....	9,800	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Two thousand and forty-eight deaths were reported : principal "zymotic" diseases (small-pox, measles, diphtheria and croup, diarrhoeal diseases, whooping-cough, erysipelas,