If this be correct, it is an additional reason for the veto, the desirability of which we venture to urge upon the Local Government Board. Sir Walter Foster has shown in the past that he is prepared to go far in protecting the public health service against nepotism and parsimony. Here is a case in which the central authority might rightly intervene, and we trust that they will not hesitate to decline to confirm the appointment just made at Ilkeston. We ask for this, not in the interests of one health officer or of the whole body of health officers, but in the interest of the public health; for if medical officers of health are to be subject to such unfair treatment, the public health service will become intolerable, and the public health will seriously suffer.

JEWISH SANITATION.—At a recent meeting of the North-Western Branch of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, Dr. Vacher, M.O.H. of the County of Cheshire, said the first great sanitary inspector and great medical officer of health was Moses, and he thought that the nearer they got to his practice the better they would be. He laid down two principles which in some rural districts they had not been able to put into practice yet—first, that obnoxious matter should be taken and kept outside the camp, and secondly, that infectious disease of every kind should be isolated.

THE POLICE AND AMBULANCE WORK.—A recent issue of the *Eastbourne Chronicle* gives an interesting account of the distribution of certificates and badges gained by the members of the Borough of Eastbourne Police Force at the examination in connection with the St. John Ambulance Association. The presentation was made by the Mayor, at the Town Hall, and it appeared that all but two of the candidates had been successful in passing the examination, eighteen out of twenty-eight having gained more than two-thirds of full marks. The Mayor, in his address, said that the Watch Committee felt deeply indebted to Dr. Reginald Dudfield, the late medical officer of health for the borough, for taking the matter up, and he felt sure that the members of the police force also felt indebted to him for his lectures and demonstrations. The Chief Constable, on behalf of the Borough Police Force and the ambulance class, thanked Dr. R. Dudfield for the kind services he had rendered to the men. In conclusion, the Chief Constable handed to Dr. R. Dudfield, amid applause, a handsomely-framed photographic group of the force. The picture bore the borough arms and the following inscription: "Presented to Dr. Reginald Dudfield, A.M., M.B., by members of the Eastbourne borough police force, as a token of esteem, and in grateful recognition of his services as surgeon to the borough force, 1891-1894."

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PUBLIC ABATTOIR, BRIGHTON.

By FRANCIS J. C. MAY, M.Inst.C.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

On June 29th last the Mayor of Brighton (Alderman Dr. J. Ewart, J.P.) opened for use the public abattoir, erected by the Corporation of Brighton in Hollingdean Road, from designs prepared by the borough engineer and surveyor.

The improvements desired and intended to be achieved by the erection of this abattoir are: The abolition of private slaughter-houses from the midst of the dwellings of the poor, where they are not only objectionable from a sanitary point of view, but are also demoralising by familiarising humanity, especially the young, with the suffering of animals by sight and sound; the diminution of the suffering of animals destined to be slaughtered, by the adoption under proper surveillance, of the most humane method of treatment in every stage from their entry into the borough; the reduction of fright and accidents to the public by putting an end to the practice of driving animals through the streets; the improvement of the quality of meat offered for sale for the food of man, especially those of the poorer classes, by enabling a more thorough inspection of animals and meat to be accomplished.

The buildings forming the abattoir have been designed with a view to accomplish these purposes. They have been carefully planned so as to embrace every facility for carrying on the work of slaughter in the most merciful manner—all the most approved labour-saving appliances have been adopted in the interests of the trade—the comfort of the animals has been carefully observed, convenient feeding lairs are provided for those which will be kept a few days; the fasting lairs are near the slaughter-houses, but are so arranged that a living animal may not see one being slaughtered. As soon as the dressing of a carcass has been completed the meat is removed from the slaughter-house into hanging rooms opposite the slaughter-house, but entirely cut off from it, so that the meat may not be polluted by any of the smells of the slaughter-house—there are no drains within any building. Everything that is practicable has been done to ensure cleanliness. The interior of the slaughter-houses and hanging-rooms is lined with white glazed bricks, to a height of 7 feet; and the floors are laid with Stuart's Patent Granolithic Pavement, specially prepared to prevent slipperiness. The ventilation is most ample, and the artificial light is electricity.

The site of the abattoir (about three acres, enclosed by suitable walls and fences) is admirably adapted for its purpose. There are good approach roads from each quarter of the town, there is a railway siding running into it, by which cattle and all kinds of goods may be brought to or removed

from the abattoir. The whole area is covered with an impermeable pavement.

The position and aspect of the buildings have been selected so that they may be the least affected by the rays of the sun, with a view to keep them as cool as possible.

The buildings are very substantially built in stock brickwork with red brick dressings. The roofs are covered with tiles, as being the material best calculated to keep the buildings cool. They are lighted principally by a glazed section running the whole length of the roofs on the northern side.

Both public and private slaughter-houses have

such a manner as to permit of such extensions from time to time as the exigencies of the trade may demand, until the whole of the business of the trade shall be transacted there.

The accompanying plan shows the buildings already erected.

It is hoped that this section, which forms only a small beginning of a good sanitary and merciful measure, may ere long accomplish all the good expected of it, and extend to such a degree as to close all the existing slaughter-houses in the midst of the town, and render the completion of the whole range of buildings an absolute necessity. Brighton may then boast of possessing one of the

PLAN OF BRIGHTON NEW ABATTOIR.

been provided, as also have all the necessary offices, stores, and conveniences.

A resident superintendent has been appointed, who, having a knowledge of animals and meat, will also act as animal and meat inspector.

A plan was prepared for the erection of buildings capable of accommodating the whole of the slaughtering trade of Brighton, but as the Corporation does not possess compulsory powers to close the existing slaughter-houses, it has been thought undesirable to erect the whole of the buildings at once. A small section has therefore been erected as a beginning at a cost of about £8,000, and in

best and most perfectly arranged abattoirs in the Kingdom.

VAGRANTS AND SMALL-POX. — Dr. Dudfield, in his monthly report for July, 1894, says: "It should be mentioned that the very successful and interesting conference at Spring Gardens was substantially the outcome of a report to the Council of Newcastle by the medical officer of health of that city, embodying the result of the experience of a large number of urban communities in relation to the matter; and of a discussion on the subject at the Society of Medical Officers of Health."