mortality were the following: The weekly average of deaths from whooping-cough increased from 3 to 4; from diphtheria and croup, from 26 to 36.75; from epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, from 10 to 15.75; from acute bronchitis, from 27.75 to 31; from pneumonia, from 139 to 151½; from bronchopneumonia, from 72.75 to 85.25; and from organic heart diseases, from 101.5 to 105.25. It is noticeable that while the death-rate from diarrheal diseases was about the same as in November, the number of deaths per week in the last fortnight of December was nearly double the mortality from this cause earlier in the month. This result, it would seem highly probable, was due to the improper and over-feeding of young children during the Christmas season.

APPROPRIATIONS.—At the last meeting of the year of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, appropriations to the amount of \$294,000 were made for Bellevue and Allied Hospitals; \$244,000 to be used for the new additions and to purchase other hospital property, and \$50,000 for present needs. The Board also appropriated \$305,000 for the purchase of seven sites for children's playgrounds in the Borough of Brooklyn. The Controller of the State of New York reports that during the past year \$3,700,000 was paid for the care and treatment of the insane, and \$2,400,000 for charitable institutions other than the state hospitals. The total cost of maintenance of the sixteen charitable institutions under the jurisdiction of the Fiscal Supervisor, exclusive of the state hospital for incipient pulmonary tuberculosis at Ray Brook, was \$1,438,161, as against \$1,434,984 in 1904.

Obituary.

PROFESSOR ALFRED SCHAPER.

PROF. ALFRED SCHAPER, whose death occurred a few months ago, is well remembered in this community by many friends and former pupils. He came to Boston in 1895 to take the position of Instructor of Histology and Embryology in the Harvard Medical School, and began his work as a teacher in October of that year. For five years he remained connected with the school, and was promoted to the position of Assistant Professor of Histology and Embryology in 1899.

Professor Schaper was born May 25, 1863, in Braunschweig. His father held the position of Chief Marshal of the Grand Ducal Court, and bore the title of Hofrath. After completing his studies at the gymnasium, young Schaper went to the University of Greifswald, where he remained for two years, and then went to Munich for three years, taking his degree at the state

examination in January, 1889. He had first thought of entering into practice, but that was entirely against his natural bent, and he soon turned to purely scientific work, having many of the natural gifts of the born naturalist, a fondness for out of doors, eagerness in seeking intimacy with living nature, an unceasing appetite for information, and a natural endowment for all forms of laboratory work. He had profited thoroughly by his university training, and became a master of embryological research, making his observations with care, not resting satisfied until they were really complete, and then applying them to establish conclusions of wider interest. His numerous published investigations testify alike to his industry and his ability. As a teacher, also, he won distinguished success, getting the confidence of the students and securing their esteem by his evident mastery of the subjects which he taught. He contributed in liberal measure to the development of scientific work at the Harvard Medical School, and exerted, while he was in this country, a very beneficial influence, especially upon the younger men connected with the school, and his retirement from our service was sincerely regretted by his many friends, who had learned to value and appreciate his gentle, modest and lovable character.

Upon leaving Boston he returned to Germany and received a call as Professor Extraordinary to the University of Breslau, taking the place of the late Professor Born, and, at the same time, Schaper was made the head of the Embryological Division of the Anatomical Institute, and First Professor under Professor Hasse.

Schaper's investigations were nearly all in the embryological field, where he had a secure mastery and appreciation of the general problems of vertebrate morphology. A number of his most important publications concern the structure and histogenesis of the nervous system. They all show that he was a conscientious and competent workman. While in America he edited an American edition of Stöhr's textbook on histology. This work was far superior to anything at that time available in the English language, and the publication went rapidly through several editions, being widely used throughout the country, and certainly contributed a great deal to the elevation of histology teaching in all our medical schools. At the time of his death Professor Schaper was working upon a new textbook of histology, the plan for which was formed before he left America, and which was to have as its special distinctive quality the presentation of the whole subject from the development point of view. This work, had it been completed, would, I think, have proved a radical and inspiring innovation in histological science.

Professor Schaper married, in 1896, an American lady, Miss Mary McPherson, whose acquaintance he had made in Zürich. She survives him.

Professor Schaper was a gifted and enthusiastic investigator with high aims; his memory will long be cherished by those who knew him in this country.

CHARLES S. MINOT.