D. C. Handley, have established a private hospital, exclusively for surgical cases.

THE PUBLIC library is in daily communication with the Health Department, and no books will be loaned where infectious cases are reported, and no books will be received from infected houses, except through the health officers.

THE REPORT of the Bureau of Infectious and Contagious Diseases of the Health Department showed, for December, 1899, 101 cases, against 191 for the corresponding month of 1898. The prevalence of influenza during 1898 is assigned as the cause of the difference.

BETHESDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bethesda Hospital and Deaconess' Home Association, reports were read showing the increased prosperity of this Association. It was announced that the hospital had received a donation of \$1000 from Mr. Frank Kreihler of Pennsylvania. The building fund of the hospital is \$15,000 in debt, but \$5000 of this is at hand and the board hopes to collect the remaining \$10,000 by July 1.

Cleveland.

THE ANNUAL report of St. Alexis Hospital shows that 1997 patients were received during the year, and that 1762 were discharged as cured.

ILLINOIS.

THE HEALTH authorities fear a general spread of smallpox throughout the state, as the disease was prevalent for a long time without proper measures being instituted to check its progress. Fresh cases are being reported daily.

Chicago.

DR. J. B. HERRICK has returned from Europe.

THE GREAT sanitary drainage canal was opened January 17. A BANQUET was given by the Medical Women's Club, January 16.

THE ANNUAL report of St. Anthony's shows that 820 patients were treated in that institution during the past year.

DR. WILLIAM CUTHBERTSON, M.D., has been appointed attending gynecologist on the staff of St. Luke's Hospital.

THE QUARTERLY examinations of the Illinois State Board of Health were held January 16; 11 physicians, 18 osteopaths and 14 midwives were examined.

AN EXAMINATION by the coroner developed the fact that a two year-old child died from measles while under the care of a disciple of Dowie.

THE RECEIPTS from the ball given by the Young Hebrew Charity Association, January 9, were nearly \$33,000. This sum will be divided among the hospitals and benevolent societies.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The medical inspection of schools, inaugurated by the Board of Education, resulted in the examination of 3045 pupils during the past week, of whom 323 were excluded from schools because of the danger of infecting the other pupils.

SUIT FOR LOSS OF EYESIGHT.

An employee has begun suit for \$10,000 against a local brewing company for the loss of his eyesight. His work consisted in shellacing barrels and kegs, and it is asserted that the wood alcohol fumes gradually destroyed his sight.

PROVIDENT HOSPITAL.

The Esther Freer Hall, the gift of Nathan M. Freer to Provident Hospital, is nearing completion and will be dedicated in February. The structure is a four-story building, to cost nearly \$30,000, and will be used as a school and dormitory for the nurses. An addition is now being made to the hospital proper, which will cost \$18,000.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The total mortality for the week ended January 13 was 7 less than that of the week preceding, and 46 less than the corresponding week of 1899; 129 of these deaths were from pneumonia and bronchitis, or slightly more than 23 per cent. of the total. Compared with the corresponding week of 1899, this is a slight reduction, as the mortality at that time was 127 deaths from pneumonia and 31 from bronchitis, a total of 158. There was but 1 death from la grippe, as against 13 deaths during the corresponding period of 1899. There has been a slight decrease of diphtheria during the past week.

KENTUCKY.

KENTUCKY COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS.

Senator Alexander of Louisville has introduced a bill in the legislature providing for an appropriation of \$50,000 to establish a colony of epileptics, in Jefferson County, to be connected with the Central Insane Asylum at Lakeland, near Louisville. This bill should receive the hearty support of the medical profession throughout the state.

Louisville.

THE GOLDEN anniversary of the Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville, was celebrated with appropriate exercises, January 2.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGES.

The spring and summer medical colleges began their annual session on January 2, all opening with large classes. Kentucky University's medical department holds its first session in its new building, acquired during the summer of 1899.

HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM.

The report of the superintendent of the Home of the Aged and Infirm has just been presented to the Board of Safety. It shows that the inmates are supported at a cost of 12½ cents a day, there being 356 inmates during 1899. The total expenses were \$17,315. The state contributes a sum, yearly, for the maintenance of pauper idiots. During the year 27 patients died, mostly from senility; the oldest that died claimed to be 118 years of age.

REPORT OF ERUPTIVE HOSPITAL.

Dr. Harris Kelly, in his report of the Eruptive Hospital, shows 548 cases treated during the year, with 6 deaths. There were 91 white and 157 colored patients. The epidemic of smallpox began Dec. 4, 1898, lasting until August 29, 1899. There were two cases of scarlatina, six of erysipelas, and 1 of diphtheria, with no deaths.

WISCONSIN.

Milwaukee.

FIRE, THE second in ten days and due to a defective furnace, damaged the Wisconsin General Hospital, in this city, January 10. The loss was \$200.

THE CHILDREN'S Free Hospital will receive about \$1000 as its share from the receipts of the Twentieth Century Festival recently held in this city.

THE ANNUAL report of the Milwaukee Hospital for the Insane shows that 583 patients were treated during the year. The percentage of recoveries was 33, and the death-rate 7 per cent. The improvements during the year amounted to \$3807.

Correspondence.

Mercurial Ointment in Erysipelas.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 13, 1900.

To the Editor:—Referring to the paragraph relative to Dematteis' observations on the efficacy of mercurials in the treatment of erysipelas (THE JOURNAL, January 13, p. 110), I wish to say that for many years I have used mercurial ointments for the treatment of this disease, successfully. I recall one case, about twelve years ago, in which I applied the white precipitate ointment, and it healed the disease so quickly that the patient's friends became alarmed, declaring the doctor had driven the disease in, consequently another medico was substituted to draw it out. I give this fact for the benefit of Dematteis, hoping he may not be subjected to a like experience.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH T. HOWARD, M.D.

Canada.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

TORONTO, Jan. 13, 1900.

SURG. LIEUT.-COL. WORTHINGTON, Sherbrooks, Quebec, and Surgeon-Major Duff, Kingston, Ont., are to have charge of the medical affairs of the second Canadian contingent.

SURG. LIEUT.-COL. RYERSON, Toronto, goes in the interests of the Red Cross Association, and will not be assigned any professional duties either on the voyage out or on his arrival at Cape Town.