

weapons, sending challenges, tramps, illegal voting, illicit liquor selling and smuggling, 1.16 per cent.

"For felonies and misdemeanors unspecified, 1.16 per cent. As showing what proportion of reconvictions occur, we find that the 15,005 sentences represented 12,895 individuals. Of these 9,248 have been convicted once, 2,248 twice, 748 three times, 328 four times, 148 five times, 78 six times, 39 seven times, 18, eight times, 20 nine times, 4 ten times, 4 eleven times, 2 twelve times, 3 fourteen times and 1 for each of the remaining numbers of times up to 22."

In the summary issued for the week ending at noon July 30, the total number of deaths in this city were 870, the largest number, it is said, ever reported for a corresponding period. It is estimated that nearly one-half, or over four hundred deaths, were attributable to the excessive heat. In the meteorological summary, issued by Mr. Day, the Local Forecast official, U. S. Weather Bureau, this statement is made with reference to the temperature: "The prominent feature of the month just closed, was the unprecedented 'hot spell,' from the 24th to the 29th inclusive, with maximum temperatures of 91, 93, 101, 96, 96, 98, and daily averages of 82, 84, 88, 87, 86 and 89 degrees." No rain of any amount, excepting on the 14th, fell at this station for twenty-five days, following the 3d of July. On the 30th and 31st, there were several thunder showers, with copious precipitation, thus relieving the threatened water famine. The total rainfall for the month was 2.97 inches; the average for 21 years for July being 4.54 inches, leaving a deficiency, therefore, of 1.56 inches. It may be mentioned as a matter of special interest that the official report contains the further statement that there were no days on which frost occurred during the month.

Dr. W. C. Hollopeter recently reported to the County Medical Society, two interesting cases of "mucous disease; chronic intestinal catarrh, with one autopsy." He expressed surprise that this condition has not received more attention. It should be separated from ordinary chronic intestinal catarrh in children, the literature of which is quite voluminous; the only author who distinctly outlines this particular form being Eustace Smith, who speaks of it as a sequel of whooping cough. Dr. Lewis Star also refers to it in "Diseases of the Digestive Organs in Childhood." The special symptomatic feature is the occurrence of constipation for several days, followed by profuse mucous discharges containing bacteria and salts, and accompanied by general wasting and tumid, band-shaped abdomen. In the fatal case, the lesions were found limited to the intestines. "The lymph-nodes or solitary follicles of the whole of the colon and part of the small bowel, the ileum, were in an inflammatory condition, and in many there existed deep ulceration." This involvement of the small bowel is quite rare and is found only when intestinal disease has a protracted cause. Follicular ulceration of the intestine is itself an unusual occurrence and more especially so, when found in the small bowel. The ileum in the case reported had a worm eaten appearance owing to the numerous enlarged and ulcerated nodules. Usually the ulcers were not above 1-6 to 1-4 of an inch except where several had coalesced, they extended through the mucosa in the sub-mucous tissue. The reporter in conclusion called attention to the fact that this disease is separated from ordinary catarrhal inflammation by its clinical course and pathological appearances. The discharges are usually alkaline. The disorder is not necessarily a sequel of whooping cough or a consequence of second dentition, but may occur after any depressing disorder. It is not necessarily incurable. As might be anticipated the strictest attention to diet is required in its treatment conjoined to measures calculated to build up the nutrition of the little patient.

The following real incident carries a moral for those who have the penetration to perceive it. Your correspondent happened to meet socially a gentleman who was subsequently ascertained to be connected in a reportorial capacity with one of our large daily journals. A certain prominent doctor's name was mentioned and the reporter innocently remarked "Oh yes, I know Professor Blank very well. He is a great friend of our paper, and whenever he had an interesting surgical operation he used to send us an account for publication." It used to be a matter of conjecture how the papers succeeded in getting reports of operations, but it is now clear that the evidence of enterprise is not all in favor of the daily press.

New York Board of Health; Its Sanitary Superintendent and the Late Advisory Board.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

My Dear Sir:—In recent editorials and communications in various medical journals, in relation to certain changes in the New York Board of Health, it is said that Drs. Janeway, Jacobi, Prudden and Stephen Smith have resigned their honorary positions on that Board, on the ground that faithful medical employes have been brutally treated at the hands of pot-house politicians, and ordered to hand in their resignations; in other words, that reputable and competent men have been put out of office, without complaint or pretence of charges "for cause." . . . Dr. Ewing, who has for twenty years, been Sanitary Superintendent, was forced out, of the important position, by President Wilson, it is alleged, in order that a politician or a person demanded by a political organization, might be put in his place.

They very candidly admit that the above is based on hearsay knowledge. As a matter of right and justice it is well that they do; for with one solitary exception, this whole statement is a malicious invention, without a word of truth in it, from beginning to end.

Drs. Janeway, Prudden, Jacobi, and Stephen Smith, did resign. Drs. Janeway and Smith have both "feathered their nests" as high officials in this same Board of Health, on high salaries, and with little to do, within the *thirty years*, during which time, it is alleged, "it has not been altogether free from the slime of the political serpent." (Ibid.)

It seems harsh to assume that they resigned, "because, faithful medical employees were brutally entreated to send in their resignations," for this is false. What they resigned for, is their own concern. There were no physicians ordered to resign by anyone. *One*, and only *one* was requested to hand in his resignation. This was Dr. Ewing, who was *paid* out of the city treasury, \$4,800.00 a year. He succeeded Dr. Walter F. Day, *four* years ago, not *twenty*, as alleged; and, while trying to fulfil his public duties, carried on an extensive, private practice. His predecessor was not known as a practitioner.

He was requested to surrender his office, not on any "*pretense*," but on an open complaint and charge, that he did not visit the Pest-house on North Brother's Island.

Dr. Ewing was succeeded, by a gentleman utterly unknown in local politics, who commenced at the "bottom round of the ladder" nine years ago, in the Board of Health, and has by the dint of persevering effort, raised himself to the position which he now occupies, though, with nearly a thousand a year, less than the gentleman whom he succeeds was paid. Who does not know of Dr. Cyrus Edson, the present Sanitary Superintendent, as an indefatigable and progressive writer in everything pertaining to sanitary science?

So much for this "tempest in a teapot." In this connection it may be well to have it more generally known, that in this whole country there is no city, in which politics interferes less in sanitary matters, than in New York. If there is anyone who can cite a *single* instance in which a member of the medical staff has been removed on *purely* political grounds let him speak out, and I am sure it will be news to New York physicians. Yours respectfully,

TRUTH AND FAIRPLAY.