

THE HEALTH OF NEW YORK DURING JULY.

THE month of July has the highest mortality of the year, its deaths running up to the startling figure of 4,198, an excess of 1,436 deaths over the month of June. This represents a daily average throughout the month of more than 135. The 8th of the month was characterized by the greatest daily mortality, 240, which has occurred since 1886 set in, and it is more than probable that this will not be exceeded during the entire twelve months. More than one thousand of the monthly increase was due to diarrhoeal diseases; and, of children under five years of age, 1,125 more died than in the preceding month. If this fact is borne in mind in reading the remarks made elsewhere on the failure to provide funds for the summer corps of physicians to visit the tenement houses, the gross outrage of this neglect will be better appreciated. The sudden and fearful rise of the mortality curves as represented in the chart is very striking. It will be remembered that in the early part of the year the lines of scarlet-fever and diarrhoeal diseases were so nearly coincident that at times they could not be distinguished, and that attention was then called to the fact, that, as summer approached, these lines would gradually separate, until in midsummer we should find them at a great distance from each other. That time has come: while scarlet-fever has on no one day of July caused more than two deaths, in one single day, the 8th, 92 persons succumbed to diarrhoeal diseases. Consumption caused 439 deaths, an increase of 6 over the preceding month; and diphtheria, 133, but 3 more than in June.

July was a month in which the temperature did not vary much from the average of the past ten years. The mean was 74.83° F. During the past decade this was exceeded six times. The maximum was 94° F. This was reached on the 7th at 3 P.M., and again on the 30th at 4 P.M. In July of 1885 the mercury touched 99, the highest since 1870. Rain fell on thirteen days of the month, but only to a slight extent, except on the 10th, 14th, 16th, 21st, and 27th; and the total rainfall for the month was but 2.75 inches, the lowest for ten years with the exception of 1881, when but 1.25 inches fell.

THE COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

THE reports of the committees of the American association were in general as unsatisfactory this year as heretofore, notwithstanding the new rule that all committees not reporting should be dis-

charged. The usual report in regard to progress in obtaining proper legislation on the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, was made by Mr. E. B. Elliott, which amounted to little more than stating that Mr. Elliott had conferred with several members of congress. No one doubts the desirability of such registration in this country, and every one must hope to see it carried into effect at some not distant day. The committee on standards of stellar magnitudes stated that they had received reports of some observations made in compliance with the requests of last year; but, as some of them are still incomplete, it is deemed best to extend to July 1, 1887, the period within which the results may be received at the Harvard college observatory. Nothing could be stated by the committee on the International scientific congress; but the committee was continued, and it is hoped that some action will be taken at the meeting of the British association now in progress. The report on indexing chemical literature is referred to under our account of the meetings of that section. The committee on the International congress of geologists reported the proceedings of the Berlin meeting, and announced a fourth to be held in London in 1888. It asked authority to add the name of the association to an invitation to hold the next session in this country. The committee on anatomical nomenclature was continued, and Dr. Frank Baker was appointed in place of Dr. Leidy, ineligible on account of not being a member. The committee on health and diseases of plants was discharged as having accomplished its object. The committee on postal laws in regard to transmission of biological specimens through the mails reported with a copy of a petition to the postmaster-general, and of a proposed law which failed to pass the late session of congress. It is interesting to note in this connection the recent experience of a member of the Entomological society of Belgium, M. de Selys. M. de Selys found it necessary, when he sent to a friend in America some specimens, to fill out blanks in triplicate, stating that he sold these specimens to his friend in America at a given price. It was only after considerable correspondence back and forth with the authorities in Belgium that this method was adopted as the only one by which the specimens could be passed through the American custom-house. The committee on physics-teaching reported that they deemed it desirable that no formal report should be made until they could confer with a corresponding committee of the International educational association. The other committees were discharged according to the rule. Among the proposed amendments to the constitution was one substituting the word 'council' for the words 'standing committee.'

