cleared up many obscure points in the causation of this disease, have not as yet shown us how to materially reduce the number of victims who are annually claimed by it. That more than five thousand persons annually die in a single city from one disease is a sad commentary on sanitary science, and yet the best of minds are at work to solve the problem of the measures which must be adopted to diminish its ravages. That three thousand and more individuals, mostly children, died from diarrhoeal diseases, does not surprise one who is familiar with the intense heat of our midsummer; and in great measure this is largely beyond control. It is true, something may be done to reduce this mortality by visiting the poor sick and prescribing for them, and by giving them opportunities to breathe the fresh air of the country and the sea; but, when all has been done that can be, diarrhoeal diseases will still carry off the little ones by the hundreds and thousands, if the temperature and the humidity are favorable for their development. Diphtheria, which was unknown in New York until the year 1852, caused 1,727 deaths in 1886, and has, ever since its appearance, figured prominently in the mortality returns, its origin unknown, and its treatment not understood even by the best of physicians, — a disease dreaded by the laity and the profession alike in all parts of the world where it has obtained a home. It should, however, be constantly borne in mind, that although this class of disease cannot be eradicated, still, if all restraint were removed, their mortality would probably increase tenfold. In view of this, the department of health, whose function it is to keep watch of the localities in which these diseases do most abound, should receive the hearty co-operation of every member of the community, and be furnished by the authorities with ample means to carry on its beneficial work.

PARIS LETTER.

AT yesterday's meeting of the Academy of medicine, Professor Grancher read a paper on the case of the man Réveillac, who died of hydrophobia after preventive inoculation, in which he corrected some erroneous statements made by Professor Peter at a previous meeting [see p. 96]. It appears that Réveillac submitted to only nineteen operations instead of thirty-six, as had been stated, and the treatment was much milder than in more serious cases. Moreover, the first information received at the Pasteur laboratory, of the unfortunate man's death, was from M. Peter's paper at the academy.

According to Professor Béclard, dean of the medical school, there are at present 108 women studying medicine in Paris. Of these, 83 are Russian, while only 7 are natives of France. The total number of female students would be much larger were it not for the necessarily stringent rules as to admission. Two women are among the present competitors for posts as assistants in the hospitals, of whom one, Miss Klumke, will doubtless succeed, much to the discomfiture of her male competitors. She is one of Vulpian's students, and has already published many interesting memoirs on neurological subjects.

Telephonic communication between Paris and Brussels will shortly be established; recent experiments between those cities, with wires of bronze instead of iron, having given excellent results. The distance is 330 kilometres, and the same wires will be used for both telegraphic and telephonic purposes, as it has been demonstrated that one wire can be used successfully for the simultaneous transmission of both kinds of despatches.

At a recent meeting of the Biological society, M. Laborde, director of the physiological laboratory of the medical school, read a paper on the use of water in fasting experiments. It is known that Succi and Merlatti drank water freely during their long fasts, and the public was divided in opinion as to the effects of the water. M. Laborde has ascertained by experimental tests that water is of great value in sustaining life during prolonged fasts. Two dogs, in good health, of the same age and breed, each weighing 15½ kilograms, were selected, one of which was entirely deprived of both food and drink, the other being given only a litre of water daily. Dog No. 1, that deprived of both food and water, died on the twentieth day, after having lost 7½ kilograms in weight. The other dog was well and lively on the fortieth day, though it had lost nearly 8 kilograms. It would undoubtedly have been able to live still longer on its water diet; but after its 40-day fast it was treated to a good meal, when, without apparent ill effects, it disposed of 1,200 grams of soup and 1 kilogram of meat. The dog is now doing well.

Two or three new books deserve notice. One is a translation, by Dr. H. de Varigny, of Preyer's 'Die Seele des Kindes,' a very interesting work, dealing with its subject in an entirely new and thoroughly scientific manner. Mr. Preyer is by training a physiologist, and has made a great many interesting physiological observations concerning children. It may be remarked that a French translation of another book of his, 'The physiology of the embryo,' to which the first-mentioned work is in many respects a sequel, will soon be brought out by the same publisher, F. Alcan. Preyer's books are very valuable, and it

must be said that he was the first to study in so scientific and severe a manner, and with such persevering patience, the subject treated of in 'Die Seele des Kindes.'

A book on animal magnetism, by MM. Binet and Féré, has recently appeared. It is really a book on hypnotism, as most phenomena ascribed to animal magnetism are of an hypnotic nature. The book is a good one. After some preliminary chapters devoted to the experiments of Mesmer and others, the authors speak of modern hypnotism, of the different methods of inducing hypnotic sleep, and of the symptoms and degrees of this sleep. They then give a theory of hypnotic suggestion, with a long review of the phenomena produced under its influence. A specially good chapter treats of the therapeutic and pedagogic applications of hypnotic suggestion. The book treats the subject fairly and fully, and will prove useful. Another new book, on hygienic dietetics, is from the pen of Prof. G. Sée. It begins with an exhibit of the comparative nutritive powers of different foods and a physiological study of the alimentary process. The rest of the book is devoted to the practical treatment of diseases by a judicious choice of foods. M. Sée is well informed upon the subject, and his book is consequently valuable, although it does not contain much original matter. V.

Paris, Jan. 13.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first annual convention of the Society for the prevention of the adulteration of foods, drugs, and medicines met in Washington last week. The object of this society is the establishment of a certain fixed standard for every article of food, drink, and medicine, with the requirement that all articles not up to the standard shall be so marked by a label. About one hundred and twenty-five delegates were present from all parts of the country. Mr. H. Wharton Amberling of Philadelphia was elected president, and Mr. Elisha Winter, secretary. The president read his annual address, in which he spoke of the want of proper legislation on the subject of adulterated food, the sale of which, he claimed, produced nearly all the cases of kidney-trouble in the land.

— The secretary of the treasury has transmitted to congress the estimates of deficiencies in appropriations for salaries and expenses of the National board of health during the present fiscal year, amounting to $7,500. In a letter accompanying the estimates, the secretary of the board earnestly urges the importance of making the appropriation requested, but says, in case it is deemed undesirable to continue the work which has for its object the preservation and improvement of the health of the people, the laws devolving such duties upon the board should be repealed.

— The fine, large, gold medal given to General Grant for distinguished services in the Mexican war, now at the national museum, is bogus, having a specific gravity of only seven instead of sixteen.

— A memorial has been presented to congress, signed by prominent literary and scientific men and representatives of several historial societies, setting forth the great value and importance of a full and accurate digest and catalogue of the numerous documents found in public and private archives of Europe relating to the early history of the United States, and especially to the treaty of Paris in 1763, and the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain in 1783. Most of these documents are unknown to the American student, and but few of them have ever been copied, owing to their inaccessibility. Mr. Benjamin Franklin Stevens of London has, after many years' labor, prepared a descriptive catalogue of over 95,000 separate papers found in the archives of different European countries. The secretary of state recommends to congress the purchase of this descriptive catalogue, and adds, "Without its favorable action, not only will the completion of the work be doubtful if not impossible, but the fragment now prepared would probably remain practically valueless." Mr. Stevens, in a letter to the secretary of state, says that the work has become too great for any individual to undertake alone, unless a man of wealth, and that when complete the index will probably comprise 150,000 documents, and fill 20,000 royal octavo printed pages.

— Lieutenant Pillsbury, commanding the Blake, has started south for the season's work, and will run several lines of current observations from Cuba to Yucatan, and from Cuba to Florida Reef, and thence northward to San Antonia. This is a continuation of the work of last year, which was so successful. The connection between the velocity of the Gulf Stream and the advent of the tidal wave on our coast has been accurately determined, and the credit for this important discovery is due to Lieutenant Pillsbury. Appendix No. 13 to the coast-survey report, 'On the harmonic analysis of the tides at Governor's Island, New York harbor,' by William Ferrel, shows the results of tidal observations. The report states that the tides at Governor's Island and at Sandy Hook are very similar. The epochs at Governor's Island are somewhat greater, and the tides are thus