

*THE HEALTH OF NEW YORK DURING
SEPTEMBER.*

THE number of deaths which occurred in the city of New York during the month of September was 2,767, or 479 less than in the preceding month. The deaths among children under five years of age were 1,217: as compared with August, this represents a saving of 343 lives of children of this tender age. This improvement in the public health becomes still more evident if we compare September with July. In the latter the total mortality of this portion of the population mounted up to 2,499, more than double that which occurred during the former. This progressive gain is mainly to be attributed to the lower temperatures which prevail in the early autumn as compared with midsummer. In July, 240 persons died in a single day, the 8th, while the largest daily mortality of September was but 117, on the 27th. Diarrhoeal diseases claimed fewer victims by 226 than in August, and 903 less than in July. The deaths from consumption were 374, as compared with 443 in August. The September mortality from consumption was less than that of any other month of the year. Diphtheria also shows a diminution, the deaths from this cause being but 85, while in August they were 104. A similar reduction is noticeable in the deaths from scarlet-fever; 11 being recorded for September, as against 15 in August. Taken as a whole, the condition of the public health in the city of New York during the month of September was most satisfactory. That so few deaths should have been caused by such diseases as scarlet-fever and diphtheria in a population of one million and a half of people is certainly a noteworthy event.

The mean temperature for the month was 65.25° F. This was below the mean for the past ten years, which was 67.04° F. The maximum reached by the mercury was 87° F., on the 17th, at 4 P.M. The average for the past decade was 88° F.; so that, so far as its temperature was concerned, September may be regarded as an average month. The rainfall during the month was but 1.17 inches. That for the corresponding month in 1885 was .41 of an inch; in 1884, .21 of an inch; and in 1881, .97 of an inch. With these exceptions, the September rainfall has not been so small since 1869 as it was this year. Indeed, the average for ten years was 3.24 inches, while in one year, 1882, 16.85 inches of rain fell in the same month. The rainfall for the month of June was 3.35 inches, a little above the average for that month during a long series of years; in July, but 2.75 inches fell, the lowest for ten years, with the exception of 1881; in August, only .95 of an inch of rain fell; and in September we had another exceed-

ingly small rainfall. The total amount of rain, therefore, which has fallen during the past three months, has been much below the average; and yet, as will be seen by a study of the records of the meteorological observatory at Central park, the rainfall for the nine months of this year, 29.10 inches, does not differ much from the average of the ten years just passed, which was 30.97 inches. The following table gives the rainfall for each of these months during the past ten years.

	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877
January.	3.91	3.06	5.22	2.68	5.08	4.80	2.02	2.63	4.46	2.62
February	4.89	4.56	4.92	4.21	3.43	4.93	2.12	2.02	3.75	1.24
March ...	2.83	.90	4.62	1.49	2.53	5.81	4.66	3.41	3.27	5.56
April	3.85	2.19	2.82	3.71	1.64	.95	2.90	4.33	1.97	2.73
May.....	5.40	1.86	3.74	2.83	4.20	3.20	.62	2.02	3.19	.95
June.....	3.35	1.32	4.98	3.32	2.52	5.35	1.14	3.15	3.08	2.80
July.....	2.75	3.59	4.74	3.21	3.21	1.25	8.53	3.58	4.62	5.73
August..	.95	5.67	7.90	1.82	1.14	.86	5.26	7.95	7.97	2.77
September..	1.17	.41	.21	3.25	16.85	.97	1.85	2.37	4.05	1.33
Total for 9 months	29.10	23.56	39.15	26.52	40.60	28.12	29.10	31.46	36.36	25.73

ACCLIMATIZATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

NO country presents such a field for experiments in acclimatization as New Zealand does, and in none have the results of such experiments been so marked. Previous to Captain Cook's visits, no mammalia — with the exception of a black rat and the dogs brought by the Maoris — were to be found in these islands. That intrepid navigator gave the natives pigs, and these animals soon became wild in many places, and are still to be found in the more inaccessible parts of the colony. But they have never become so numerous as to interfere in any way with settlement, — a remark which also applies to the stray cattle and sheep which have run wild in similar regions. The native rat has long been extinct, having been completely exterminated by the common brown species, which was early introduced by ships. The latter animals are extremely abundant, not only in settled districts and towns, but even in the remotest parts. They have probably had a share in exterminating many of the ground birds, such as native quail, which are not to be found now at all. The food of those which swarm in the back country must, however, be chiefly of a vegetable nature, for they periodically migrate in great numbers. The march of settlement is