

be communicated to the representatives of the deceased when application is made for the same.

\* \* \*

THE following paragraph in the Committee's Report is interesting in relation to the excellent paper on the subject by Dr. RENTOUL which has recently appeared in these columns :—

STILLBIRTHS.

The facilities that exist for the disposal of bodies of children said to be stillborn without the production of scientific evidence of stillbirth afford opportunities for easily getting rid of the bodies of children who have lived and have met their death by foul means. There is reason from the evidence to think that a great number of cases of crime are concealed under statements that children are still-born. Any person who cares to incur the risk of a penalty of £10 can give a certificate of still birth in a case in which a child's death has been effected by violence or neglect, and apparently there would be little chance of detection. The Committee consider that the system of registration which they have advocated in the case of ordinary deaths should be adopted in the case of stillbirths—i.e., that registration should take place upon the production of a certificate from either (1) the medical man in attendance; (2) the medical certifier for the district; or (3) the coroner. Upon registration the registrar should be required to issue a burial certificate or order, which should be the only authority for the burial, and it should be made a penal offence to bury or otherwise dispose of the body of a stillborn child without the production of such order. It appears from the return as to stillbirths already referred to, that there is no general agreement in foreign countries as to the definition of a stillbirth; but the Committee think that the term of seven months' gestation, as accepted in Germany and Denmark, affords a convenient starting point for registration.

\* \* \*

THE return of the work done at the Pasteur Institute during July gives the number of persons under treatment as a preventive against hydrophobia at 156, of whom 139 were French and 17 foreigners. Of this total, five had been bitten by animals experimentally proved to be mad, 102 by animals declared by veterinary certificate to be mad, and 49 by animals only suspected of being so, the bites having been inflicted in 140 cases by dogs, in 15 by cats, and in one by a sheep. One death is reported as having occurred, that of Melchior Mermont, a workman on the public roads in Upper Savoy, who was bitten on July 11th by a dog

which, after a *post-mortem* examination, was declared to be mad. There were ten bites on the left hand, three of them being very deep, and Mermont was under treatment at the Pasteur Institute from July 18 until August 6. Upon the latter date he complained of cramp and pricking pains in his left hand, and it was seen that this hand and the arm were partially paralyzed. He did not, however, seem depressed and made a fairly good meal before going to bed, though he complained that the paralysis was extending to the right arm. A short crisis occurred during the night, and he died in a few minutes. His relatives, unfortunately, would not allow a *post-mortem* examination to take place, so that it cannot be said with absolute certainty what was the cause of death.

\* \* \*

THE official report issued at Grimsby on Saturday afternoon stated that there had been three admissions to the cholera hospital, and one death there since the previous afternoon. The death was that of a child, aged two-and-a-half years, who was removed to the hospital on Friday morning, and died later in the day. There remained 13 patients in the shore hospital and one on the hospital ship. They were all progressing favourably, with the exception of the Japanese woman from Cleethorpes, who was not so well on Saturday. Dr. BRUCE reported yesterday that there had only been two fresh cases of choleraic diarrhoea notified since Saturday noon. Two deaths had occurred in the town from the same disease, the victim in one case being a man 67 years of age, and in the other a man aged 83. One more patient was removed to the cholera hospital on Saturday afternoon, bringing the total number of inmates up to 14. All these were making satisfactory progress towards recovery. In the large enclosure surrounding the hospital a tent has been erected for the sleeping accommodation of the nurses and the working staff. On Saturday some of the district medical visitors commenced their house-to-house visitations. There have been no further cases at Cleethorpes.

\* \* \*

WITH cholera at our doors, all news on the matter will be read with interest. Fortunately we now have time on our side, because as the colder weather approaches, the probability of an epidemic becomes every week diminished. But I would call special attention to the fact that the cholera is now more widely diffused than ever, so that the chances of an outbreak in this country next spring are really greater than ever.

---

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

---

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)