

TRICHINIASIS.

THE Health Department of the city of New York has called attention to an alleged increase in the number of cases of trichiniasis in that city, and while the disease is one that is not called for notification by the Sanitary Code, the department would welcome voluntary reports from physicians.

This disease may exist to greater extent than has been recognized, as the common use of uncooked meats increases with the growth of the population. The statement has been made that no examination of a carcass can make sure that the animal was not infected. Doubtless, some human cases are never recognized. Although the symptoms of muscle pain, followed by edema of the face, are well known, mild cases may easily be classed as rheumatism or typhoid before the microscopic search for eosinophilia and cysts is made.

Physicians know that the severity of the disease depends on the number of unkilld embryos swallowed. Those liberated from the meat by the digestive processes reach the adult stage in about three days, and within ten days have produced hundreds of young, some of which pass out with the feces, others penetrate the intestinal walls and pass into the muscles. The adults may survive as long as two months in the intestine and turn out many broods. These can be counted as the sole source of supply, as the young never develops to adult life in the intestine before passing through the muscle cyst stage.

A considerable quantity of raw pork and beef is eaten in this country, in mixtures called "salame," "cervelat," "roulade," and raw smoked ham products. It would be well for consumers of these delicacies to know the danger and to learn "that two per cent. of all hogs are trichinous." The bulletin also quotes Dr. Osler as stating that "post-mortem statistics show that from one-half to two per cent. of all bodies contain trichinae."

 MEDICAL NOTES.

NEW YORK DEATH RATE LOW.—During the week ending August 7, 1915, there were 1451 deaths as compared with 1314 for the corresponding week of last year. The respective rates were 13.04 and 12.28. Making allowance for increase in population of 1915 over 1914,

there was still an increase of 85 deaths. While there were no deaths directly from insolation, the deaths from diarrheal diseases were more numerous during the past week than during the corresponding week of last year. Heart disease, pulmonary tuberculosis and violence showed an increase. Considering, however, the fact that the temperature during the past week was the most unbearable that the city has experienced in a great many years, it is a source of gratification that the number of deaths was kept within the figures above given.

The rate for the first 32 weeks of 1915 was 13.78, as compared with 14.57 for the corresponding period of 1914.

METHODS OF FIRST AID TREATMENT.—During the past year a special committee of U. S. army surgeons in Washington have been engaged in an investigation of the problems of first-aid measures and material, improved methods of transportation of wounded and more efficient fixation of injured extremities, as applied to military surgery.

The necessity for this investigation was furnished by the deplorable lack of uniformity in the methods used, since these have been found to vary not only in the armies of the different nations now at war, but also in the different departments of our army and navy at home.

Careful testing of first-aid packages, dressings, drugs, splints and other material employed in the administration of first aid, as well as the study of the best methods of employing them, is expected to lead to the standardization of first-aid material and methods. These will be incorporated in a First-Aid Manual to take the place of everything that has been arbitrary and confusing in the past.

It has been suggested that the results of this investigation should be just as useful and far-reaching when applied to the demands of accident surgery in industrial pursuits, as to military surgery, since selection of the best and its standardization must needs lead to economy and efficiency.

A number of surgeons engaged in the practice of accident surgery in the service of large industrial enterprises, whose opinion on this aspect of the problem has been sought, were so impressed with the mutual benefits to be derived from supplementing the investigations of the army and public health service officers, with the wealth of practical experience of the corporation surgeon, that a movement was set on foot for a joint conference of the different services and with the object of crystalizing ideas and more clearly defining the problems involved.

This meeting was held on Monday and Tuesday of this week, August 23 and 24, at the New Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

RELEASE OF QUARANTINE IN MARYLAND.—Report from Washington, D. C., states that on