be easily reached by children from all parts of the town, and the fear that teachers would rid themselves of any cases that were more than usually troublesome by sending them to the special class. However, this year, partly owing to the interest taken in the matter by Mr. H. Major, B.A., the head inspector of the Board, and Miss Warren, the inspector of infant schools, a class had been formed. It comprised nine children at present. The present class was held in a class room of a large board school, and consisted of four boys and five girls. One case, which had been admitted on the teacher's report, having been found to be really intelligent, was sent back to the ordinary class. The room in which the class was held was bright and ornamented with pictures, natural history objects, flowers, grasses, etc., and had growing plants in a window box outside. Some difficulty was felt as to what would be the best course of training to pursue, and how to find a teacher to undertake the class. Miss Warren, however, selected one of the most intelligent of the female kindergarten teachers under her supervision, and drew up a special scheme of work. The occupations followed were:—

Short scripture lesson—oral. Physical exercises—balls, skipping rope, drill, marching, battledores, extension movements, etc. Reading—with movable letters. Kindergarten games. Counting—dominoes and nine-pins. Sorting—beans, beads, etc. Writing—copying from print or from writing; dictation impossible. Paper folding. Object lessons—animals and plants. Weaving—a name given to plaiting strips of different coloured paper. Drawing and painting—the very simplest forms of both; drawing principally squares and circles, and painting filling up these squares with colour; few can choose their own colour from the box to match a copy. Clay modelling—this succeeds best of anything of an artistic nature. Order lesson—this consists in teaching the children to do as they are told, put chairs in a row, clear table, dust chairs or objects. Mosaic work—with coloured tablets. Building—with bricks. Physical geography—with sand, making islands, lakes, capes, etc. Sewing and knitting—for both sexes; they can all sew a little, and can knit with knitting frames but not with pins. Hardly any one of these subjects was continued for more than a quarter of an hour.

In addition the children were encouraged to bring natural history objects to the class to form a museum, and these were used for the object lesson. When more classes were formed over the country no doubt some of the above subjects would be eliminated and others introduced. At all events a beginning had been made, and the children taken from the neglect which they must experience at the hands of a teacher of a large class of children with normal intelligence. It was too soon to speak of results, but the teacher could already notice an improvement in the manner of the children. When they entered the class, though well behaved, they took little interest in the proceedings, were listless, and as if under restraint, probably from having been expected in other classes to sit still and hear subjects of which they understood little; now they were interested and inquisitive. It was not proposed to include more children than twelve in one class; it was hoped to start others when there were more than that number to be provided for. The selection of cases was made partly by the medical officer and partly by the inspector on the report of the teachers that children were mentally unfit to profit by the ordinary curriculum of the school. It would be a source of great satisfaction to all who felt an interest in the education of this class of cases to find that practical steps were being taken to develop the latent powers of these weak brains, and to make useful, though perhaps humble, members of society of those who otherwise might remain mere burdens on it.

Mr. ABEL, B.A., Clerk of Nottingham School Board, remarked upon the assistance which must be rendered by such interesting tabulation as that made by Dr. Warner, towards discovering the extent and causes of defects of development, etc., and methods most calculated to remove them. He referred to the number of cases of dull children of apparently good physical development, and of small weakly children with excellent mental development. He also suggested that the superior physical development of Jewish children might largely be accounted for by the operation of their religious regulations upon the food and personal sanitary conditions of themselves and their parents. He suggested, further, that the number of cases of defective development amongst upper and middle class children could probably be largely accounted for by the survival of weakly children who would die in infancy or early childhood if they had been of the poorer classes. Mr. Abel described the efforts made by the Nottingham School Board, by giving prominence to physical education, to con-

crete experimental teaching, and to classification by attainments rather than age to correct the evils noted by Dr. Warner. He also noted that the Nottingham guardians sought to remove the evils noted by Dr. Warner as exaggerated in the case of institutions by sending union children without uniform to the ordinary Board schools.

Dr. SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancaster) congratulated the Section on the important results of the inquiry on school children, for which a committee was appointed in 1888. No one could have listened to the interesting explanation by Dr. Warner of the statistics of the examination of the first 50,000 children without being impressed with the importance, not only of the educational, but of social, problems upon which the inquiry would throw light. It seemed to him of great importance that the work of the Committee, which Dr. Warner so ably conducted, should go on, and, if possible, upon an extended scale; for it was essential, in order to ensure scientific accuracy in the results, that the inquiry should be carried on not only in London, but throughout the kingdom, on a uniform plan, and co-ordinated by some one who (like Dr. Warner) had acquired experience in the methods which had proved most satisfactory. With regard to practical issues, he rejoiced to find, from Dr. Pope's paper, that the Leicester School Board, like that of London, had instituted special instruction for exceptional children, a plan which had been carried on with success for many years in Norway and many parts of Germany.

The following resolution was proposed by Dr. RAYNER, seconded by Dr. LINDSAY, and carried:

That the Section of Psychology, having heard Dr. Francis Warner's explanation of the report on the mental and physical condition of 50,000 children seen in 106 schools, as presented to the Association, beg to draw the attention of the Council to the desirability of obtaining its publication.

NOTES ON HEALTH RESORTS.

VIII.—ST. MORITZ.

By ST. CLAIR THOMSON, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond.,
Swiss Federal Diploma, St. Moritz Bad.

As a pendant to Dr. Archibald Garrod's notes on Schwalbach in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for July 2nd, a few particulars about St. Moritz may be of interest. Both possess iron acidulous springs, and a decision has sometimes to be made between the two. Schwalbach has the stronger iron source, but at St. Moritz the climate has a more pronounced effect. In many cases it is advisable to commence a "cure" at Schwalbach and complete it in this Alpine valley.

Situation.—The greater part of Switzerland is separated from Italy by a narrow chain of high Alps, traversed by deep and comparatively sunless valleys. The south-eastern corner, however, consists of a huge elevated plateau, fifty miles in diameter. This mass is framed in by mountains sheltering in their midst the Engadine, the highest inhabited valley in Europe. At an elevation of 6,000 feet above the sea the valley, which runs from north-east to south-west, is practically level for fifteen miles, with a width of a mile and a half.

Climate.—The Engadine is fully exposed to the sun, and, instead of being bleak and barren, as most resorts of this altitude would be, trees grow at a higher elevation than elsewhere. In no other part of Europe can grain and vegetables be cultivated at a similar height above the sea. The line of perpetual snow is much higher than elsewhere, and the glaciers, which at Grindelwald descend to 3,140 feet, are not found lower in the Engadine than 6,300 feet above the sea level. The valley affords the beneficent influence of an inland Alpine climate, diminished atmospheric pressure, increased solar radiation, dryness of atmosphere, rapid evaporation, protection from nearly all except south-westerly winds, marked difference between sun and shade and day and night temperatures, and remarkable purity of the air.

The Waters.—The springs at St. Moritz, three in number, are all cold, charged with carbonic acid, and contain iron in the digestible form of carbonate. The old spring is used almost entirely for the baths. The second, or Paracelsusquelle, has been the one generally used for drinking; it contains 0.038 parts of iron per litre, that is, $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of a grains in 35 ounces, and is charged with 1,956 cubic centimetres of car-

bonic acid. The third spring (Surpunt), has only been opened this season. It contains 0.05 parts of iron in a litre, and compared with the last-mentioned spring it has less lime and is not so cold (7° C. instead of 3 to 5½° C.) The amount of carbonic acid is about the same. The Swiss doctors were in the habit of ordering the water to be drunk before breakfast, but for English and American visitors it is customary to take it between 9 and 12 A.M., or between 4 and 5 in the afternoon. The baths are generally taken during the morning. The water is artificially heated to about 90° F., a temperature which in successive baths is gradually lowered to 78° F. To avoid loss of carbonic acid, the heating is done by forcing steam into the water, either after the bath is filled, or (as in the newer baths) before it enters the bath tub. The patient lies down full length in the bath and is covered with boards, leaving only an opening for the head. Thus boxed up, he remains from ten to twenty minutes, and is encouraged to remain quiet in order that the bubbles of gas may develop on the surface of the body. It is this rich supply of carbonic acid which is the only factor in these baths, and it is due to its stimulating action that the temperature of the water can be reduced to a lower degree than could otherwise be borne. The iron is of course, as regards the bathing, of no importance. The newer baths are of faience or copper, instead of wood, and in them the system of covering the patient with boards has been abandoned. There is also a special douche house, masseurs and masseuses, gymnastic instructors, and teachers of Swedish movements.

Indications.—St. Moritz is indicated wherever a strong tonic is desired, if the patient can bear the altitude or the waters, or both. Hence it is suited for chlorosis and anæmia; when convalescence is protracted or after acute disease (typhoid fever, pneumonia, malaria, severe accouchements, etc.); after pleurisy; in tuberculosis in early or arrested stages, and as a prophylactic; in many disorders peculiar to females and dependent on anæmia; in asthma, hay fever, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema; in undeveloping children, especially with enlarged lymphatic glands, and after treatment for post-nasal growths or other forms of nasal obstruction; hysteria, neurasthenia, and nervous prostration; insomnia; and the large class of those who are run down, over-strained, or suffering from various forms of "nerves."

Contra-indications.—The climate would render a visit unadvisable in severe chlorosis, advanced and progressive tuberculosis, malignant tumours, epilepsy, chorea, rheumatism, diabetes, certain forms of albuminuria, aneurysm, fatty degeneration of the heart, and valvular disease, more especially when compensation is giving way. But all such lists are defective, as the question is not one of this or that disease, but of the general condition of the patient, and whether he requires and can support such a strong tonic as Engadine air, especially when taken with St. Moritz water.

Season.—The season lasts from June 15th to September 15th. The course lasts from three to five weeks.

Routes.—From the railway terminus at Loire several roads lead to St. Moritz; they all require about thirteen hours in diligence or private carriage. A less well known but shorter route (as regards driving) is to cross the St. Gothard to Menaggio, which is reached on the afternoon after leaving London, and then to ascend by Chiavenna to the Engadine. This route only requires eight hours in diligence, and Promontogno (at 2,700 feet) affords a pleasant intermediate station. It also avoids going over high passes; the St. Julies is 7,500 feet above the sea, that is, 1,500 feet higher than St. Moritz.

Clothing.—Intending visitors should bring a supply of warm clothing. It may not be required, yet on many evenings a fire is acceptable, and a snow storm in the course of a summer is not unknown.

COMPENSATION TO MEDICAL WITNESSES.

[FROM A LEGAL CORRESPONDENT].

THE question of fees payable to medical men for giving evidence is one of considerable interest both to the profession and to the public. The recipients naturally want to get as large fees as possible, and those who have to pay as naturally wish to keep their expenditure within reasonable limits. Still the medical profession have no reason to complain that individual members of the public are unduly disposed to economy; where they have to avail themselves of skilled testimony, they are prepared to pay an adequate remuneration for it. It is well recognised in all branches of life, that trained intellects cannot be expected to work without being paid by

those who require their assistance; and the amount of the payment is in proportion to the professional eminence of the persons consulted. When a man brings an action against a railway company or a public body, involving questions of medical or engineering skill or any other scientific knowledge, it is almost a matter of course that both sides shall employ skilled scientific witnesses. Their services are of course bespoken before the case comes on for trial, and the scale of remuneration for their assistance has at the same time been arranged, usually to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. But when the litigation is not between individuals or corporations, but between the Crown as representing the community and an individual accused of crime, the possibility of making a satisfactory bargain seldom exists. Fees to all persons concerned in the conduct of an ordinary criminal prosecution are regulated by a scale, which was framed many years ago, and is distinguished more for the items which are altogether omitted than for the adequacy of the allowances for which it provides. For instance, jurymen get nothing for their services, not even their travelling expenses—ordinary witnesses are paid for their time at a rate which an artisan nowadays would refuse, and are allowed for their travelling and lodging expenses an amount notoriously less than the actual outlay necessary to keep them in the assize town—professional men are generally treated as ordinary witnesses—but lawyers and medical men may be remunerated for their time at the rate of a guinea a day, though their lodging allowance is no better than that provided for others, namely, 2s. 6d. a night. Witnesses called on behalf of a prisoner are remunerated according to the same scale as those called on behalf of the Crown, except where they may have made a private bargain for better terms. Such cases are, of course, rare, for their services are not often required on behalf of wealthy defendants. The only exceptions to the above inadequate payments are to be found in the comparatively few cases where the prosecution is conducted by the Treasury instead of by the county. When the Treasury intervenes, the fees paid, we believe, are better. We have, for instance, never heard that the medical specialists in insanity, who are consulted on the question of a murderer being irresponsible for his acts, complain of being badly paid for their work. If the Treasury would undertake the payment of all professional witnesses who are necessarily called in criminal cases, and would pay them on the same scale as those who are called in the few cases where the Treasury prosecutes, the medical profession would have much less ground for complaint than they have at present. But it is useless to hope for this. The majority of criminal prosecutions are pretty sure to be conducted on a system more or less similar to that now in force. All that can be expected is that the present scale of costs shall be revised, and settled on a more liberal basis. If the public once realised that individuals now are frequently not only put to considerable trouble, but are also actually out of pocket, when discharging their duties to society, the public will demand a change. Members of the medical profession more frequently than any other body are sufferers from the present state of things, and therefore are more than anyone else interested in getting it altered. The more frequently and the more effectively they can direct attention to the injustice which prevails, the sooner will the desired change be effected. If those who know and feel the grievance will not bestir themselves, no alteration can be expected.

SANITARY MATTERS IN SPAIN.

SOME time ago the French Government commissioned Dr. C. Delvaile to visit Spain, and report upon its sanitary condition and administration. The outcome of this enterprise is a report of 124 pages, full of interesting information. Upon the whole, the picture is a much more favourable one than might have been expected; and as Professor Brouardel says in an introductory note, Spain is in certain respects in advance of other countries. Dr. Delvaile traces in outline the recent history of each branch of the public sanitary services, and the successive steps of legislation up to the present time. The organisation and working of each branch are described at some length, including not only the sanitary government of provinces, towns, and ports, but also the provision of hospitals and asylums of all kinds, and the system for the relief