

tomed to it, and pass it by as merely a little closeness. But in truth it arises largely from the presence of the most fatal and insidious gases, which come directly from the sewers.

Professor Tyndall, in a letter to the *London Times*, speaking particularly of typhoid fever, which annually infects 150,000 of the population of the city, says: "The seat of the disease "being the intestine, with well appointed water-closets, it is "not in the sick room that the mischief is done, but often at a "distance from the sick room, through the agency of the sewer, "which Dr. Budd graphically describes as a direct continuation "of the diseased intestine. Hence the mystic power of sewer "gas." We "trap" the connections between our houses and the sewers and fancy ourselves secure; but, indeed, they are but traps to deceive us.

Mr. Baldwin Latham, one of the most widely known authorities on sanitary engineering in Britain, speaks as follows about "traps": "All 'traps' are now formed either on the "water-trap or valve-trap principle, or a combination of the two. "All water-traps are liable to become untrapped, by running "full bore and acting as a syphon proper, the induced current "creates a vacuum below the 'trap,' air follows the flowing "water and drives or sucks out sufficient water from the trap "to leave the aperture unsealed. Another and not uncommon "cause of the failure of a trap is the entry of some substance "which will act as a syphon and drains every drop of water out, "leaving it unsealed. The traps of sinks are very apt to become "untrapped, in consequence of a thread or two of a dish-cloth "entering and hanging partly in the water of the trap and partly "down the drain, when it acts as a syphon and drains the trap. "Valve traps are even more defective still, for it must not be "forgotten that as traps are used with the sole intention of "preventing the back passage of sewer gas from our sewers, as "water flows down, air by the same means flows up."

Neither is it effective to have several successive traps on one line of pipe, for in this case the lower traps will frequently un-trap the upper ones. Another very common way by which