

to the *Chicago Sanitary News*, "The crop of 1883 paid 8 per cent on the investment; the crop of 1884 was larger, but the prices prevailing were somewhat lower. There is no question about the success of this farm, and its history is a valuable one for the numerous cities now considering the question as to how to get rid of sewage."

AT A NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE meeting recently, in a discussion on the cholera epidemic at Suspension Bridge, in 1854, and its lessons, Dr. A. L. Loomis, of New York, said he was "of the impression that the specific poison of cholera, like that of typhoid fever, must undergo changes after leaving the human system before it would become able to impart cholera to the healthy person. He did not believe that cholera could be developed spontaneously but that its native place was Bengal, from where all epidemics in different parts of the world could trace their origin." This seems to be in accordance with the views, for the most part, of other authorities on the question. It may be possible, however, that the changes in the specific poison may take place, in favorable conditions, while in the alimentary canal, as well as, at other times, outside the body; as, for example, when there are in the canal accumulations of fermenting fecal matter.

IN REFERENCE TO CONTAGIONS there is evidently a great deal yet to be learned. While Klien has been dining off a dish of raw cholera bacilli, experiments at the Berlin Hygienic Laboratory have proved, it appears, that these microbes when injected into the duodenum of animals give rise to unmistakable symptoms of cholera and death of the animals, as detailed on another page. Furthermore, the experiments of Drs. Maurin and Lange, referred to in the October number of this JOURNAL, have demonstrated that the bacilli are innocuous as bacilli, but that when they find a suitable soil they develop a mucus or mould which these experiments regard as the true cholera poison. If all this be considered together, it might be inferred that in certain conditions of the stomach and bowels the bacilli might be swallowed with impunity—they might be digested, or, even escaping destruction in this way, fail to find suitable soil for development of the real

poison or mucus; while in certain other conditions of the alimentary canal they might meet with conditions favourable for such development, and so produce the symptoms of the disease. If the practice of swallowing the bacilli were to become common, possibly all might not fare so well as did Klien. When we consider the marvellous characteristics of these lowest forms of life, and what effect the minutest chemical change may have upon them, as referred to by Prof. Tyndall (page 57) we need not be surprised at these seemingly conflicting results of experiments.

AT THE CHOLERA CONFERENCE held last month in Washington, D. C., Canada was represented by Dr. Montizambert, quarantine officer of Grosse Isle; Ontario, by Dr. Covern-ton, Chairman Provincial board of Health; and Toronto City, by the city health officer. The meeting was a representative one, all the State Boards, and about seventy-five of the City Boards being represented. Three committees were appointed: one on *Federal legislation*, one on *State action*, of which Dr. Covern-ton, of Toronto, was a member, and a third on *Municipal action*. The principal work of the first committee was that of framing a bill for the reorganization of the National Board of Health, and to take steps to prevent vessels from infected ports landing, unless previously fumigated and disinfected. The report of this Committee was adopted and the Committee was instructed to confer with the Public Health Committee of Congress. The draft of a bill was read, and the members of the Public Health Committee of Congress expressed themselves as in harmony with the principles of it. The Committee on State Action reported favorably as to harmonious action among several States of the Union in reference to the cholera. The Committee on Municipal Action submitted a report containing recommendations which have been made over and over again in this JOURNAL.

INCREASED INTEREST IN HYGIENE, public and private, seems to be universal in all parts of the civilized world. The foremost men everywhere are showing their interest in the promotion of health, and papers and periodicals of all sorts devote a portion of their space to the education of the people in