

THE HOME OF CHOLERA.

Koch, in a late address on cholera (*Med. Press and Cir.—Detroit Lancet*) says that the only focus of cholera is the Ganges Delta of India. The upper portion of the delta is inhabited, but the base comprising an area of seven thousand five hundred square miles, is uninhabitable. In it the great streams, Ganges and Brahmaputra, lose themselves in a network of water courses, in which, with the ebb and flow of the tide, the sea water mixed with the river outflow, moves backward and forward and at flood tide covers wide reaches of the triangle.

A rank vegetation and rich fauna have developed in this uninhabited country, inaccessible to human beings, because of the inundations, tigers and pestilential fevers which attack all who attempt to stay long in this region. The enormous mass of organic matter always wet, and always hot as a tropical sun can make it, furnishes all the conditions for the rank development of micro-organisms. When under these conditions it is remembered that enormous quantities of dejecta are being constantly carried into this putrefying mass, nothing seems to be wanting to promote the worst of organic growths.

If once the cholera germs be cast into this cesspool, it is not clear how the development of cholera in those who live adjacent to it can be avoided.

It must also be remembered that each of the houses in the country bordering this cesspool, can only be constructed by digging a deep hole from which sufficient earth shall be obtained to make a foundation sufficiently above the marsh to avoid inundation. These holes become filled with water. From them the natives get water; in them they wash, and into them flows more or less of their dejecta.

As the holes have been filled up, and a pure water supply afforded, so has cholera disappeared. As a proof of this, in addition to other facts he gives the history of Calcutta. The fort is not sewered, and cannot be. Formerly the garrison was attacked by cholera every year. But in 1860 attention was paid to the water supply, and from that date cholera has disappeared from the fort. All other conditions remain exactly the same. The only difference was in the water. As this has continued for nearly a quarter of a century, it is fair to believe that the soldiers

in the fort took the cholera from their drinking water.

The spread of cholera by the millions of pilgrims who journey to Mecca, drinking and defecating and washing in the same pools, is familiar to all, but it still further serves to establish the author's proposition.

THE TORONTO SANITARY ASSOCIATION, we are pleased to learn, seems to be in a flourishing condition. At the regular monthly meeting in November, in the lecture room at the school of Technology, Mr. Henry Langley, the president, occupied the chair. Mr. Alan McDougall, C. E., &c., secretary, announced that the membership was then 90, a great increase since its organization 5 or 6 weeks before. A number of new members were elected. Dr. Ellis delivered a lecture on "Drinking water"—in the course of which he said, the water of the Ottawa was comparatively pure, having only about four or five grains of mineral to the gallon. The Thames contained about fifteen grains. The St. Lawrence contained from ten to twelve grains. In some lakes there were only four or five grains to the gallon, while in lake Ontario the water contained nine grains to the gallon. The matter consisted of sulphates, carbonates, and chlorides of lime, magnesia and sodium and other substances.

SQUALID DWELLINGS AND INTemperance.—Repeatedly and years ago has this JOURNAL urged that the wretched dwellings of the poor lead to intemperance. By neglecting the great industrial masses, the more refined, the educated and the well to do are dragged down in a measure and suffer, often in health, often in morals, and hence it becomes directly to the interests of these latter to help the poor. At the late meeting at St. Louis of the American Public Health Association, a paper on the squalid dwellings of poor, was contributed by Dr. Chas. W. Chancellor, secretary of the State Board of health of Maryland. He said the question had a most important bearing upon the public health. It was most important that the public should know the existing state of things and apprehend the hazard and risk which was involved by their continuance. If an investigation