

18.62 per cent. In a series of 73 cases analyzed by Austin Flint, the mortality was about 24 per cent. More recent statistics show a far greater percentage of recoveries. In the Plymouth epidemic 1,104 persons were attacked, of whom 114, or 10.3 per cent. died. It may, therefore, for our present purposes, be safe to place the mortality at 10 per cent. This being so, it would indicate that in the five weeks already referred to the actual number of cases of typhoid in Brooklyn was 320, of which only 51 were reported. The neglect of physicians to report typhoid fever cases to the Department of Health is, we believe, based on the assumption that such reports are not required, but this is an error. Section 123 of the Sanitary Ordinances requires that all contagious diseases be reported within twenty-four hours, and Section 5 declares "that the phrase contagious disease shall be held to include \* \* \* \* cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, diphtheria, ship or typhus, typhoid, etc." The Department of Health, in a circular letter to the profession, requests that physicians report promptly cases of typhoid, stating that beyond leaving at the house where cases occur instructions as to the disinfection of stools and the taking of other sanitary precautions, it is not the purpose of the department to interfere, as it is not considered that isolation or exclusion from school is called for. Of course, the "isolation" here referred to is not that of the patient, but of other members of the household.

The circular which is left at each house where typhoid exists deals with matters so essential to the preservation of the public health that we here quote it in full :

Typhoid fever is an infectious disease which is usually communicated from person to person by means of substances used for food and drink, which have become contaminated by the discharges from the bowels of those having the disease. It is, therefore, largely preventable by proper measures of cleanliness and disinfection.

During the prevalence of typhoid fever it is a wise precaution to boil all the water used for drinking or for washing dishes or cooking utensils. A patient having typhoid fever should be isolated from the rest of the family, preferably on the top floor, and nursed, as far as possible, by one or two persons. It is best to have a rubber sheet over the mattress. The dishes, knives, forks, spoons, underclothing, and other articles used by the patient should not be used by any one else, and should not be removed from the room until they have been disinfected. This can be done by placing them for one hour in a solution of carbolic acid, six ounces of the acid to one gallon of water, and then boiling them in water. The manner of disposing of the discharges from the bowels is of the utmost importance. In the vessel receiving the discharge there should be a quantity of good chloride of lime, and after the discharge is received it should be covered with at least a quart of a solution of chloride of lime, in the proportion of six ounces of the chloride of lime to one gallon of water. It should be allowed to stand for 1½ hours, and be thoroughly mixed, before being thrown into the closet. The hands of those caring for the sick, and the portions of the patient's body that have become soiled with the discharges should be frequently disinfected with a carbolized solution. The carbolic solution above described can be diluted with water one-half for this purpose.

After death or recovery, woolen blankets, woolen garments, bedding, and carpets can, if desired, be referred to the Department of Health for disinfection by steam, free of cost.

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Commissioner.

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Boiled potatoes are much slower to digest than roasted or baked, the former requiring 3½ hours, and the latter from 2 to 2½.