

to this, it is desirable to provide a highly volatile disinfectant, which shall penetrate to every nook and corner of the apartment; and for this purpose there is nothing better than *carbolic acid*. Little wooden boxes should be placed in different parts of the room, containing the carbolic acid, their lids being fitted with a perforated zinc plate, through which the vapors may escape. Clothes, bedding, etc., which have been soiled with infecting discharges, if incapable of being washed, may be exposed in an oven, for two or three hours, to a heat of 212° Fahrenheit. Linen and other things which can be washed should be first *boiled* in water for two or three hours, and then soaked for some time in water containing one-fiftieth part of Condyl's *red* disinfecting solution.* The discharges of patients should always, when this is practicable, be received in a vessel containing water strongly impregnated with Condyl's red fluid. Drains and closets which smell badly should be purified by frequently throwing down them Condyl's fluid, diluted with twenty or thirty parts of water. And where it becomes necessary, as a precautionary measure, to empty cesspools or privies, it is important to disinfect the sewage matters by the free use of Condyl's solution, and the air by means of carbolic acid, or by burning sulphur; the disinfectant process being kept up as long as the slightest sewage smell is perceptible"

With the exceptions we have mentioned, we heartily endorse the work, and have no doubt but that a careful perusal by the public would stir them to become active workers for sanitary reform.

The Common Nature of Epidemics, and their Relation to Climate and Civilization; also, Remarks on Contagion and Quarantine, from writings and official reports. By SOUTHWOOD SMITH, M.D.; edited by T. BAKER, Esq. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

Dr. Southwood Smith was evidently an enthusiast in the matter of sanitary reform, and left behind him the material from which this very readable book is compiled. Its only fault is that it lacks that conciseness and connectiveness which it doubtless would have had, if it had been prepared for publication by the author's own hands. The editor has, however, done his task well. As will be observed from the extract we give below, cleanliness, above all things, is enjoined to prevent the

* Condyl's fluid is solution of permanganate of potash in water. A good disinfecting liquid can be made by dissolving one drachm of the permanganate of potash in a quart of water. The salt in question is undoubtedly the best known disinfectant for nearly all purposes.—AM. ED.