

disinfected, and not permit them to go into any accumulation of excreta from which they may eventually return to plague the human race.

It had been thought that typhoid fever has sometimes been caused by breathing in the ferment given off from decomposing organic matter ; and diarrhoeal diseases have been known to be caused in a similar manner, although it has not been demonstrated that the ferment was itself inhaled. Generally we have a right to assume however, from the evidence of observed facts, that wherever we find the odors of decomposition in connection with organic matter, there also are the special ferments of that particular decomposition, unless unusual circumstances have caused a separation ; for the bacteria of decomposition are exceedingly minute, and their germs appear constantly to float in the air of foul places. The health officer should be required to search out all such places, and to abate any such nuisances. By means of lectures and circulars, and otherwise, he should interest all classes as to the best means of preventing the disease. If he prevents typhoid fever, he will prevent about five per cent. of all the deaths which now occur from all causes ; and he will save his city from a great waste of life and money.

SMALL-POX.

Small-pox is now usually of little consequence, as it does not cause many deaths in intelligent communities, and its prevention is easy by timely vaccination and revaccination. But it is worth while to understand that its cause probably does not usually enter the body as does that of typhoid fever—by the mouth—but the special ferment is generally inhaled with the air we breathe. And the special ferment is reproduced on the outer surface of the patient. It is therefore important to isolate persons who have small-pox, and to destroy or disinfect not only the discharges, but everything which has been in a room with a person sick with that disorder. An active health organization in a city where people are generally intelligent, should, in this enlightened age, be ashamed to have an epidemic of small-pox. I am informed that in one city in this state, where there is a paper-mill, seldom a year passes that a case of small-pox does not occur, but the intelligent health officer generally restricts it to the first case, and has never had more than two or three cases in the outbreak.