

IN THE Forum of last month, Dr. Cyrus Edson, medical officer of New York city, in an article on "Protection from Epidemics" says: Let us now consider the means by which we may prevent and destroy the causes that produce zymotic disease. The first effort of the sanitarian is to compel people who are gathered together in cities and towns to live in a way conducive to health; to construct their dwellings so that they shall be well ventilated; to prevent filth from accumulating; to regulate noisome industries; above all, to protect the food and water supplies. To effect all this, an elaborate system of police has been devised which enforces the laws relating to health matters. But notwithstanding all precautions that can be taken, zymotic or filth diseases will creep in and destroy life. These diseases can be kept under control only by isolation of the patients, and by thorough disinfection of all rooms, clothing, etc., infected by them. In the case of small-pox, we have an additional safeguard in vaccination.

SULPHUR fumigation, notwithstanding some opposition, on the ground of inefficacy, is still highly recommended by the best authorities as the best disinfectant after steam for rooms, when properly done. It has certainly a long history to back it up.

IN STEAM disinfection an authority says: For the steam to thoroughly penetrate feather beds, hair mattresses and upholstered furniture, it should be kept up from two to three hours. Where there is nothing more compact than carpets and woolen clothing, from twenty minutes to half an hour is sufficient.

THE "Senseless Panic Over Leprosy" is the title of an editorial in N. Y. Medical Journal, (Aug. 2nd) "To deprive an individual of his liberty is a very serious matter, and, in view of the fact that contagious diseases of far greater danger to public health than leprosy are treated at the domicile, there seems to be no good reason for arbitrary action."

BUT FEW know, still fewer give heed to, the fact that, the quantity of air used daily by an adult is *in volume*, about 3,000 times, and in *weight*, 4 times, as much as that of other food, solid and liquid combined.

The meeting of the American Public Health Association for this year will be held in Charleston, S. C., Dec. 16-20.

The next International Congress of Hygiene will be held in London, next year. April 24th is the date fixed for its opening.

The Sanitary Inspector (Maine) says: In warm weather, "water, water!" is often the meaning of the baby's cry, when it is mis-translated milk or other food.

NOTES ON CURRENT LITERATURE.

"AN AMERICAN GIRL IN LONDON," now being published in the Illustrated News of the World (Am. edition Illust. London News—5th Ave. and 16th sts., New York) is by Miss Sara Duncan (Garth Grafton), who spent the greater part of the Parliamentary session of '88 in Ottawa as special correspondent for the Montreal Star. Her writings are well known throughout Canada and she is rapidly winning a reputation in England.

DR. ANDREW D. WHITE will take up "The Fall of Man" in the next of his Warfare of Science papers, in the September Popular Science Monthly. The belief that man was a perfect being when he first appeared upon earth, is found in both classical and Hebrew mythology. Dr. White attempts to show how scientific evidence has gradually forced on the conclusion that man had no fall, but that, from low beginnings in the distant past he has been continuously rising;—one of the strongest papers in the series.

AT Gen'l Fremont's death he had just been engaged on the manuscript of a paper for the Century's forthcoming series on the California Gold Hunters. It was to be entitled "Finding Paths to California." The work will be continued by Mrs. Fremont. A first draft of the article had been made, and the subject had been so recently and closely discussed by General and Mrs. Fremont that she will have no trouble in completing the manuscript. A fine portrait of General Fremont will appear in the September Century with portraits of Stockton, "Duke" Gwin, and others, in an article giving account of "How California Came into the Union."

SIX YEARS IN CENTRAL AFRICA, a stirring narrative of personal adventure in the wilds of that great lone land, by one of Stanley's pioneer officers, began in the April St. Nicholas.