

1st January 1881, and circulars are being issued by the Secretary of State inviting delegates from powers having jurisdiction of ports likely to be infected with cholera or yellow fever, to devise means for preventing the spread of which diseases is, it appears, to be the chief object of the convention.

**NEW CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.**—The municipal authorities of Medford, Massachusetts, have voted that the names of all persons who have been convicted of drunkenness during the past six months, and all persons convicted thereof in the future, shall be posted in every licensed place, and the proprietors notified not to sell liquor to them under penalty of revocation of license.

**POISONOUS WALL-PAPER.**—The *Medical Times and Gazette* recently records the case of a child who was attacked with serious illness. The symptoms indicated poisoning by arsenic. The paper on the nursery walls was examined by an analyst, and found to be "unfit for use." It was heavily loaded with arsenic, which the medical attendant suspected. It is stated that the child "will probably escape with its life, but with impaired health and constitution."

**AN INSTANCE** in which tight lacing was the direct cause of death is reported in the *Medical Times and Gazette*. A young woman, 19 years of age, died suddenly. She had been out, and on returning became suddenly ill, and died in a few minutes. A *post-mortem* was made, and the woman's waist was found to be exceedingly small. One of the ventricles of the heart was so small as to impede the circulation.

**HOW TO GO UP-STAIRS EASILY.**—Elderly or delicate persons should never hurry up-stairs. A correspondent tells the *Evening Post* how to climb stairs without fatigue. Always go up, he says, while inspiring or drawing in the air; never while expiring. At the first step begin to inspire; at the fourth or fifth step, stop long enough to respire; and to begin inspiring before starting again. By this means the fatigue is reduced to a minimum.

**STEAM BOILER EXPLOSIONS.**—In Manchester (Eng.) there is a Steam Users Association, established not for profit, but for the public good, to prevent the sacrifice of human life from steam boiler explosions, and it appears that by the periodical inspection adopted its members enjoy practical immunity from explosions. After noticing the large number of explosions and deaths thereby in the country the *Medical Times and Gazette* says, such a result is a strong recommendation in favour of compulsory inspection under Government authority by competent persons duly authorised and registered.

**THE BEARING-REIN ON HORSES.**—The increasing disuse by medical men of the bearing-rein is very satisfactory, says the *Medical Times and Gazette*, London Eng., and may be furthered by the following declaration on the subject, to which the signatures of nearly six hundred veterinary surgeons in different parts of the country are appended:—"We, the undersigned veterinary surgeons, are of opinion that the use of the bearing-rein, when tightly applied, is painful and irritating to horses, is directly or indirectly productive of disease when regularly worn, and by its mechanical action greatly hinders horses from employing their full strength. For the above reasons, on the plea of utility as of humanity, its use should be discontinued."

**THE OPIUM HABIT.**—An antidote, and apparently a very successful one, has been found in the fluid extract of cocoa. The opium is withdrawn and the cocoa given instead.

**FLORICULTURE.**—A correspondent writes from Cannington and says he thinks a page or two devoted to Floriculture—the plants and shrubs best adapted to indoor and garden culture, their influence on health &c., would be appreciated by the many readers of the Journal. We are much obliged for the suggestion and shall endeavor to act upon it, in a limited way, at least. Below is an item on flowers and ozone touching this subject.

**FLOWERS AND OZONE.**—Investigations on the action of Flowers in the Production of Atmospheric Ozone, natures great disinfectant, demonstrate that the disciples of Empedocles were not in error when they planted aromatic and balsamic herbs as preventives of pestilence. Herodian has recorded that "in a plague which devastated Italy in the second century, strangers crowding into Rome were directed by the physicians to retreat to Laurentum, now San Lorenzo, that, by a cooler atmosphere, and by the odour of laurel, they might escape the danger of infection." Mantegazza states that a large quantity of Ozone is discharged by odoriferous flowers, but that flowers destitute of perfume do not produce it. He found that in some plants Ozone is only developed by the direct rays of the sun, whilst in others the action, if commenced in solar light, continues in darkness. Cherry-laurel, clove, lavender, mint, lemon, fennel, etc., are plants which develop Ozone largely on exposure to the sun's rays. Amongst flowers, the narcissus, heliotrope, hyacinth and mignonette, are conspicuous.