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SOME OF THE DANGERS OF EXHIBITION TIMES.

THE "Exhibition" season is at hand, when thousands of people will flock to the cities in which the various exhibitions are held, sojourn there for a few days and then flit back to their homes again. This sort of thing appears to have become a necessary part of human existence, and we certainly should not like to write anything which would detract from the pleasures annually derived by the masses of the population from visiting the exhibitions. But the amount of disease of one kind or another which is disseminated or scattered about by the flocking and flitting of these thousands of people is probably not inconsiderable, but worth our attention, with the view of preventing it. Many special cases of infectious disease have been reported in this Journal from time to time in which the infections from which they originated had been carried by clothing from distant places, thus making new centres of disease, and sometimes with fatal results. Such cases not infrequently occur, as everybody knows. True, the recent regulations which require cases of diseases of this class to be reported to the health authorities, in order that isolation, &c., may be practiced, have lessened the danger from spreading in this way. But these regulations are but imperfectly carried out, and with the incomplete half alive provisions for stamping out outbreaks of infectious diseases—measles, diphtheria, scarlet and typhoid fevers, &c., these exist more commonly throughout the country districts than in cities, and it seems hardly possible that infective germs of the same will not, in many instances, be conveyed to the cities visited. In the cities there is receptive soil on every hand, both

within human bodies and outside of them, for the development and multiplication of the conveyed germs. Unless a large number of cases of disease were to develop however in this way and increase the mortality to a marked degree, public attention would not be turned to this special source of outbreak of disease, and therefore many cases might annually occur which would be known of only by those directly affected. Close observation by the health officials of the cities, we have no doubt, would reveal a number of new outbreaks of infection from a rural source during the few weeks following the exhibitions, which could be accounted for in the way above indicated. Again, on the other hand, such infections are quite as likely, if not more so, to be carried in like manner from the cities to the rural districts. People from the country visiting the city usually lodge in strange places. Sometimes one may be placed in a room in which there has been a case of infectious disease, and which has not been properly disinfected, and the owner of which is either ignorant or disregarding of the serious consequences which might befall another from lodging in the room. And so scarlet fever or measles, or something worse, may be carried back to some innocent children in the country. We simply desire, as it is the duty of this JOURNAL, to make known the danger and to suggest forethought and care on the part of all concerned, both in country and town. Both urban and rural health officers, and the public too, would do well to be particularly on their guard for many weeks after Exhibition time, as well as a little before and during that time.