

## FLOODS AND THEIR EFFECTS.

After the London flood last year, the editor of this JOURNAL, believing it would have a good effect upon the public health in the locality (though many were in terror of an opposite effect, and there was a great deal of anxiety and unnecessary alarm) wrote to a prominent physician in that city and predicted an improvement in the health rather than the reverse. We have not learned of any particular improvement following the wash out, or bath, but no bad effects have followed, it appears. Something may be due to the efforts to prevent any ill effects but it can hardly be doubted that the "washing" would promote the public health.

On the recent flood in Cincinnati, a recent number of the *Scientific American* has the following: For the second time it has been proved in Cincinnati that a flood, instead of being followed by sickness, prepares the way for a period of unusual healthfulness. It was so after the flood of last year, and is so now. A prominent physician says that the flood cleaned and purified that part of the city which has always been the starting place for all the diseases which have prevailed. The flooding of the lower stories of filthy buildings, the moving of household goods to other parts of the city and the moving of them back again, and the general cleansing which the flood made necessary seem to have destroyed the lurking germs of disease. In the bottoms, where there is usually more or less of diphtheria, scarlet fever, malaria, etc., at this time of year, there is now hardly a case of sickness reported. In other words, the human pig sties have been washed out. The doctors are complaining that they have nothing to do.

We will be glad if some of our London readers will endeavor to learn what were the actual effects, permanent, of the flood there, and communicate the result to this Journal.

## Matters Recent and Current.

RECENT RESEARCHES ON MICRO-ORGANISMS. — The occurrence of micro-organisms in the living tissues of animal bodies has been made the subject of investigation by Dr. Hauser, of Erlangen *Par die*. By separating small slices of various organs from freshly-killed animals, and keeping them free from any possible external contamination, he found that in 72 per cent, of his cases, even after three weeks' "cultivation" in a warm and moist air, no kind of micro-organism whatever had become developed. In a few instances bacteria appeared, but these were attributed to accidental defects in the method of isolation. The influence of various gases upon the development and growth of micro-organisms was also investigated. Their influence was alike negative where no bacteria were present, but in other cases it appeared that the growth was distinctly hindered by carbonic acid gas, and as distinctly favoured by oxygen.

THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, Ottawa, has very wisely refused to allow the importation from the United States of tea dust. An analysis shows the ingredients to be deleterious to the public health.

OPIUM-SMOKING, UNITED STATES.—MR. Robbins, of New York, in his report for 1883, calls attention to the fact that, while the importation of crude opium for medicinal purposes has varied but little, the increase in the importation of opium manufactured for smoking purposes, has been enormous, from 106,221 lbs. in 1882, to 298,133 in 1883.

THE TENTH UNITED STATES CENSUS, Gives some interesting and instructive facts relative to the increase of insanity in that country. The total number of insane in 1870 was estimated at 37,442, as against 91,997 in 1880, an apparent increase of over 100 per cent; one insane person to every 543 of the population.

"CULTIVATED" VACCINE LYMPH, it seems is likely to take the place of "Animal vaccine." Dr. Ouest (*Cent-*