

have often spread from them to more favored residences, and I have annually been called to attend children, often of different families, who have inhabited them at different times. I have similarly, in the old homesteads, attended grandchildren on summer vacation who have arrived in perfect health.

"I am persuaded that the absence under these buildings of dry air and sunlight, which so much favors fungoid growth, is the principal cause of the occurrence of the disease, for we have a large tract at the mouth of the Trent, formerly covered by water, now filled in with sawdust to the depth of many feet, on which rows of workmen's cottages for the employees of the extensive sawmills have been erected either on piles or substantial stone foundations with large ventilators in which it rarely occurs. It therefore appears, from local observations, that what promotes fungoid growth favors the incidence and persistence of diphtheria."

This JOURNAL is entirely in accord with the above view as to conditions favorable to this disease, as readers of it must know and Dr. McClelland has brought to notice

a very important subject, indeed, which should receive attention at the hands of health boards, but instead of destroying "these once happy homes" mentioned by the doctor, the JOURNAL (the editor of which has on many occasions been called upon to examine, and give an opinion upon the best means of improving, houses of a similar character) would recommend that, when of much value they may be raised well up from the ground and all decayed parts about the foundation be carefully removed and renewed; that the ground under and around be well underdrained and provision made for ventilating well all parts beneath the rooms, whether for cellar or not. And in this connection we would repeat that the construction and use of cellars should be forbidden by statute unless of entirely different construction from ninety-nine in every one hundred now in common use,—that is, unless they be made of practically imperishable material throughout, such as stone and cement, well lighted and ventilated constantly, and the ground for a yard or more beneath the cemented floor thoroughly drained.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

A SANITARY WASH-HOUSE.

Albert Shaw has a most suggestive paper in the March Century entitled "Glasgow; a Municipal Study," from which we quote the following: Not the least important feature of the health department's work in Glasgow is the Sanitary Wash-house. A similar establishment should be a part of the municipal economy of every large town. In 1864 the authorities found it necessary to superintend the disinfection of dwellings, and a small temporary wash-house was opened, with a few tubs for the cleansing of apparel, etc., removed from infected houses. For a time after the acquisition of Belvidere a part of the laundry of the hospital was used for the purpose of a general sanitary wash-house. But larger quarters being needed, a separate establishment was built

and opened in 1883, its cost being about \$50,000. This place is so admirable in its system and mechanical appointments that I am again tempted to digress with a technical description. The place is in constant communication with sanitary headquarters, and its collecting waggons are on the road early every morning. The larger part of the articles removed for disinfection and cleansing must be returned on the same day, to meet the necessities of poor families. I visited the house on a day when 1,800 pieces, from 25 different families had come in. In 1887, 6,700 washings, aggregating 380,000 pieces, were done. The quantity, of course, varies from year to year with the amount of infectious disease in the city. The establishment has a crematory, to which all household articles whatsoever that are to be