

THE  
SANITARY JOURNAL.  
DEVOTED TO  
PUBLIC HEALTH.

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VOL. III.]

DECEMBER, 1878.

[No. 10.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREADING OF  
INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

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(From the Sanitary Record, concluded.)

If isolation can be accomplished without removal it should be in a room situated at the top of the house, the staircase to which should only be used by those tending the sick person. There should be access to a water-closet, if such things are in use, which should only be resorted to by the nurses and for the disposal of the patient's excreta. The windows in the room should be open top and bottom ; there should be an unclosed fire-place in it, so that currents of air may circulate freely, and a proper degree of warmth be obtainable at all times. A free ventilation provides a certain means for diminishing dangers ; dilution of air brings oxidisation of the floating particles or infectious matter, and dwarfs their growth, for they cannot increase and multiply without material to assimilate to themselves. Albuminoid ammonia is their pabulum.

If water containing albuminoid ammonia and other ammoniacal compounds is passed through a few feet of earth, the noisome elements which would, under some circumstances, spread disease are changed into nitrates and nitrites, and become perfectly harmless. They are oxidised by contact with the oxygen contained in the earth, and their noisomeness is destroyed. A similar result arises with germs of mischief when circulating in the air ; the ammonia is removed, ozone acts upon the albumen, and dilution, if carried out to a sufficient extent, is destruction.

All curtains, carpets, and unnecessary articles of furniture should be removed from the room which is occupied by the patient, and no direct intercourse be kept up between the inmates and the rest of the house. A sheet should be hung up outside the door of the room, and, if possible, a second sheet a few feet from the first, so that when one is moved aside the other should be closed. These sheets should be kept quite damp by having them frequently