

and that, even admitting that all forms of continued fever are not equally infectious, it is much better to err on the side of excessive caution, and to prohibit unnecessary communication between the healthy and the sick, even in cases of simple continued fever, than to run the risk of allowing an apparently mild type of the affection to develope, as it appears often to do, into a virulent one, by transference into more congenial soil.'—*Sanitary Record*.

THE DANGER IN KEROSENE OIL.

It is simply to be set down to good fortune if one who has employed the light oils for household purposes has escaped injury, since no amount of care can avail against the inevitable result which must follow one accident. It is easy to understand how persons ignorant of the highly dangerous character of the light petroleums may unknowingly make use of them in the manner above named; but it is really a matter of concern and surprise that so many, even of those who are thoroughly aware of the nature of the incendiary they are introducing into their households, are, nevertheless, thoughtless or indifferent enough to continue the suicidal practice—for no term can be too strong to properly characterize the fearful nature of the risk one is constantly running while employing these oils in the household.

There seems to exist a notion that the explosive or inflammable properties of the light petroleums can be effectually neutralized by adding various substances to them. The Patent Office records for the past few years contain numbers of claims for such mixtures of naphtha or gas'oline, with a great variety of substances too numerous to mention.

Whether or not the inventors of these recipes really have faith in the claims they present is a matter of small importance; but the deceptive illustrations which they are able to offer in vindication of their assertions, no less than the attractive names which they attach to their incendiary mixtures, are the sources of many distressing calamities.

There is one simple and, for practical purposes, satisfactory method of determining the character of all such mixtures, and which applies equally as well to the common oils. Let a few drops be poured into a saucer and apply a match; if the material burns, reject it as unsafe. The fact that the material can be set on fire at