derived from the sewage itself. (3) The micro-organisms in sewer air come entirely, or nearly so, from the outside, and are not derived, or only in relatively small numbers, from the sewer itself. This is proved by the following faets: First, the average number of micro-organisms in sewer air was less than in outside air at the same time, viz., about 9 in the former to 16 in the latter. Second, the number increased with the efficiency of the ventilation. *Third*, the average proportion of moulds to bacteria in sewer air was almost exactly the same as in outside air at the same time, whereas one would expect the proportion to be very different were the outside air not the source from which they were derived, seeing that such a difference has been proved to exist in the air of houses, schools, etc. Fourth, the naked eye appearance of the colonies from sewer air is similar to that of those from ordinary air. Fifth, the state of filthiness of a sewer seems to have no perceptible effect on the number of micro-organisms. Sixth, the view that the micro-organisms in sewer air chiefly come from outside is in perfect agreement with what is known as to the distribution of bacteria in the air. Seventh, results obtained in the laboratory with an experimental sewer prove that the micro-organisms present in air are diminished to nearly one-half in passing along a moist tube 5 feet long and 14 inches in diameter at a rate of nearly one foot per second. Although most of the micro-organisms in sewer air come from outside, yet there was distinct evidence of their occasional dissemination from the sewage itself. This is the case when splashing occurs, owing to drains entering the sewer at points high up in the roof. It is, therefore, of great importance that drains should be so arranged as to avoid splashing as much as possible. In view of the fact that ordinary

sewer air is to all appearance comparatively innocent as regards its microorganisms, experiments were also made to see whether it contained any poisonous volatile base of the nature of a ptomaine. These experiments so far as they went had negative results.

Experiments as to the efficacy of ordinary water traps in preventing the escape of sewer gas into houses confirmed and extended the results previously obtained by Fergus.

Though the authors do not discuss the effect of the inhalation of sewer air on health, yet the results of the above investigation are clearly such as to make one much more suspicious as to supposed evidence of the bad effects of ordinary sewer air (at least when not vitiated by splashing) such as that examined by them.—*Chemical News.*

INFANTILE DIARRHŒA AND INFANTILE FOOD.

THE EDITOR.

At this period of the year infantile diarrhœa and various forms of choleraic seizures are prevalent in most countries north of the equator, but more especially are those affections to be met with in cities and towns. The more unsavory, the more unhygienic the town is, the greater the number of these cases are to be found, and the greater fatality attending them. Probably in no city of the world is there a greater neglect of all measures conducive to the preservation of the public health than in this city of Winnipeg. Owing to the healthful breezes that waft over it, its comparatively small population, and the beneficient provisions of nature, the inhabitants of this city suffer from but a tithe of the full measure of disease which the almost entire negligence of sanitary precautions subjects them to. The air is polluted and the nostrilsoffended by disgusting stenches