

liness on the spread of diseases, but they do not as yet fully appreciate the good result obtained from perfect isolation, nor will they until they have hospitals provided in their midst for that purpose.

Bacteriologists have shown how the micro-organisms of many diseases live and multiply in various media outside of the human body for varying periods, and produce the same disease if they gain access to the body of an animal or human being. They have even proved that some of these micro-organisms produce seeds outside of the human body, more hardy than themselves and that these spores will retain their vitality for years to reproduce disease. Their theory coincides with the experience of leading observers in the field of preventive medicine. Surgeon General Billings, U.S.A. states that he had seen scarlet fever produced by some of these particles that had been preserved in a blanket carefully packed away for years. The following case is reported :—"A large picture book had been used by a little boy suffering from scarlet fever, in 1846. The book was packed away in a trunk for 26 years, when it was taken to England and a child two years of age became its possessor. Two weeks after receiving it this boy was attacked with scarlet fever and to the doctors in attendance there appeared no other means by which the child could have been infected".

Dr. Carpenter in a paper read before the British Medical Society in 1875 records a case in which a proprietor ordered the removal of some old houses which had remained uninhabitable for years after a case of small pox. Eight men were employed and every one was attacked with small pox showing that the germs of that disease remained dormant in those houses all that time waiting for their victim.

Dr. Thorne a noted authority in infectious diseases states that he has known the poison of diphtheria to have been retained for months about premises in which cases of that disease had previously occurred. Such therefore are some of the special importunities or sources of danger to be guarded against in the management of these diseases. The organisms lurk in the floors and crevices of walls. They are absorbed by wearing apparel, bed clothing and articles of furniture. If ventilation is defective or cleanliness neglected, the air becomes contaminated and the in-