

decayed, and were partly dissolved and partly suspended in the water. In every house where the water from this well was used the fever appeared, and in no other, and when the well was cleaned out, water and all, it immediately disappeared from the village."

The editor of the *Medical Press and Circular* says he has recently heard it urged that, in the great number of cases, *improper food* is the cause of the disease; and as applied to the instances of typhoid fever arising from milk diluted with sewage water, that it was not the latter *per se*, but its action upon the milk, leading to a degradation of this fluid, that we should deem the *fons mali*.

Dr. Snow, Registrar of Providence, Rhode Island, in a late report he has made, after noticing the various supposed causes of typhoid, observes :

"But while we find that none of the causes referred to, in all cases, or constantly, produce typhoid fever, there are individual instances in which the disease seems to be evidently produced by each of the causes named. Whatever causes of this description may be in operation, it is possible that individual peculiarities, susceptibilities or idiosyncrasies may have more to do with the production of the disease than is generally supposed. At any rate, we know that external causes, to all appearance precisely the same, do not produce similar results in any considerable number of cases."

In view of these facts, and also of the fact that there is evidence to show that men employed to work in sewers enjoy marked immunity from typhoid, two interesting questions came up for solution:—First, as to the nature of the predisposing cause, the "individual peculiarities, susceptibilities, or idiosyncrasies;"—the nature of the soil, so to speak, most favorable to the development of the disease in the individual. Does not typhoid more frequently than other contagious diseases affect those whose health had previously been rather below par?

Secondly, as different outbreaks and cases of so called typhoid fever, present striking features of diversity, do they all arise, or are they all caused, by the same specific contagium? Or are there two or more forms of virus giving rise to two or more distinct diseases, hitherto confounded together? It is