

cause of the terrible mortality, aggravated by poisoned water. Diphtheria in a mild form had been in the vicinity, and four cases were known to exist, so that water poisoned by barnyard drainage and putrid carcasses of dead animals was just the thing to feed the disease into the development of the terrible disaster

NEW METHOD OF DISINFECTION.—The *National Medical Review*, on the authority of the *Scientific American*, states that M. Boschau has devised a method of disinfection based on the continuous and economical production of ozone by means of manganese dioxide, which is of timely interest. Ordinary light brown wrapping paper is thinly covered with size, and on the latter the pulverized dioxide is sifted, so that it forms an adherent layer. It is merely necessary to hang the sheets thus prepared in the apartment to be disinfected or aerated. M. Boschau states that he lined a trunk with paper thus prepared, and placed therein some old cheese and strong radishes, which he left in the receptacle for a fortnight. At the end of that period the materials were removed and the lid of the trunk quickly shut. Fifteen minutes afterward, on opening the trunk, not the slightest odor was perceptible, the ozone given off by the dioxide having completely disinfected the carbonic and butyric acids produced. The inventor proposes to manufacture wall-paper, prepared in an analagous manner, for use in schools, hospitals, etc.

CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.—The investigations of the British Health Commissioners, says the *Scientific American*, July, '79, have discovered that in scarcely one of the beautiful old towns that so delight the traveller in England, was it possible to find a well that was not a source of sanitary peril. The older the town the more thoroughly the soil had become saturated with filth, and the greater probability of the direct contamination of the drinking water by leakage from privy vaults. The frequency and fatality of typhoid and other epidemics due to filth-contaminated water in some of the most beautiful and, above ground, salubrious towns, gave them a death rate that was simply appalling; yet the inhabitants could scarcely be made to believe that the sparkling water of their wells was little less than deadly.

In this country closely built towns are scarcely old enough yet to have the ground they stand on quite so completely saturated with filth; yet the degree of saturation and consequent danger is in many cases greater than people imagine.