

Anxious forebodings wrinkle many brows. We have lugubrious art. 'The beauty of our women is pathetic. Our wit is cynical, and even our humour has in it a tinge of sadness.' Poor thing. There are many happy, even jolly people in the world yet.

THE OVER-PRESSURE investigating committee's report, London (Eng.), actually adopts, it appears, several of the principal recommendations of Dr. Crichton Browne's report; though the committee was composed of men long engaged in supervising London schools, and who would naturally be reluctant to acknowledge they had overlooked grave evils which had grown up under their care, and it was presided over by Mr. Sidney Buxton, who is so declared and ardent a disbeliever in over-pressure that, as a journal gives it, "he has sometimes forgotten the common courtesy due to those who differ from him." The committee has reported "that dull, delicate and under-fed children on the one hand, and excitable and over-anxious children on the other, do occasionally suffer from the excessive strain imposed on them under the system."

A LAST MONTH'S number of *Union Medicale* relates a startling circumstance brought to light by the recent cholera epidemic in Paris. In one of the best localities of the city, renowned for the exquisite productions of its bakers, and especially for the manufacture of *pain de luxe*. "Some of the neighbours of these bakeries had complained again and again of the nauseating odours which pervaded their apartments, but the appearance of cholera at last gave point to their remonstrances, and the sanitary inspectors who were sent to investigate the matter found a communication between the water-closets of these houses and the reservoirs of water used for the making of this bread. The communication was forthwith cut off, but an immediate result of this procedure was to give rise to a sensible deterioration in the quality of the bread. It appears that chemists have no difficulty in explaining that water saturated with "extract of water-closet" conveys a special property of raising the dough, giving to the bread the agreeable aspect and even taste which constitute the fundamental qualities of *pain de luxe*.

A MEMBER of the French ministry, at an assembly where the matter was since discussed, related "that in early life he had practised as an advocate in a provincial town in which was a famous pork-pie manufacturer. This person had a quarrel with his neighbour because of a communication which existed between the privy of the latter and the well of the pork-butcher. He succeeded in compelling him by law to cut off the communication, at a very great expense, but from this time he gradually lost his customers, and what he produced was in no wise superior to the goods of his competitors, which could be purchased at a lower price. After puzzling himself for a long time, he was struck with the coincidence of the loss of custom and the stoppage of the nauseating compound supplied by his neighbour, and he induced the latter, by means of a large indemnity, to restore the communication. The pork-pies, of course, at once recovered their former succulency."

A NEW LUNACY BILL in Great Britain, provides, though unfortunately in an indirect manner, for the extinction of private asylums. Terrible abuses have been found to exist there in such asylums, and it is high time some such action were taken. In the United States too, abuses of the most revolting character have been of late discovered in private asylums. In the Province of Quebec, it has been recently found that a sad state of matters exist in connection with like provisions for the insane. An Act should be passed by the Federal Government prohibiting altogether the use or establishment of private institutions for the care of that most unfortunate class of our fellow creatures who cannot care for themselves.

THE TERRIBLE EPIDEMIC which prevailed last autumn in S. W. Virginia and S. E. Kentucky, according to the *Boston Medical Journal*, caused about 1000 deaths. The district invaded is an area of about 80 miles by 70 miles; and sparsely settled, the railroad and telegraph being as yet unknown there. Rain had not fallen for months, and the crops had failed. The springs and streams were nearly dry and the little water left was strongly impregnated with mineral substances and decaying vegetable matter, and doubtless too with the resulting bacterial organisms. Most of the farm stock was destroyed.