

quently the vehicle by which the contagium is conveyed. The cases at Pittsfield, especially, indicate that the disease may be generated *de novo*, by accumulations of filth—of decomposing organic matter, as house refuse and excrement, especially in connection with stagnant water, in proximity to wells and dwellings.

The means of prevention, then, are obvious enough, both as regards the spontaneous origin of the disease, for it can scarcely be doubted that it may arise in this way, and likewise as to the propagation of the specific poison.

No excremental or refuse matter of any sort whatever should at any time be allowed to remain or accumulate near dwellings or the water supply, especially in towns and thickly populated villages. All such matters should be at once removed a safe distance in some manner, as by drainage or the scavenger's cart.

For rules applicable to the preventive management of enteric fever, see page 11. of this Journal.

With *proper precautions*, there is but little risk in such cases that the disease will spread, even to those who wait upon the sick.

DEFECTIVE DRAINAGE.

Of all the preventable causes of disease, defective drainage is perhaps the most fruitful. It is a subject, therefore, which cannot be too frequently or too prominently brought before the public.

Defective drainage is said to give rise to nine-tenths of all the fevers that occur. The fevers most prevalent in undrained districts are those of a malarial type—intermittent and remittent, and in more southern latitudes, yellow fever. Numerous instances might be mentioned in which diseases of this sort almost entirely disappeared from such districts after the application of a complete system of drainage, although they had constantly prevailed for many years previous.