

disease is not sterilized. The lecturer considered this a very probable mode of transmission of this disease, and not only so, but of such diseases as diphtheria and typhoid fever. Money taken from the hands of children affected with diphtheria might be sent to a fruit store for bananas or grapes, and might then be given to other children in change. It is a common thing to see persons counting bills and wetting their fingers on their tongue in so doing. These bills might have been handled shortly before by persons ill with diphtheria or typhoid. He considered a warning necessary as to these practices, and also in regard to eating fruit bought in stores without peeling.

Reference was also made to crude ideas regarding disinfection, and want of accuracy—guessing at the strength of disinfectants; and a haphazard sterilization by heat he compared to throwing a little strychnine on or around a mad dog instead of giving a dose which would be sure to kill.

Selections.

THE DANGERS OF EARTH BURIALS.—Sir Spencer Wells, in a late popular article, calls sharp attention to the dangers of earth burials in the case of those who have died from diseases caused by the more virulent of the pathogenic micro-organisms or toxins. He says: "Some persons doubt whether poisons can be carried through the earth for any considerable distance, but the fact has been experimentally proved as to the saline solutions. A salt of lithium was sown over a plot of land more than 150 yards distant from a well. Repeated examinations were made, and the eighteenth day it was proved that the solution had percolated through the soil into the well. Instances of contamination of water by animal impurities have long been too well known, and now the specific germs of infective diseases are known to propagate in the same way. Quite lately what is known as to typhoid and cholera has been proved as to consumption and bacillus of phthisis. In the botanic garden of Lyons, flower pots were filled with earth June 16th, 1891, and some earthworms were added in each pot with some of the sputa of tuberculosis patients and fragments of lung from their dead

bodies. A month afterwards it was found that the earthworms contained tubercle bacilli in large numbers, and that guinea pigs inoculated with them soon died with genuine tuberculosis. Whatever the bacilli may be, whether tubercular, typhoid, or choleraic, in bodies buried in the earth, it is incontestable that earthworms, everywhere so numerous and active, may preserve the bacilli in their bodies during many months, and still live and lose none of their virulent properties and power of rapid germination or reproduction. These are the grounds on which we assume that bodies after death from cholera ought to be cremated, not buried. This becomes not only an additional argument in favor of cremation, but is a blow as well against the English Burial Reform movement, which favors a rapid dissolution of the body in basket caskets.—*Chicago Clinical Review*.

HEMORRHAGE FROM INTACT SKIN.—A. Deriabin, of Osa (*Vratch*, No. 31, 1892, p. 784), reports the case of a previously healthy girl, aged 18, in whom there suddenly appeared, without obvious cause, a profuse hemorrhage from the centre of the tip of the nose, the anterior surface of the forearms, and the volar aspect of the finger tips. From the skin of the nose the blood escaped in the form of a single fairly thick stream, while from the upper limbs it ran in the form of numberless thin jets and drops, as if "from a watering-can." Sometimes the blood spouted in a jet more than a foot high, at others it simply oozed, while now and then the bleeding stopped altogether. The phenomenon lasted, with short intermissions, nearly four hours, and was followed by all the typical symptoms of acute anæmia (pallor of the face and mucous membranes, vomiting, giddiness, prostration, etc.), the girl gradually recovering in about four days. Careful and repeated examinations failed to detect any lesion of the integuments, except, perhaps, over the tip of the nose, where there could be seen "a largish orifice of a cutaneous gland plugged with a blood clot." The latter disappeared in a few days, "leaving a permanent bright red spot." The thoracic organs were sound, menstruation normal. The hemorrhage did not recur up to the date of report (four months after the bleeding).—*Brit. Med. Journ.*