

them and through them, since the disease may be caused by bacilli artificially cultivated in albuminous material, in which they are capable of infinite increase without losing this hypothetical infection.

STARVE THE DISEASE GERMS.—In his remarks on the typhoid plant, at the London Convention, the editor of this JOURNAL advised the starving out of the plant or germ—the depriving it of the soil to live upon by the proper disposal of all filth, and suggested that where filth is abundant they might be regarded as kindly scavengers, some times preventing more serious evils. A leading London (Eng.) Exchange (*Med. Times and Gaz.*) of Nov. 24, states that, probably people do not pause to consider whether the world could get on without these germs. "The biologist will be inclined to make much of germs; they came on the scene before man, and will probably outlive him; they are necessary to the balance of life on the earth, and where refuse lies thick are as much in place as dogs in an Eastern city, or vultures in the desert. Man's best way of dealing with them is not to fight them so much as to starve them. Cut off their diet and they will disappear."

POISONING GERMS.—It is said you may destroy the disease germs by poison. This is unscientific. It is not carrying into practice the old truism, that prevention is better than cure. Unfortunately we have not yet discovered a substance that will attack them in the air, which will not also impartially attack the lungs of any individual, sick or well, who occupies the room in which the attack is made. But sometimes it is necessary to try to poison them. At an interesting lecture at the Parks Museum recently, Dr. Lee, who has made many experiments and clinical observations, admits this. He holds to carbolic acid, and as the result of his experiments, considers that the vapor of a 2 per cent. solution of carbolic acid will destroy germs in the air. Some germs, but per-

haps not all. Their tenacity to life varies greatly. The practical point of the lecture was to warn people against putting their trust in saucerfuls of solution of carbolic acid or Condy fluid placed about a room. "They give a false sense of security, and are worse than useless. If we want to strangle germs, we must go after them. They have more sense than flies, and will not come to be poisoned." Doubtless abundance of fresh air circulating in a room is, after all, the best germicide. And it can always be provided, and safely.

VALUE OF SANITARY CONVENTIONS.—

There is no one method, says the *Sanitary News*, which will popularize sanitary information to a greater extent, with an equivalent amount of labor, than the holding of meetings to discuss subjects not only of a sanitary character, but of a nature demanding the attention of political economists and tax-payers as well. Six or seven sanitary conventions, such as were held in London, Ont., and Baltimore, last month, and to be held in Trenton, New Jersey, and Ionia, Michigan, this month, will place a greater number of people in the way of securing healthy homes and healthy living, than the publication of several thousand state board of health reports each year.

DAWNING OF A HAPPY ERA.—Some time ago, Dr. George Wright, of Toronto, at one of the meetings of the Toronto Medical Society, said, "may we not reasonably hope that, as our knowledge of prophylactics and sanitary matters becomes more systematic and scientific, we may be able to control some diseases that now sorely perplex the profession and impair our usefulness? I am somewhat hopeful that an era in medical research may be dawning upon us that will greatly aid in lightening our burdens, and in the course of time, lessen the necessity for such a class of the community as physicians and surgeons—a consummation, in the opinion of some, very devoutly to be desired."