

the fever in the farm house—which was in a boy aged 9 years who sickened on Aug. 5th. At length however the doctor learned that eighty pigs on the farm had suffered from swine fever for about a month or six weeks, the last of them having been killed and buried on August 8th. The boy was constantly with his father amongst these, watching the treatment, and assisting to bury the animals which died. The farmer's family had consumed some pork of an apparently healthy animal during the prevalence of the swine fever. It would be rash, as the British Medical Journal says, to attempt to draw any definite conclusions at present from the facts of this epidemic, "but the suspicion that swine fever or contagious pneumo-enteritis may be identical with human enteric fever is not entirely novel.

A FREE WATER SUPPLY has been advocated by sanitarians, and alderman O'Leary is advocating a good sanitary measure when he advocates a reduction in the price of Ottawa water. As a rule the cheaper it is the more people will use of it. We are inclined to the principle of raising a revenue for water in some other way and making water as cheap as air. When the source of the Ottawa water supply is made good, by all means let the price be lowered if possible.

AN ENGINEER, we understand, has stated that it will not be necessary to carry out the new pipe so far as was at first contemplated. Now a few feet more of steel pipe is of small consideration in comparison with the importance of obtaining the purest water possible, and we protest against any false economy in this regard. Engineers are not always well posted on the peculiarities and possibilities of water contamination, and we would prefer to be guided by the city water works Engineer, who has so far manifested caution and wisdom in looking to the purity of the water supply.

AS FURTHER EVIDENCE, if it were needed, that the water and not the impure air has been the chief cause of the typhoid fever which has been prevalent here, we note that Dr. Edson, long chief inspector of the New York Health Department, sums up his conclusions in regard to typhoid fever, as follows: First, that typhoid fever never infects the atmosphere: second that it never arises *de novo*; and third, that the causes of the disease, in order of their frequency, are as follows: First, infected water; second, infected milk; third, infected ice: fourth, digital infection; fifth, infected meat.

AGAIN, at the recent Congress of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, it was strongly asserted by a number present that "much of the complaning about sewer gas was groundless;" "that the ill effects of sewer gas had been much

exaggerated"; and that "it would be to prove that it was a source of typhoid fever, as some persons asserted."

SANITARY PROGRESS is not rapid, but to many discouragingly slow, especially is this the case with regard to individual hygiene. The cause is indicated in the Arkansas traveller's story about the leaky roof, which could not be repaired in the rain, and which did not need repairing when it was not raining. When sickness overtakes the people, they are unable to observe the laws of health, and when they are well they do not think it necessary.

BROWN-SEQUARD'S "elixir" is believed to owe what virtue it possesses, and we have no doubt that there is virtue in it, to an alkaloid called spermine, obtained, from the juice used, by Park, Davis & Co., Scientific chemists, of Detroit, according to the American Lancet. Spermine is also found in the brain, in eggs, oysters, and fish ova and milk.

IN THIS CONNECTION, however, the following funny bit (from the Pacific Rec. of Med., San Francisco) is pretty good: Into the foreleg of an old horse, that was so worthless on account of age that in another day he would have been in the soup—the mock turtle soup of Paris—Dr. Brown-Sequard injected his elixir. In an hour afterward, with bright red nostrils and tail neatly draped over the dashboard, he sailed up the Shonz Eleeza knocking spokes out of valuable carriages all the way up the Arc of Triumph, where he chipped out about five cents' worth of the corner of that great work and piled up Dr. Brown-Sequard in a chaos of clothes and contusions. The Dr.'s first anxiety was to find out, of course, whether the hyphen had been knocked out of his name. Finding that it had not he returned to his experiments.

ON THE SERIOUS side we would add, which too is due to the eminent physiologist, what Dr. Brown-Sequard said recently to a correspondent of the Illustrated London News: "I thought I knew my countrymen, but it seems I was mistaken. It never occurred to me that so many would go off at 'half-cock,' as it were, and undertake experiments without first mastering details. I never made use of the word 'elixir,' still less of the words, 'elixir of life'.... It quacks in America have killed people, as stated, they would have avoided murder had they paid attention to the most elementary rules as regards the sub-cutaneous injection of animal substances." The Dr. is now studying to accomplish for women what he claims has been reached in the case of men.