

the normal state. These data are also confirmed by M. Duchamp and other able observers. At a meeting recently held in St. John's Wood, London, and presided over by Professor Huxley, the conclusion arrived at was, that diphtheria was due to defective drainage. The milk supply of the neighbourhood was also set down as the cause of the outbreak of the epidemic. The escape of sewer gas has also been considered as a prolific source of the disease. With all these effects non-existing I have seen the disease in full force, and therefore hesitate to express an opinion as to its precise origin, involved as it is in considerable doubt, not explicable even by the process of evolution, so ably advocated by Dr. Thorne, at the Epidemiological Society, London, in May last. . . .

The restriction of diphtheria, by proper sanitary precautions, is a matter of great moment. Until within a recent date, small-pox was the only disease in which sanitary regulations were strictly enforced. The same precautions are certainly necessary in diphtheria. In our public schools careful enquiry should be made, and a certificate of safety procured from the attending physician prior to the re-admission into the school of those children coming from families where diphtheria has been known to exist. By the strict enforcement of these sanitary precautions, by the local Boards of Health, where such exist, much good may be accomplished, and in carrying out the necessary regulations, the public will receive the hearty co-operation of the medical profession. At present no subject is so widely and so generally discussed as *public health*. The public are seeking information on the sanitary duties by which diseases are prevented and health protected in the widest acceptance of the term.

NEW PRESERVING AGENT.

In the course of a series of experiments made by Mr. H. Jannarch for devising a method for separating the crystallizable sugar from the molasses, a double salt of borate of potassium and sodium was accidentally formed, which exerted an antiseptic influence on the sugar. Further experiment showed this salt to be a most powerful antiseptic agent. It is now being made in larger quantities by dissolving in water equal quantities of chloride of potassium, nitrate of sodium and boric acid, and evaporating to dryness after filtering. The salt obtained is, of course, not a pure borate, but a mixture of potassium-nitric borate, potassium nitrate, and sodium chloride. Its action is