

THE PRODUCTION OF DISEASES BY SEWER AIR.

—Jacobi, *New York Med. Jour.*, concludes his article upon the above subject with the following sentences: (1) The atmosphere contains some specific disease-germs, both living and dead. (2) They are frequently found in places which were infected by specific diseases. (3) In sewer air fewer such germs have been found than in the air of houses and school-rooms. (4) Moist surfaces—that is, the contents of cesspools and sewers, and the walls of sewers—while emitting odors, do not give off specific germs, even in a moderate current of wind. (5) Splashing of the sewer contents may separate some germs, and then the air of the sewer may become temporarily infected, but the germ will soon sink to the ground again. (6) Choking of the sewer, introduction of hot factory refuse, leaky house-drains, and absence of traps may be the cause of sewer air ascending or forced back into the houses. But the occurrence of this complication of circumstances is certain to be rare. (7) Whatever rises from the sewer under these circumstances is offensive and irritating. A number of ailments, inclusive, perhaps, of sore throats, may originate from these causes. But no specific diseases will be generated by them except in the rarest of conditions. For specific germs are destroyed by the processes of putrefaction in the sewers, and the worse the odor the less is the danger, particularly from diphtheria. (8) The causes of the latter disease are very numerous, and the search for the origin of an individual case is often unsuccessful. (9) Irritation of the throat and naso-pharynx is a frequent source of local catarrh; this creates a resting-place for diphtheria-germs, which are ubiquitous during an epidemic, and thus an opportunity for diphtheria is furnished. (10) Of the specific germs, those of typhoid and dysentery appear to be the least subject to destruction by cesspools and sewers. These diseases appear to be sometimes referable to direct exhalation from privies and cesspools. Very few cases, if any, are attributable to sewer air. (10) A single outlet from a sewer would be dangerous to general health, because of the density of odors (not germs) arising therefrom. Therefore a very thorough and multiple ventilation is required.—*Univ. Med. Mag.*

Chemical research proves that Kola contains a large percentage of caffeine (the active principle tea and coffee), also theobromine, the stimulating principle of cacao. But not to these alone is its remarkable virtue to be credited, as further investigation proves that the *fresh* (undried) Kola nut contains a peculiar active principle (glucoside) found in no other drug, to which the name of Kolanin has been given. This peculiar principle is found more abundantly in the fresh (undried) Kola nuts, and taking advantage of the knowledge

of this fact, Messrs. Frederick Stearns & Company, of Windsor, Ont., have been the first to place on the market a Wine of Kola, for which they have coined the fanciful title "Kolavin" to distinguish their product from similar preparations, which in time will undoubtedly appear. "Kolavin" is a delicious aromatic tonic wine, each dose (a table-spoonful) of which contains 30 grains of the fresh (undried) Kola nuts. It is a prompt and active stimulant, and is useful in all cases where such a stimulant is needed. Samples of "Kolavin" may be obtained by addressing the manufacturers, Frederick Stearns & Company, Windsor, Ont., who are headquarters for Kola nuts in this country, having introduced the drug to the medical profession in 1881, and being the sole importers of the fresh (undried) nuts from Africa. Their scientific department has recently issued an elaborate monograph on Kola, profusely illustrated, which is worthy of a careful perusal, and will be sent to any physician who will apply for a copy.

SALICYLATE OF SODIUM IN HEADACHE.—In the February number of the *Practitioner*, Lauder Brunton writes an interesting article on headaches, in the course of which he points out that the one very common form of headache commences in this way: The patient sometimes feels a little unwonted irritability at night, but this irritability is not always present. It is very often the precursor of a headache. He wakes in the morning about four, five or six with a feeling of weight in the head, but not a headache. He is very drowsy, disinclined to rise, and is apt to turn over and go to sleep again at once. If he does this he awakes again about seven or eight with a distinct, but not a severe headache, usually frontal or temporal. As the day goes on the headache becomes worse and worse, until in the afternoon or evening it becomes almost unbearable. It then finishes up with sickness, after which the patient becomes easier, but feels much exhausted. A headache of this sort may frequently be prevented by the patient taking a mixture of bromide of potassium and salicylate of sodium over night, or by getting up and taking it when he awakes with a heaviness in the early morning, instead of turning over and going to sleep again.—*North-Western Lancet.*

CAUSE OF EARLY DEATH AFTER OPERATIONS ON THE INTERNAL ORGANS.—Thiercelin and Jayle describe the necropsies made on 7 cases of abdominal section (5 removal of appendages, 1 ovarian cyst, 1 abdominal hysterectomy) which had died, 6 within three days, and 1 within six days after the operation. In 5, including the case which lived six days, there was distinct acute fatty degeneration of the liver. In the remaining 2, where the lesion could not be detected by the naked eye, cloudy swelling of the