

difficult to destroy. This is due to the manner of its infection. The other three diseases infect a room mainly by means of the medium of the air, the contagion being exhaled or given off from the body and deposited evenly over the surfaces exposed to the infected air. In diphtheria, membranes and secretions are also infected, and the contagion is (in a measure) protected by being surrounded by a protecting medium into which sulphur dioxide cannot easily penetrate.

In nature's method of infection the infected air is carried by draughts and air-currents into cracks and corners accessible only to a gas liberated under much the same conditions as the contagion.

CONCLUSIONS.—It would seem that the proper and most practical method of disinfection of dwellings, after the occurrence in them of exanthemata and of diphtheria, is by means of sulphur dioxide, and that

all clothing, bedding, etc., used in direct contact with the patient, should be removed to a disinfecting station, properly equipped, and there subjected to heat of sufficient intensity to destroy all contagious matter.

In the discussion of this paper by the American Public Health Association the method of fumigation was criticised, it being alleged that not sufficient moisture was present with the sulphur dioxide to insure the best results. A very important point in this connection was brought out. The use of alcohol to ignite the sulphur, as described in the paper, adds materially to the moisture in the air of the infected rooms. The amount of alcohol used is about four ounces to each charge, say six pounds. This amount of alcohol will develop fifty quarts of steam, approximately.

---

#### THE PROPOSED DOMINION HEALTH DEPARTMENT—THE DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE AND WHAT IT MEANS—THE INTEREST OF THE "PRESS" IN THE WORK.

A CAREFUL analysis and filtering of the speeches in the late discussion on the public health question in the Parliament of Canada brings into clear view some well defined wants in connection with the public health, which are indispensable to the welfare of the Dominion, as we believe every intelligent, thoughtful man will concede. Because these are still wants,—deficiencies not fulfilled, many thousands of our fellow creatures are dying amongst us every year, many hundreds of the best men and women, in the prime of life, who otherwise would not die. Why then should there be such unnecessary delay in filling such wants?

It is within the power of the "Press" of the Dominion to aid greatly in this behalf. While we do not presume to define the duty of the press, we respectfully ask editors and publishers of papers throughout Canada to consider this most

important question—to carefully read the report of the discussion in the House, as given in our March issue, or the following brief synopsis of it, and ask themselves wherein their duty lies in regard to the subject.

One of the leading papers of the Dominion, the "British Whig," established over half a century ago, in the issue of the 6th March last, said: "Let a healthy public agitation follow on the lines suggested by the CANADA HEALTH JOURNAL. Let us hope that Dr. Roome's motion before the House of Commons, on this subject, will be comprehensive and meet every requirement of the situation." Now we contend that Dr. Roome's motion and address, with those of Drs. Platt and Sproule, were sufficiently comprehensive and, if the suggestions therein be carried out, will meet every requirement.

The First Minister, who has been the leading man in the Dominion for a quarter