

### Matters Recent and Current.

**COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCES.**—In the daily papers of Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and other places are often to be found communications complaining of nuisances in certain and various localities. Sometimes these may be necessary, but as a rule it would be much better for grieved individuals to make their complaints direct to the health officer or department. The people too should bear in mind that health officers in this country have only very limited powers and health departments too limited means. Let the people vote money more freely for health purposes and health officers will usually spend it judiciously and where most needed;—vote money enough and there will probably be little reason to complain.

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE,** every body readily, cheerfully and usually with self satisfaction admits, but at least nine-tenths of the people will in practice sooner run the risk (and a great risk they run too) of paying out one hundred dollars for costs of sickness than spend five dollars, or even "one fifty", on the means of prevention. How is this? It must be a sort of hold-on-to-the-dollar cause—on the principle that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush"—keep the dollar in the pocket now if to do so costs ten or twenty before the year is out.

**BEGIN IN TIME—NOW.**—Last year, we ventured to predict that the cholera would not visit Canada before this year, if even it should come this year. The chances now appear to be that the disease will next year, probably early, reach this continent; where in truth there are for it many temptingly inviting fields. Many have been in trouble fearing inefficiency in the Canadian quarantines. While doubtless an efficient quarantine at every sea-port is a necessary precaution, from our many exchanges we learn that the universal opinion amongst the most eminent and experienced practical sani-

tarians every where, in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, is that other quarantines are "powerless," "useless," "mischievous," and "positively harmful" by directing attention from more useful measures; and that the one great, effectual and infallible preventive is absolute and perfect *cleanliness everywhere*, internal and external, of every person and place. As Miss Nightingale puts it, to trust to quarantines and stopping intercourse would be "just as rational as to try to sweep back an incoming flood, instead of getting out of its way." There must be no half nor three quarter measures. Every spot must be freed from every trace of waste, decomposing matter of any and every sort. And there would be no great difficulty in carrying out these indications, if people would but set about it.

**NOW IS THE TIME.**—Next spring may be too late. In every city, town, village, and farm there is soil and food for cholera germs, and in every such place in Canada let the "house be put in order" this fall. Remove to a safe distance and completely destroy every particle of excreta and decaying matter; close up and entirely do away with privy vaults and cess pits; disinfect and lime wash all out houses, closets, &c., where impurities have been; and keep every spot clean during the winter and spring by frequent removal and destruction—by burning, by disinfectants, and by mingling with coal ashes; and keep all sewers and drains so flushed that there shall be no deposits held in them. Do this, and with a pure water supply and a judicious diet, the cholera may be defied. It may come but it can do little or no harm.

**BURNING KITCHEN REFUSE.**—This subject is being discussed in the Toronto papers. Doubtless every sort of solid waste matter of the kitchen may be readily enough burned in an ordinary cooking range or stove, and with little or no inconvenience. It is a wasteful method of disposal, but where there is no provision for daily or frequent removal by cartage, it is better to burn all such matter than