

THE OLD SAYING, "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," especially the first part of it, is in no case more suggestive and applicable than in diagnosing by the physician of a case of infectious disease to be reported to the health authorities. An error may not only prove a very great hardship to the patient, or to his or her friends, but also a very serious matter to the physician. A number of cases have been reported wherein legal action was taken and heavy damages awarded against the physician who made the blunder. We refer to this in order that all medical practitioners who read this JOURNAL may be at all times on their guard in this particular. And cannot give here particulars of cases.

IN THIS CONNECTION too we would draw attention to the fact that, not infrequently outbreaks of diphtheria are reported as having arisen very insidiously, perhaps in a school, from a case of what was apparently but simple sore throat, but which was of course of a diphtheritic character, or rather a mild case of diphtheria. In cases of this nature parents, as well as physician, require to be on their guard, and to be extremely careful, or great and most serious trouble may follow from many fatal cases of this great enemy of our little ones.

THE CHOLERA is now, it appears, in the Euphrates Valley. It is said the "Foreign Office" has received information of its occurrence as far north as Erzeroum, in Armenia, probably by road from Tabreez, in Persia. The British Medical Journal, of May 31st, says: "If we may venture to prophesy, we would say that it will not proceed farther up the Tigris Valley, but, travelling by the Euphrates, it will be next heard of at Aleppo, and perhaps Beyrout, it will enter Egypt *via* Jeddah and Suez, and then leave Alexandria for the Levantine and Mediterranean ports. From Tabreez it will take the route *via* Erzeroum and Trebizond to Constantinople and Odessa, and by Baku, Tiflis, Derbent and Astrakhan over Russia.

THE EXTINCTION of cholera in Syria was asserted by the Turkish authorities some months ago, while Russian consular agents maintained that it was still hovering about on the borders of the Persian and Ottoman empires. We, The British medical Journal says, "expressed our conviction that the subsidence of the epidemic was merely what might be expected at that season, and that it would reappear with the return of spring. And so it is; cholera is reported

now as having broken out on the Imperial domains of Djedil and in the village of Bellek, near Bagdad, where six persons have died out of thirteen attacked. Bagdad was the headquarters of the epidemic last year, whence it was carried by the river boats far up the Tigris.

HUMAN INTERCOURSE, cholera requires, for its conveyance, with certain meteorological and local conditions for its development, and the ingestion of specifically infected water, etc., for its communication. Thus, while it will cross the Atlantic in a fortnight, it marches by slow stages through lands where railways are still unknown, retiring into winter quarters when traffic and travel are suspended, to reopen the campaign with the return of warm weather, naturally earlier in the south.

IN THE WINTER of 1846-7 it had reached precisely the same points as it did last autumn, and in like manner withdrew for a time to the lower valley of the Euphrates and Tigris: recrossing the mountains and plateau of Armenia in the spring, it reached Astrakhan and Taganrog in July, and Moscow and St. Petersburg in September, when, with the approach of winter, it disappeared only to break out with renewed intensity; and, as it had travelled with tenfold greater rapidity along the good military roads between the Caucasus and the capitals than it had previously done through Persia, so when once it touched the margin of the restless life and commercial activity of Europe it was drawn into the vortex, and there was not a country or large town but had been invaded before the summer was over.

LEAD POISONING in Sheffield and the places surrounding has become so prevalent it has been the subject of inquiry by a Special Commission of the British Medical Journal, the results of which are set forth in interesting and carefully drawn reports, now being published in our contemporary. It appears that during the last two or three years more than 1,000 well marked cases of lead poisoning have occurred in the district, and a house-to-house visitation in one of the streets of Sheffield showed that every person examined, almost without exception, had the blue line on the gums characteristic of lead poisoning. It is alleged that this indication of the saturation of the system with lead could be found on the gums of nearly one-third of the population of Sheffield. In severer cases there were found the dropped wrist, paralysis, epile-