

uses, contrary to what one would have supposed, the virus from rabbits, and not the attenuated virus from monkeys. Furthermore, he does not propose to apply the virus for the protection of human beings, although we have read in the press that persons applied to him for inoculation. The experiments so far do not seem to us convincing, and we await with considerable curiosity, mingled with not a little anxiety, the report of the commission. The result of these trials can hardly fail to be largely decisive of the question one way or the other, and will be an unequivocal illustration of the value of experimental pathology. Meantime, we agree with the man who said that the best way to prevent hydrophobia was "to shoot the dog before he went mad."

### THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." But little change need be made in the wording of this well known aphorism in the science of government to make it applicable to sanitary science. Eternal vigilance is the price of health. This is not only true in the sense of the life of the individual, but it is also true as regards the life of the whole people. Vigilance in sanitary matters is at all times commendable, both on the part of nations and individuals. But this is more especially true at a time of more than ordinary danger—at a time when the air is portentous of dire calamity in the near future. Such a time is the present. Cholera, that dreaded scourge of the human race, is now reveling and gambolling amongst its helpless victims along the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. At the present writing southern France has been reached, and different centres of population are experiencing all the horrors of the plague. Where it will next appear no one can tell, for that depends on numerous modifying circumstances. It is just possible, owing to the intimate relations existing between nations, the multifarious channels of trade and travel, and the rapid movement of ocean steamers, that cholera may appear in Quebec or New York before it does in Paris. Ships will be permitted to leave infected ports, and no matter how careful health inspectors may be at such ports, there is always the dread possibility that an outgoing vessel may become a veritable messenger of death to thousands resting in self-security at a

point thousands of miles away, and this, too, in spite of the strictest quarantine. Perhaps no enemy of our race so nimbly and stealthily eludes the eye of the sentinel as that mysterious something whose terrible operations we call cholera. The knowledge of this fact affords an additional reason for vigilance on the part of all concerned.

An invasion of cholera is a thing so terrible, that governments would be quite justifiable, nay, are morally bound, to exercise care to the extent of embarrassing commerce and inconveniencing travel, to a degree not hitherto practised. A threatened wholesale slaughter of the best, as well as the worst, of a people, is something so inexpressibly appalling and calamitous that, to avert it, no material consideration should stand in the way, for a single moment. The French government, by placing itself between the dead and dying, and the living, has set an example worthy of all praise. By voting a liberal sum for the purposes of relief and protection, the French legislature only places itself in accord with the sentiments of the times, but that in no way detracts from the wisdom and expediency of the act, while it furnishes to other nations an example worthy of imitation.

We notice with pleasure that the United States government is instituting precautionary measures, having issued strict orders to its consuls at all points of danger, especially regarding vessels embarking for that country, and also by the adoption of measures of protection at home. We trust the Dominion government is not asleep and that already vigorous measures are being matured to protect our people from impending calamity, so far as human effort is capable of so doing. Not only does this duty devolve upon the central government, but also upon our Provincial governments, and upon all other authorities or corporations having the power to enforce sanitary laws. It is needless in this enlightened day to point out what measures are called for in this emergency. We may mention, however, that the work naturally divides itself into two parts—general and local. Quarantine, of course, falls to the province of the general government, and that implies a good deal. The Provincial governments have the power to enforce sanitary regulations, and in case of an invasion of the disease, may institute measures calculated to prevent its spreading. But no government will engage in the work of drainage, or