

kitchen slops, etc., scattered over back yards; hence, foul atmospheres and stench. The doctor complains of the laws, which being yet elementary, they require the aid of private exertion. He wisely suggests the necessity of daily throwing into the privy vaults, which should be properly ventilated, "a quantity of dry earth, or coal ashes, a shovelful of lime, or a couple of handfuls of copperas. It is made most thorough by the combined use of dry earth and copperas, experiment having shewn the last to be the best chemical disinfectant for privies. He further says, however, "Your readers doubtless well remember the revoltingly filthy condition of many portions of the city prior to the organization of the sanitary bureau, and will, I venture to believe, readily acknowledge the improvement that has since manifested itself under the action of its officers."

SMALL-POX AND PAPER RAGS.—Two outbreaks of small-pox from contact with paper rags have recently been recorded; one in a Boston medical journal and one in the *Sanitary Record*. Some forty cases occurred in the one and over twenty in the other. One person well pitted from small-pox was attacked and died. In the Boston report, about one-third of those affected died, and it was said "in no case did vaccination appear to prevent." It is submitted (Dr. Robinson, M. H. O., in *Sanitary Record*) that this illustrates "the potency for mischief of mediate sources of contagion—to wit, infected clothes;" and urged that rag-dealers be required to purify their obnoxious wares, as by dry heat or sulphurous acid fumes.

STATE MEDICINE.—The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have each made arrangements for an examination in subjects bearing upon Preventive or State Medicine and public health, and to grant certificates for proficiency therein. The examinations take place in October. The *Lancet* heartily wishes success to this effort to supply a long-felt deficiency.

MARRIAGE OF COUSINS.—Mr. G. H. Darwin has recently read a paper on this subject at a meeting of the London Statistical Society, and the investigations he has made, by means of cir-