

The privy was clean, and as wholesome as could be expected. The two boys attended school all the time they were ill (a few days); their appetite and general health were not affected. The school was airy and well ventilated; none of the other scholars were ill. No source of contagion could be traced. Was the diarrhoea of the boys the manifestation of enteric fever in a mild form? If so, then the infection of the three persons is at once accounted for; but it is open to doubt if this diarrhoea was that of enteric fever, for in no way could any source of infection be found which would account for their having taken the disease. In the absence of any proof to the contrary, we must admit that the disease began from the inhalation of the foetid stools of the boys; that the emanations from these stools poisoned the systems of the three individuals who inhaled them, and the "filth-fever" was thus generated. I have omitted to mention that one of the children, who remained in the sick room with its mother during her long illness, also took the disease and died from it, the mother clearly infecting the child; but none of the other children or the other inmates of the house suffered from the disease. In conclusion, I may state that the privy in the garden of the house was quite inaccessible to any tramps, who might have left in it their infested stools, so that this theory, which meets many of the obscure cases, is not tenable in this instance.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE CRANIOSCOPY OF CRIMINALS.

In noticing the last meeting of the German Association of Naturalists and Physicians, we referred to a paper by Professor Moritz Benedikt, on the physical psychology of criminals, and its bearing on their legal status. This remarkable paper has been translated in an English contemporary, and we extract from it some of its results.

The aim of its study is to show that a deficient organization of the brain lies at the foundation of the criminal propensity of brigands, habitual thieves, relapsing forgers, and other criminals; that the changes in the brains are, in such cases, of a very gross and palpable nature, so as to admit of easy demonstrations in the *post-mortem* room; and, what is more remarkable, that these peculiarities of cerebral organization may be recognized during life by a careful examination of the criminal's head.