

community by the agency of water. [Microscopic sections of the diphtheritic membranes from these animals were shown after the meeting, and pronounced to be identical with specimens taken from human beings.] In some recent reports as to the sanitary condition of various residences tenanted by illustrious families who have suffered from the ravages of diphtheria, I have seen no mention of the details of water-supply. Probably this point was over-looked ; possibly it seemed better to the reporters to preserve a judicious silence regarding it.

In any case I am sure I shall meet with cordial support as to the absolute necessity of improving the present system, if not of water supply, of water reception and storage in towns, and of providing water in the country.

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#### TYPHOID FEVER AND MILK.

An account of an outbreak of typhoid, traced to the milk supply, has reached us from the Antipodes. The medical officer of health for Melbourne has reported to the City Council that a milkman who had typhoid fever in his family had been supplying milk in a certain neighbourhood of the city, and that no fewer than fifteen cases of fever had broken out amongst his customers. One of his children has since died of the fever. Mr. Girdlestone thus traces the origin and progress of the outbreak. 'After a careful examination of the locality, and a house-to-house visitation, I have come to the conclusion that the exact origin of the recent outbreak of fever is, as usual, obscure. But there can be no doubt that the disease has been communicated through the milk supplied by one dairyman, in whose house there was a case of typhoid fever which terminated fatally on the 2nd inst. A brief history is necessary to throw light on the course followed by the contagion. In 1878 there were two cases of typhoid fever in a house in Jolimont Terrace, on the high ground, which is at the eastern side. One of these cases terminated fatally at the end of the year, and was quickly followed by two other cases in the same house. In January, 1879, the family moved from this house to the country, and there has been no case in it since then. They used to keep their own cow which was fed at home. In November 1878, a gentleman, then residing with other members of his family at 8 Jolimont Place, was also attacked with the same kind of fever. He recovered in the following December. The disease did not spread, but the family left the neighbourhood on the 1st inst. While at Jolimont