

Typhus and Cholera.—An Eclogue.

Scene:—A LODGING-HOUSE. TYPHUS HOVERS OVER A CROWD OF SLEEPERS.

Cholera (without).

Sister! Sister!

Typhus.

I am here,

Doing my work for to-morrow's bier,
Nine and seven lie each in a row—
Two are gone, and two will go.

Cholera (enters).

Sister! Sister! you work too slow;
For here, where the tide has left its slime
To mix with the filth of a hundred drains,
And the hovels are rotting in damp and grime
While the landlord is counting his daily gains,
And his slaves are groaning with chronic pains,
You linger about, till famine and gin
Must finish the work which you begin.

Typhus.

Chide me not, sister! my work is sure,
The days are many since last you came;
But you passed away, and your fearful name
Was soon forgotten; but I endure,

Cholera.

Again I come,
The knell shall be tolled,
But not for one;
Ere set of sun
Some work shall be done:
For a hurried grave shall these sleepers hold,
And the proud shall then think of the earth's poor scum.

Typhus.

No meddling spies disturb my reign;
The black dite creeps in the populous lane;
In the moul'dy cellar the infants huddle;
The alley is dark with the filthy puddle;
And the breath of heaven ne'er visits the den
Where the poorest dwell. Leave, leave me here.
I make no noise, and the well-fed men

See my victims die,
And pass quietly by,
With no vain lament, and no idle fear.

Cholera.

Me they shall fear.

Typhus

But stay not long

Take a few away that are wholly mine;
My pleasant places are willingly thine,
But go not the rich and the happy among.

Cholera.

I'll take thy leavings, with nobler prey;
Shall wretches pine beneath thy sway,
And those escape who have known 'tbe wrong?

Typhus.

Leave me, rash sister, leave me here,
To fill the graves from year to year;
For our trade shall go to a swift decay
If you gather the crop from day to day.
Then the hovels will fall and houses rise;
The rich and the poor will both get wise;
And the law will open its hoodwinked eyes.
No more shall we ride on the tainted gale,
Where foul trade flourish and men grow pale;
Where the slaughter-house floods the slippery stones,
And the roek is heavy of boiling bones.
They will drain their streets, and build their schools,
And hunt us out.

Cholera.

Twice urned, the foals

Still keep us here, and here they still will keep;
For the Justices wink and the Vestries sleep,
And red Tape ties the willing hand,
And *Laissez-faire* still rules the land.

—Times.

S. T.

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