

"In this journal we purpose that one of the chief departments shall be devoted to matters relating directly and practically to public hygiene, urging the importance of the formation of local societies and boards of health, and this department will give constantly the latest results of the effect of attention to local causes of disease in this and foreign countries, and, in connection with this, instructive essays—simple, so plain and easy that he who runs may read and comprehend; often of so popular a character that the secular journals, the daily and weekly newspapers, shall copy them, and so commence the education of all people who read. We feel sure they will be read.

"Farmers and villagers are concerned in understanding drainage, the neglect of which has wrought sad disaster in our country. A ditch is cheap, and ditches are cut on every farm, but they need to be cut intelligently, and every country doctor ought to be able to tell his patients where one is needed, and where it had best lead.

"Wells are dug to form depots for drainage from cess-pools, when a little needed knowledge would as easily avoid the lurking danger, that is only concealed by ignorance.

"Infected bedding and clothing have carried illness and death, by reason of expensive economy or death-dealing charity, because the infectiousness of filth or disease has been unknown, or the value of time as a purifier, ignorantly estimated to be great.

"Oh, that we could vaccinate against wilful ignorance!"

PROFESSOR LANKESTER ON GERMS.

Professor Ray Lankester, F. R. S., *Medical Times and Gazette*, delivered the last week's drawing-room lecture under the auspices of the National Health Society, and took for his subject "Germs: Unseen Enemies." Commencing with the simplest description of germs, as observed in growing plants, the lecturer described the principles of fermentative processes, both those associated with the production of alcohol and acetic acid, and also those peculiar influences which are connected with the decay of animal and vegetable life, the various forms assumed by the vibrios, with the important facts of their growth and multiplication, were demonstrated by diagram, and also shown microscopically. It was pointed out that heat is a certain destroyer of all germs, if it be of long continuance and of sufficient degree; that boiling is an undoubted means of effectually "sterilising" all vibrios; and a solution of carbolic acid (one in twenty) will, if it be brought thoroughly into contact with germs, at once render them inert. The lecturer described three varieties of these "unseen enemies," namely, those producing colored products without odour, and those recognised as disease-producing germs. All bad smells, except those arising from chemical works and their products, were, he stated, due to the presence of vibrios; and, as an interesting illustration, the audience were informed that the flavour of cheese merely depended upon the presence of some of these germs, although both the odorous and colour-producing vibrios are harmless, and therefore do not need any precautions to be taken against them. With regard to the disease-producing varieties, Professor Lankester stated that it was yet quite a matter

A SECOND ATTACK OF MEASLES is reported by the Brooklyn physicians as having occurred in 210 instances under their charge, and a third attack in seven cases.