

ment. I do not mean by health merely an absence of dangerous complaints, but that the body should be in perfect tune, full of vigor and alacrity. The longer I live the more I am convinced that the apothecary is of more importance than Seneca; and that half the unhappiness in the world proceeds from little stoppages, from a duct choked up, from food pressing in the wrong place, from a vexed duodenum or an agitated pylorus. The deception as practiced upon human creatures is curious and entertaining. My friend sups late: he eats some strong soup, then a lobster, then some tart, then he dilutes these esculent varities with wine. The next day I call upon him. He is going to sell his home in London and retire to the country. He is alarmed for his eldest daughter's health. His expenses are hourly increasing, and nothing but a timely retreat can save him from ruin. All this is the lobster; and when ever-excited nature has time to manage this testaceous incumbance, the daughter's health recovers, the finances are in good order, and every rural idea effectually excluded from his mind. In the same manner old friendships are destroyed by toasted cheese, and hard salted meat has led to suicide. Unpleasant feelings of the body produce corresponding sensations in the mind, and a great sense of wickedness is sketched out by a morsel of indigestible and misguided food. Of such infinite consequence to happiness is it to study the body."

DOES SALTING MEAT DESTROY BACTERIA?

—Prof. Forster, of Amsterdam, has published an account of some investigations made in his laboratory, having for his object the determination of the effect of the common process of salting or pickling meat on various forms of bacteria. It was found that cholera bacilli were soon destroyed under the abundance of salt, usually in a few hours; but that typhoid bacilli, pyrogenic streptococci, the streptococci of erysipelas, and the bacilli of the infectious diseases of swine frequently retained their vitality for several weeks, or even months, in spite of the presence of abundance of salt. The same was also true of the bacilli of tubercle. In some cases these bacilli were found alive after being two months in pickle, their vitality being proved by their capacity for infecting new cultures. Portions of the viscera of a tuberculous animal, preserved for a considerable time in salt, were found capable of causing tuberculosis in a healthy animal when introduced into its peritoneal cavity. Experiments on the spleen of an animal

which had died of malignant anthrax showed that salt destroyed the bacilli of this disease in about eighteen hours.—*Brit. Med. Journal.*

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—In an exhaustive paper on "Town Sewage and its Treatment," by John Paterson, Assoc. Mem. Inst. C. E., read at the recent annual meeting of the Sanitary Association, of Scotland, the author gave the following summary, in order of merit of the different methods of disposing of town sewage 1. Discharging it into the sea, which should be adopted in the case of towns situated near the sea-coast. 2. Irrigation either broad or intermittent, or with the two combined together. This system should be used for all inland towns where suitable lands are available. Sandy loam with gritty gravel, best; stiff clay or peat bog not suitable. 3. Precipitation by chemicals.—This should only be resorted to when Nos. 1 and 2 are inapplicable.

DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASE IN SOUTHERN INDIA.—In a paper on this subject by Surgeon-General George Bidie (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, July 20, 1889), the results of a long residence in the Madras presidency are given. The territory has an area of about 149,000 square miles, with a population varying from 91 persons in Kurnool to 583 in Tanjore to the square mile. During the past five years the mean annual death-rate in the towns was 24.9 in a 1,000, in the rural districts 19.9 in a 1,000. The cold season is most fatal to natives, the hot months being healthiest. The moisture in the air, the daily range of temperature, and the character of the soil are determining causes of disease. The cold, damp clay soils cause pulmonary diseases, the alluvial soils cholera and bowel complaints, while the sandy and gravelly soils are generally wholesome. During twenty years the mortality from cholera was at the mean rate of 44.02 to 1,000 inhabitants, the disease occurred in the water-logged alluvial land, the villages and towns being very dirty, and the drinking water being taken from filthy irrigation ditches and shallow wells. Malarial fevers are generally prevalent in the low-lying districts, shunning the coast as a rule, and are rather rare in the rice districts; the death-rate is greater in the country (8.6), than in towns (6 in 1,000). Fogs seem to increase the prevalence of fever, the moisture containing the malarial germs that are introduced