

blood treatment his weight was 110 lbs. October 10th it was 122½ lbs. The patient still continues the bovine as last prescribed.

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As the subject of sewer ventilation is one that crops up from time to time, each writer on the subject believing his theory to be the only correct one, it would hardly be within the province of a medical journal to criticize these several suggestions, but leave to the sanitary engineers, to whose domain it properly belongs, the onus of settling the question. But, when a constituted medical board of health, composed of medical men, give the weight of their quasi official positions to a particular scheme, and this is promulgated in the daily press with the strongest endorsement of the chairman of the board, it assumes a different complexion, and calls for either the support of the profession, or otherwise. The idea of the ventilation of sewers, such as that given in the *Free Press* of Feb. 1, illustrated by diagrams, as the best means for the end in view, namely, the ventilation of sewers by untrapped drains, and pipes leading up through dwelling houses, and carried out through the roof, though by no means a new idea, is one that has been received by the most eminent sanitary authorities with scant favor, and bristles with objections, more especially in a climate such as ours, where the ranges of temperature are so varied and sudden. Untrapped drains, with pipes leading up through dwelling houses, would require a means of ready access by man-hole through the roof, to see that the ventilating pipe or pipes are not blocked, which might readily take place under the variations of our temperature. Again, constant watchfulness as to the integrity of the pipe joints would be imperative. The expansion and contraction of metal, the settlement of buildings, etc., might so derange the connections that the pin hole of danger, unnoticed and

unnoticeable, distilling its death-dealing microbes, would be first evidenced by sickness in the household. This possibility, in the ordinary interests of hygiene, would call for the frequent peppermint, or other reliable tests, and these carried out in no perfunctory manner. Again, granting that pipes and connections were sound, the sewer gas would reach the colder outside atmosphere during the winter months and would most probably be harmlessly dissipated. But in summer a reverse current would be generated, and, under certain atmospheric conditions, sewer emanation might collect on the roof top and be driven down the chimneys into the dwellings. Mr. Simon, late medical officer to the Privy Council of England, says: "The ferments in sewer emanation show no power of active diffusion in the air—diffusing in it only as they are passively wafted, and if the air be freely open, not carrying their vitality far. Humid air can lift them in full effectiveness, as from sewers and drains, and if into houses, or confined external spaces, then with the chief chance of becoming effective." The *Engineering Record* says: "In any case, we prefer to ventilate the sewers by open man-hole covers. Under the conditions obtaining in most cities, the main trap is certainly necessary." Again it says: "In the newer American cities, with wide streets, man-hole ventilation need not be a nuisance, and the attempts to run vent pipes through individual houses as a general thing invites greater evils and perils than the practice on which our engineers rely. The pipe charged with its deadly ferments running up through our houses might prove an ever-present reminder that in the midst of life we are in death, but most people would prefer to have this reminder before them in another form. If the theory is a correct one, why not have high ventilating shafts at the crossings? For, if the plan proposed by the Board of Health became compulsory in any city, probably 50 per cent. of the inhabitants would take up their beds and walk."