

The proprietors of a house in Glasgow were fined £100 damages to one of their tenants, on account of the death of his only child from diphtheria, caused by bad drainage. The proprietors had been directed several times previously to put unsanitary drains on the premises in order, but had done nothing till the disease occurred.

GENERAL HYGIENE.

Miss Lydia Becker, who wrote in the *Sanitary Record* of October in favor of the wearing of corsets, is not to have the courtesy extended to her, so often accorded to women, of having her argument pass unnoticed. Dr. W. W. Smith, M.D., in the *Record* of Nov. 15th, says he believes Miss Becker is struggling against inevitable facts. He states that many years ago he adopted a plan in case-taking in his private consultation room of dividing the personal health report into two principal columns, headed *reported* and *observed*. The conviction grew with experience that the best results were obtainable by depending most upon facts *observed*. New light upon such states as *want of tone* or *neurasthenia* was gradually shed upon the result of *observed* facts. The results of many hundreds of cases year after year grew into a kind of anatomy and pathology of corset-wearing. After referring to the evidences of the effects of compression upon the circulation as readily noticed on any person wearing stays, the influences upon muscles and organs is pointed out. The *oblique recti* and other muscles supporting the back, those supporting the abdomen, the diaphragm, of lungs, liver,

stomach, a part of the great sympathetic nervous system, and the great main blood vessels are influenced by this pressure. General atrophy of the muscles takes place, until they become a seeming necessity, or as Miss Becker says, the corset "tends to cause an upright carriage." Says Dr. Smith further, "The young wearer is uneasy without their artificial support; she cannot comfortably sit upright, she does not believe it good to be without her stays, she feels 'dropping together' if she attempts their omission." Dr. Smith says Miss Becker's argument regarding said ladies "is too much like that of Aesop's fox who had lost his tail."

For invalids who are seeking a sanatorium, one of the most recently noticed is that of San Paulo, in Brazil. Thirteen hours distant by rail from Rio Janeiro, it is only three hours from the port of Santos. It is 28 hours by mail steamer from New York. San Paulo is rapidly developing as a centre, and has 50,000 inhabitants of Brazilians, Portuguese, Italians, English, etc. In its immediate vicinity are charming country walks and scrambles amongst an almost tropical vegetation. The climate both in winter and summer is delightful, and is specially recommended in Dr. Walshe's work for pulmonary invalids. The atmosphere is dry and exhilarating, with but very slight barometer changes. The average maximum temperature of the hottest month, January, is 80° in the shade; in the coldest, July, 72°. Unlike the Riviera, San Paulo has no unhealthy season; and those who like sea-bathing can go to Santos, near by.

GENERAL NOTES

THERE were 130 deaths in October last in Calcutta from Asiatic cholera.

THE aggregate receipts of the local authorities for 1885-6 in England and Wales amounted to £44,331,540, of which £696,492 was spent on matters directly sanitary, *e.g.*, cemeteries, sewage farms, etc.

THE next meeting of the American Medical Association will be held at Newport, R.I., on Tuesday, June 25th, 1889. Dr. W. T. Parker is local secretary, and Dr. H. R. Storer chairman of Committee of Arrangements. The occasion will be the 40th

annual meeting and the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Newport.

FROM the 14th annual returns under the Vaccination Act, it appears that of 894,263 births registered in England and Wales, the number which, at the time the return was made, had been successfully vaccinated was 757,714 (84.7% of the whole). The number registered as dying before they could have been vaccinated being 83,684, or 9.4% of the whole.

THE Pasteur Institute, recently erected for his use and on account of his distinguished services