reaching London about six weeks later. It was more protracted and more fatal in London than that of the previous year, but was less rapid in its developments. This was attributed to the extra Christmas intercourse which was going on at the time when the previous epidemic began. The experience of the two epidemics showed that one attack of influenza was not a complete protection against another; whether it was in any degree protective was doubtful. The author considered that there was no ground for connecting the influenza epidemic with any kind of weather conditions, that there was no proof that it travelled faster than human beings, or began with a large number of simultaneous attacks, or that it attacked persons isolated from their fellows. He regarded human intercourse as the essential factor in the spread of the disease. The rapid development of an epidemic he explained by the shortness of the incubation period of influenza and the widespread susceptibility of it. In the discussion which followed, Dr. Drysdale thought no medical man now believed that the disease was merely wafted by the winds from another country, and the great point for them to fix attention upon was to find out whether the disease was contagious.

PERSONAL DISINFECTION, BY CONWAY SCOTT, C. E., IN THE SANITARY RECORD.

There is no greater fallacy than that an epidemic can only be spread by persons who have the disease. Common experience shows that epidemic diseases are only too often spread by persons who have not the disease, but who are carrying the disease organisms about with them in their clothing. All such persons are, in the old Hebrew expression, "unclean," and should not mix in society until they have been purified or disinfected. Some years ago a lady took small-pox; she had been confined to her room for some months previously through an accident; none of her friends or visitors had the disease, and there was no case of small-pox anywhere in her vicinity. How she took the disease was a perfect mystery, until it was found that one of her friends was in the habit of visiting at a house where there was small-pox. A lady lately died in child-birth from scarlatina; every precaution had been taken to prevent such a danger. A most searching investigation was made, and it was found that a new chambermaid, a stout, healthy girl, had come direct from a house in which several cases of scarlatina had occurred. All such dangers might be easily averted by unclean persons having themselves and clothing disinfected by carbolic vapour, and by so doing a large amount of sickness might be prevented. A lady lately engaged a servant; the girl honestly told her she had been living in a scarlatina house; before going to her new place the girl and all her clothing were disinfected. No disease occurred in this house. Surely such a simple precaution is better than having a family down in scarlatina. Personal disinfection must also be considered as a preventative against taking an epidemic disease, for when any person has inhaled the vapour and has his clothing and person saturated with it, the disease organisms will be killed before they can take root in his system. A friend once came to me, saying that his son, who was an architect's pupil, had been ordered to measure up the wards of the fever hospital for some alterations, and he feared the boy would either take fever or bring it home. A small room was filled with strong carbolic vapour, and the boy went in and was well saturated both inside and outside. He did his tedious and dangerous duty and neither took fever nor brought it home with him; the only unpleasantness was a strong carbolic smell about him for the next week or so. Not long after, a clergyman attending to his sacred duties at this very same hospital took typhus fever and had a very bad time of it. Some years ago a doctor coming out of a fever house said to an inspector who was with him, "I'm in for it, I feel the disease upon me." Within a fortnight the doctor died in the delirium of typhus fever; the inspector did not take it; he was protected by disinfection. I look upon personal disinfection after contact with any epidemic disease as one of the most important of sanitary requirements; and as it simply consists in taking a carbolic vapour bath, there is no practical reason why it should not be universally used. The only objection is the smell, and the fear that inhaling carbolic vapour might be injurious to health. The smell must be put up with, but, after many years practical experience, I can safely say that it is not injurious, but in my opinion beneficial to general health.