

evil effects of overcrowding—great preponderance of disease in one and two-room houses as compared respectively with three, four and five-room ones—this is especially noticeable in zymotic and lung diseases; but the author points out that bad feeding and other unsanitary conditions are apt to co-exist with the overcrowding.

A consideration of the various transmissible diseases individually occupies the next 150 pages; the diseases named amount up to twenty-nine, twenty-eight of which throw out malarial fever, which is, we suppose, inserted in this connection because of its importance and interest, and is brought technically in because of its "transmissibility" through the agency of the mosquito.

In regard to actinomycosis, some of our health authorities will, in view of the measures they have thought desirable, be rather staggered by the statement that "There is no positive evidence that the disease is transmitted from animal to animal, or from animal to man, or *vice versa*." It is added, however, that it is of course safer to regard subjects of the disease as dangerous, and to isolate them." The author deems it "probable that both man and animals receive the virus from the same external source . . . a parasite upon certain cereals."

The author minimizes too far, we think, the dangers from defective plumbing and drainage; the remarks to which we refer may be found on page 115. We have not time to debate the theoretical statement that "it is difficult to conceive the way," but we do know, as a matter of practical observation, of case after case when both diphtheria and typhoid fever have been prevalent and persistent during the existence of flagrant defects, by which sewer air escaped into houses, and where they have ceased to exist after these defects have been remedied. Mr. Sedgwick Saunders thought that he saw some sore throats and typhoid from escape of gases from sewers. The same thing was noted in commenting upon the difference in the prevalence of two contiguous boroughs in London, alike in all respects except the escape of sewer gas from the manholes and culverts of the more modern but less fortunate of the two. We have spoken emphatically and at length because we think it dangerous for a highly-gifted author to minimize the evils of sewer gas.

We commend to the reader the author's views of the care that should be exercised in disposing of pneumonic sputa.

We think it is confusing to use the word "vaccination" except in connection with the transmission of the vaccine disease. In future editions we hope the doctor will make the printer spell "preventable" as the doctor himself spells it in his preface. We mention this because this good hygienic word is