

their moisture is rapidly evaporated, so that the solid ingredients become dust, then they are endowed with the longevity and far-reaching infectiveness of all dry contagia. The most dangerous and long-lived of all contagia are those which begin their external career in this state of dryness; of these scarlet fever and small-pox are the most striking illustrations. They impregnate the atmosphere of the room, and make it highly infective. Yet we can do nothing to destroy this infectiveness, but trust to the natural disinfectants—air and moisture—which, in this climate, any hygroscopic body soon acquires. We may, however, by applications to the patient's body, clog the wings of the contagia, and retain the debris to be removed by the bath. In water all contagia are drowned at once, in the sense of being imprisoned, and if the bulk of water be sufficiently large in proportion to the organic matter, decomposition proceeds apace, and they soon cease to exist as vital entities. There are only two circumstances which may give them another opportunity of infection, one is if they contaminate the water supply, the other is, if from defect of bulk of water and stagnation, gaseous bubbles project them into the air, or the filthy solution smears the sides of sewers above water level, or deposits mud which is exposed to the sun and the sweep of currents of air," as too frequently occur.

The excreta from the bowels and kidneys, and in some cases the sputa, should, however, be received into a strong disinfecting solution. Where possible, as in cases of scarlet fever, especially, and even of measles, oily inunction of the entire surface should be practiced. This will not only check the spread of the contagium in the dried cuticle, but will prove soothing and useful to the patient.

We must defer for another occasion the consideration of that part of the disinfecting process—of the clothing, bedding and room or dwelling—which follows recovery.

Dr. Alfred Carpenter urges the amalgamation of all the sanitary organizations in England into a royal institute of health.

TYPHOID FEVER.

In the destruction of valuable human life, next to that most destructive of all diseases, consumption, comes typhoid fever. This disease seems as it were to revel in the destruction of the most valuable lives, and almost daily we learn of one or more of the best men in the Dominion, and they too in the prime of life, falling victims to it.

It seems as plain as can be, as repeatedly explained in this journal, that the origin or cause of the disease—its specific contagion—is most intimately associated with human excreta, and that the poison is usually communicated through the medium of drinking water. It is probably but rarely if ever communicated directly from one person to another, but develops and multiplies outside the body. Though not positively proven, there seems to be hardly any doubt whatever, as everything in the history of the disease seems to bear witness, that the contagion is some phase of a sort of mould, the favorite, if not the essential, soil for the development of which is fecal matter—fecal matter adhering to the surfaces of drains or sewers, or in cesspools or privy vaults. And it is very universally believed that, to get rid of the fecal matter, completely and entirely, is to get rid of the fever.

Notwithstanding all this, pointed, out to the public over and over again, there are in the "Queen City"—Toronto, between 14,000 and 15,000 privy vaults, and in the Dominion probably not less than a million of them, for storing and actually preserving this soil for the development of the typhoid poison, which is so constantly destroying the lives of the ablest and most useful men.

We need hardly allude to the remedy. It is plain enough; consisting simply in the disposal of the excreta of the body as civilized beings and Christians should. The present system and manner of constructing drains and sewers in connection with our houses is highly dangerous, and doubtless costs thousands of most valuable lives. The