

measles, scarlatina, and whooping-cough as the diseases of ordinary childhood. That such they have been we readily admit, but that such they need be, we entirely deny.

At present it is an almost universal belief among the laity, and even the profession lend at least some sanction to the notion, that as a child is bound to have the diseases we have named, the sooner he gets them, and has done with them, the better; it is a kind of relief to the maternal mind to know that just as baby has got over 'vaccination,' or has cut his last tooth, so his elder brother has 'got over the measles.'

One of the gravest objections to inoculation of small-pox was that it kept the disease constantly active, and until the fatal tradition is broken down that measles, etc., belong to childhood, so long will care be wanting on the part of parents to screen their children from infection—so long will our efforts to stamp out these diseases be unavailing.

It may be argued that there is a special difficulty in protecting children from the infection of scarlatina, their age acting almost as a predisposing cause, but this we contend is by no means proved, for the fact of children suffering in greater numbers, may be because they are brought in contact with a greater number of children than of adults, and, as we affirm, the great number of attacked is due to the disease being kept active by children communicating the disease to children, by reason of the most ordinary care being wanting.

When an adult is suffering from measles or scarlatina, means are taken, and with fair success, to prevent his communicating the disease to other adults, although there may be even less need in their case, as they are possibly protected by having had the disease in early life; but with children living within the range of infection, the plan is very different; too often no care is taken to prevent their taking the disease, even if they are not purposely exposed to its influence in the hope that they may take it, and so a further stage in their life history be passed, the possibility of a fatal result being altogether forgotten. Fond mothers would be horrified if they could be brought to realise the wrong they are doing to their own children and the community at large by not taking every precaution to avoid infection, and to learn that by just so many as there are children attacked, are the number of sources multiplied from which infection spreads to others.

The power which section 120 of the Public Health Act, 1875, gives to enforce the whitewashing and disinfecting of houses after infectious disease has occurred in them, should be