

stances are to be looked for in the excrements. But it may be questioned whether such excrements contain the poison while still in their fresh condition. The circumstance that physicians and nurses and patients in the same wards are seldom attacked even if they touch the fresh excrement, seems to indicate that the poison in order to become more active, has to go through a certain stage of development outside of the body. This development can take place if the dejections are left to themselves, as in dirty linen, but it seems to go on more abundantly if the dejections are collected in privies, sewers or ground already saturated with organic substances. In this way it can be explained how a typhoid patient, who comes to a house or region previously free from the disease, can establish there a focus of infection from which many other persons become diseased."

Three cases of diptheria recorded by Dr. F. W. Campbell in the Canada Medical Record for February would seem to endorse this theory. The father, anxious to have his house thoroughly healthy, employed a plumber to connect the soil pipe in the closet with a pipe inserted into the chimney, so as to convey away any noxious gas. While this was being done, the soil pipe was open, and free entrance afforded to the miasm, for this soil pipe communicated with the drain, into which the excrement and expectorated matter of three other cases of diptheria, which had just previously occurred in the same terrace, was emptied.

It will be thus seen that on the proper construction and careful attention to the sewers, public health depends; public health means public wealth. Sewers receiving their fluid contributions from every house, very great care should be exercised by a Government or Municipal Board that no interruption to their removal to a safe and distant place of deposit, nor leakage into the soil through which they pass occurs.

SIMCOE

C. W. C.

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One of the incessant wants of man,—fresh air.