

A NEW SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS, the results of which have just been published (*Deut. Medicin.*, Wochenschrift, No. 3, 1885), by Dr. Deneke, of Gottingen, are in striking accord with the results obtained on the same line of investigation by Dr. Heron, referred to in the February number of THE SANITARY JOURNAL. Dr. Deneke has found that the bacillus of Asiatic cholera and the bacillus of cholera nostras behave in a strikingly different manner when cultivated on gelatine and potato respectively. He has carried his observations further, and has applied similar tests to an altogether new organism, which he has succeeded in obtaining from decomposing cheese.

THE NEW "CHEESE SPIRILLA" are "almost identical in form with the bacilli of both kinds of cholera, although by a practised eye a difference in shape and size can be detected, the cheese spirillum being the smallest of the three, and differing from Finkler's bacillus in possessing a uniform thickness throughout its whole length. By means of infection experiments upon animals the different properties of these three varieties were still more strongly borne out." The Guinea-pig was found to withstand the action of the bacilli of cholera-nostras and decayed cheese, whilst "an exactly similar infection with Koch's bacillus put an end to its existence in about six hours." Dr. Denke believes that the two former varieties are harmless saprophytes which have no causal relation whatever either to cholera-nostras or to Asiatic cholera.

OVER STUDY IN BALTIMORE.—In a report just published of the Baltimore dispensary, Dr. Van Bibber says, "the statistics of the year show a great increase of nervous diseases among school children. The number of cases of St. Vitus' dance is remarkably large, and headache, insomnia and neuralgia, heretofore considered to be troubles of adult life, are now frequently brought under observation in young children. The question of over-pressure in the public schools has lately caused much discussion in England, and I have no doubt that the tendency of the present system is to increase the development

of nervous diseases among the younger pupils of our public schools. The number of studies and the frequent examinations have undoubtedly an injurious effect upon the more sensitive children of a class, subjecting them to overstrain and anxiety which may result in the production of the unusual forms of nervous disorder which have been brought under observation."

A WRITER IN THE *Canada Medical Record* believes it to be "the duty of the physician to discourage undue mental exertion." From our ancestors, he says, "who might generally be described as a hardy race of men with great stomachs and no brains, we are developing into a physically inferior race with large brains and irritable digestive apparatus. A judicious exercise of mind and body should be the aim of the man who would make the most of himself. As I write there is too much athletics in the air, but doubtless it may do good by enticing the book-worm from his books and by making the pale student breathe cold, exhilarating air and exercise his flabby muscles. At any rate, if we must have an extreme in Canada, by all means let us raise muscular, eupeptic, broad-chested, good-natured samples of Anglo-Saxon mediocrity, rather than dyspeptic, myopic, anæmic geniuses, with abnormal brains and endless stores of knowledge.

THE MICHIGAN STATE board of health is threatened with the usual biennial attack, and in the *Legislative Journal* for Feb. 18th, is a notice that a bill will be introduced in the Legislature to abolish the board. We have always been in accord with the opinion expressed by the Hon. Mr. Crooks in regard to a health board for the Province of Ontario, at the time when he was chairman of a public health committee in the Legislature, that boards were irrepressible bodies and not the best form of organization for dealing with matters of this kind, and that a sub-department associated with one of the departments of the government would be much better. It may be different in the United States. Certainly the Michigan board has done a vast amount of good work, and it would be