

Water-closets and privies.—The former are very convenient, and can hardly be dispensed with in a large city; but, likely the privy system, at a little distance from the house, is the best.

Stationary wash basins in the rooms.—These often are the means of diffusing sewer-gases through the houses, but not to the extent that is generally imagined; keeping water in basins and bath-tub might obviate that, the water absorbing the gases.

Dirty cabins, dung-heaps at the door, or in the house, may not be prejudicial, as the door is being continually opened, the cabin is in the midst of glorious air; then again, animal manure is not unhealthy as to odor, it containing ammonia; stable helpers (even in cities) are as healthy as any other class of men.

Hygiene and Boards of Health, Quarantine.—The two former of these are found in the larger cities of the more advanced nations, especially in the "temperate zone:" it is a question whether they have done much good; according to the newspapers, which usually photograph the truth,— "no." As to *quarantine*, that is especially beneficial in a negative way, i. e., keeping out disease, but no curing it. We, of New York, complain that Southern (and foreign cities in the tropics, as Havana) cities are not kept clean, thereby engendering repulsive diseases; they might with reason retort, mentioning our "high rate of mortality;" because after all what does it matter what name is given to the disease (yellow fever, or diphtheria), as long as it is fatal; summer diarrhoea and teething kill as well as cholera.

Diphtheria caused by *bad odours* and *defective drainage*.—I cannot exactly subscribe to this theory; I rather think that our ward-school system (crowding dirty children of all classes and constitutions together) is at the bottom of this. A healthy child goes to school, gets in contact or catching distance of an infected child, comes home, takes sick, communicates disease to other younger children in the family, several of which may die; then people go smelling around the house, and if there is a dead rat or so behind the wainscoting, they forthwith blame our (exceedingly laborious and painstaking) Board of Health about "sewer gases!" Perhaps also an inefficient doctor has been called in.

Typhoid fever may possibly be caused by sewer gases, but it is not perfectly certain.

Typhoid types of acute disease may originate

from sewer-gases, but these two last conditions (fevers, and typhoid types supervening on other complaints) are more likely partially caused by close ill-ventilated apartments, and also by inferior kinds of food. *Malaria* may possibly be induced by sewer-gases; it is likely *intensified* by that agency.

Increased rate of mortality in tenement house districts.—I think this is due to the fact principally, that there are more poor people than rich; also, that there are more people occupying a room (merely as regards simple numbers) in tenements than in rich houses. Send away the bulk of the tenement house population, leaving merely as many people in a tenement house as there would be, on an average, in a rich house, it is a question whether any more would die in the former than in the latter: of course, there is a little difference as regards buying delicacies, getting good food, wines, &c. The laboring men, who live in tenements, go to their work every morning, perfectly healthy, although of course they are in the fresh air most of the day; the mothers pass through their confinements about as well as rich ladies do.

Are vile odours unhealthy?—Doctors are divided on this question; bad odours are very unpleasant, but I do not think they are fatal—witness the men who work in rendering, and other such establishments; also those who work in gas-housest sewers, the former "night-men," who used to clean out privies (now called soil-vaults).

A country village with no sewer, or water-pipe system, no house water-closets, is more likely healthier (apart from the country air) than a town which contains those conveniences of civilization the dirty water and manure thrown out over the fields hurt no one.

Progress of Medical Science.

DEATH FROM BROMIDE OF ETHYL.

Dr. R. J. Levis, of Philadelphia, the distinguished advocate of Bromide of Ethyl, recently lost a patient under this anæsthetic at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, Philadelphia. The patient was about to be operated upon for stone in the bladder, but died as the first incision was being made. Dr. Levis was present during the administration of the anæsthetic, and no doubt exercised every known precaution.