

A LETTER addressed to the members of the British House of Commons by Lord Henry Buce, in reference to the dwellings of the poor, states that there are more than 50,000 families in London alone who have only one room each to live in, and who exist more like vermin than human beings. They are driven out of one place into another, although no better accommodation is provided for them. The Peabody Trustees have done a great deal of good, but they have not gone down to the lowest stratum.

A LAW passed by the Federal Council of Switzerland decrees that in outbreaks of small-pox, cholera, typhoid fever, or the plague, the authorities of the canton in which the epidemic has appeared must examine the dwellings, the water, and food-stuffs in use; they must provide means of isolation and of special conveyance for the patients, and appropriate refuge for persons not attacked with the epidemic.

IN Switzerland they are looking well after the food supply. In Zurich during three months not less than 678 samples of milk were examined by the police-officer, and in 227 suspicious cases by the analyst of the canton or at the towns laboratory. In 23 cases, where the standard amount of fat and ashes was not reached, the names of the fraudulent dealers were published. During the same time 622 samples of meat were examined, and those consignments which were not accompanied by a certificate of the meat examiner of the it came from were sent back to the seller.

THE price of freedom (from disease) is eternal vigilance (in the matter of cleanliness).—N. Y. Medical Times.

DR. CHRISTIE, editor of the Sanitary Journal, Glasgow, wishes to give prominence to the fact that scarlatina is contagious from the moment that the disease first declares itself, even before the appearance of the scarlet rash, and that the process of isolation and disinfection should be commenced, at the earliest period of the stage of invasion, even before the disease has declared itself by the scarlet efflorescence, and long before the stage of desquamation, or peeling of the skin, has begun.

FREQUENT COMPLAINTS are made in various journals, especially in England, of the

annoyance arising from the whistle on trains. The fact is that the unnecessary and exaggerated shrieks and yells which are indulged in, nominally for signalling purposes, on railways in towns are a source of serious and constantly recurring annoyance, and even injury, to the inhabitants of adjacent houses.

THE prevalent idea that mushrooms are a nutritious food is not supported by facts. Recent investigations show that they contain but little nutriment; in some varieties the nutritive value is almost nil.

AT the Association of American Physicians, Dr. Henderson, of Albany, reported in detail the histories of twenty-nine cases coming under his observation, in which various diseases appeared to have been due to the inhalation of sewer-gas. He thought it probable that the following may result from sewer-gas poisoning: vomiting and purging, separately or combined, general debility, fever, sore throat of a diphtheritic type, neuralgia and perhaps myelitis.

A RIVER of Soup, the Union Medicale regards the Seine, which, an exchange says, is suggestive of the shipwreck of a menagerie. The following defunct animal organisms were removed from the river within the limits of Paris during the year 1886; 2,021 dogs, 977 cats, 2,257 rats, 507 fowls and ducks, 210 hares and rabbits, 10 sheep, 2 foals, 66 sucking-pigs, 5 pigs, 27 geese, 27 turkeys, 2 calves, 2 monkeys, 8 goats, 1 snake, 2 squirrels, 3 porcupines, 1 parrot, 609 birds (various), 5 foxes, 130 pigeons, 3 hedgehogs, 3 peacocks, and 1 seal, besides 3,066 kilogrammes of offal.

DR. MARTIN, in charge of Professor Graucher's service, Paris, remarks in (communication to Phila. Med. Times). "Hygiene is of the utmost importance, and whether we believe or not in the importance of the rôle acted by the micro-organisms in the pathogeny of disease, hygiene can act all the same. It is enough to know that some sort of contagion exists, and that it is transmissible, in order to have good reason to prevent its transmission. Most of us know enough to make a prescription when we see a disease, but perhaps it would be better for us if our clients did as the Chinese, and pay as long as they are kept well.