

trial epidemic regularly broke out during the summer months. The inhabitants very much resembled those wretched beings to be seen at the post-houses in the Pontine marshes. As the situation of the village was favourable for a bleaching establishment, one was erected there. The chlorine employed in the bleaching process immediately effected a change in the atmosphere of the place, and consequently in the health of the inhabitants; and from that time to the present day, a period of five and twenty years, there has been no return of the epidemic.

Notwithstanding the immense progress made in science since that period, the times of barbarous ignorance and blind prejudice seem to linger over some parts of our happy island. We remember reading an account of a trial that took place three or four years ago in Lancashire. A bleaching establishment at Liverpool, if we correctly remember, had been indicted as a public nuisance on account of the smell, as it was stated, of the muriatic acid gas evolved in the process of preparing the linen. Two medical men appeared to give evidence in support of the charge. These sapient doctors, as we might easily infer from their evidence, belonged to that class of practitioners, unfortunately too frequent in this country even among the magnates of the faculty, who would fain bleed and physic, kill and cure according to the system practised forty years ago; who are unacquainted with the recent discoveries in science, and fancy they need them not; who consider nusculation a heresy of the blackest dye, and the stethoscope an instrument of the devil's own invention. And here let us deprecate any inference that we write invidiously and with the feelings of a "fellow in the craft," for we declare that we are not in the remotest degree connected with the medical profession.

The two doctors stated in their evidence, that the establishment was not only a nuisance but dangerous to human life, inasmuch as the muriatic acid gas evolved was a deadly poison, and that even the "birds of the air" and every "winged thing" that had the misfortune to fly over the fatal building would fall dead; although it did not appear in the evidence that the inmates of the building ever obtained in this manner a supply of pigeons, or crows, or jackdaws. Five physicians, men of science and well versed in its more recent discoveries, were called to rebut the testimony of the two former. They declared that the bleaching establishment, far from being a nuisance, was an advantage to the neighbourhood, from its destroying everything susceptible of engendering infection; and that the chlorine evolved was wholesome to every individual who breathed it, in consequence of its being diluted with ten times more atmospheric air than was absolutely necessary to enable its being inhaled by human beings. The jury, like ignorant men, listened to their own prejudices rather than to the voice of truth, and to the evidence of ignorance rather than to that of knowledge. Their verdict was one that will surprise their grand-children.

About a dozen years since, the manufactories of catgut in Paris being most offensive to the neighbourhood in which they were carried on, and destructive of human life by engendering typhus fever, a prize was offered by the French Institute for the discovery of a mode of obviating these evils. The prize was awarded to M. Labarraque for his discovery of the chlorurets, by which chlorine was reduced to a singularly mild and breathable form, causing not the slightest irritation to the lungs, and yet losing none of its disinfecting and bleaching properties. M. Labarraque's invention was triumphantly successful. From the catgut manufactory it went to the hospital, — from the hospital to the dwelling-house, in which its use was extended to many of the ordinary purposes of life.

Chloruret of oxide of calcium, or, as it is termed in his country, CHLORIDE OF LIME, was first used. It was originally presented in a state of solution; but it

was found to be easily produced by saturating quick lime with chlorine and infusing it in water, by which a solution of the chloruret was obtained, and from this period it has been usually sold in the form of powder. The chloruret of oxide of sodium, or, as it is called in commerce, the CHLORIDE OF SODA, soon followed. Its preparation is much more complicated than the chloride of lime, and it never appears but in a state of solution.

These chlorides are a blessing to the human race, inasmuch as they keep us free from a number of the more fatal diseases, and contribute greatly to many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

When, a few years since, a commission of French physicians under the direction of Dr. Pariset went to Egypt, they took with them a considerable quantity of chloruret of oxide of sodium, to try its effect upon the plague. Some clothes taken from persons who had died of plague, and covered with pus from the plague sores, were soaked for sixteen hours in water, containing one sixtieth part of chloruret of oxide of sodium. Dr. Pariset and two of his brother-physicians wore these clothes next to their skins during a whole fortnight, without the slightest inconvenience or any symptoms of infection.

[To be continued.]

#### MINISTERIAL.

##### WATCHFULNESS.

##### I. The duty itself.

This implies,—

1. A continual care over our thoughts, words, and actions; lest the tempter should instil into our hearts the subtle poison of pride, or envy, or some other unholy disposition; lest he should provoke us to speak unadvisedly, or act improperly, or live in a manner unbecoming our profession and character.

2. A constant guard against the indulgence of improper tempers, the admission of pernicious principles, and the influence of evil example.

3. A constant look out in every direction, in order that we may discover the first approach of the tempter, whether he come in the character of the "old serpent," the "roaring lion," or as "an angel of light."

4. A readiness to resist the first solicitation to evil, to repel the first attack, and to avoid the first snare.

In the exercise of this duty there are some things to watch for,—as,

1. The return of devotional feelings, good desires, and pious resolutions.
2. The special visitations of the Holy Spirit.
3. The openings of Divine providence, which are many and various.
4. Opportunities of doing good to the bodies and souls of men.
5. The fulfilling of God's promises and the sure word of prophecy.

Some things to watch against; as,—

1. The suggestions of Satan.
2. The workings of our own imaginations.
3. The allurements of the world.
4. The erroneous opinions and practices of the day.

##### II. The necessity of attending to this duty.

This arises,—

1. From the nature of our condition in this world which is a state of trial—a warfare.
2. From the number, strength, subtlety, and united energies of our foes.
3. From our own weakness, ignorance, and entire dependence on Divine aid.
4. From the inevitable disgrace attending defeat or apostasy.

##### III. The advantages of attending to this duty.

- (1.) To enable us to foresee dangers.

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