MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND SELECTIONS.

CHOLERA IN AMERICA .--- On this the Chicago Medical Times says, notwithstanding the anxiety of the press and people for the past three years we have had until now no cholera. Every pre. caution possible is being taken by the health officers, and it may be that the disease will not spread. But the cholera is due here and it has arrived, and notwithstanding the lateness of the season, the rigid adherance to quarantin, and the improved methods of disinfection the probabilities are that America will see more cholera next year than it has for many years. The plague has not travelled as rapidly this time as in previous visitations, but there is but little room for doubt that it will be here during the summer of 1888.

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THE LAST VISITATION of chole a, continuer the Medical Times, was in In November, 1865, the arrival 1866, of a cholera ship from Havre caused consternation. Strict quarantine work kept the disease out, but the following April brought half a dozen steamships with cholera-stricken passengers. The Virginia was the first with thirty-one cholera dead, followed by the England with 250 deaths out of 1,200 passengers. The latter arrived April 20, 1866. Ten days latter the first case occurred in New York. In that year the disease killed 1,212 persons in that city.

INTERESTING THEORY OF RESPIRA-TORY ATTACKS.—Dr. H B. Baker, Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health, has made a long series of observations relating to the effects of the weather upon the health. He recently exhibited a paper illustrated with diagrams showing curves for influenza, tonsilitis, croup, bronchitis, and pneumonia, that corresponded with the curve for atmospheric temperature with surprising closeness.

He thinks (Sanitary Era) that the bad effects of cold air on the air-passages are mainly through its drying effect, which can best be appreciated by reflecting that each cubic foot of air inhaled at the temperature of zero, Fahr., can contain only one-half grain of vapour, while when exhaled it is nearly saturated at a temperature of about 68° F., and therefore contains about eighteen and one-half grains of vapor, about eighteen grains of which have been abstracted from the air-passages. Thus cold air, falling upon susceptible surfaces, tends to produce an abnormal dryness which may be followed by irritation and suppuration. He claims croyza is sometimes so caused. Under some conditions the nasal surfaces. are not susceptible to drying, the fluids being supplied in increased quantity to meet the increased demand made by the inhalation of cold air. In that case an unusual evaporation of the fluid leaves behind an unusual quantity of non-volatile salts of the blood, such as sodium choloride, and an unusual irritation results; he thinks influenza is the name commonly given to this condi-The effects which the inhalation tion. of cold air have on the bronchial surfaces depend greatly upon how the upper air-passages have responded to the increased demand for fluids; because, if they do not supply the moisture, it must be supplied by the bronchial; in which case bronchitis results. Finally, if the demands for moisture made by cold air are not met until the air cells are reached, pneumonia is produced.

It is said that the application of castor, oil to a bee-sting will immediately counteract the pain.

IN Turkey when a man is found guilty of adulterating food or drugs his ears are nailed to a wall.