

them." There is doubtless much danger as above indicated, and we add our voice to the imely warning.

A MEETING is to be held in St. Louis, Mo., in October, of the commtttee of fifty physicians, appointed at the Washington meeting, in May, of the American Medical Association, to make arrangements for the time, place, &c., of the proposed "Inter-continental American Medical Congress." We trust that in the programme of subjects for consideration and discussion abundance of time will be provided for subjects on preventive medicine. We would suggest that the relations of the profession to the public be a special subject ; with the view of bringing about a different line in the general practice of medicine, as distinct from surgery, whereby the public may be encouraged to look more to the physician as a guide to the *prevention* rather than the *cure* of disease, which would be not only easier for the profession, but for which the public could afford to pay much better than in the present line of practice. Sir Wm. Jenner has said, "To prevent disease is the most important aim of the science and art of medicine"; and the eminent Dr. Samuel Wilks, F.R.S., &c., in a lecture at Guy's Hospital, said, "The idca of cure is low-born and common-place," "Cure lies at the bottom of all quack systems," Prevention is significant of higher intellectual advancement:" with all of which this Journal has ever been in full accord, and outspoken in its views thereon, alone and in council.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the State and Provincial Boards of Health was held last month in Washington. A number of most valuable subjects were freely discussed : such as Quarantine and Maritime Sanitation, the Prevention of Consumption and River Pollution. We cannot learn that anything specially new was brought to light. Why don't such bodies get up a little more enthusiasm and vigor of action, and press the various sanitary needs upon the authorities by vigorous resolutions and influential committees to bring the resolutions before the authorities from time to time, pressing them until acted upon? The work of such official bodies is often rather, too, of a routine or perfunctory character.

FROM AN INVESTIGATION in New South Wales, by the Board of Health, concerning diseases of cattle there, the following is given by the Commissioner : That the disease known as "coast cough" is really bovine tuberculosis. That bovine tuberculosis manifesting itself by "coast cough," or by other symptoms, is extensively present among dairy cattle in the South Coast District. That actinomycosis and cancer are also to be found among dairy cattle in this district. That infectious disease, probably tuber-

culosis, is to found among swine fed on *skim* milk from butter factories, and is not *improb-*ably due to the use of milk from *tuberculous* cattle. That all these diseases are *identical* with diseases occurring in human beings, and are, so far as is at present known, incurable.

A PURE MALT EXTRACT is a sort of liquid bread that is partly digested. It is these qualities which give the fermented liquors a large part of their assimilative value. From the malt, the brewer makes his ale and beer by further converting starch into sugar, and sugar into alcohol. He leaves some carbohydrates and albuminoids in his brewing, which give to beer and ale their body, and just so far, make them malt extracts. They differ from the latter in that their primary (and sometimes sole) object is to produce a stimulant. A malt extract, on the other hand, has for its principal object the production of nutriment—the stimulus it may contain, being of use partly to preserve the liquid from decomposition, partly to increase its palatability, and partly to serve in an important sense as food. We have used many of the malt extracts, but not one other so palatable as Wyeth's of which the Davis and Lawrence Co. of Montreal are the agents. It is an admirable tonic food in low states of the system, from any cause, but probably its greatest value is manifest during lactation. It not only supplies strength to the mother, and improves the quantity and also the quality of the milk, by increasing the amount of sugar and phosphates, thus nourishing the infant and sustaining the mother at the same time.

K. HARTMANN (in *Gesund. Ingen.*) relates a case in which a lead pipe was cut through by an insect,—a worm, species of "wood wasp," that was actually found with its head in the hole pierced by it. The hole on the exterior of the pipe was of a rounded form, about one-quarter of an inch long by one-eighth inch wide, and penetrating through the entire thickness of the metal.

THE TANNIN present in tea, according to Grimshaw, is absorbed by suitable animal substances, such as horn shavings, dried albumen, hide clippings, and the like. It is preferable to add the material to the tea in the dry condition before the infusion is made, but it may be added to the infusion, or the infusion may be passed or filtered through a layer of the substance.

THE BRITISH consul at Christiana, Norway, (Sci. Am., June 13th, '91), four months ago forwarded a letter calling the attention of the Foreign Office to the fact that, owing to English printed fabrics containing arsenic, there had