

port of the Medical Health Officer shows that there are "4,396 premises without drainage, and 1,421 with defective drainage, 1,538 foul wells, 1,162 foul cisterns, 3,936 full privies, 1,996 foul privies (are there any privies that are not foul? we would ask), 2,444 unclean yards, and 512 places where no water at all was provided. "The evils in connection with the privies have been in many cases removed; but many remain. The want of drainage is a crying evil." After describing such a condition, "W. C." need hardly have informed the readers of *The Week* that "While the city remains in this condition it is far from being in a sanitary condition."



DR. ROBERT KOCH.

Dr. Koch is the chief of the German scientific commission appointed by the Government to make investigations into the cause of cholera and its manner of spreading, and for this purpose he was sent to Egypt, East India and France.

Dr. Koch is still a young man, apparently little over forty years old. He

has always been a working student, and well deserving of the honors conferred upon him; honors from his own country as well as from the French Government.

From Dr. Koch's reports, which are of much value, the following description of the Cholera bacillus is obtained. The bacilli have distinguishing characteristics from other bacilli. They are always curved, comma-shaped, at times even semicircular. In the process of culture, two bacilli sometimes become attached together and assume an S-like form, or, when more than two are attached, the line is a wavy one. They are very active in motion. If linen, soiled with dejections from cholera patients, is kept in a moist condition for twenty-four hours, the bacilli are seen to have multiplied themselves in a most remarkable degree. Dr. Koch holds that they are transmissible only by human excrement or by objects soiled by it. Consequently the first precaution is, the proper disposal of all excreta and soiled linen. The bacilli are not found in any similar bowel disease. In cholera they are found to be confined to the bowel, appearing with the disease and increasing and diminishing with the fluctuation of the disease, as regards severity.

The cholera bacilli, sooner than any other, are destroyed by heat, even three hours heat serving to destroy every evidence of life.

CHOLERA IN ANIMALS.—If it be true as reported that animals inoculated by Drs. Reitsch and Ricati with cholera bacilli have died with symptoms resembling cholera, results which Koch had failed to obtain, it should settle the question as to the bacilli being the true cause of cholera.

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF Hygiene was held at the Hague in the third week in August. Cholera claimed a large share of attention and the first section opened its proceedings with a discussion on this subject. Over-pressure in schools formed the subject of another debate, introduced by M. Huizinga, who denounced the modern system of education "as conducive to the passing of examinations perhaps, but not as leading to the acquirement of real knowledge." There was a debate on cremation, which aroused a considerable amount of interest.