

hours, and materially decreasing at the end of six days. Other things being equal, the greater the pressure of the water the greater the amount of lead taken up, and the greater the temperature the greater the solvency. A small amount of lime or soda diminishes the solvent power of the water, and filtration through limestone, charcoal or spongy iron, causes the water to become inert; filtration of water containing lead through the two latter substances will remove the lead.

Dr. Fairclough believed that much of the anaemia of town people was due to drinking water containing small quantities of lead. He referred to the fact that some waters formed an insoluble crust on the interior of new lead pipes in two or three weeks, thus forming a permanent protection.

CHOLERA AND QUARANTINE.—In an interesting review on the seventeenth annual report of the Local Government Board (for 1888), Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson's "Note on the Present Prevalence and Extent of Cholera in Malta," and Dr. S. L. Pisani's report as chief government medical officer for that colony, the Practitioner for May, 1889, concludes that an analysis of these reports demonstrates that, in the interests of public health and of the commercial interests of the world, "the antiquated and ever failing quarantine restrictions should be done away with, and an efficient sanitary administration substituted for them." Dr. Pisani concludes that if the villages were drained and supplied with water, the houses of the poor inspected and improved, and all blind alleys opened, the island would become an

unfertile soil for the cholera germ. The Practitioner believes that a recognition of these facts—supported by the statistics of the towns of the island—and a disbelief in any efficiency in quarantine, will enable Malta (as well as other localities) to avoid future epidemics.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ON QUARANTINE.—The arrival of the steamship *Neva* at Southampton, in June last, with one case of yellow fever on board, caused the Privy Council Office to order her into quarantine for seven days. The Practitioner thought the Privy Council was to be congratulated that the occurrence took place on the only spot on the British coast that maintained a quarantine station (two hulks at the entrance of the harbor). The Secretary of State for the colonies submitted to the Royal College of Physicians the question of the proper periods of detention for purposes of quarantine in yellow fever, cholera, and small-pox. The college reported that the incubation period of yellow fever and cholera was uncertain, and that the committee was of opinion that it was unwise to impose quarantine restrictions in the case of these diseases. The committee was further strongly opposed to such restrictions generally, which it considered harmful and vexatious. In the case of small-pox the committee was of the opinion that the incubation period did not usually exceed a fortnight, and that suitable precautions based on this knowledge were desirable. The Practitioner does not consider the last paragraph of the report very helpful, especially as vaccination is the obvious means of preventing small-pox.

EXTRACTS FROM MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS REPORTS FOR 1888.

DR. TRACY, of Belleville, reports that they have reason to be thankful for the position the city holds in the total absence of those dread scourges, diphtheria and scarlet fever, this being the third year that there has not been a death from either of those diseases recorded in either of the cemeteries there. He again draws the attention of the City Council to the absolute necessity of drainage, and more especially that so many of the citizens are taking water from the water works. The greater part of the preventable diseases are caused in his opinion by

want of proper system of drainage, and bad water from the wells in the thickly populated places. He writes: "I have again drawn the attention of the Provincial Board of Health to the sewage of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, but nothing has been done so far. It is now over a year since the matter was brought before the Provincial Board, and in a case of such vital importance to the well being and health of the inhabitants of this city, it should have been, in my opinion, attended to before this. I may say that I stated in a communication to the Board, that should