

utter impotency of medicine to cope with its malignity, had to wait and trust to the frosts of Winter for its extermination.

Memphis had hardly any sanitary advantage over Shreveport. Situated on a high bank of the Mississippi, with proper drainage and a decent system of sewerage, it ought to be one of the healthiest cities of this great river. But there is no such system of sewerage—in fact no drainage at all. Hence it hardly required inoculation from abroad to start the epidemic. Had there been no yellow fever, there would probably have been something equally as fatal.

The situation of Buenos Ayres, on the estuary of the La Plata, one hundred and fifty miles from the sea, is not an unhealthy one. In fact, though on a flat, like Chicago and Sacramento, the climate has always been famed for salubrity, and the name of the city, "Good Air," is a universal advertisement in its favor. But trusting to the good air given by nature, no drainage or sewerage was attempted. Each house had its cess-pool, where all the *cloacæ* have been sunk for three hundred years, and when one pit is filled up another is made by the side of it.

Two years ago the yellow fever appeared there for the first time, and nothing like its virulence and fearful mortality was ever before experienced in the history of this disease. It was more fatal, according to the population, than the great plague of London, in 1665. More recently this once famously healthy city has again become the victim of epidemic disease—this time Asiatic cholera—if possible more fatally dreadful than the yellow fever. Buenos Ayres is paying the certain penalty of a contempt for sanitary laws. The lesson of the past epidemics there and in the Mississippi Valley was merely the value of applied sanitary science in saving cities, and of the utter helplessness of cities not so protected. The cholera has only gone into Winter quarters, and with the approaching Summer and Autumn will almost certainly reappear, and terribly visit such places as are unprepared. Let us take warning.

REAL STUDIES.—The boy or girl who can give the name of every river and the height of every mountain in Asia, the age of every reigning sovereign in Europe, the date of every battle in America can hardly be as well off for all this burdensome knowledge as one who knows the elements of human physiology and anatomy, who is taught more of the knowledge useful in after life, and can tell how to help himself or another in case of accident or emergency. The boy who is to go into