

in this time of so great a plague and infection."

The Black Death caused much alarm in Ireland, especially in Dublin, in 1866-67. The history of the disease, according to Chamber's Encyclopædia, was as follows: A healthy medical student, aged 19, residing in Dublin, fell ill with chilliness and *malaise* about noon on March 18, 1866. When he was visited in the evening, it was found that he had vomited frequently and was very prostrate; purple blotches appeared on his skin during the night, and about noon next day, he suddenly fell into stupor, and was dead at two, or about 26 hours from the apparent commencement of the symptoms. Drs. Stokes and Benson, who, with Mr. Croly, saw the case, at once recognized it as presenting a novel type of disease. A girl, aged 18, presented similar symptoms on April 2, but recovered. Fatal cases were recorded on May 12, 13 and 17. According to Dr. Mapother—from whose excellent Report "On the Malignant Purple Fever Epidemic in Ireland," read before the Epidemiological Society in July, 1867, the materials of this article are almost entirely drawn—it appears that 63 fatal cases had been registered (up to July) in the Dublin district, exclusive of eight deaths amongst soldiers. This able physician gives the following description of the symptoms, which includes two types of very different severity, and in this respect he agrees with the American observers. In the graver, life is rapidly extinguished as if by a blood-poison; in the milder, the symptoms are those of inflammation of the cerebro-spinal axis, or its membranes. Dr. Stokes, however, regards these latter phenomena as secondary to the essential disease, and believes that they will always appear, if the patient lives long enough for their development. The earliest symptoms are chilliness and a sense of impending danger, and vomiting of a persistent character soon follows. There is constipation until shortly before death, when the evacuations are involuntarily discharged. The tongue is dry; the pulse abnormally compressible, and usually over 100. The dark purple, blotches, caused by the escape of dissolved hæmatin (coloring matter of the blood) from the smaller vessels, are situated in and under the true skin of the legs, hands, face, back and neck. These patches vary in size from that of a pin's head to that of a walnut, and are often sufficiently raised to be detected by the touch. The skin is dusky and moist, sometimes even bathed in sweat. In some cases, stupor, and in others, delirium and intense restlessness, are the forerunners of death. The rapidity with which this disease runs its course is appalling. A healthy boy, aged 10½ years, sank in less than five hours

from the time of his seizure; and of 41 investigated fatal cases, 14 terminated within 24 hours. Of these cases, 21 were females and 20 males. Youth predisposes very strongly to the disease. No position in life affords exemption; one young nobleman, three medical students, two undergraduates and several inhabitants of the lowest hovels—the seats of typhus and cholera—were amongst the victims.

With regard to treatment, almost every kind has been tried, and each has been found equally unavailing. The external application of cold to the spine and head, as advocated in various forms of disease by Dr. Chapman, deserves a trial. Dr. Mapother suggests that the disease is due, like scurvy, to the want of fresh vegetables as an article of food; and if this view is correct, it is satisfactory to feel that if this terrible malady is incurable, it is at all events preventable. A few cases of this disease have been recorded as occurring quite recently in various parts of England. They would probably have passed unnoticed but for the Dublin epidemic.

The *Commercial Journal*, in its last issue, writing of a possible visitation of this most fatal disease, says: "We cannot well afford to have it here; but if we are to keep clear of it, we must adopt all the necessary precautions. Like smallpox and cholera, it has its habitat in filth and squalor, though when it once presents itself it is not slow to take hold of those whose constitutions or conditions are such as to predispose them to take any infectious or contagious disease. We are all of us aware what smallpox has done in well regulated communities when once it was imported into them. The moral of all this is 'clean up!' There is said to be a skeleton in every closet and there are few houses in or about which there is not something that has a decided tendency to encourage disease. The health inspectors, acting under the directions of the able and energetic medical health officer, Dr. George Duncan, are certain to double their vigilance—if that be possible—in the way of purging and purifying the city; while householders themselves ought not to need any urging in this direction. Every house should be set in thorough order and every individual should consider it to be his duty to himself and to his neighbors to keep himself in that physical condition which should prevent the existence in or about him of any predisposing causes. Moreover, we have urged so persistently that the suggestion has become almost gray-bearded, that the quarantine regulations be far more vigorously carried out than they have been, and we do so again. Neither the Empresses nor any other vessels should have a mere formal and perfunctory inspection by the quar-

antine officer. They ought to be thoroughly overhauled—no matter at what cost of time, and without considering who are the owners or consignees. We repeat, let there be no mistake or negligence on this score. If there is, the people hold the guilty parties to account, and some day there will be a terrible reckoning. In view of past experiences, we do not wonder the disfavor in which the Chinese and Japanese are held by our people; but we think that the quarantine system and its administration is much more to blame than they are for the experiences which we have had."

Col. Prior is entitled to thanks for the manner in which he has protested against the employment of Chinese upon the Esquimalt Fortifications. He brought the subject in the Dominion House of Parliament, the result being that the Imperial authorities were communicated with. Their reply was little short of insulting, and was, it appears, to the effect that the British Government would be paying for the fortification and will continue to employ any labor it sees fit. But the British Government does not furnish all the funds. Canada voted a considerable amount for the purpose and in other ways contributes to that object in a substantial manner. Canada has rights in this matter that ought to be considered and it is highly to be regretted that the Home authorities should reply to Canadian representations in a discourteous a manner.

Though slightly on the decrease the very unpatriotic and reprehensible practice of sending east for clothing and other necessary articles, is still carried on to a very large extent. There is positively no excuse for such a Chinese custom on the part of white men, who are perhaps the most vehement abusers of the Chinaman. I know white men here who send east for their very shirts and socks, and yet will be the very first to denounce the Oriental as a hurtful being who takes all he can out of the country and spends as little as he can in it. In the present state of business prices have fallen as low as, and in many cases lower than eastern figures, and as the workmanship is equal to eastern labor, there is no reason, under the circumstances, why the money should be sent out of the country. Just at the present moment, there is before me a list of people who have this year got their clothing from Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa; the names comprising the list are not those of poor men, but of persons in good positions, principally in professional circles; men presumably in receipt of good incomes derived from callings which are utterly dependent on