

of which there were three deaths. It is but right to state that two of these had not been vaccinated.

Thus ended an epidemic which under ordinary circumstances might have lasted for years, disorganized business, and cost many valuable lives, but, by the use of carbolic vapour in large quantities, and by disinfecting every person known to have been in contact with the disease, the epidemic was stamped out in three months, with a comparatively small loss of life.

Some years ago a child in a children's hospital for non-infectious diseases was found to have small-pox. This caused alarm, as the disease would be nearly sure to spread among these diseased and delicate children. The child was removed to hospital, the large ward was filled to suffocation with carbolic vapour, and closed up for twelve hours; nothing in

this case was burnt, no further case occurred, the disease organisms being destroyed by the dense fumes of the carbolic vapour.

OTHER DISEASES.

A short time ago scarlatina broke out in a large public institution; the services of the sanitary staff were offered, but politely declined. After sixteen cases of scarlatina had been removed to hospital, they were requested to act. The entire establishment was filled with carbolic vapour; all the disease organisms were poisoned, and no further cases occurred. Exactly similar results have been obtained in typhus fever and diphtheria; in fact, the same system which stamps out one epidemic disease will be equally applicable to all epidemics, that is, to kill off all the disease organisms as expeditiously as possible.

THE QUESTION OF QUARANTINE.

THE views of this journal in respect to quarantines, as long ago indicated, are somewhat as they are in respect to vaccination, — perhaps rather “advanced” for many sanitarians. To be sure, we are not opposed to all forms of quarantine, nor do we regard them, as some do, as “useless measures,” and a “survival of ignorance.” Like vaccination quarantine has served a purpose, and in certain circumstances will continue for a time, yet, to do so; but all such sanitary cordons are of secondary importance, as compared with other measures, not to say anything of their great inconvenience and drawbacks in many respects. Absolute cleanliness, including pure air and water, with prompt notification, strict isolation and such measures will do vastly more good than will quarantine, upon which, when adopted, the people are disposed to rely too much, to the neglect of the more important measures; while, when it fails, as it often does in spite of the utmost care, the infections of disease will find soil for development everywhere, whence then come explosions or sudden outbreaks of

epidemics most difficult of suppression. That most able, advanced and trustworthy periodical, the British Medical Journal, in an editorial on this question in a recent issue (Sept. 12th, inst.) said:

The incessant failure of quarantine restrictions to restrain the diffusion of disease, says that journal, was only one of the points which many years ago led to a reconsideration of this subject in England. “Foremost amongst the objections to it was the obvious fact that the countries which clung to it most tenaciously were the most neglected countries from a sanitary point of view, those in which sanitary progress was all but unknown, and those which suffered most from cholera. And it soon became evident that nations which had to subject themselves to the disabilities and drawbacks of quarantine, were not inclined at the same time to spend money on sanitary measures. The fact, indeed, of being promised protection against disease by means of quarantine seems a reasonable objection to incurring the expense of works of sanitation; and the more ignorant the population, the