

generally suspected, and that it is the true explanation of many of the so-called spontaneous cases.

FOR EXAMPLE, a boy aged 11 years, got thoroughly wet through going to school, and was allowed to remain all day at school until his clothes had dried on him. Eighteen days after he sickened with typhoid fever. The house was in every way unobjectionable from a sanitary point of view, and here was a case in which the popular explanation, so commonly volunteered, that the fever came from catching cold, would seem to be the only one admissible. This family, however, had only lived in the house four months, and three years previously a case of typhoid fever had been imported into the house. The cottage had been disinfected by sulphur fumigation and lime-washing "as far as applicable," but the wall paper in the bedrooms had not been stripped, and there or elsewhere about the premises the infection had remained, and had revived under favourable conditions of season and subject.

THE Sanitary Inspector, the official organ of the Maine State Board of Health, says: According to the Canada Health Journal the death-rate among the members of the House of Commons of the Dominion has been for several years, at the rate of over twenty per 1,000, [three times higher than the mortality in adults in public institutions,] "which fact should be an influential lobbyist whenever the Canadian Parliament is called upon to consider practicable and reasonable methods of leading their people generally, themselves included, to live natural healthy lives.

JUST SO. Dr. S.S. Burt (Med. Rec.) says that phthisis pulmonalis is an infectious disease, only the soil must be fertile or the bacteria will not take root and grow; that the inheritance of the affection is simply the descent of the degraded cells presenting the vulnerable points for a possible encounter with the vagrant germs. That all specific treatment is futile, in view of our present knowledge; and though persistent destruction of the infectious matter is our best means of prophylaxis, yet to restore the vitality of the lung tissue is a 'important as to destroy the tubercular bacilli.

THERE is a popular belief, says the British Medical Journal, that cut flowers and plants in living or sleeping rooms are apt to be injurious, owing to the continuous exhalation of carbonic acid gas from them. A writer in Amateur Gardening has recently shown that the air of a closed greenhouse, where more than 6,000

plants were growing, exhibited only 4.03 parts of carbonic acid per 10,000 (very little more than the normal amount) this being the average of three experiments made early on three different mornings after the greenhouse had been closed for more than twelve hours. There was usually a slightly larger quantity of CO₂ gas present in the air by night than by day.

WHETHER cut flowers have a greater effect in producing carbonic acid than living or pot plants, the writer does not tell us, continues the Journal, but it is reasonable to suppose that some of the injurious influence attributed to flowers exhaling heavy or sweet perfumes in sleeping or sick rooms is really due to the concealment by these perfumes of the accumulated offensive products of respiration or transpiration, which leads those who are exposed to their influence, or the attendants on the sick, to believe that the atmosphere of such rooms is fresh and wholesome, and therefore, to neglect the usual methods of ventilation.

CHICAGO leads in the appointment of women as health inspectors, having appointed five intelligent women, at a salary of \$1,000 each. the same amount paid to men for the same work. The duties of the women "are to inspect places where women and children are at work, and if unsanitary conditions are discovered, they are empowered to order necessary changes. In many places the conditions they found were "sickening." Much good has already come from their work.

DR. TUCKER, analyst of the N. Y. State Board of Health, finds the cream of tartar sold in drug stores uniformly pure, while that sold by the retail grocers was pure in only twenty-six per cent. of the cases. Some of the samples were entirely fictitious; acid phosphate of lime being most common.

GUM-LANCING we have always been averse to. Dr. Forchheimer (Archiv. Ped.) says of it: 1. It is useless (a) as far as giving relief to symptoms; (b) as far as facilitating or hastening teething. 2. It is useful only as a blood-letting, and ought not to be used as such. 3. It is harmful, (a) in producing local trouble; (b) in producing general disturbance on account of hæmorrhage; (c) in having established a method which is too general to do specific good and too specific for universal use. 4. It is to be used only as a surgical procedure to give relief to surgical accidents.

THIS is the way they try to make the people respect health regulations in France (Brit. Med. Jr): Madame Romagne (a Spanish lady), her