

ferent composition thus actively inclined were submitted to high pressure in leaden pipes, and it was found that in some cases the activity was thereby increased, whilst in others it was markedly diminished. These experiments are in accordance with the results of practical experience in the case of the water supply to Glasgow, where it was found that leaden pipes were much more rapidly corroded when the mains were intermittently charged than when kept under constant high pressure. As is well known, waters from one and the same source may be possessed of very different degrees of activity towards lead at different seasons, and Mr. Power's ingenious speculations, published in the last report of the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, will not have been forgotten. Whatever acceptance his theory may ultimately obtain, it will be generally accepted that this difference is due, not only to variation in the quantity of organic matter present in the water, but also to variation in the nature and amount of the saline ingredients.

In the Seventeenth Annual Report (for 1888) of the Local Government Board (Eng.) Mr. Power says: The plumbo-solvent ability of water may be "influenced by

conditions of temperature, pressure, and perhaps by other physical and atmospheric circumstances. Phenomenon such as these, if observed in the biological laboratory in relation with the life processes of one or another microphyte, would not be difficult of comprehension. The suggestion of them, therefore, in this connection will have raised suspicion whether the seemingly inscrutable behaviour of soft moorland waters in regard of plumbosolent ability may not be related to the agency, direct or indirect, of low forms of organic life. So that the question would seem to be arising whether chemistry, which by itself has failed to afford satisfactory explanation of the plumbo-solvency of moorland water, may not get advantage by association of biology in the problem. An answer as to whether the problem has or has not biological aspects would indeed appear to be called for, and no great difficulty need be encountered in putting the matter to the test of direct experiment, particularly from the vantage ground gained at Sheffield. Of the importance of the general question for study by fresh means of some kind I have already said enough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND HOW TO ESCAPE THEM.

THE following suggestive extracts are from a lecture delivered before the Y. M. C. Association at New Haven, Conn., by C. A. Lindsley, M.D., Medical Officer of New Haven (for fourteen years) and Secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Health, and published in the Sanitary Volunteer :—

The question is often asked us, How do you doctors avoid diseases? And it has been asked me sometimes with so much earnestness as to imply in the questioner the belief that the doctors do possess some hidden means which they use successfully for their own protection but do not reveal to other people. But let me assure you the doctors possess no means of safety that you do not. They know of nothing to ward off deadly disease that they will

not gladly tell you of. Nothing will put a regular doctor in disgrace with his professional brethren so quickly as to announce that he possesses a secret remedy for the prevention or the alleviation of human suffering. That is one of the strong marks of distinction between the regular physician and the quack.

Every infectious disease has its own special infection. Every infectious disease is caused by the introduction into the human body of the special kind of infection which produces the disease. Each disease, I say, has its own infection. If we can avoid the infection we stand in no danger of the disease. Much progress has been made within a few years in the knowledge of these infections—what they are, how they exist, and