

pail, with a good draught, hastening combustion, and thereby saving time. As soon as the charcoal was thoroughly aglow the cover was removed, a dozen pounds of brimstone were thrown on the hot fire, and the pail, by means of its already adjusted and fastened chain, was quickly lowered into the sewer. It only remained to replace the cover of the manhole. We drove on to the next manhole, 400 or 500 feet away. Removal of the cover revealed not only smoke, but also a strong odor of brimstone. Sulphuric acid gas travelled in the sewer as fast as we did on the road.

The work went steadily on, day after day, till a pail of burning brimstone had been suspended down each one of the 500 manholes in the city. The pails were taken up the next day following suspension, and, not unfrequently, remnants of sulphur were found burning after twenty-four hours. Not a single pail missed fire. If ordinary means of igniting the brimstone had been used, there would have been many failures and much loss of time.

The odor of burning brimstone demonstrated to many a citizen that his drains and waste-pipes were not securely trapped against sewer gas. There resulted some funny scenes, affording us not a little merriment. For example, one huge German woman ran out of her privy, near by, exclaiming, "Hell is loose; der Teufel is come!"

When the work was completed, the people were so convinced of its efficacy that the Board of Education resolved to have all the school buildings fumigated, in each of which, according to the size,

were burned from thirty to eighty pounds of brimstone.

There followed the copious use of copperas and sulphur a great abatement of diphtheria and an almost entire cessation of scarlet-fever. Of course, a single experiment does not warrant us in predicting a relation of cause and effect.

The whole expense for a single disinfection of the sewers with both copperas and burning brimstone was less than \$1300. With the money left out of the appropriation, we have this year repeated the experiment. Again we have treated the sewers of the city to 60,000 pounds of copperas and three tons of burning sulphur. The Board of Education has adopted the plan of fumigating the school buildings twice a year. The second experiment was followed, for a time, with an almost complete cessation of diphtheria.

Again, I say that disinfection, however thorough, is only a temporary relief from a dangerous evil, and cannot be relied upon as a substitute for an unsound sewer system and radically defective house drainage. The expense is not great, and it may be used as a more or less valuable instrumentality in a season of epidemic peril.

I should add, in justice to Detroit, that the Common Council this year appropriated \$13,000 to clean alleys, and \$6000 for a scow service to remove street sweepings and garbage to a safe place three miles down the river. The work of sanitation is advancing in the city, steadily and surely, although more slowly than an ardent health officer might desire.

HOME MANAGEMENT FOR THE INSANE.

COMMON SENSE, as well as the unimpeachable testimony of the medical profession (especially those well versed in the nature and treatment of insanity), should convince us that the probability of recovery in any case of mental disease is in a direct ratio to the degree of promptness with which it is placed under proper care and medical treatment.

If, as Dr. Earle's statistics conclusively show, the percentage of cures of insanity is unfortunately small, the statistics of most of our best and oldest asylums also conclusively prove that this unfavorable

percentage is very largely due to the lack of early treatment.

Recall to your mind, if you will, the circumstances concerning the earlier stages of any case of insanity with which you may have been acquainted. Were they not somewhat like this? *First*, horror on the part of those related to, or in immediate connection with the patient—a reluctant dread of admitting even to themselves the fact that he might be insane—time lost here. *Second*, consultation with the family physician; attempts to ward off the impending evil by travel, change