

**SANITARY ASSOCIATIONS.**—A Sanitary Association has been established in Montreal, and the results, it appears, have been very satisfactory. We should be glad to see a like association formed in Toronto, and also in other cities; they would scarcely fail to be productive of much good.

**DRUNKENNESS AND INSANITY.**—The last English census report says that it has been established by the observation of many authorities that intemperance is the most prolific cause of insanity, especially among the working classes. To the cases of madness resulting from habits of drunkenness on the part of the individuals themselves must be added the numerous instances of it in which persons owe their insanity to the intemperate habits of their parents.

**THEORY OF CONTAGION.**—Professor Arnold, of Baltimore, in a paper read before the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, of Maryland, in April, 1874, on the Theory of Contagion, favours the ideas set forth by Beal, Murchison, and Simon, that contagion consists in living particles. After adducing the results of certain experiments with vaccine lymph, he sums up the following propositions:—

“1st. That infectious matter essentially consists of separate particles. 2d. That these particles are not portions of protoplasm. 3d. That they have a vital in contradistinction from a chemical action. 4th. That some of them manifest the phenomena of germination and development. 5th. That the special differences of these particles may be inferred from the special differences of contagious diseases.”

**STARCHY FOODS NOT SUITABLE FOR INFANTS.**—Starch is not digested readily by infants. Experiments prove that during the first few months of infantile life starchy foods pass through the bowels almost without change, and are excreted with the fœces, giving rise in their passage through the alimentary canal to restlessness, flatulency, and colic. It is well known that saliva, the fluid secreted by the glands in the vicinity of the mouth during mastication, is very efficient in the digestion or solution of starch, first converting it into sugar. And the indigestion of starch in the case of infants is