

capable of being affected, inasmuch as they are known to be protected against the disease; and the early purification by disinfectants, and frequent ablution of the patient, his clothing, bedding, and the apartments he has occupied.

When the cattle disease spread from Europe to England, in 1867-68, it was found to be a highly contagious malady, so much so that an infected animal would communicate the disease to a whole herd. The most efficient means for the arrest of the disease consisted in the destruction of the diseased animal, and sometimes of all those that had been exposed to the contagion. This of course was an expensive but most efficient method of treatment, and in due course of time the Rinderpest, as it was termed, disappeared. But inasmuch as the Lycurgan laws do not at present exist, this method of stamping out contagious diseases is not applicable to the genus homo. There are however measures quite as effectual as the pole-axe, which if faithfully carried out, would without doubt arrest the spread of contagious disease.

We observe that the Editor of the *Canadian Illustrated News* in alluding to the articles which have already appeared in our journal on the subject of "Sanitary Reform," propounds the novel doctrine that vice and ignorance give rise to contagious maladies. If this be the case, it is greatly to be wondered at that these diseases are so prevalent among the virtuous and educated. Experience certainly bears out the proposition of Sir J. Y. Simpson, that contagious diseases never spring up *de novo*, but that they are always due to contagion or infection in some form. The Editor asks: "Whence then the small-pox? Does Sir James mean to teach us that it was created, like the dog or the hawthorn, and must of necessity be propagated by its seed?" Most certainly. Small-pox is due to a specific poison, but requires an appropriate soil for its development. We have it in the sacred volume that the Almighty permitted Satan to try the patience of Job, and he did so by afflicting him with boils and other sores. We may therefore infer that small-pox was an invention of the devil, with as much logical precision, as that it was created like the dog or the hawthorn.

The Editor of the *Illustrated News* mistakes our meaning when he says: "Such hospitals under the charge of a Board of Health with powers that would be very likely claimed for it, might be made the agency for much domestic agony by separating those who from family ties and personal feeling would rather be together in sickness as in health, and even unto death." We never would recommend extreme measures of this character, but if persons assume the responsibility of the care of friends under such con-