

class of cases, from the simplest diarrhoea to cholera nostras, that no line of demarcation can be drawn between putrid 'intoxication' and specific infection." Dr. Hueppe's contention is that all specific bacteria owe their origin to putrefaction bacteria, on the Darwinian principle of modification by descent, and that a hygiene of absolute cleanliness is the best prophylactic against infections.

#### MICRO-ORGANISMS IN THE AIR OF ROOMS—REMARKABLE RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH.

SOME remarkable and highly interesting facts, based upon careful experimental researches on the air of rooms, schools and sewers, were brought out at the meeting in September last of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain and in the proceedings of the Royal Society in June. The experiments were conducted by Professor Carnelly, Mr. J. S. Haldane, and Dr. Anderson, medical health officer, all of Dundee, Scotland, and were presented at the Sanitary Institute in a paper by Mr. Haldane. Below we give a synopsis of a portion of this valuable paper.

The fact that an enormously increased mortality prevails among persons who spend much of their time crowded together in unventilated rooms, as Mr. Haldane says, is universally admitted. Dr. Anderson obtained by special arrangements with the registrars of Dundee, materials from which he constructed the first table below, which shows that not only is the mean age at death on the whole about twice as long in the more roomy as in the less roomy houses, but that at all periods of life up to old age those who live in the better houses have the advantage. The fact as stated that the increase in death-rate runs parallel with the increase in air pollution does not prove that the former is the cause of the latter. But we may argue from other evidence that the pollution of the air is one very potent cause, and probably the chief cause, of the increased mortality.