

result. The principal difficulty has been to induce the children to eat the agar. None of them will take it dry, as will adults, nor do they care for it with milk and sugar, like blanc-mange or sea moss farina, which it resembles, or a cereal. Indeed, even when mixed with a cereal the children will separate the pieces and spit them out. No harm can result from an overdose.

The same physician has been making interesting investigations in the diagnosis of meningitis in infancy and childhood. One line of this work has been among the reflexes. If one pats a great Saint Bernard dog on the side, the dog will try to scratch himself with the hind leg on that side and at the same time give a very popular exemplification of the movement known as the reflex. Brudzinski had noted reflex actions of one leg when the other was moved, that was apparent in sick children, but never in the well. A year or so later the same observer called attention to a "neck sign," in which a movement of the head towards the chest was accompanied by certain reflex movements of the legs at hips and knees. Since this sign was new to science Dr. Morse made, on his own account, a test with four hundred children sick and well to determine the indications given by these involuntary movements. Ninety of the children were well and the others mostly with organic or infectious diseases, no one of which gave response to either sign. Other patients with affections of the nervous system and meningitis were examined and from the whole research the conclusions are voiced, that neither the neck sign nor the other reflex action are present in well children or those ill with diseases other than of the nervous system. They are almost never present in diseases of the nervous system outside of meningitis. The neck sign is much more constantly present. Their presence in an acute disease is strong evidence in favor of meningitis, although their absence does not exclude the disease. They occur in all types of meningitis and are of no importance in differentiating between them.

*Sanitation and Sewage Disposal for Country Houses:* Perhaps the simplest and most common method of country "sewage disposal" is by a vault dug in the ground. This has many objectionable features, chief among which is the possibility of spreading

disease. Water from it sweeping through the ground may carry poisons to well or cistern. It has been proved that in this way disease germs may travel several hundred feet. Flies also carry the filth and disease to food material in the kitchen. Such a danger may be prevented by the generous use of airslacked lime daily.

Another method not so common in America, but frequently used in England, is the cess-pool, usually built with a dry wall of rock or porous brick, so that the liquid may seep out into the surrounding soil. This is even worse than the first method, because the danger will last longer.

To substitute for these old and unsanitary methods, William C. Davidson, of the University of Missouri, in "Sanitation and Sewage Disposal for Country Houses," has worked out plans for several up-to-date methods of sewage disposal. These are designed to suit the needs of the moderate priced country home whose builder desires conveniences and comfort.

The simplest method is one much used in older countries, called "dry closets." Plans are given for a concrete catch basin system which is said to give good results. A system of septic tanks is described and explained, and directions are given for building it. The matter of final disposal of the waste is thoroughly discussed. Different methods of returning it to the land are shown. There is also a section which gives general direction for installing plumbing in the country house. Estimates of the average cost of such systems are given.

*Plague of New Type:* From the beginning of recorded history the Orient has been known as "the mother of plagues," and it therefore is not surprising that China again should be in the grip of one of these frightful epidemics. The present plague is considered most virulent, nearly every case being fatal. There appears to be also a novelty in the nature of the disease, for instead of being of the bubonic type, it is said to be pneumonic and septic.

What is "the plague"? An international sanitary conference that discussed this question in 1897 at Vienna concluded that it was caused by a bacillus discovered in 1894 by Kitasato and Yersin of Japan, and was spread largely by rats, mice and certain other animals. The obvious lesson of importance in this finding was to destroy