

by the use of mercury, and no further symptoms appear, it is not so easy a matter to determine when the drug should be set aside, without fear of an active development of the disease. It may therefore be said that mercurials should not be employed till the first appearance of constitutional infection; that the excision and cauterization sometimes succeed, and are worthy of further trial; and that local antiseptic measures are of no abortive value.

### THE SANITARY CONFERENCE OF PARIS.

On February 13th a sanitary conference was opened at the foreign office of the French Government, Paris. The delegates, who represented the principal countries of Europe and the United States, were assembled at the invitation of the French Government for the purpose of reviewing the acts of the preceding conferences of Venice and Dresden, and also to devise and determine the best means of stamping out cholera, and of preventing its recurring visitations to Europe and America. After Mr. Casimir Perier, President of the Council of the French Ministry, had welcomed the delegates and the Austrian delegate had replied, M. Barrere, Minister of France at Munich, took the chair, and secretaries were appointed for the different countries represented. Prof. Proust then gave a complete historical review of the measures heretofore taken for the defence of Europe against cholera, and afterwards enumerated the precise points which ought particularly to engage the attention of the new conference.

Owing to the fact that, beyond the few particulars which have just been stated, the proceedings of the conference were kept secret, the points discussed can only be conjectured. It seems natural to

suppose, however, that the regulation of the pilgrim traffic being of the first importance, the countries which annually send the pilgrims forth, viz.: Turkey, Egypt, Persia and India, should receive a good deal of attention. Many thousands of Mahommedan devotees leave these countries annually to visit the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Arabia, and as cholera is always epidemic in India, the comma bacilli are pretty certain to be communicated to pilgrims from other oriental countries by the Mahommedans from India.

Is it possible for sanitary science to prevent this state of affairs? Mr. Ernest Hart, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, thinks that it can be done, and he shows how this desirable result has been accomplished at the Hardwar Fair in India. In April, 1891, when the last fair was held, 800,000 to 1,000,000 Hindu pilgrims assembled in Hardwar. Warned by previous epidemics of cholera which spread from Hardwar, as a centre, careful precautions were taken by the British sanitary authorities to prevent, if possible, a recurrence of the plague.

The key to the sanitary arrangements of the fair lay in the searching out and rapid removal of all cases of suspicious disease, in the maintenance of perfect cleanliness in the camp, and in the measures taken to prevent all possibility of contamination. Various improvements were made in the conduct of the bathing festival, which were of great importance. The sacred pool, to bathe in which the pilgrims gather in multitudes, becomes very foul; the water collected from any part of it smelt in a few hours offensively, and the micro-organisms developed from it were legion. To remedy this condition of affairs an engineer arranged for a stream of fresh water to traverse the pool.

Another improvement was the purification of the Bhim Goda tank, about half