

HOW TYPHOID FEVER IS SPREAD.—Dr. Frankland, (*Lancet*, April 15th), in a recent address to the Fellows of the Chemical Society on the Organic Impurities of Drinking-water, adduced, as a striking instance of the persistency of the typhoid poison when diffused in water, the outbreak of a violent epidemic of typhoid fever in a Swiss village through the use of spring water which, after contamination with the poison, had filtered through nearly a mile of porous earth, but had nevertheless lost none of its virulent properties. The occurrence is one of the most remarkable on record, and the circumstances have been exhaustively investigated, by Dr. Hagler. In the Furler Valley, at a farm-house, in June and July, two cases of typhoid fever occurred. Nearly a mile away, in the village of Lausen, on "ground consisting of marl and lime, tolerably water holding," on August 7th, ten persons were attacked, and in nine days 57 more, with typhoid fever; while before the end of October, 130 persons had suffered from the disease, "besides several children;" all of whom used water from a certain public spring. Epidemic fever had never occurred here in the memory of man. It was well-known to the inhabitants of Lausen that when the meadows in the Furler valley were watered, this spring increased in amount. The passage of water from the valley to the spring was proved by dissolving in it at the meadows, eighteen hundred-weight of common salt, and then observing the rapid increase of chlorine in the spring water; but the most important and interesting experiment consisted in mixing uniformly with the water fifty hundred-weight of flour, not a trace of which made its way to the spring; showing that the water was *filtered through the intervening earth*, and did not pass by *underground channel*. But the filtering did not remove the typhoid poison.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ROYAL TITLE.—The *London Lancet*, profoundly regrets that no real progress in sanitary legislation is likely to be effected this session in Great Britain. "The air we breathe and the water we drink are both to remain foul a little longer, and all we gain in exchange is a new title for our Queen, and that, too, a title which is desired by none and strongly disliked by very many."

SEATS FOR SALESWOMEN.—A ladies' committee in Manchester has caused a circular to be forwarded to all local shopkeepers employing female assistants, urging upon them the propriety of providing seats for their saleswomen when not engaged in serving customers. The document has been approved of by many members of the medical profession.