

health laws. As Juliet Carson writes in *Harper's Bazar* of the 17th inst., "early Asiatic paganism was clean to a degree, and bequeathed its habits to Israel and to classic Greece and Rome; but the first christians so far forgot the good example of their Hebrew progenitors as to confound that very classic habit of personal cleanliness with the hated worship of the kindly deities of the air and water which entered so freely into their scheme of life." It has taken a long time to find out the mistake, but a marked change is now going on.

DR. R. P. HOWARD, of Montreal, has been elected one of the three vice-presidents of the ninth International Medical Congress, which is to be held in Washington, D.C., in 1887; the other two vice-presidents being Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia, and Dr. H. J. Bowditch, of Boston; Dr. Austin Flint, sr., of New York, being president.

BARAVANA MILK FOOD is another prepared concentrated article of diet manufactured by Messrs. Fish & Ireland, of Lachute, P. Q. It is a compound preparation of specially prepared farina of the healthiest cereals, thoroughly incorporated with concentrated milk, and forms a most complete and nutritious food, well adapted for young children and persons of weak digestion. It is, too, highly recommended by physicians as a diet for infants where the mother's supply of natural nutriment is wanting or is not sufficient. After the first few months of infantile life, especially, if not earlier, we should prefer it to condensed milk alone.

A PUBLIC DOON.—Owing to the difficulty experienced in the past in obtaining a supply of earth or ashes closets at a reasonable price, we had privately endeavored on several occasions to induce different manufacturers to make them on a large scale. We are therefore much pleased to learn that the joint stock company recently formed in Owen Sound for the manufacture of these closets, intend to make good low priced closets as well as the higher priced ones. Municipal health boards, nearly every one of which, in Ontario at least, this JOURNAL will reach, would do well to encourage in their respective municipalities agencies for the direct supply of these closets to the public. No other one thing would tend so greatly to promote the public health as the general use of such conveniences.

THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT TESTIMONY in favour of "Heap's Patent" dry earth closets was given by Mr. Allan Macdougall, C.E., in the course of a lecture before the Toronto Sanitary Association, on "Sewers and Sewage, on the 12th inst.": "The dry earth system was the oldest sanitary system which we could trace. The numerous privies and out houses in towns and cities were a fruitful source of disease. After they had been used for a number of years the soakage would extend to an area sufficiently large to reach the wells in ordinary town lots. The dry earth system of closets was the best system of dry sewage, and would not endanger the public health. He produced a working model of "Heap's Patent" dry earth closets, as erected on the exhibition grounds in Toronto last September, entered by Mr. Wm. Heap, of Owen Sound. He had inspected these closets and found them to answer admirably. He understood that a number were now in use in Toronto. Dr. Canniff also strongly recommended the dry earth closet system from a sanitary standpoint.

CO-OPERATIVE LIFE INSURANCE, it is now often remarked by the far-seeing, is to be the life insurance of the future. There can be no doubt about this, as it is becoming very popular. No man who has any one depending on him for support, and is not possessed of sufficient means to leave such dependent in case of his death, should fail to make a provision in the way of life insurance. Common prudence and contentment of mind demand it. On the co-operative plan, the cost is less than half the usual cost in stock companies, because these base their estimates on an assumed high death-rate, which is hardly ever half reached; hence these companies rapidly become wealthy, as every one knows. The co-operative plan is the safest, because the management is all in the hands of the members themselves. According to a report of the Chief Engineer in England, the oldest benefit society was established in 1168, has existed over seven hundred years, and is still doing a good business. The next oldest was established in 1358, and has existed over five hundred years; and there are now existing eighty-nine benefit societies, which were established