

perience illustrating the importance of securing to the sick, and especially persons suffering with fever, an abundance of pure air. He stated that during the war he had charge of a large hospital in which at one time in the winter season he had under treatment three hundred and twenty cases of measles. Just at this time the hospital took fire and burned to the ground. The patients were placed in tents, and all but one or two recovered. He had no doubt that the number of deaths would have been thirty or forty at least had the patients remained in the hospital. He afterward sent one hundred men who were only slightly ill to the general hospital at Nashville, and seventy-five of them died. Upon visiting the hospital, he found it so poorly ventilated that the air was exceedingly foul, producing a sickening sensation when he had only been in it for a few minutes. The Doctor concluded by remarking that he regarded pure air and water as most important agents, and believed them to be capable of controlling the ravages of raging disease.

INCREASE OF LUNACY IN GREAT BRITAIN.—From the report of the commissioners in lunacy for the past year it appears that the number of lunatics is increasing at a very alarming extent. On the first of January last the number of persons registered as of unsound mind in England and Wales numbered 69,885, of whom 7,778 were classed as 'private citizens,' and 72,108 as pauper lunatics.' Twenty years ago they numbered only 35,762, and ten years ago, 53,277. An examination, too, of the proportion of lunatics to population shows that in 1869 the ratio of lunatics to 10,000 of the population was 18.67. It is now 27.77, or an increase of 50 per cent. The increase, however, is much greater in the case of pauper lunatics than in that of private patients, the increase of the ratio in the former being 53 per cent. and in the latter only 23.6 per cent. The only satisfactory point to be gathered from the statistics is that although the ratio of pauper lunatics is steadily advancing year by year, there has been no increase in the proportion of private patients to the population during the past four years. The insanity of no fewer than 21.3 per cent. of the number of men admitted to asylums during 1878 was assigned to intemperance; while among women the proportion was only 7.8 per cent.

ENTERIC FEVER AND POLLUTED WATER.—An outbreak of enteric fever of a somewhat alarming kind has broken out in the female