

floors and furniture of these wards should be suitably disinfected.

The fourth session of the congress will take place in 1896, under the presidency of Professor Nocard.

CHOLERA AND QUARANTINE.

At the present moment, when cholera is ravaging so many places in Europe, and has, during the past two years, made an actual invasion of Britain at several points, and has knocked with no uncertain sound at some of the ports on this side of the Atlantic, it becomes the authorities to take every precaution known to modern science to avert an outbreak of this dreadful plague.

Dr. Hunter McGuire, in his presidential address before the American Medical Association, at Milwaukee, dwelt very strongly on the value of a thorough quarantine. He showed that during the American War the Southern ports, that were under thorough blockade, completely escaped yellow fever; while those that were open ports suffered frightfully from this disease. In some ports, when the blockade was raised, yellow fever soon appeared in a very severe form. He points out, with much truth, that local trade jealousies are likely to render the enforcement of quarantine difficult, each port being more solicitous for its trade than the health of the people. He points out that governments should control quarantine, and remove all chances of local causes interfering with its efficiency. He further states that he strongly favors a quarantine of anticipation and prevention, rather than one of detention. He refers to the perfect "System of Maritime Sanitation" to be found at New Orleans. By it that port has been kept free from yellow fever for twelve years, and without in the least interfering with commerce.

In a lengthy and able editorial in the August number of the *Dietetic and Hygienic*

Gazette, strong ground is taken in favor of international notification of all diseased ports and suspected vessels. In the case of the United States, much good has resulted from surgeons at the leading European shipping ports being empowered by the United States Government to take cognizance of what is going on, and to report on the condition of the port of embarkation and ships clearing for the United States; and to insist on thorough disinfection in all cases. The editor contends that all vessels coming from cholera-infected ports should be suspected, and treated with the necessary caution. The double precaution should be taken of watching these vessels both at the port of departure and that of entry: disinfection and inspection should be insisted upon at the port of arrival, as if it had not been performed at the port of departure.

At the recent meeting of the British Medical Association a very decided opinion was expressed in favor of international notification. Much more confidence was placed in a thorough sanitary condition of things, and in complete and perfect disinfection than in the system of quarantine by detention, which had so often failed. The detention of healthy persons on board vessels was often a fruitful cause for the spread of the disease. They should be allowed to land; but strict watch should be kept over them for a sufficient number of days. Every vessel coming from an infected port should be detained for inspection before being allowed to enter port. This vigilance should be maintained day and night. Three very important resolutions were passed to the effect that the British Government make an effort to stamp out cholera in various places in India, and at Mecca; that all ports be placed under the control of efficient officers, with full power; and all expenses be defrayed by the country and not by any locality.

We urge that our own Government take