

ing the poison to any person in the process ; they should not be simply thrown away, or into some stream or body of water ; and if burned should be completely burned and not simply heated or dealt with in a way to diffuse the poison of the disease.

All such infected substances, which are not destroyed, should be thoroughly boiled, subjected to a dry heat of 250° F. in a closed room or disinfecting oven, or be thoroughly exposed to fumes of chlorine or of burning sulphur. Books and furs that have been used or handled by those convalescing from this disease are particularly liable to convey the poison to children who have never had the disease. Great care should be used to thoroughly disinfect any such articles that are not destroyed ; and caution should be exercised before allowing children who have not had Scarlet Fever to handle any such articles that have been used by persons liable to communicate the disease.

Fresh air.—Although not so active for the destruction of the contagium as is chlorine or sulphurous acid gas, pure air, in liberal amount, is a very useful and important agent for the dilution and destruction of the poison of the disease ; it should be employed freely ; but with this as with other procedures for the safety of the unaffected, great care should be taken not to increase the danger to those already sick from any cause, who are usually endangered by exposure to drafts of cold air, and this is especially true of persons convalescing from Scarlet Fever.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL ON THE CAUSES OF DISEASE.

Dr. Corfield delivered a somewhat lengthy course of lectures at the Society of Arts during last winter, for the purpose of educating the masses on the subjects of air, water, infection, disinfection, the spread of infectious diseases and their prevention, and the course proved to be immensely popular.

At the end of the series the chair was occupied by Prof. Tyndall. Referring to the cause of diseases, he said he had made it plain that contagion consisted of definite particles sometimes floating in gas, or in the air, or in the liquid which we drank ; and that, like organic seeds in the soil, they multiplied themselves indefinitely in suitable media, the great probability being that these disease-producing particles were living things. A close study of the subject, extending now over two years, enabled him to agree entirely with the lecturer in the parallelism throughout which he had declared to exist between the phenomena of these disease-poisons and the phenomena of ordinary putrefaction. Take the case of flies communicating diseases from one person to another, that was exactly paralleled by phenomena in putrefaction. Thus he had chopped up a beefsteak, steeped it in water, raised the temperature a little above the temperature of the blood, poured off the water, filtered it, and got a perfect-