

ON THE PREVENTION and treatment of scarlatina and other infectious diseases, D. J. Brakenridge, M.D., F.R.C.P., of the Royal Infirmary, sends a communication to a late number of the *Medical Times and Gazette*. He asks, can any disinfecting influence be brought to bear upon disease—germs within the body? Prof. Polli, of Milan, and Dr. Sansom, found that by administering to animals, as guinea-pigs, for a few days, the sulphates of the alkalies and sodium sulpho-carbolate, no ill effects were produced, but the flesh, when the animals were killed, “showed a marked tendency to resist putrefaction,” though that of animals killed under ordinary circumstances rapidly putrefied. Dr. Brakenridge naturally thinks that if we can so disinfect the tissues of living animals, there is no reason why we should not hope to be able to arrest or prevent a zymotic disease. He has been in the habit of giving the sodium sulpho-carbolate to *all individuals exposed to the infection (of scarlatina) who were not protected by a previous attack*. It was found the disease in many cases did not spread but was confined to those who first took it. He says it was given in 7 families to 22 individuals exposed to scarlet-fever; in 3 families to 15 exposed to diphtheria; and in 3 families to 8 persons exposed to measles. And the diseases did “not in a single instance extend beyond the individuals first affected.” As to the curative effects of this sulpho-carbolate, we may observe, after Dr. B., had observed a succession of rapidly fatal cases of scarlet-fever, he determined to test fairly the administration of disinfectants. He gave the above salt freely; from 20 to 30 grains every two hours, to adults. “The odor of carbolic acid could be readily detected in the breath” of the patients. He has treated upward of 60 cases in this way in seven months without one death.

IN LONDON during the second week in August 1,483 deaths were registered; 1 from small-pox; 36 from measles; 87 from scarlet fever; 7 from diphtheria; 50 from whooping-cough; 22 from different forms of fever; and 147 from diarrhoea. Violence caused 56 deaths, 10 of which were from drowning.