

could be made of the unsanitary condition of the dwellings of the poor in the large cities of America, it would reveal a frightful picture of vice and misery. It was well known that the lower classes were much given to intemperance. There was no real reason for that, unless it was that the sense of their misery superinduced the diseased craving for stimulants. It would be well if social reformers would regard intemperance from that point of view, as it was quite certain that the misery and squalor of the poor was largely the cause of intemperance amongst them. The great industrial classes of the country were entitled to protection, both as regarded their health and their avocation. Therefore it was necessary that there should be vigorously administered laws for the protection of the health of every citizen, and especially over the health of the industrial population should every safeguard be placed. A nation such as this, with 55,000,000 of people and vast manufacturing, industrial and agricultural interests, should protect the health of its citizens most adequately, as disease paralyzed labor and wasted capital.

**RETENTIVE POWER OF INFECTION.**—Certain facts, says a London Exchange, have recently been brought to light with respect to an outbreak of cholera in Constantinople in the year 1874, which possess more than ordinary interest at the present time. In August 1871, an epidemic of cholera was rampant in the city, and a certain number of patients were lodged in an old "Hôpital." In one particular ward the mortality was very great. At the close of the epidemic the old hospital was pulled down and a new stone building erected in its place. From motives of economy, however, the same ground plans were employed for the new hospital. In the case of the room which had been so peculiarly fatal at the time of the epidemic, it was not thought necessary to take up the old flooring or in any way to alter it. Two years later, at a time when there were no cases of cholera in or about the city of Constantinople, or indeed in any other part of Europe, one of the male nurses in attendance on the sick in this same ward was suddenly seized with all the symptoms of Asiatic cholera, and died in six hours. Two other cases occurred in the next twenty four hours

with equally rapid and fatal results. Energetic measures were then taken by the medical officer and the whole of the contents of the infected ward were rendered innocuous, the flooring which had undoubtedly harboured the infective material being completely burnt. Within a short period the ward was again fit for occupation, and has been continued in active use to the present time.

**CREMATION NOTES.**—The corner stone of a crematory temple was laid at Mount Olivet, Long Island, New York, on November 20. The proposed edifice is being built by the United States Cremation Company. Twenty bodies already await incineration. The cost of the building is about 10,000 dols., that of incineration 10 dols. to 25 dols. The building is in the shape of a Greek temple, 40 by 72 feet. Incineration will take place at a temperature of about 2,500° F. It will require about forty minutes per 100 pounds of the subject, and will leave about 4 per cent. in weight of a pure pearly ash. No smoke will be visible, and no odour perceptible during incineration. The basement will also contain a *refrigidarium*, where bodies may be kept when desired awaiting the arrival of friends from a distance; also a *calidarium* for cases of possibly suspended animation, the high temperature of which will induce speedy evidences of life or death, as the case may be. There will be also in the basement an *edicularium* or urn room, and an atelier. This last will be used also for making autopsies, which will be required in all cases wherein it is not clear that death is the result of natural causes. The body of the building, or the ground floor, will be fitted up as a chapel, where any service desired may be held. The Italian Government has ordered the building of a crematory, on the Gorini-Gozzi system, for the cholera hospital at Varignano. It is proposed as a measure of economy to burn the dead paupers of Brooklyn, instead of, as is at present the practice, burying them in two-dollar soap boxes. The Cremation Society of England announce that they are prepared to undertake cremations under due restrictions and certificates, particulars of which may be obtained by communication to Mr. William Aassie, C.E., honorary secretary of the society. A crematorium is talked of in St. Louis, Mo.