

its respiratory functions, thus inducing lividity, with a tendency to collapse which may seriously endanger life.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF THE SPUTA OF PHTHISIS.

How shall we dispose of the sputa of phthisical patients is a question in preventive medicine of great practical importance, and one which unfortunately has been passed by in the warm discussions which have taken place upon the etiology of the disease and thrown into the background by the sensational announcements which have from time to time appeared of a new and certainly effectual method of treatment. Yet Bergeon and his gas bags have vanished. The pneumatic cabinet is rarely mentioned, and the honor of introducing the hot air inhalation treatment has been shown by Dr. Jacobi, of New York, to be due not to Weigert but to Halter, and is even denounced by him as injurious.

It is now generally acknowledged that phthisis is bacillary in origin, although there are some doubters—men of high professional standing—to be found in England. Still the great majority of physicians have sufficient belief in the ability of Koch's bacilli to do irreparable mischief when properly introduced into the lungs, that they would wish to prevent their propagation. The sputa is the source of the greatest danger. Dr. Hassall, in the *Lancet* of July 27th, advises that on no account should patients expectorate on floors, carpets, and above all, into handkerchiefs. It should be made an invariable habit by day, and as far as practicable even at night, to expectorate into spittoons. These receptacles should be always partially filled with water, so as to avoid the drying of the sputa, and be emptied and thoroughly cleansed daily by scalding with boiling water. He does not consider it necessary that the water should contain even a disinfectant, though carbolic acid would be effective and at the same time free from disagreeable odor. The use of cloths to wipe out these receptacles should be prohibited, as these might become the carriers of the dreaded germs. The safest and surest plan for disposing of the contents of the spittoons is to pass it into a vessel partially filled with a strong bichloride of mercury solution, which will render the sputa harmless.

NOTES.

WE regret to learn that the *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner* has suspended publication.

THE American Rhinological Association will hold its seventh annual meeting at Chicago, Ill., October 9th, 10th, and 11th.

PROFESSOR JOHN STRUTHERS, of the Aberdeen University, has resigned on account of ill health, the position which he has held since 1863 as Professor of Anatomy.

THE American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists will hold its next annual meeting at the Burnet House, Cincinnati, on September 17th, 18th, and 19th.

PROFESSORS CROBACH AND ROKITANSKY, of Vienna, and Pawlik, of Prague, are candidates for the chair of midwifery and gynecology, now vacant through the death of Prof. Breisky.

CATS AND HYDROPHOBIA. — An exchange states that Dr. Farquharson has made a proposal to the British Home Secretary to provide for the muzzling of cats and the arrest of the stray ones by the police!

THE *Archives of Surgery* is a new quarterly publication edited by Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.S., who intends to bring before the profession in this manner the large amount of clinical material which he has collected.

THE American Society of Microscopists will hold its annual meeting in Buffalo, August 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Active preparations are being made by the Buffalo Microscopical Club for the reception of the visitors.

PRESENTATION TO SIR ANDREW CLARK. — The members of the medical and surgical staff and other friends of the London Hospital subscribed for a portrait of Sir Andrew Clark, in appreciation of his eminent talents and the great services rendered to the institution with which he has been associated since 1854. The presentation was made by the Duke of Cambridge.