

MAN is a "cooking animal." Why not cook all the water he drinks as well as the beef and potatoes and flour he eats? or at least until he has determined to obtain at any cost a purer water, above suspicion, and free from the possibility of contamination? No fear of any water then, if *well* boiled. He could take it cold or hot, as he takes his beef and turkey. But he must be careful how he cools it, and not put ice in it, but around it.

#### OBSERVATIONS AND ANNOTATIONS.

BRIEGER claims to have discovered that the bacillus of enteric (typhoid) fever secretes a ptomaine, which he calls typhotoxine, the injection of which into animals appears to cause lesions similar to those of enteric fever in man. Inoculation against the disease will now be in order. But as this disease has been misnamed we would suggest the name enterotoxine for the ptomaine.

ANOTHER new danger has been referred to by the Lancet, that of stuffing upholstery with old rags, which may have been unsuspectingly infected. It appears that such stuffing is in common use by upholsterers, even in this country, and the sources of the rags should be vigilantly looked after.

THE great importance of the most absolute personal cleanliness in attendance upon the sick was the subject of a recent lecture before the Abernethian Society by Dr. Thorne. He gave instances of the dangers of handling food by those in attendance upon the sick with infectious and other disease.

NATURE is remorseless in exacting the penalty of disease and death for any breaches in her laws as to cleanliness, Dr. Thorne said. The innocent suffer with the guilty; unintentional acts, involving want of cleanliness on the part of those devoting their lives to the care of their fellows, are as swiftly followed by fatal consequences, as is the crass neglect of those who deliberately violate every law of cleanliness.

Two thousand cases of enteric (typhoid) fever during the last quarter of last year, with 125,000,000 bacteria to the glass of the South side water, and the epidemic increasing last month, is chiefly what is troubling Pittsburg, Pa.

DREAD of epidemics is natural, but it seems unnatural that there is little dread of consumption, which destroys the life of 70,000 persons in England and Wales every year and probably not less than about double that number on this continent. Dr. Ransome, at the last annual meeting of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, said: I think it may be regarded as fully proved that the breathing of air rendered foul by previous respiration is one of the conditions required to enable the bacillus of tubercle to take root and to grow in the lungs. Re-breathing breathed air is a great and common evil.

ANOTHER evil which is monstrously prevailing, especially among women, is the habit of constipation. Sir Andrew Clark in a paper read at a late meeting of the London Medical Society stated that he ascribed a large number of cases of anæmia or chlorosis in young women to the accumulation in the intestines of fecal matter, its decomposition and the subsequent absorption