

work well performed in the building of a house is always cheap, and that money expended in taking measures to prevent disease is well invested, and that a double return comes from it, in the preservation of valuable lives. They must remember that a "fever nest" of any kind in any hidden corner of the city may dispatch invisible messengers of death to the aristocratic and most cleanly kept districts.

PERIGRINE.

Montreal, 18th February, 1880.

MONTREAL, January 24th, 1880.

Editor CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

In continuance of my former correspondence, which gave my first case which referred to inspection of a country residence, I will now give a few cases from many in the city without comment, leaving your readers to form their own opinions. Visited lower tenement in yard of A. M., had 3 cases of diphtheria; 2 fatal, one convalescent at time of visit. Smell in house very bad; found sink pipes untrapped, wooden drain under floor, loose cover, soil swampy, house built on soil, filled tile drain, trapped sink wastes. Used disinfectants, but smell still continued, but in a less degree. On examining surroundings, found privy vault in yard full, and in close proximity to house; nature of soil allowed contents of vault to soak into ground under house. Reported facts to health department, who were powerless (as privy was without the distance from the house prescribed by law) except as to cleaning out of vault, which was done. What was left of the family moved away, leaving premises to be re-occupied by some one ignorant of the record of health against the same. House in B street, 3 cases typhoid, one fatal. Found drains open at joints, tiles broken, soil pipes leaky, no ventilation, no concrete under floors or other protection from damp; locality and surrounding dwellings healthy. House in C street, 2 cases typhoid. Complaint of smell, difficult to find cause; drainage and plumbing good, but no ventilation; found small cracks in soil and waste pipes. House in D street, 3 cases typhoid, 2 fatal. Plumbing old but of a good class, but no ventilation; found cracks in soil and waste pipes; drains defective and joints open; complaint of smell, which ceased on repairs being made, and

ventilation provided for; family been healthy since. E street, 2 lower tenements drained with same drain, drain filled with a trap. Complaint of one tenant of smell, other tenant no complaint of smell, and reported general health of family good, after a residence of four years, but complained that water appeared on floor during heavy rains. Found trap choked, drain evidently been inoperative for a long time, and the waste from four closets, four baths and four sinks had been making its way out of open joints of drain and broken pipes under floors where filth was a foot deep; removed forty-six barrels of filth. Although occupants of one of these tenements had been living over what was in every respect a privy, and that for a long time, yet they reported no cases of illness, but at time of visit a child was ill, reported to be suffering from cold. Appearance of inmates of this tenement was anything but healthy, other tenement had been only recently occupied.

Yours, &c.,

J. W. HUGHES,
Practical Sanitarian.

Progress of Medical Science.

MERCURIC BICHLORIDE IN DYSENTERY AND DIARRHŒA.

By BOARDMAN REED, M.D., Atlantic City, N. J.

During the last two years I have been testing the treatment of dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa by the bichloride of mercury in somewhat minute doses, as recommended by Dr. Sydney Ringer. My experience with this treatment covers a large number of cases, including most of the varieties of intestinal flux ordinarily seen in this latitude. It has been found particularly valuable in those forms of chronic diarrhœa characterized by dysenteric symptoms, such as the presence of mucus or blood in the stools, with or without tenesmus.

In acute cases this remedy is slow in acting, and in my hands has proved much less successful,—at least until after a purge of castor oil and laudanum has removed the offending cause.

The following transcript from my case-book well illustrates the power of the bichloride in obstinate chronic dysentery:

Case I.—July 4, 1878. Consulted by J. J., aged 45: occupation, formerly a sailor; has lately done odd jobs when able to get about. Weight now about one hundred and twenty-four pounds; looks, thin, sallow, feeble, and