

Cholera first became prevalent in Europe in 1830, the year of the Russo-Polish war: an outbreak of the disease following on the marching of Russian troops into Poland. Again in 1831 cholera was introduced into Dantzic by some Russian war-ships stationed in the harbour. The disease has also been introduced countless times by the advent of soldiers in times of peace as in war.

In a recent action taken against a well-known London firm for having infringed the Pharmacy Act, it was shown that an article described and sold by them as a "weed-killer" contained sufficient arsenic to kill 6,000 persons. It is satisfactory that the firm in question, in the interests of the community, have decided to discontinue the sale of this very deadly article.

The Agricultural Board of Kansas has adopted a novel but harmless kind of propagation of infectious disease. The farmers of the State are requested to at once report to head-quarters when their fields become infested with the chinch bug, an insect which is most destructive. By return of post the distressed farmer receives a small boxful of chinch bugs which have been infected with a disease which is peculiarly fatal to these small pests. The unhealthy are put with the sound, free fraternisation takes place, the result being wholesale destruction of the unsuspecting creatures who extended such a cordial welcome to the strangers within their gates. The demand for these infected bugs is so great that the supply to meet it cannot be always maintained.

The Missouri State Board of Health has been getting into trouble with the State Medical Society for distributing leaflets and circulars dealing with hygienic and preventive medicine "among the masses." Some of these leaflets are of an admirable character, and deal simply and effectively with domestic and personal health, and it would appear to be a grave mistake to interfere with the teaching on the part of a Board of Health of simple, sound sanitation.

A crusade has been begun, and it is hoped will be prosecuted vigorously in Chicago, against the continued existence and future possibility of sham, or as they are called locally "fake Hospitals," of which there are very many in the great City of contrasts. These sham establishments are carried on for individual profit, and through them, and by them, not only is money procured under false pretences, but a great deal of disreputable work is made possible. But legislation and public attention

being aroused on the subject, a healthy cleansing of the city of these horrible quack places should be only a question of time.

The State Legislature of New York has enacted a law making it obligatory on cities which have a population of over 50,000 inhabitants to establish free public baths.

An enterprising young journalist at Los Angeles in California, anxious to make a record, "played insane" in order that he might be committed to the State Asylum, and subsequently write it up with an account of any hardships or abuses he might witness. The outcome of his plot was that he was detected and fined £20 for "contempt," with the option of 100 days' imprisonment. We are not told whether he elected the latter so as to "write up" the prison.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, the poet-physician, left an estate which is valued at £28,000. The greater part of this sum was earned by his pen, which he wielded so cleverly and gracefully.

The Pennsylvania Board of Health has just issued a set of instructions as to the time when teachers and pupils who have been exposed to the infective diseases may safely be admitted again to schools providing they continue in good health and have taken proper methods for disinfection. For diphtheria after twelve days; small pox, eighteen; measles, eighteen; chicken pox, eighteen; mumps, twenty-four; and whooping-cough, twenty-one. Adults may be admitted at once if they disinfect their clothes and persons.

The late Mr. Joseph Huntley, of Reading (representative of a famous old Quaker family), who died last month, leaves about £10,000 to be distributed between the Peace Society, the Friends' Foreign Missionary Society, the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the Temperance Society, the Reading Dispensary, and the British Schools.

Mr. William Berry, of Manchester, who died at Bowdon, Cheshire, a few weeks since, bequeathed a sum of £51,000 to Manchester local charities. To the Manchester Infirmary he leaves £10,000, to the Manchester City Mission £5,000, to the Boys' Refuge £3,000, to the National Lifeboat Institution £2,000, Southport Convalescent Hospital £2,000, Dr. Barnado's Homes £1,000, Royal Eye Hospital £1,000, Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, £1,000 and Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children £1,000.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)