

The liability of leaky water-pipes to act as land drains and to receive foul matters as well as land drainage through their leaks is not to be overlooked. And such leaky pipes running full of water with considerable velocity, are liable to receive, by lateral insuction at their points of leakage, external matters that may be dangerous. This latter fact is not recognised so generally as it should be, and ignorance of it has probably baffled many inquiries in cases where water services have in truth been the means of spreading disease.

If, unfortunately, the only water which for a time can be got should be open to suspicion of dangerous organic impurity, it ought at least to be boiled before it is used for drinking, but then not to be drunk later than twenty-four hours after it has been boiled. Filtering of the ordinary kind cannot by itself be trusted to purify water. It cannot be too distinctly understood that dangerous qualities of water are not obviated by the addition of wine or spirits.

When there appears any probable relation between the distribution of disease and of milk supplies, the cleanliness of dairies, the purity of the water used in them, the health of the persons employed about them, and the health of the cows that furnish milk should always be carefully investigated. Ever apart from any apprehension of milk being concerned in a particular outbreak of disease, it is desirable that English people should adopt the custom, which is always followed in some Continental countries, of boiling all milk at once upon its reception into a house.

The washing and lime-whiting of uncleanly premises, especially of such as are densely occupied, should be pressed with all practicable despatch.

Overcrowding should be prevented. Especially where disease has begun, the sick room should, as far as possible, be free from persons who are not of use to the patient.

Ample ventilation should be enforced. It should be seen

that windows are made to open, and that they are sufficiently opened. Especially where any kind of infective fever has begun, it is essential, both for patients and for persons who are about them, that the sick room and the sick house be constantly traversed by streams of fresh air.

The cleanliest domestic habits should be enjoined. Refuse matter should be speedily removed or destroyed, and things which have to be disinfected or cleansed should always be disinfected or cleansed without delay.

Special precautions of cleanliness and disinfection are necessary with regard to infective matters discharged from the bodies of the sick. Among discharges which it is proper to treat as infective are those which come in cases of small-pox and scarlatina from the affected skin; in cases of cholera and enteric fever from the intestinal canal; in cases of diphtheria and scarlatina from the nose and throat; likewise, in cases of any eruptive or other epidemic fever, the general exhalations of the sick. The caution which is necessary with regard to such matters must, of course, extend to whatever is imbued with them; so that bedding, clothing, towels, handkerchiefs, and other articles which have been in use by the sick may not become sources of mischief either in the house to which they belong or in houses to which they are conveyed. So far as articles of this class can be replaced by rags or things of small value, it is best to use such things and burn them when they are soiled. Otherwise clothing and infected articles should be subjected to the disinfectant of the sick room or be removed for disinfection by heat.

In enteric fever and cholera the evacuations should be regarded as capable of communicating an infectious quality to any night soil with which they are mingled in privies, drains, or cesspools; and after such disinfection of them as is practicable they should be disposed of without delay and under the safest conditions that local circumstances permit. They should not be thrown into any fixed privy receptacle,

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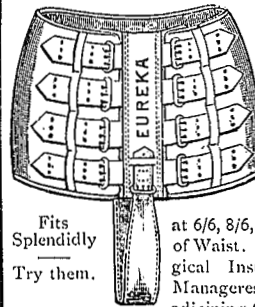
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