

and, above all, they must never be cast where they can run or soak into sources of drinking water.

All reasonable care should be taken not to allow infective disease to spread by the unnecessary association of sick with healthy persons. This care is requisite, not only with regard to the sick house, but likewise with regard to schools and other establishments wherein members of many different households are accustomed to meet.

If disease begins in houses where the sick person cannot be properly accommodated and tended, medical advice should be taken as to the propriety of removing him to an infirmary or hospital. Every sanitary authority should have in readiness a hospital for the reception of such cases.

Where dangerous conditions of residence cannot be promptly remedied, it will be best that the inmates, while unattacked by disease, remove to some safer lodging.

Privation, as predisposing to disease, may require special measures of relief.

In certain cases special medical arrangements are necessary. For instance, as cases of cholera in this country sometimes begin somewhat gradually in the comparatively tractable form of what is called "premonitory diarrhoea," it is essential that, where cholera has appeared, arrangements should be made for affording medical relief without delay to persons attacked, even slightly, with looseness of bowels. So, again, where smallpox is the prevailing disease, it is essential that all unvaccinated persons (unless they previously have had smallpox) should very promptly be vaccinated; and that re-vaccination should be performed in cases properly requiring it.

It is always to be desired that the people should, as far as possible, know what real precautions they can take against the disease which threatens them, what vigilance is needful with regard to its early symptoms, and what (if any) special arrangements have been made for giving medical assistance within the district. For the purpose of such information,

printed hand-bills or placards may usefully be employed, and in cases where danger is great, house-to-house visitation by discreet and competent persons may be of the utmost service, both in quieting unreasonable alarm and in leading or assisting the less educated and the destitute parts of the population to do what is needful for safety.

The present memorandum relates to occasions of emergency. Therefore the measures suggested in it are essentially of an extemporaneous kind, and permanent provisions for securing the public health have, in express terms, been but little insisted on. It is to be remembered, however, that in proportion as a district is habitually well cared for by its sanitary authority the more formidable emergencies of epidemic disease are not likely to arise in it.

Provision by the public authority for disinfection by heat of bulky articles, and of those which cannot without injury be exposed to chemical agencies, ought always to be in readiness. Without such provision no complete disinfection can be effected. Partial and nominal disinfection, besides being wasteful, may be mischievous, as giving rise to a false security.

The following system of domestic disinfection may be commended to sanitary authorities who have already provided adequate public means for the disinfection and for the disposal of infected matters and things:—

(a) For the purposes of the sick room, such as the reception of soiled handkerchiefs, sheets, and the like, as well as for the swabbing of floors, a valuable disinfecting solution may be made with perchloride of mercury. It is well to have this solution slightly acid, coloured also in such a way that it shall not readily be confused with drinks or medicines; and proper caution should be given to avoid accidents in its use. Sanitary authorities will find it advantageous to have such a solution\* prepared under the direct instructions of the Medical Officer of

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