

20° C., and they develop well in milk. The sale of this commodity should therefore be carefully supervised. An important statement is that which asserts that the diseases affecting pigeons, fowls, calves, and pigs, which resemble diphtheria, are not caused by the bacillus of human diphtheria. These diseases in the lower animals are not, therefore, to be feared as sources of the human affection. Professor Löffler thinks that the etiological identity shown by Klein to exist between diphtheria in cats and in man requires confirmation. Although lesions of mucous membranes favour the retention of the virus, yet in disposed subjects the disease may arise apart from such lesions. It is advised that when diphtheria is prevalent a systematic use of disinfectant gargles and washes (e.g., sublimate solution, 1 in 10,000) should be enforced on all children. Lastly, it is stated that the meteorological conditions which favour the spread of the disease are still unknown.

#### DRINK AND RAILWAY EMPLOYÉS.

THE London correspondent of the *Liverpool Daily Post* gives some very important particulars as to the practice of the railway companies in the United States and Canada in requiring strict temperance in their servants. They find this the most effective way of guaranteeing the safety of the public and their own protection from excessive damages. With a view to the attainment of as high a standard of temperance as possible, fifty-four American companies enforce abstinence while on duty, and fifteen abstinence without the restriction to time of duty; thirteen companies insist on abstinence as essential to promotion, and one requires the signature of the abstinence pledge before engaging an *employé*. It seems reasonable to require that railway officials should not drink during work hours, and that proofs of abstinence should count in promotion. At present English railway stations are dangerous, for the facility with which passengers may drink themselves and tempt and treat railway officials, from the station master down to the humblest porter.

#### THE HEALTHINESS OF NORWICH DWELLINGS.

MR. CHARLES WILLIAMS, surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, is endeavouring to establish in Norwich a sanitary association much on the lines of similar associations in London, by means of which examination of and report on houses by a sanitary expert can be obtained. The scheme ought to succeed financially if Mr. Williams' estimate, to the effect that "there are very few houses in Norwich of which the sanitary condition could not be improved and which do not require careful supervision," should turn out to be well founded.

#### THE UNHOUSING AND HOUSING OF THE POOR.

PERHAPS no sanitary measure is more desirable as such than the demolition of the London "rookeries." Tenanted for many years by the very poorest of our poor, haunted continually by filth, disease, and vice, their existence is a constant menace to more wholesome neighbourhoods, and the space they stand on constitutes their sole value. In spite of these facts, however, the work of renovation has need to proceed without undue haste for an evident reason. The housing of their inmates is a matter of concern, and occasionally also of some difficulty. The occupant of a slum cannot always find a more suitable home. Model buildings, often excellent in design, though let at the most moderate rents are still too costly for his precarious means. The less pretending tenements of an older type are occupied by others like himself, but often also by workmen of a better

class, attracted either by a prospect of economy or a dislike to the model buildings. These latter, indeed, do not seem to be duly appreciated. Airy, clean, commodious, economical, they are still to some extent unpopular. According to Dr. Yarrow, medical officer for St. Luke's parish, skilled workmen do not appreciate the advantages of such homes. He mentions the case of two blocks, in each of which many sets of rooms are still vacant. Unless it depend upon an objection to the collective life of the flat system, we are at a loss to account for this apparent oversight. It is possible that local conditions may have exercised some influence, and it would be of interest to learn whether other buildings of like type are as thinly populated as those above-mentioned. Meanwhile we may remark that their construction as a rule affords reliable guarantees for sound sanitary condition, a consideration which should never be disregarded. The housing of the poor will be a question of the time for many years to come, and it may well occupy the attention of divisional sanitary authorities.

#### CHOLERA INTELLIGENCE.

DURING the five months, May to September, there were some 5000 cases and about half that number of deaths from cholera in Spain; and, with the exception of Toledo, where some 500 cases occurred, nearly all the places attacked were either on or within a short distance of the east coast, the province and city of Valencia having suffered most. The disease has all along shown less tendency to spread than it did during the last Spanish epidemic, and the epidemic still has the same character. The last place attacked is Barcelona, where four deaths took place on two consecutive days in last week. In France, two cases have occurred at Lunel in the department of Hérault; one of the attacks occurring in a wine merchant recently arrived from Spain, and the other, which was fatal, in a member of his family. Thus far, however, no spread of the disease has occurred. From Italy it is reported that cholera has disappeared from her East African possessions; and as regards Asia Minor, the disease is stated to show no indications of further spread. At the same time the quarantine restrictions maintained by Cyprus against Asia Minor ports are rigidly maintained. Special reports have been made to the Russian Government, according to which it is held that the cholera occurrences of this year in Persia and Mesopotamia have a more local character than they had last year, and that no tendency to diffusion of the disease is manifesting itself.

#### MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THE Lettsomian Lectures will be delivered at the rooms of the Medical Society of London by Dr. Stephen Mackenzie on Jan. 5th and 19th, and Feb. 2nd, 1891. The subject will be "Anæmia, its Pathology, Symptoms, and Treatment." The annual oration will be delivered by Sir Joseph Lister, Bart., on May 4th. The subject of the Fothergillian essay of March, 1891, is "The Temporary and Permanent Mental Derangements which follow Surgical Procedures."

#### ELECTROLYSIS VERSUS PARACENTESIS IN OVARIAN CYSTS.

DR. SIGMUND CSEREY, writing in a Hungarian medical journal, points out the great advantage that electrolysis possesses over paracentesis in ovarian cysts where more radical operative measures are for any cause inadmissible. The enormous loss of albumen by tapping is frequently followed by serious weakening of the patient, which is not the case where electrolysis is employed, this method causing the proteid to be partially reabsorbed by the system. He mentions a case where an ovarian cyst had been tapped twelve years previously, but had very soon filled again. Since