six years ago he had always enjoyed the best possible health. The author did not admit that this was a case of *de novo* development, though the period of incubation was extraordinarily long. The germ must have been dormant, like the "mummy" wheat, for nearly forty years.

After referring to the present unsatisfactory nomenclature of varieties, and to the army and navy records of the disease, he, in conclusion, summed up, and, had time allowed, would have adduced arguments in support of the theories that leprosy is caused by the bacillus, that the disease is communicable from person to person, and that segregation is justifiable. Microscopic specimens, prepared by the author, were exhibited, showing the *bacillus leprœ* scraped from the tongue and mouth of a patient, and sections of dermal nodules, anæsthetic skin, nerves, etc. Many of the references were from hitherto unpublished sources, both private and official.

Death from Electricity.

A DEATH recently occurred at Brighton, England, from the accidental contact of the conducting wire of the electric lighting apparatus with the neck of one of the employees at a brewery. The deceased was "found dead" in the neighborhood of the fatal electrical conductor, and a report in a local newspaper states that a post-mortem examination revealed perfectly healthy organs, the only abnormality in this case being "a mark half-way round the neck as if grazed by the wire." With the extension of electric lighting, says the *Lancet*, occasional fatalities of this kind are to be expected, and the number of deaths from this cause has already been considerable. In the case recently reported there was, it is to be observed, a slight mark upon the body, and in a case which occurred in 1884 a blister was found upon one of the fingers of the deceased with which contact had been accidentally made by the machine. In other cases there has been no mark whatever, so that we may conclude that the pathological evidence of the cause of death in such cases is almost *nil*. It seems to us of the greatest importance that these accidents should be carefully studied, and it would almost seem to be the duty of the local government board to send a trained pathologist to attend the post-mortem examination of every case which occurs, in order that a careful comparison might be established between the cases, and any points which they might present in common be duly noted. This could only be done by one having considerable accumulated experience, and such experience could only come to one having such opportunities as an official position would give.

The matter is of very great importance, because a cause of death which is, so to say, gradually becoming omnipresent, and which leaves no mark, is tolerably sure to be made use of for criminal purposes, and if there be any certain means of establishing how death took place, a knowledge of this would be the only means of checking the misdeeds of persons with criminal intentions. It generally has happened hitherto that the surrounding circumstances have left no doubt as to the cause of death, but it is not reasonable to suppose that such would always be the case, and if it suited the crafty schemes of a criminal it might very easily be contrived otherwise. In short, there is no doubt that we ought to use every endeavor to increase our exact knowledge of this cause of death, and we can only hope that post-mortem examinations will be carefully made in all cases which occur, and that practitioners will regard it as a duty which they owe to the profession and the public to place upon record the results of such examinations.

CANCER. — A small commune in Normandy, Saint Sylvestre-de-Courcelles, with a present population of only 379, as compared with 500 twenty years ago, has in the eight years 1880 to 1887 lost no fewer than eleven of its inhabitants, between the ages of sixty-two and eighty-three, from cancer, — a proportion of 15 per cent of the total mortality. All but one of the cases were males, and in as many as eight the cancer was seated in the stomach. Such facts have led Dr. Arnaudet, according to *L'Union Médicale*, to conclude that cancer is contagious, and is propagated through the medium of water. It is true, he remarks, that not one of the eleven persons mentioned were water drinkers, but then they drank cider, which is made with the pond water of the district. Dr. Arnaudet thinks this sufficient ground to advocate the use of antiseptics and of boiled water as prophylactics against cancer, as well as against typhoid fever or phthisis.

TYPHUS BACILLI IN WATER. — Several cases of typhoid have recently occurred in a town in the province of Baden, Germany, and it came to light that three of the patients first affected procured their drinking water from the same well. The water was then examined, the strictest precautions being used to prevent infection from other sources. In three days the cultures were found to have developed on an average one hundred and forty thousand colonies to the cubic centimetre. Ten tests had been made, but only in one of these was there found a single colony of typhoid bacilli.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IT is officially announced that a general national exhibition of agriculture and sylviculture will be held at Vienna, next year, from the 15th of May to the 15th of October. The exhibition is to include the following international sections: (1) machinery and implements used in agriculture, sylviculture, and the industries cognate to them, such as horticulture, viticulture, hop-growing, bees, silk, fishing, and hunting; (2) artificial and auxiliary branches of agriculture, such as artificial manures, remedies for sick animals, etc.; (3) models, plans, designs, and statistical information respecting agriculture and forestry; (4) inventions dealing with the utilization of waste material; (5) information and suggestions respecting the food supply of large cities.

— The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the British Association will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, beginning on Sept. 11 and 12; and the Durham, Northumberland, and Newcastle Botanical and Horticultural Society has arranged to hold its autumn meeting and exhibition at the same time and place. The local committee have spared no efforts to make the arrangements for the meeting as complete as possible, and their labors have been greatly lightened by the fact that many fine buildings suitable for the purposes of the association have been erected since it held its last meeting at that place in 1863. The reception-rooms, occupying a central position with respect to the various section rooms, will be located in the new buildings of the University of Durham College of Medicine, in which building a writing-room and ladies' drawing-room will be provided, and special rooms for the use of the officers of the association. The Cambridge Drill Hall, near the reception-room, is to be fitted up for a luncheon-room. Sections A and B will meet in the new buildings of the College of Science, opened in November last; and in the chemical laboratory of this college it is intended to bring together a series of exhibits illustrating the chemical and allied manufactures of the district. The general meetings of the Association will be held in St. George's Drill Hall. The Natural History Museum, opened in 1884, in which building is Mr. Hancock's unique collection of British birds, will be used for the two *soirées*, the first to be given by the mayor and corporation, and the second by the local committee. A guide-book, arranged in three sections, has been prepared for the occasion, dealing respectively with the history and topography, the geology and natural history, and the industries of the district.

— The Royal Society of New South Wales offers its medal and a prize of £25 for the best communication (provided it be of sufficient merit) containing the results of original research or observation upon each of the following subjects, to be sent in not later than May 1, 1889: "Chemistry of the Australian Gums and Resins;" "Aborigines of Australia;" "Iron Ore Deposits of New South Wales;" "List of the Marine Fauna of Port Jackson, with Descriptive Notes as to Habits, Distribution, etc." The same offer is made for the best communications on the following subjects, to be sent in not later than May 1, 1890, "Influence of the Australian Climate (general and local) in the Development and Modification of Disease;" "Silver Ore Deposits of New South Wales;" "Occurrence of Precious Stones in New South Wales, with a Description of the Deposits in which they are found;" also on the following, to be sent in not later than May 1, 1891, "Meteorology of Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania;" "Anatomy and Life History of the Echidna and Platypus;" "Microscopic Structure of Australian Rocks." The competition is in no way confined to