

which also the law will require of each person for the protection of his neighbours, as well as for his own safety.

Next to the perfect cleansing of the premises, dryness ought to be carefully promoted, which will of course require the keeping up of sufficient fires, particularly in the damp and unhealthy districts, where this means should be resorted to for the sake of ventilation as well as of warmth and dryness.

From information recently obtained from Russia, it appears that in some barracks, and other places in which large numbers of people are congregated, where these conditions have been attended to in a manner that may be equally practised in private houses, there has been a comparative immunity from the prevailing epidemic, exactly as in this country, where in public institutions, though as yet by no means perfect in the means of ventilation, there has been an almost entire exemption from epidemics which have ravaged private houses in the very same districts.

But while a certain amount of cleansing can be effected by every householder, each in his own premises, the means of thoroughly purifying the densely populated districts are beyond the power of private individuals.

Accordingly, by the recent Act eleventh and twelfth Victoria, c. 123, sec. 1, in cases of inability, insufficiency, or neglect, the law has charged the cleansing operations upon certain public bodies, namely, "the Town Councils, or any Trustees or Commissioners for the drainage, paving, lighting or cleansing, or managing or directing the police, or any other body of a like nature, or any Commissioners of Sewers, or Guardians of the Poor."

By this Act it is provided, that upon notice, in writing, signed by two or more inhabitant householders, that any dwelling-house or building is in a filthy and unwholesome condition, or that there are upon such premises any foul and offensive cesspool, drain, gutter, or ditch, or any accumulations of filth, or that swine are so kept as to be a nuisance or injurious to health, the authorities shall examine or cause the premises to be examined; and if upon examination, or upon a medical certificate of two legally qualified practitioners, it appears that the nuisance exists, the public authority shall make complaint before two justices, who are required to make order for the removal of such nuisance. The amended provisions contained in this Act should be early considered, promulgated, and enforced, especially those for the proper cleansing of open and foul ditches, near habitations, by the labourers under the direction of Surveyors or Trustees of Highways.

The Union Medical Officers, whose duties take them to the relief of the destitute sick, are necessarily familiar with the places in which disease is most prevalent and fatal, and these are invariably found to be the dirtiest localities, where, consequently, the cleansing operations are most required; and the Nuisances Removal Act imposes upon the Guardians the duty of directing and enforcing the proper performance of these operations.

In several districts, the police, in going their usual rounds, have been employed with great advantage in reporting daily as to the houses, courts, alleys, passages, and streets within their district most in need of cleansing; as to the carelessness or neglect of the scavengers in the performance of their duties, and as to the existence of nuisances of various kinds. The Boards of Guardians, or Special Committees formed out of their body, are therefore recommended to associate themselves with Special Committees of Town Councils, who, by their Watch Committees, have the control of the police, and to engage for these purposes the valuable services of this force.

Highly important services have been rendered by the parochial clergy and other ministers of religion, in association with lay committees, for the purpose of maintaining a system of house to house visitation in the more depressed districts; and, wherever it is practicable, the Boards of Guardians are recommended, to associate with a special committee of their own number (who for the time may be exempted from ordinary duties) the clergy of the respective parishes and the ministers of other religious denominations, and to call upon the medical and other union officers to give their aid to this committee.

It is conceived that such Parochial Special Committee would, among other useful purposes, be peculiarly serviceable in communicating information to the poorer classes as to the particular means of prevention within their reach, and as to the urgent necessity, at this season, of personal and household cleanliness, of ventilation, and of a careful and temperate mode of living.

By the Contagious Diseases Prevention Act, the General Board of Health is required to frame rules and regulations to assist and direct the Guardians of the Poor and other local authorities in the performance of the special duties imposed upon them whenever the country is visited or threatened by any formidable epidemic or contagious disease; and accordingly the Board has lost no time in putting itself in communication with the Poor Law Commissioners, with the view of taking all practical precautions against the scourge which is so steadily approaching our shores; and the Board is now engaged in preparing regulations for the more public and general measures of prevention and alleviation, which will be issued and put in execution in the several districts, as soon as their particular condition shall have been ascertained.

In the mean time, if notwithstanding every precautionary measure which can be taken, this disease should unhappily break out in any district, then it will be essential to the safety of the inhabitants that they should be fully impressed with the importance of paying instant attention to the premonitory symptom that announces the commencement of the attack.

This premonitory symptom is looseness of the bowels, which there is reason to regard as universally preceding the setting in of the more dangerous stage of the disease. Sometimes, indeed, under the circumstances already described, namely,