

after their return home, and there being reason to believe that the premonitory symptoms had been allowed to pass unheeded, while the affected persons were engaged in their work, the Board would earnestly impress on all proprietors and masters of such establishments the duty incumbent on them of making daily inquiry as to the state of the health of their workpeople, of providing medicines on the spot for administration without delay to any individual who may be affected, and to warn all such persons of the extreme importance of placing themselves as quickly as possible under medical care.

But there are instances in which the sanitary condition of localities and houses is so bad, and so incapable of instantaneous improvement, that the only means of saving the susceptible part of the population, is the temporary removal of the inhabitants of the worst places to houses of refuge until their own wretched abodes can be cleansed and purified. Experience has shown that, when groups of cases continue to recur in the same houses and localities, the only means of saving human life is the removal and dispersion of the residents. The evidence is conclusive, and is constantly accumulating, of the efficacy of this proceeding, which has recently been put in practice with success in several places where pestilence was decimating the population. Thus, in the small town of Mevagissey, in Cornwall, where the habitations of the poor are closely packed, and where the whole site is described as one mass of filth, which could not be removed in time to avert the most disastrous consequences, the Inspector advised the immediate removal of the population. In this instance there was no local means of providing houses of refuge; but the Board of Ordnance, on application of the General Board of Health, kindly granted the use of tents, in which 360 of the population were accommodated. Besides these, upwards of 640 people left the locality and dispersed themselves elsewhere. Amongst the people drafted into the tents not a single case of cholera occurred, whilst 126 additional cases took place amongst the population which remained in the houses. There are no means of obtaining accurate information as to the 640 of the population dispersed, but it is reported generally that they have experienced similar immunity. Another consequence of this great thinning of the population, amounting to the withdrawal of nearly one-half of the whole inhabitants, has been that the fatality has diminished in a greater ratio among those who are left.

Tents have been supplied by the Board of Ordnance in several other instances, at the request of the General Board of Health, with similar beneficial results, as far as has been ascertained.

It has been elsewhere stated, that out of 806 persons admitted into two houses of refuge opened in Glasgow, taken from the most filthy and over crowded houses and rooms in that city, in which houses and rooms cholera was actually prevailing, and, who, had they been allowed to remain there would probably have been the next victims, no more than 25 were attacked with cholera, and only 8 died. In the houses of refuge they breathed a comparatively pure atmosphere, and were placed under proper regimen and strict medical inspection; in the mean time their own houses and rooms, and, as far as practicable, the localities immediately adjoining, were thoroughly cleansed and purified; and no instances are recorded of any of these persons being attacked with cholera on their return to their own homes. An analogous instance, but on a much larger scale, is given by Mr. Grainger in his Report on Berlin. At the time when the cholera was prevailing last year in that city, the authorities found work for a body of 6000 artisans and labourers, by employing them on the Charlottenburg canal, situate in the open country. The

men were thus withdrawn from their crowded abodes during 14 or 15 hours daily, returning into the city in the evening; and whilst their families, who remained at home, enjoyed no particular exemption, out of this large body of 6000, only 8 were attacked by cholera, a circumstance so remarkable as to attract general notice, and which must essentially have depended on the men breathing a pure atmosphere for 15 out of the 24 hours.

The absolute necessity of the adoption of this process of removal in some localities in London is proved by the fact that a very large proportion of the cases of cholera in the metropolis has taken place in houses where more than one person has been already attacked, and that in several localities, as in Lambeth, Newington, Bermondsey, and St. Saviour's, and St. George's, Southwark, the disease has continued its ravages with undiminished violence for a much longer period than is common in the ordinary course of this pestilence.

The duty of providing places of refuge to which to remove families attacked with cholera, residing in bad localities, or in overcrowded houses which do not admit of immediate and effectual cleansing, has been explained in the second Notification of the General Board of Health issued in November last, and this matter formed part of the General Regulations which were then issued. But the Board have to complain that the regulations specially bearing on this point have been extensively neglected by the Boards of Guardians. In almost every case this duty has been left undone, and it has happened that where portions of workhouses have been set apart for the purposes of a refuge, the usual workhouse rule in regard to paupers has been extended to those whose admission for a few days was absolutely necessary to save their lives. It need hardly be stated that such a course of proceeding was calculated to deter parties from availing themselves of the accommodation provided.

In cases where it has been found to be necessary to issue special orders in regard to this matter, the execution of these orders has on various pretexts been delayed, and in some instances positively refused. The General Board of Health is fully convinced that accommodation to a greater or less extent is yet obtainable in several unions, if the local authorities could be induced to forego jealousies, and willingly render mutual services.

It is to be lamented that popular prejudice should be so strongly expressed against the letting of premises for such purposes, especially at a time when the most cordial co-operation of all classes is necessary in providing for the public safety. Such, however, is the urgency of the need in many cases, that, in the opinion of the General Board of Health, attempts should be made to obtain the temporary use of schools or other public buildings, to which to remove persons from infected localities. In order to ascertain whether accommodation might not be found in the workhouses in unaffected districts for the people brought from the affected parts of the metropolis, the General Board of Health have applied for information to the Poor Law Board, but the result of the enquiry was that such accommodation could not be found.

Similar difficulties have been experienced elsewhere, but they have generally been overcome, by the public spirit of the leading inhabitants acting in opposition to popular prejudice; or by sending a portion of the paupers, especially children, out of the workhouse so as to find space for the persons sent to refuge: in several cases immediate steps have been taken for erecting suitable wooden sheds in healthy localities, and as has been already stated, a supply of tents has been provided in other cases, with the effect of immediately diminishing and sometimes rapidly exterminating the disease.