The second diagram presents in a graphic manner the comparative rate of mortality in and out of the hospitals. From it we find that the total number of deaths from cholera from Nov. 3 to Nov. 30 was 916, and that 343 of these took place in the city at large. We regret exceedingly that the total number of cases in the city is not at hand for purposes of comparison with those in the hospitals. The question of the advantages of hospital treatment for such cases is still an open one in certain quarters, and may be settled in some measure by a study of this epidemic.

The conclusions to be drawn from the charts are that the outbreak was not an extended one, although it was widely diffused throughout the poorer parts of the city; that its virulence, as a whole, was equal to that of others, the rate of mortality being fully up to the average; and that the recent advances in sanitary science are not yet so thoroughly perfected and crystallized that their application to practical purposes produces a visible effect in the restraint of a pestilence, when occurring in a large city.

What may be done in a small community which is thoroughly under medical control is illustrated by an account, by Mr. Gibert, of an outbreak of cholera at Yport, near Havre.[1] This epidemic is as interesting and complete in its details as a laboratory experiment. The community is small and isolated, contains sixteen hundred inhabitants, and is out of the direct line of travel. The source of the disease was traced with precision to two sailors who reached the village Sept. 28. One of them had had an attack of cholera at Cette; and on the day after his arrival at Yport he soaked his soiled clothing, and hung it out to dry in front of his house, allowing the dirty water to run along the street.

From this nidus the disease started, and there occurred forty-two cases with eighteen deaths. Without following the account further, it will be interesting to read Gibert's conclusions — justifiable, apparently, from the account which he gives. They are, —

1. That cholera was brought to Yport.

2. That it was brought by insufficiently disinfected clothing, soiled by cholera dejecta.

3. That, after this clothing was washed, it became the agent of severe and rapid contamination.

4. That the cholera was propagated, by means of contagion, from house to house, without its being possible to attribute a single case to the transportation of the specfiic germ by the air.

5. That the sanitary measures taken, although incomplete, inasmuch as it was not possible to separate the sick from the well, were sufficient to stamp out the epidemic.

6. That the complete destruction of the cholera dejecta, and the disinfection or destruction of all effects soiled by them, seem to be sufficient to stamp out an epidemic of the disease, when it has not attained too great proportions.

7. That contagion by the air (the common acceptation of the term) appears to be an error; for at Yport three nuns and three physicians, or students in medicine, lived for a month under the most favorable conditions for taking the disease by this channel. They all escaped, with no further precautions than taking their meals at a distance from the cholera patients, and avoiding the handling of moist and soiled clothing.

8. The question of water has no bearing in this case, for the very good reason that the Yportais never drink any.

[1] Revue scient., Dec. 6, 1884, No. 23, p. 724.

AN AMERICAN COMMUNE.

THERE is at present a wide-spread feeling, both among scholars and men of affairs, that the time has come for an abandonment of that economic method which consisted largely in verbal quibbles and scholastic controversies about definitions of conceptions, and for a substitution in its place of a careful examination into the phenomena of this wonderful life of man in society which has received so little attention from science. The question is asked, "Why not study economic phenomena as we study the phenomena of plant or animal life?" And surely it seems as interesting and as important to observe the social life of man as that of ants in an ant-hill. It was with this conviction that Dr. Shaw undertook the preparation of this little volume on Icaria; and he was fully conscious of the fact that he was treating communism from a new stand-point, as is shown by these words taken from the preface: —

"A great number of books and articles have been written in recent years, discussing socialism and communism in the abstract; . . . and there would be no reason for the present monograph if it also undertook to enter the field of general discussion. Such is not its purpose or plan. Certainly the most common defect in the current literature of social and political questions consists in the tendency to generalize too hastily. Too little diligence is given to searching for the facts of history, and to studying with minute attention the actual experiences of men. In the following pages an attempt is made to present the history of a single communistic enterprise; . . . to picture its inner life as a miniature social and political organism; to show what are, in actual experience, the difficulties which a communistic society encounters; and to show by a series of pen-portraits what manner of men the enterprise has enlisted."

To prepare himself for his task, Dr. Shaw read the works of the French communist Cabet, the founder of Icaria, the publications of other Icarians, and passed a week with them. This volume is, then, a careful study, conducted in the spirit of modern science.

Icaria, with its romantic and interesting history, is an example of pure communism, and as such has important lessons to teach.

Icaria: a chapter in the history of communism. By ALBERT SHAW, Ph.D. New York and London, *G. P. Putnam's Sons*, 1884. 9+219 p. 16°.

One impression gathered from the pages of this work is the almost religious fervor with which communists are devoted to their peculiar social creeds. Ridicule is unable to turn them aside from their purposes, and repeated failure does not shake their faith. Speaking of the charms which the community at Brook Farm found in their life, and their unwillingness to change it for the 'luxuries of Egypt,' Dr. Shaw remarks: —

"Some such feeling as that seems to be permanently retained by almost all who have ever engaged in community life. It is a notable fact that many of these people who have enlisted in the work of human amelioration have their wits wonderfully quickened thereby, while the one-sidedness of their development tends to deepen and confirm opinions once received. The ill-fated colonies of Robert Owen had passed into the history of 'extinct socialisms' a generation ago; and yet the writer himself might designate one and another and another of the now venerable associates of Owen, still fresh with enthusiasm, and warm with sympathy, for every proposed social reform. The last of the Fourièrist phalansteries disappeared before the war; but many of the men who were engaged in them may still be found wrestling with the problems of co-operation, or pounding away at something more radical. Icaria once numbered its hundreds of disciples. Most of them have disappeared, seemingly swallowed up in the mass of American society; but, if the truth could be ascertained, they would, in all probability, still be found to be communists at heart" (pp. 176, 177).

A second lesson which Icaria teaches, is that the difficulties in the way of a realization of communism have existed largely in the imperfections of human nature. Attempts to erect a social fabric of a new design have shattered, because the building-material was not strong enough to resist the strain to which it was subjected. It is a sweet thing for brethren to dwell together in unity, but truly a most difficult thing. While in Nauvoo, Ill., their first settlement, Cabet early leads one party of Icarians in violent attacks on an opposite party; and the controversy waxes warm and bitter, until a disastrous split separates the two sections permanently. Cabet dies poor and broken-hearted in St. Louis, his adherents are soon scattered, while his opponents found a new settlement in Iowa. But these latter, united in poverty and trial, are unable to endure prosperity; and a young and progressive party, unwilling to accede to the policy of their more conservative elders, effect a separation. Peace and prosperity have never remained long with the Icarians, but they have never ceased to persevere in hope of better things.

One of the most interesting and at the same time touching passages in Dr. Shaw's book is that which describes the beginning of a system of private property, and the relentlessness with which it was suppressed as soon as discovered. It appears that the privilege had been granted each family of cultivating a small plot of ground surrounding the house, in such manner as the members thereof thought good: this was the origin of the question of the 'little gardens' ('*les petits jardins*').

"Everywhere else in the community the Icarian motto (all for each, each for all) was the invariable rule. If, in the one matter of these tiny plots environing their humble domiciles, the Icarians allowed the idea of '*meum et tuum*' insidiously to enter, and if they found a keener enjoyment in the flowers or the grapes because of the forbidden but delicious sense of ownership, we must not condemn them too harshly, nor impeach their communism. There was something noble and pathetic in the manner with which these 'citoyens' and 'citoyennes' put away the accursed thing when they awoke to a realization of the fact that the gardens were introducing a dangerous element of individualism and inequality" (p. 101).

This unpretentious little book on Icaria may be commended as a contribution to social science well worthy of careful perusal. It may be proper to state, in conclusion, that the book was presented by its author to the authorities of the Johns Hopkins university as a thesis for the degree of Ph.D.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY OF PLANTS.

THIS is the best sketch of plant-life that we have seen. The author criticises Sachs's view that the cell is merely passive, and shows that we must recognize both the separate individuality of the cell and the corporate unity of the complex plant, though in the higher plants the independence of the cell is largely subordinated to the general weal. He also rejects Sachs's 'Fundamental system' of tissues as being a heterogeneous assemblage, and as in no sense a physiological unity. The right classification of tissues is shown to depend neither on embryology (for mature tissues show no embryological unity) nor on collocation (whether outside or inside the thickening ring), but on their actual structure as related to their functions. Thus the tissues are arranged as protective and nutritive, — the protective including dermal and skeletal (or mechanical) systems; and the nutritive including absorbing, assimilating, conducting, storing, respiratory, and secreting organs. The bulk of the book is occupied with the anatomy of the plant as dependent on its functions.

Physiologische pflanzenanatomie, im grundriss dargestellt. Von Dr. G. HABERLANDT. Leipzig, *Engelmann*, 1884. 12+398 p., illustr. 8°.