In the light of our present knowledge, few intelligent parents would knowingly allow their children to use the milk of tuberculous cows; but as yet we are powerless to prevent its sale in our cities.

A third class of diseases grows out of animal parasites in the flesh of the animals we use as food. Of these, trichiniasis has of late played the most sensational *rôle*. For the last few years this has been prominently before the public; but in our own country, curiously enough, our officials, because of commercial complications, have tried to hide the danger, rather than guard against it. Outside of the advertisements of quack medicines, no more astonishing sanitary literature can be found than some of the public, not to say official, utterances regarding trichinae in the swine of this country. Our author gives numerous statistics, both from other sources and from original investigations, which show that the disease is common enough and wide-spread enough to need more careful watching. Fortunately, each household can protect itself from this class of diseases by thorough cooking; but, considering the customs of cookery, there should be other protection. Tape-worm belongs in this class of diseases. We think that the author overrates the danger from the Taenia medio-canellata derived from beef (more probably from veal?), and quotes Thudicum of twenty years ago to show that the rarity of the cysticercus in beef makes it more dangerous, — a doctrine from which we entirely dissent. In this country the vast majority of tape-worms appears to be the T. solium which we get from 'measley' pork.

There is still another way in which the flesh of diseased animals probably affects the public health. Animals are subject to certain diseases which affect their flesh, but which are not, so far as known, transmitted to man. The so-called hog-cholera is such a disease; yet experience has shown the propriety of forbidding the sale of the pork in the markets when sufficiently affected to have the red spots.

The author advocates much more extensive inspection of animals, but we fear that his zeal has led him to impracticable lengths. When we consider the enormous number of animals slaughtered by the producers of the same on their own farms, and the production of milk on small farms not called 'dairy' farms, we fear that a system of inspection which will extend to 'all animals slaughtered,' and to all the cows on all the farms which may supply milk for sale, is impracticable. Nor would he, we think, have written that '*city inspection* [of milk] *is next to useless*,' if he had had any experience in official sanitation in a large city, drawing its milk-supply from regions over which its officers had no jurisdiction whatever. Because we cannot have the most perfect means of protection, it is nonsense to decry the only means that are available, and which, experience shows, make a great improvement in affairs. And, however necessary and important official inspection may be, one cannot hope for 'the unquestionable guaranteeing' of safety by any official board: that is asking a great deal.

His short chapter on hippophagy, as practised in Europe, is both interesting and opportune. The growing consumption of this cheap, nutritious, and wholesome meat is a good thing, which the next generation will doubtless find common in all enlightened countries. The poorest chapter in the book is that relating to infection and bacteria, some portions of which (and notably the botanic portion) are lame. But the book is an important one: it deals with an important subject, and is the repository of much useful information in an interesting and available shape.

HOUSE-DRAINAGE.

OF the numerous books which have appeared during the past year, devoted to this subject, many are too exclusively taken up with the plumbing and drainage of houses and tenements in cities and towns provided with sewerage systems. In Col. Waring's book, entitled 'How to drain a house,' the individual householder, to whom the volume is chiefly addressed, will find valuable counsel, whether his domicile is in a crowded city, or in a country or suburban village where connection with public sewers is impossible.

The great value to the state, of sanitary works, such as pure water-supplies and the proper drainage for the removal of sewage, has been successfully demonstrated, and the same principle is none the less true of each individual dwelling.

The first and principal portion of the book treats mainly of that portion of the drainage system which is included within the interior of the house. The closing two chapters are devoted to the disposal of the sewage of isolated houses, and the special method of sub-surface irrigation.

The style is concise, and the illustrations are clear and simple, and shorn of all unnecessary

How to drain a house. Practical information for householders. By GEORGE E. WARING, jun., M. Inst. C.E. New York, *Holt*, 1885. 222 p. 12°.

details. The reader is not left to lose his way among a bewildering array of traps, vents, and fixtures of every possible variety of style and shape. The writer addresses these chapters, not to plumbers, architects, or engineers, but, as he says, to "the limited class who are willing to learn, and with whom a promising suggestion becomes a fruitful germ; to the few who will agree with their teachings; and to the more who will take their propositions into earnest consideration, without the intention, and often without the result, of agreeing with them."

If the wise counsel offered in this volume were generally complied with, diphtheria, typhoid, and other filth-diseases would undoubtedly be reduced to a minimum, and the death-rate would show a corresponding improvement.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IF the air carries infectious germs, it certainly would be well to filter it before inhaling. We reproduce from *Science et nature* a cut showing a French physician of the time of the pestilence of Marseilles (1720–21) on his round of visits. He is incased in an armor consisting of a short morocco gown, a helmet of the same material, and a nose stuffed with aromatics, which, notwithstanding its being a doctor's nose, would prove an enlivening feature at a carnival. Did the doctors touch their patients only with the end of a stick? The illustration seems to indicate as much.

A FRENCH DOCTOR OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

— The conductor of the Cartographic institute, Hamburg, Herr L. Friedrichsen, writes thus concerning the limits of the German possessions in West Africa: "The Mahin district on the Gulf of Benin, between Lagos and the mouth of the Niger, settled by the Hamburg firm of G. L. Gaiser, has not yet been placed under German protection. The coast from Jaboo to Old Calabar will, in my opinion, be in future regarded as under British protection, but has not hitherto been officially placed under any European power. The frontier of the German Cameroon begins with the Ethiopian cataract on the Great River lying from there in a south-westerly direction, to the sources of the Rio del Rey, following the right bank of this river to the coast, then the coast-line in a south-easterly direction to the river Behuwe, excluding the town and neighborhood of Victoria as British, as well as the island of Malimba. The latter, as well as the whole coast from the river Behuwe to Gumbegumbe, is not described by me in the commissions of foreign officials as without a ruler, but as a tract on which the actual raising of the German flag is yet the subject of diplomatic treaty. The German protectorate in south-west Africa begins with 18° south latitude, not with Cape Frio."

— Prior to 1850, there were no effectual laws in England to regulate the number of hours of work per day for children and women: consequently they were in many places obliged to work from fifteen to sixteen hours daily. Certain laws had been passed, but they were so loosely drawn up that they were easily evaded. After 1850, practical laws were passed at frequent intervals, to protect the people in various kinds of industry, and ten hours and a half were made the extreme limit of work. A. Ollendorff has studied the mortality statistics of England for a series of years before and after 1850, and he finds that the mortality of women and children in manufacturing towns has notably diminished since these protective laws came in force.

— The *Oil trade review* reports that rich petroleum grounds have been found at Deli, on the east coast of Sumatra. After experimental borings, a well was found at a depth of thirty metres, which yields about three hundred and sixty gallons in an hour. When the last layer of earth was pierced, the oil rose in a strong volume to a height of two metres out of the bore.

— Reichemberg's system of employing the same wire for telegraphing and for the use of the telephone simultaneously, has been tried with great success between Toledo and Madrid.

— A committee has been formed in Stendal to put up a monument of the late Dr. Gustav Nachtigall, the African explorer and general consul so recently dead.