

CHOLERA IN THE COUNTRY.

CHOLERA has been in New York City for over a week. Five deaths from the plague occurred there nine days ago, but were only officially reported yesterday. There have been other cases upon which reports have not been made. The failure to make this information known until now shows how great is the anxiety to put the best side of the subject out to the public.

This official reticence will cause thinking people to receive authoritative statements about the cholera with a good deal of allowance. The distrust will necessarily be heightened by the fact that alleged medical experts are constantly making statements that are directly opposed to each other.

For instance, Dr. Jenkins says he is certain that the cases which have appeared in New York have not been caused by a break in the quarantine. Dr. Edison, on the other hand, insists to the contrary. It does not appear that either has any proof for the respective positions taken. Either may or may not be correct. The fact that the cases broke out in localities widely separated from each other is rather against Dr. Edison's assertion and in favor of the theory that the germs can be carried about in the atmosphere, and that an attack is not dependent upon actual contact with infected persons or articles.

It is asserted that the physicians have great confidence in their ability to stamp out the disease. This is open to question. Obliteration of the plague after it gains an entrance to a great, densely populated and filthy city is perhaps a much more difficult task than preventing its initial inroad. In the latter labor the physicians have been unsuccessful. It now looks as if the disease had begun what is likely to be—despite human effort—a disastrous raid upon the country. The best that can be done is to take all precautions possible, both as communities and individuals, against the spread of the plague, and trust in God to do the balance. The latter recourse only refers to those who have any belief in the operations of the Almighty in human affairs. Those who do not possess this faith will have to rely solely upon what can be done by the creature without reference to any beneficent intervention on the part of the Creator. We believe that before the world is much older it will be shown that Omnipotence takes constant cognizance of the affairs and conditions of men and nations.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY IN SCOTLAND

THE compulsory eight hour day does not find favor among Scotch workmen. At the Trades Union Congress held in Glasgow last week 400 delegates were present. A resolution in favor of an eight hour day to be enforced by statute law was lost, that is if the law applied indiscriminately to all trades. But it favored a resolution allowing such trades as objected to eight hours to be exempt from the operation of the law, by a majority of fifty. That is, they favored what might be termed in this country a

local option law as applied to trade organizations. However, the action of the congress indicates that the Scotch workmen look at this issue in a conservative light, and yet are not opposed to reform where it would prove beneficial and practicable.

RECIPROCITY IN EUROPE.

EUROPEAN nations begin to realize the beauty and benefits of reciprocity. It is reported that a treaty of this kind is now in process of negotiation between Italy and Russia. Russia will make large concessions for Italian wines and productions, while Italy will make corresponding allowances for Russian grain. Italy this year has a short wheat crop, and the treaty with Russia is almost a national necessity. It is thought that this reciprocity scheme may also embrace some political developments.

Germany is also looking for reciprocal fields to conquer. That country has just informed the Bureau of American Republics that a treaty of commerce and navigation has been concluded with Uruguay. By the terms of the treaty both countries become virtually one. Citizens and subjects of each are given all the rights and privileges in the territory of the other that belong to the citizens of that country. The most favorable national privileges will be extended to German vessels in Uruguayan ports and vice versa. The same rule will apply to all articles of commerce in trading between both countries. The treaty will continue in force for three years from date of ratification, and for one year longer in case neither of the contracting parties gives notice to the other of its desire to withdraw from the agreement one year before the date of termination. It is thought this is but the entering wedge on the part of Germany to South American trade, and that similar treaties will be entered into with other republics. Next to England, Germany has the most important trade interests in South America, and she will endeavor to maintain these, in order to circumvent our reciprocity arrangements with these countries.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, the well known English poet and journalist, is now in this country on his way home to Britain from Japan. He is best known, perhaps, as author of "The Light of Asia," a very fine poem dealing with oriental affairs. But his poem "The Light of the World" has rendered his name more familiar to English and American readers than any other of his works. An edition of it was published here by Funk and Wagnalls of New York. It was dedicated "To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty," and for the American edition a laudatory introduction was written by Richard Henry Stoddard.

By "The Light of the World" Sir Edwin means Christ. According to his own introduction a Sovereign Voice commanded him to write "a song unstained by any tear." He was

then commanded to sing of "The Crucified," and to "Wash the Lips Clean."

The poem begins with a description of Bethlehem, then dwells on the birth of Christ, God the Father, the wise men from the east bearing gifts, the scene of the story, the dream of Claudia, Pilate and Mary, and so on to the end of the sacred drama. The poem is accepted as an eloquent expression of Christian ethics, morality and humanity, and commands the admiration of readers of sacred literature.

Sir Edward finds in Japan a congenial soil for the nurture of his poetic gifts. Much of his best poetry was written there, and he has now a poem ready for publication entitled "Japanesemic." But if the charges preferred against him by a Congregational minister in Chicago a day or two since be true, it will detract much from the popular estimation of Sir Edwin's verse. He is charged with living a riotous, immoral and licentious life while in Japan, and by his example doing much to frustrate the efforts of Christian missionaries in that country. Sir Edwin knows the missionaries, and will say nothing in reply, except that the Japanese are too metaphysical and philosophical to accept the dry crumbs administered by the average preacher.

The charge was made before an assemblage of Congregational ministers and is now before the public in thousands of newspapers in Europe and America. If the charge is without foundation and malicious it is something fiendish, if there be any truth in it then Sir Edwin must be a hypocrite. The charitable will not accept the charges as true.

JOSEPH A. GOSSE, an Australian artist of repute, arrived in San Francisco from Japan recently. He was interviewed by a *Chronicle* reporter in relation to the charges made by the Rev. Mr. Bartlett against Sir Edwin Arnold, the poet and journalist. Mr. Gosse has been a resident of Tokio for the past fourteen months. Of Sir Edwin he says:

"While in Tokio the poet resided at the Hotel Imperial, but the comforts of the hotel could not successfully compete with the charms of the Japanese dancing girls, and the consequence was that he spent his days, and nights, too, in riotous living. His prominent position, his age and the fact that he had a family, made his open violation of propriety doubly distasteful. He was speedily tabooed in the best English and American families, and had it not been for his prestige as a writer of the glories of Japan, even the natives would have ostracised him. The charges made by Rev. Mr. Bartlett are not overdrawn and he can substantiate them by the evidence of a hundred people of good repute living in Tokio."

A NOTED WOMAN REFORMER.

ONE of the noted women of the age passed away recently at Brighton, England, in the eighty-third year of her age. It was Mrs. Ernestine L. Rose. Her maiden name was Sigmund Pototski, for she was born in Poland, and she became a Jewess in religion from choice and conviction. This subjected her to great persecu-