

THE SAVING GERM DISCOVERY.

Credit Due Pasteur for Showing How to Prevent Ravages of Disease.

Louis Pasteur, a French chemist, is the man of all others to whom the civilized world today owes its health and its absolute certainty that the great epidemics of the past—cholera, the plague, ship fever (smallpox was conquered by an earlier genius) cannot recur. It is he who discovered the micro-parasitic origin of disease, or the germ theory, as it is popularly called, upon which almost the entire science of preventive medicine is founded, and which has shown the way to many of the greatest triumphs of the art of cure. It is as certain as anything can be in the domain of what has not actually happened that, were it not for the development and practical application of the truths established by Pasteur the world today would be mourning the loss of millions of men in every country in Europe and America from the ravages of the plague; the loss in money alone would have been incalculable, while the paralysis of thought and of enterprise involved would have halted human progress for long years to come. Cholera would long ago have burst the confines of Russia and spread over Europe and, traveling on ships from Europe in the East and from the Philippines and continental Asia in the West, it would have entered our land and had its toll of millions of lives. The world as we know it would have been a different place.