

BREEDING A PESTILENCE.

Colored People Buried Too Near the Surface at Camden, N. J.

CAMDEN, N. J., March 28.—The special committee of the Camden Board of Health, appointed to investigate the condition of Butler's burial-ground for colored people, in the rear of the Evergreen Cemetery, have made an official investigation, assisted by several city officials. The inquiry developed the fact that the State sanitary and burial laws had been grossly violated, and that serious results might follow during the coming hot weather, and an epidemic of death-dealing disease might result from the surface interments. Thirty-five tests were made as to what depth bodies had been interred. The iron struck coffins eighteen inches below the surface, and in several cases the bodies were only one foot deep. It was also said by the commission that when they dug up several graves bones were turned up and the feet of persons were plainly visible. Altogether, it is said, few bodies are buried as deep as three feet, and the stench of the decomposing flesh makes the place a nuisance and breeds disease. Dempsey Butler, the owner of the ground, is said to be worth \$60,000, and is a magnate among the colored people. He said to-night: "I know nothing about ghastly rumors of dogs going into the graveyard and eating human bones; dogs might have been seen there, but no complaint has been made, to my knowledge. Bodies have been buried without my knowledge and without permits, but what they were I can not say." The Inspector of the Board of Health says that no permits of burial have been granted for this cemetery for a month, yet it is claimed there have been burials in the interval. Probably State prosecution will await action of the board of free holders.