

# MUNICIPAL HEALTH CONDITIONS—HOW TO IMPROVE SAME

The fundamental facts upon which the study of municipal health problems must be based are two, viz: The relative death rate and the cause of death.

The federal census of 1910 has just made public the death rate in American cities, but has not yet tabulated and published the average annual death rate from various diseases.

The figures published show the average annual death rate in the cities of the United States to be 16.1 per 100,000, while in the principal cities of North Carolina the figures are: For Raleigh, 27.9; Wilmington, 20.8; Winston, 20.3; Durham, 19.3; Asheville, 19.0; Greensboro, 19.0; and Charlotte, 17.7. Excepting the apparently abnormal figures for Raleigh, there is a striking parallel between the death rates of North Carolina cities and the percentage of their negro population. The larger the negro population, the greater the death rate.

Though many of the white people are not blameless, that the tendency of the negro population to disregard sanitary practices and hygienic habits aggravates the difficulty of maintaining satisfactory public health conditions is well recognized. Nevertheless, considering the favorable natural conditions which conduce to a high standard of public health obtaining in North Carolina, the death rates given above leave little room for boastfulness to any of the larger cities.

It is said to their credit, however, that all are giving more and more consideration to public health problems, particularly in the prime factors of municipal sanitation, pure and wholesome water supplies and adequate sewage removal. But the chief deficiency which applies to all alike is failure to pay sufficient attention to the important matter of providing for the support of a properly sustained and effective health department as a function of the municipal government.

Immunity from disease in community life is no more to be expected as a matter of fact than that the burglar and the highwayman shall not threaten the life and property or that the fire fiend shall not cause widespread destruction if left unguarded and uncontrolled.

No thinking man capable of holding public office will seriously argue that the material asset that is conserved by the police and fire departments of our cities is of greater civic value than the vital assets of the human factor in city growth and development. Yet note the prevalent disregard of this true relation of civic assets in municipal budgets in too many instances.

It is this because city politics loom so well a shining light and that public health activities carry no lime-light attachment?

Modern knowledge, so plain that no intelligent observer can fail to see, demonstrates that the standard of health in community life is easily and directly controllable by intelligently directed means. No longer can ignorance neglect of public health considerations in municipal life. If the government of our cities is to be conducted on a plane of modern intelligence, the public health must be recognized and provided for as of first importance. The traditional conception of governmental functions, when ignorance of the laws of health prevailed, must be abandoned, and set up in its place there must be a more rational co-ordination of official responsibilities with the first consideration given to the life and health of the people, to the conservation of the greatest of all natural resources, the public health.

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## Scientific Miscellany

**Cause of Physiological Light—A Museum for City Health—Cold and National Strength—A New Diamond Theory—Molecules Showing Themselves—Seaweed Leather—Improved Color Photography—Tidal Turbines. Failure of Glass Streets.**

The light of luminous animals has been found by Raphael Dubois to be the result of indirect oxidation of an albuminoid, which he calls luciferine, by a peroxidase ferment, that has been named luciferase. The investigation reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences was made on the luminous siphon or breathing tube of a common European mollusk, the stone was made to exude a luminous liquid, which when a portion of the liquid was heated to 158 degrees F., its properties became much altered. On mixing the two liquids—the first of which contained the albuminoid and the second the ferment—the light reappeared. The luciferine was shown to exist in many non-luminous animals, but various tests led to the conclusion that the light of all luminous plants as well as animals is due to the oxidation of this substance.

A municipal health museum is the new plan for keeping Paris acquainted with sanitary progress. In a section of alimentary hygiene, the best commercial and domestic methods of preparing and storing foods are to be represented, and a laboratory will provide means for adulteration tests. In domestic hygiene will be illustrated house construction, lighting and heating, ventilation, and the arrangement of rooms and furniture. A sickness section is to include disinfection, vaccination, drinking water tests, and first aid to injured. Other features will deal with cheap dwellings, alcoholism and consumption, the care of children, clothing and physical culture.

In Canada's gold the president of the British Geographical Association

sees a valuable immigration filter. The occasional 35 degrees below zero, he believes, will keep out all blacks and most settlers from southern Europe, thus insuring the development of a strong northern race.

The diamonds of South Africa are found in a peculiar basic rock called kimberlite, or "blue ground," which consists of chrysolite and various other minerals, and fills the pipes of ancient volcanoes. No diamonds have been obtained from the numerous foreign inclusions of igneous and sedimentary rocks that have been suspected of being the original matrix in which the carbon crystallized. The kimberlite has been much broken and altered, and in the De Beers Mine it has nearly 7 per cent of combined water at a depth of more than 2,000 feet. These evidences of explosion and disintegration, with the unusual amount of water and carbon at a great depth, have suggested to Dr. O. H. Derby a new theory of origin. The pipes of kimberlite, he believes, must have become saturated with liquids and gases while intensely heated. In such a mass the carbon, which would be present as carbon dioxide and probably in other gaseous forms—would be subjected to the conditions that experiments have shown may cause segregation and the forming of crystals.

The actual existence of molecules and molecular motion is now believed to have been demonstrated in a very curious way. The Brownian movement, which has been one of the wonders of microscopy since its discovery 85 years ago by Robert Brown, is peculiar trembling or dancing motion of minute particles suspended in liquid. The motion is irregular but incessant, and may be seen in liquids that have been sealed up for years, and even in drops of water that have been shut up in quartz rocks for ages. Various explanations have been offered. Some have supposed the motion to be due to changes the changes ascribed to currents from unequal heating of the liquid, and another view has been that unseen molecules of the liquid make their motions visible by pushing the particles about. The last theory is now regarded as the true one. From a study of the molecular agitation, J. Perrin has computed the number of molecules in a certain weight, and this agrees closely with the showing by other methods.

"Seagumite" is the name given to the new seaweed vulcanite of J. S. Campbell, London chemist. It is proof against heat, cold, oils, and the weather, and is recommended as an electric insulator, and a material for belting, steam-packing, vehicle tires, and even for shoes.

Great accuracy in colors is claimed for the photographic pictures shown by the modified three-color process of Capt. Otto Fulton, an English photographer. The three impressions made by the usual blue, green and red light-screens are printed in black and white on non-inflammable opaque paper, and the images reflected by these three pictures pass respectively through a white a pale green and a pale orange tinting screen, and are by three lenses superimposed upon the projecting screen. The delicate tints and shades resulting seem to be the closest approach to natural colors yet reached. The process is well adapted for moving pictures, powerful electric lamps in front and at the side of the paper band producing the reflection, and the avoidance of the risk of fire from celluloid films is not the least important advantage.

Tidal-power has a future, undoubtedly, but it is becoming understood that, on account of the size of the works necessary to generate any considerable horse-power, it can never seriously compete with steam or water power. A German engineer is reported to be well started on a project to utilize the tides of the North Sea. Between the port of Husum and the island of Nordstrand two immense reservoirs are being constructed—a high-water reservoir of 1500 acres, and a low-water reservoir of nearly 2500 acres. The flow which will be always available will be used for turbines driv-

## Turner Will Meet Cazeaux Here Again

Turner has been taking sweet revenge for his defeat here last Tuesday night by Emile Cazeaux the clever French wrestler. The very next night in Washington City he took two falls out of three from Jesse Hansen, a pop-py light-heavyweight, some twenty pounds heavier than Turner. Two days later he was victor again, in a match with Tom Duchesne, a New England wrestler of much prominence. In both of these matches Turner, characteristically, lost the first fall, it will be noted by reading the appended accounts of the matches from The Washington Times.

The Washington Times accredits Turner with being the recognized middleweight champion, and speaks of his work in flattering terms. It will be remembered that Turner was suffering with a disabled shoulder in his match with the Frenchman here last week, and was at the further very considerable disadvantage of wrestling with his two favorite holds, the toe-hold and the hammerlock, but Turner has been smarting under his defeat before a crowd of people who know him intimately and take a personal interest in him on account of his former residence in Charlotte. He wants another try at Cazeaux in the auditorium here, and the Frenchman says he is willing provided the toe-hold is barred. This would give Turner the privilege of the hammerlock in which he is expert, and which he employed to throw Duchesne in his last match.

Turner has written his agents here that his return match with Cazeaux will be pushed off to the auditorium here next Monday night, and that in the meantime he will not wrestle again but will devote his time to putting himself in the pink of condition for the match. This does not mean however that Turner will have an easy time winning. Cazeaux is well able to take care of himself and a whirlwind, closely-balanced contest is assured.

**The Washington Bouts.**

Joe Turner, the local athlete and recognized middleweight champion gained a solid place in the hearts of Washington wrestling fans by getting two falls out of three from Jesse Hansen, a Brooklyn light-heavyweight, at the Gayety Theatre, Hansen, although nearly twenty pounds heavier than his opponent, was worked to his capacity to get the first fall from Turner in sixteen minutes and forty-five seconds. The latter's downfall in the first bout was the consummation of a hammerlock and toe hold, under which strain the local boy suffered for many seconds.

Turner gained the second fall in something over eleven minutes, and the last bout went to him after twenty-two minutes of grappling. The toe hold was responsible for the last two victories.

Putting up one of the most aggressive matches in which he has yet figured in this city, Joe Turner, the recognized middleweight champion, won his second match from Tom Duchesne, the Fall River wrestler who has won much popularity throughout New England by defeating all comers.

Duchesne gained the first fall from the local athlete in fifteen minutes, but the latter came back in the second bout and pinned Duchesne's shoulders to the mat in eighteen minutes. Turner gained this fall by means of the hammerlock, having held Duchesne to the floor for several seconds. The third fall went to Turner in eleven minutes, a repetition of the hammerlock being responsible.

It will be remembered that Turner disposed of Duchesne easily in their match last week, but the latter wished a return engagement with the toe hold barred. This being out of Turner's best assets, the boy accepted the return match with reluctance, and the fact that he was last night's bout from so clever a performer as Duchesne is a distinct victory for the local athlete. Duchesne now admits that Turner is the better man.—Washington Times.

## THE MONOTONY OF LIFE'S BURDENS.

(From The Christian Herald.)

Here is another man dragging the burden of the constant commonplace. When life is full of changes the changes themselves may provide a rest. The change brings other muscles into play. It is resting even to lift the eyes away from the detailed work, and allow them to roam over wider space. But some lives are burdened by a fearful monotony. Theirs is the monotony of waking to the unchanging program. Theirs is the monotony of the road to work. Theirs is the monotony of the return; a gray, gray road Gray, gray, for ever gray; never a change to scarlet or blue! Every morning the same gray load on the same gray road, the journey to begin at the metallic stroke of the clock, and at the metallic stroke of the clock to cease. And oh, the sighs that rise along that road! The old, old road! And often it is so hard to drag along; and the ox-like soul staggers and faints.

What shall we say about it? We were never intended to drag along that gray road in the harness of a single collar. Let the man try what will happen if he changes the single collar for the yoke of the Lord. It is not only that the load will become lighter but the road will become brighter. What a pilgrimage! I said to a couple of pedestrians, "Did you see Warwick's gloomy prison as you came along?" "No," was the answer; but then they were two lovers, and their absorption in each other made them immune to the gloom! And I might say to many a soul, "Was not that a bit of monotonous road at noon today?" or, "Was not that a wondrous struggle the evening?" and the answer would be, "I never noticed it. I felt like singing all the time!" But then these people are lovers, and their Companion-Lover is the Lord. They shared a common yoke, and walked a common road. If my readers want to see what the Lord can do with a monotonous road, let them exchange the collar for the yoke, and "the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the rose."

ing continuous current dynamos. A curious detail of the project is the proposal to utilize as manure the considerable quantities of sludge expected to collect in the reservoirs.

# Don't Be Alarmed

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## BROADCLOTH AND SERGE FOR NEXT YEAR GOWNS

Lace Figures Largely in the Make-up of the New Summer Dresses—White With A Touch of Color

New York.—This is the season of the year when we are all most actively interested in clothes. The forehanded woman who planned and executed her winter wardrobe in the months before Christmas, is now doing her "white sewing"—making up those dainty, frilly things that all women love. Meanwhile she is revolving in her mind schemes for taffeta or floral dresses, linen coat suits and bouclé frocks. There is another class of women, wise as these, who are looking even farther ahead. They are taking advantage of the midwinter sales to buy for another year. Broadcloths, chevots, camel's hair, all the good woolen dress materials are put on the counters by the merchants who, rather than carry them on their shelves in the crowded places sadly needed for summer goods, are willing to sell them at what the traveling salesman would call "rock bottom" prices. Many a good bargain can now be picked up by the woman who keeps her eyes open. Broadcloth in the quality which ordinarily costs \$2.50 a yard can be had in dress lengths at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$1 a yard. Silks, too, are marked down and pretty patterns, many in the popular bordered designs, can be had at much less than the usual price.



Figure One.

Made by the design shown in the above illustration, one can have for very little money a distinctive novelty which may be worn all through the spring, or cool days throughout the summer, and, with a few changes, perhaps, carry one on well into the crisp autumn months until the winter gown becomes a necessity.

This costume (figure one) shows the effective use which can be made of bordered foulard. An electric blue silk with a white border showing a design of pink roses and soft green leaves, the border providing for the use of the border in trimming the front of waist and skirt and the lower edges of the sleeves. A white silk collar and crocheted ball fringe finishes a dress, really simple in construction, but suitable for semi-formal wear.

Not only are the merchants selling at a reduction on this season of the year, but dressmakers and ladies' tailors, in the lull between seasons, are making dresses and suits for less than at any other time of the year except, perchance, in midsummer, so that the woman who looks ahead, and is sensible enough to eschew the extreme in style, may provide herself with suit or costume which will do good service all the next winter.

It does not take a seer to look as far ahead as that for the fashions in coats. Only a little observation of prevailing tendencies is needed, and by comparing what is worn now, with what has gone before, will usually help one to form a correct judgment. Fashions seldom make a wide or a startling jump, but like other coming events cast their shadows before. A conservative taste would lead one, therefore, to have a coat for next winter, if it were planned now, made longer than the short jackets which have just had their day, but not exaggeratedly long. The chances are ninety-nine to one that those who will be the fashionable ones on which the coats will be built, and the women who go in for ultra style can do little more than vary them by freakish collars, over-exaggerated cuffs or bibulous lines of buttons.

But not to look too far ahead—the styles who keep at a weather eye on the fashions assure us that the white suit will be a requisite of the summer outfit for every self-respecting woman. Serge will still hold sway in the affections of those who combine smartness with economy, but there is a wide range of new materials to choose from. In the lead with the fashionables is terry cloth, or asgaric, sometimes called French ratine, a loosely woven, looped fabric which is in reality nothing more nor less than the stuff of familiar domestic usage known as Turkish toweling. All the soft white fabrics are also in use in the summer coat suit. The skirts are as simply made, long straight lines being the rule, but the exercise of much individual fancy is allowable on the coat. Black and



Figure Two.

to the same extent as last year. White will be worn of course—it always is—but good taste now demands the touch of black or color, even on the simple lingerie gown. The colored slip under the white gown will be the correct thing. Early models for the people who will spend the next two months in Florida at southern resorts show many dainty frocks of allover embroidery over a narrow black silk slip. The larger the openings in the embroidery, the more chic the dress. A girle of black velvet or black satin with narrow sashlike ends finished with fringe or tassels always completes such a toilette.

## Without Redress

The lass who minds the telephone is busy as can be; She has a most convincing tone, And though you cannot see Her face you fancy there's a frown upon her classic brow. When she remarks and turns you down: "The line is busy now." Although the rich and wise and great In power may be sure She is the one who holds our fate Within a grasp secure. In silence you are left alone, You wonder why and how. When she exclaims in placid tone: "The line is busy now." No redress sure. When you insure here, there will be always some one to wait on you. "The line is not busy now." Come in and we will give you the best insurance on the market.

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