

SPREAD OF PHTHISIS.

PROF. TYNDALL ON THE PROPAGATION OF CONSUMPTION.

The Messengers of Nurture—A Plea for Spittoons—The Interesting Conclusions of Dr. Cornet, a Patient German Investigator.

In a late *Fortnightly* Professor Tyndall has a very important article on "The Origin, Propagation, and Prevention of Phtisis." It is a condensed account of the result of the discoveries of Dr. Cornet, a colleague of Dr. Koch, at the Imperial Sanitary Institute at Berlin. What Dr. Cornet has discovered, says the *Review of Reviews*, practically amounts to this, that the tubercle bacilli, or the infective matter of consumption, is almost entirely propagated by the conversion of the sputum of consumptive patients into dust, which is afterward breathed by people. Hence, the true way to prevent the spread of consumption is to induce all consumptive patients to use a spittoon and never to expectorate at large.

Dr. Cornet found that the consumptive germ retained its virulence for at least six months. The dust of the room in which a consumptive patient has lived contains the seeds of the disease, which, when taken into the lungs of a healthy man, may produce consumption. The real cause of consumption running in families is not because it is inherited, but because there is family infection, due to the breathing of the dust of the dried expectoration of the consumptive patient. The room in which a consumptive patient has lived, and who has not used a spittoon, the walls and all the furniture are full of virulent bacilli, whereas the dust in rooms where the spittoon is constantly used is absolutely free from the deadly germ.

The first law, therefore, which must be laid down for consumptive patients is, never use a pocket handkerchief and never spit on the floor, and always and everywhere use a proper spittoon. Dr. Cornet would have spittoons in all offices, workshops, all public buildings, corridors, and staircases. In fact, to read Dr. Cornet's suggestions, we seem to be within measurable distance from the time in which, if a consumptive patient is found spitting upon the floor or into his handkerchief, he will promptly sent to a jail or hospital for a period not exceeding two months.

Professor Tyndall gives some very remarkable figures as to the mortality of nurses in Germany as the result of their inability to tuberculosis. More than one-half the deaths of Catholic nurses in 18 German hospitals were due to this disease. Nursing is one of the deadliest occupations known to man, or rather to woman; a healthy girl of 17, devoting herself to hospital nursing, dies, on an average, 2 1/2 years sooner than a girl of the same age in the general population. A woman of 24 will live 23 years longer in the outside population than what she would do if she were a nurse in a hospital. This extreme mortality, Dr. Cornet thinks, might be reduced by the rigorous use of the spittoon.

The following is Professor Tyndall's summary of the German investigator: It is universally recognized that tuberculosis is caused by tubercle bacilli, which reach the lungs through the inhalation of air in which the bacilli are diffused. They come almost exclusively from the dried sputum of consumptive persons. The moist sputum, as also the expired breath of the consumptive patients, is, for this mode of infection, without danger. If we can prevent the drying of the expectorated matter, we prevent in the same degree the possibility of infection. It is not, however, sufficient to place a spittoon at the disposal of the patient. The strictest surveillance must be exercised by both physicians and attendants to enforce the proper use of the spittoon, and to prevent the reckless disposal of infective phlegm. Spitting on the floor or into pocket handkerchiefs is the main source of peril. To this must be added the soiling of the bedclothes and the wiping of the patient's mouth. The handkerchiefs used for this purpose must be handled with care and boiled without delay. Various other sources of danger, kissing among them, will occur to the physician. A phthisical mother, by kissing her healthy child, may seal its doom.

How Deep Does the Earth Quake.

The Mississippi Valley has recently experienced an earthquake shock which for severity has not been equaled for years, an incident which revives interest in the query: How deep does the earth "quake" when nature shapes her crust like the cyclone does the cirrus tent?

At Virginia City, Nev., the great earthquake of 1873 was not noticed by the miners in the deeper portions of the Comstock mines. The famous earthquake at the same place in 1874, which shook down chimneys, fire walls, etc., and cracked every brick building in the city, was merely noticed by some of the miners working in the "upper levels," but did them no damage, not even slinking down loose rocks and earth. The station men in the various shafts felt it strongest, and the deepest point where it was noticed was by the ninth station man, who was on watch at the 900 foot level, which is, of course, 900 feet below the surface. He said it felt like a faint throb or pulsation of air, as though a blast had been fired above, below, or in some indefinite direction. In some of the Virginia City mines the shock was not felt at all, not even by station men in the shafts.—*St. Louis Republic*.

Hasty Friendships.

Some people are continually acquiring "dear friends." Ladies of an irresistible nature have been known to add two or three to their list during the visiting season. Men are not, generally, speaking, as apt to rush into friendship as the more irresistible sex, yet many a man contracts friendships in haste that he repents at leisure. True friends are scarce acquisitions. They can not be picked up at the rate of half a dozen a season at dinner parties or balls.—*New York Ledger*.

EDUCATIONAL.

It costs the teachers of Kansas \$300,000 a year to attend the normal institutes.

There are 230 normal schools, with an attendance of 50,000 students, in the United States.

The Kansas Agricultural College library contains 11,000 volumes. For lack of room about 2,000 volumes are practically inaccessible to the students.

In the past 12 years the number of students in Chicago Theological Seminary (Congregational) has increased from 40 to 167; and the faculty from six to 14.

In America we have 12,000,000 children enrolled in the public schools alone. Our public schools require 347,292 teachers, and cost annually \$123,455,252—or did two years ago.

There is a falling off in the number of young men entering the ministry of England, and it is said in explanation that the intellectual movement in the universities is unfriendly to the clerical profession.

Pennsylvania is to have a compulsory educational law, but difficulty will be experienced in putting it into full effect, for in various parts of the State, especially in Philadelphia, schoolroom accommodations are lamentably deficient.

Columbia College is the richest institution of the kind in existence. Its landed estate includes about 20 acres of the best part of New York city, the value being now \$10,000,000, with a prospect of doubling during the next decade.

Coeducation has been in force at the Kansas University for 25 years, and there has never been even a suspicion of scandal among the students. As for hazing and other forms of college ruffianism, it is absolutely unknown.—*Kansas City Star*.

The Oxford University income amounted to \$65,000 last year, of which \$30,000 came from fees and other internal services, degree fees alone coming to just \$10,000.

The university draws about \$16,000 from various external sources, \$13,000 from trust funds, \$3,000 from the colleges, and the profit from the Clarendon press was \$5,000. It speaks well for the administration of the university property that "agency and management" cost only \$250. Professors take about \$10,000, university officers \$5,000, examiners \$5,000, and readers \$2,500. The Bodleian cost \$7,500, the museum \$4,300, the Taylor institution \$2,000, and the botanical gardens, \$1,100, while \$6,000 went in various internal expenses, and interest and sinking funds in loans accounted for \$5,500. The university income does not now vary from year to year, except in quite small amounts.

The value of the kindergarten as a means of preparation to schools of manual training has received interesting recognition in the recently announced bequest of the late Brooklyn philanthropist, Charles Pratt. Among schools of industrial training the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn has long been renowned for its manual features, pursued in connection with the studies ordinarily carried on in schools. Its agricultural department, unique in city institutions, has been a peculiar characteristic, and this will be strengthened by a bequest for large green houses and for flower gardens, to be cultivated by institute students. Other courses have an equally practical bearing. Recognizing that the principle which governs the institute is the application to the pupils of more advanced years of the ideas on which the kindergarten is based, the founder determined upon a logical development of his system and left a bequest for the purchase and improvement of the Froebel Academy. The kindergarten will be a "feeder" to the institute, and will prepare pupils by a systematic course of study and manual training in the Froebel.

CURIOSITIES OF THE NEWS.

A hog recently killed in Perry, Ga., had three complete sets of lungs.

Two Manitoba cattish have been caught, each with a child's hand in its stomach.

An Englishman has invented an apparatus through which, he declares, he can see the soul leave the body.

A 40 year old peacock struts proudly on the farm of Adam Bohn, in Penn township, Berks county, Pa.

A Newark museum manager advertises a four armed man. This must be the one that was forewarned.

A fine pussy cat in a Chester, Pa., family jumped for a rat, caught its neck ribbon on a nail, and strangled to death.

There is now a character known as "Jack the dude kicker," who inhabits St. Louis. He assaulted a dozen fancifully dressed young men during a recent week.

A cow at Petersburg, Va., while in search of her calf, entered a house and climbed a flight of 16 stairs. Hearing her calf outside, she descended without trouble.

An oak log that was recently sawed in Henry Maley's mill, near Franklin, Ind., had a hollow in which 127 blacksnakes had nested. The largest is said to have measured 78 inches in length.

An artesian well near Albert Lea, Minn., which spouts both oil and water, often changes the program, and "sends out a stream of small minnows, which are wholly unlike any known species of fish found in that vicinity."

The proportions of the human figure are six times the length of the right foot; the face, from the highest point of the forehead, where the hair begins, to the end of the chin is one-tenth of the whole stature; the hand, from the wrist to the end of the middle finger, is also one-tenth of the total height; from the crown to the nape of the neck is one-twelfth of the stature.

The step recently taken by the crown princess of Greece of uniting with the Greek Church has received the sanction of the Empress Frederick and Queen Victoria, the mother and grandmother of the princess. They hold that she should belong to the church in which her children will be reared.

Black Hawk's tomahawk is in the possession of a scientific society at Lewistown, Pa.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Doctors say a healthy adult should eat at least 10 ounces of meat each day.

Pressing a finger on the upper lip will abort a sneeze if thought of in time.

Metals are found to corrode much faster when in galvanic connection than otherwise.

During one day the human body generates enough heat to melt 40 pounds of ice and raise it to boiling heat.

Mr. Brosius, a Georgian, is said to have invented a ginning process which will not break the fiber of cotton. It turns out an unbroken, silky staple.

The art of paper making has reached that point where a growing tree can be cut down and converted into a newspaper, all within 24 hours.

According to a professor of astronomy, the speed of the stars through space is 25 miles a second, while that of our sun is about 25 miles a second.

The whole of the interior of Greenland is believed to be covered by an immense shield shaped cap of ice and snow, which in some places must have a thickness of 5,000 or 6,000 feet.

A German chemist has succeeded in producing artificial silk, which has all the qualities of the natural article except strength, wherein it is deficient, being only two-thirds as strong.

Watercress is said to contain very sanitary qualities. A curious characteristic of it is that if grown in a ferruginous stream it absorbs five times the amount of iron that any other plant does.

Flies have long been accused—not without reason—of spreading disease; but it is asserted now from Havana that mosquitoes have a use, for if they inoculate any one after biting a yellow fever patient the disease which follows is so mild that fatal results are rare.—*English Mechanic*.

A firm of stonemasons in Berlin have introduced a pneumatic chisel into their establishment. The workman holds the syringe like apparatus with both hands, and as he slides it over the surface of the stone or metal, the chisel, making 10,000 or 12,000 revolutions a minute, chips off particles.

The horse power going to waste at Niagara Falls is estimated at an aggregate of 16,000,000 units. All the locomotives and steamships in the world have only one-quarter of that sum of horse power. The time may come when the waste force at Niagara will be harnessed and put to use. It should at least be made to carry backward and forward the interrupted commerce of the Lakes, to which it now interposes an impassable barrier.

WIT AND WISDOM.

The born liar can't help it. It is a poor mule that won't work both ways.

Never let a woman know she is not pretty.

Light a cigarette and see the undertaker smile.

Sweet and bitter—
A girl is sweet, but oh! how bitter
The same girl is when her dress don't fit her.

However great some men's abilities are, their liabilities are always greater.

Honesty is the best policy, because it is the only policy which insures against loss of character.

A Pitfall.—She—Love is blind, you know. He—No; it's the lover—that's why he falls into it.

"Men propose too suddenly, don't you think?" "Yes, and not often enough. Life would be really worth living if it wasn't for the men."—*Life*.

Grass widows have been from the first
And still are often seen,
But it always should be understood
Such grass is seldom green.
—*Philadelphia Times*.

A man should grapple to his friends with hooks of steel. He need have no fear of losing his enemies.—*New Orleans Picayune*.

The trouble with the young is that they won't do as the old folks advise, but as they have done.—*Atchison Globe*.

Some men think that indorsing the good deeds of other people is about the same thing as performing them themselves.—*Somerville Journal*.

The man who can do an honest day's work when the circus is in town never has to wear his shoes out in looking for employment.—*Ram's Horn*.

It doesn't pay to do much talking when you're mad enough to choke.

Because the word that stings the deepest is the word that's never spoken;
Let the other fellow wrangle till the storm is blown away.
Then he'll do a heap of thinking 'bout the things you didn't say.
—*Farm and Fireside*.

The man who complains that the world does not appreciate him should not lose heart. If every one were justly appreciated by the world very few of us would be riding in our carriages.—*New York Recorder*.

Wise Forethought.—Millie—I don't mind marrying you, Clarence, but I hate the idea of giving up my \$15 a week job at the store. Clarence—Then don't give it up, dearest. I'll give up mine. I'm getting only \$10.

In a Twinkling.

By a new electrical device in use across the water, the stubbornest and most sensitive teeth are extracted in a twinkling, and with absolutely no pain to the patient. The victim grasps the handle attached to one wire leading from the battery, and a pair of forceps is attached to the other wire. When the forceps touch the tooth a circuit is formed. The jaw being much more sensitive to a shock than the hand, the gums are so numbed by the electricity that the tooth can be pulled without the patient suffering a particle. In order that no person receives a shock too great for his system he tests the current himself before the forceps are applied to his molars. Experiments made in the Philadelphia College of Dentistry prove, beyond doubt, that with the aid of an electric current even nerves can be removed from decaying teeth without causing pain. The method, as explained, is simple.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.

A bold onset is half the battle.—*Gibaldi*.

Human knowledge is the parent of doubt.

The faults of others are no excuse for our own.

Quiet poverty is better than unjust wealth.

Better a little chiding than a great deal of heartbreak.

Malice drinketh up the greatest part of its own poison.

It is not allowable for the impure to attain to the pure.

Without frugality none can be rich, and with it very few would be poor.

The virtues are lost in self interest, as rivers are lost in the sea.—*Rochefoucauld*.

"It is the little rift within the lute,
That by and by will make music mute,
And, ever widening, slowly silence all."

We need not be much concerned about those faults which we have the courage to own.

Life is always interesting when you have a purpose and live to its fulfillment.—*Beaconsfield*.

Wisdom prepares for the worst; but folly leaves the worst for the day when it comes.—*Cecil*.

Do not flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimate.

It is an excess of devotion that would have divinity all in all, whereas it should be only above all.

The man who says, "Let me have no troubles," might as well say, "Let me have no joys."—*The Ram's Horn*.

Vice has more martyrs than virtue, and it often happens that men suffer more to be lost than to be saved.—*Carlos Martyn*.

Out of suffering comes the serious mind; out of salvation, the grateful heart; out of endurance, fortitude; out of deliverance, faith.—*Ruskin*.

Believe and trust, through stars and suns,
Through life and death; through soul and sense

Its wise, fraternal purpose runs;
The darkness of His providence
Is starlit with benign intents.
—*John G. Whittier*.

Society (says a writer in one of the monthlies) never wants anybody who does not want it. It is founded on the principle of giving and receiving in return. If you show that you like people, they will show that they like you.

Daily wickedness is wrought;
Tyranny is swollen with pride,
Bigotry is defiled;
Error intertwined with thought,
Vice and misery ramp and crawl;
Root them out, their day has passed;
Goodness is alone immortal;
Evil was not made to last.
—*Charles Mackay*.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A branch of the Jewish Publication Society exists in nearly every city in the Union except New York.

The women of the Baptist churches in this country have contributed for foreign missions during the past year the sum of \$102,629.02.

Rev. Dr. Strong, of the Evangelical Alliance, is working up a movement for a united Christian exhibit at the Columbian Exhibition. Their building will cost \$250,000.

Six denominations are now operating missions in Alaska—Presbyterians, Methodists, Friends, Moravian, Episcopal, and Swedish. There are a total of 18 Protestant mission stations.

The increase in population within the old city limits of Chicago from 1880 to 1890 was 117 per cent. The increase in church membership among the English speaking people, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the same period, was 121 per cent, and the increase in the number of churches was 153 per cent. In the past five years \$1,000,000 has been spent by the same denomination in building new churches.

The oldest woman preacher in this country is the Rev. Lydia Sexton, who was born in New Jersey in 1799, and who still preaches in various parts of the West. She predicts that she will live until 1900, extending her life into three centuries.

The refusal of Dr. Gallor to accept the office of Bishop of Georgia will be received with feelings of regret. He is young and energetic and possesses ability far above the average. It was expected that he would do a great deal toward building up the Episcopal Church in this State. In the missionary field, particularly, it was thought that he would be a power. He feels, however, that his duty requires him to remain with the University of the South.—*Savannah News*.

President Andrews, of Brown University, recently delivered an address on the "Ethics of Good Citizenship," in which he took occasion to condemn the assertion so often made by bigots that Catholics can not be true to their church and their country at the same time. Among other things, he said: "Whenever the interests of the United States are at stake the Catholics of this country will rise up as one man to defend our rights. There will never come from the Vatican a measure calculated to injure this country."

The pope has written a letter announcing the reestablishment of the donation for the astronomical observatory at the Vatican. He declares that he is solicitous for the progress of science, and places the observatory in the same rank with other papal institutions.

Protestant missions are making progress in Spain. There are 115 houses or rooms used for chapels or schools, and 22 male and 23 female foreign missionaries employed in the work. There are 37 Spanish pastors and 39 evangelists. The attendants on public worship number 9,230 and the communicants 3,518. There are 119 day schools, with 4,900 pupils.

An Italian nobleman, the Count de Lorgues, is owner of an ancient wood engraving of Christopher Columbus, which is believed to be a true likeness. It will probably have a place in the coming American exposition.

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