

THE STUDY OF HYGIENE.

The subject of hygiene has two aspects: that of an empirical art, the art of preserving health, which is founded upon common sense and the obvious dictates of experience; it is also to be regarded as a science which consists of a knowledge of the conditions of health and the causes of disease. Art is an affair of rules for the guidance of practice; science goes a step further back—it establishes the principles which underlie and shape the rules, and make action intelligent and effective. Art being older than science, and growing out of men's earlier and ruder strivings, historic hygiene will be the record of the first attempts of individuals and communities to carry out sanitary regulations. As an art, hygiene was carried to a high pitch by various of the older nations. The Jewish economy embodied many careful and wise directions for guarding the health. "It is to the strict observance of these sanitary regulations that one of the best known writers on hygiene of the present day, M. Michel Levy, does not hesitate to ascribe the singular immunity of the Jewish race in the midst of fearfully fatal epidemics; which immunity was so marked in the Middle Ages that it brought upon them accusations the most absurd, persecutions the most atrocious." Again, the water supply of Rome afforded an astonishing exemplification of hygienic value attached to that agent, and of the resources by which it was made available on an immense scale by the Roman people. Frontinus, writing A. D. 92, informs us there were nine large aqueducts by which water was brought into Rome, besides some smaller channels. These aqueducts, several of which were covered, were of great length, one being 42, one 49, and another 59 miles long. Frontinus, who was controller of the aqueducts, gives the measurements of their carrying capacity, which has been computed to be equal to a stream twenty feet wide by six feet deep, at a fall six times as rapid as that of the river Thames. The supply appears to have been equivalent to more than 332,000,000 gallons per day, or assuming Rome to have contained a million of inhabitants it was 332 gallons per head per day; certainly a luxurious allowance of this important element. The drainage system of Rome was correspondingly extensive. This was truly grand, and the ancients were entitled to large credit for reducing the little knowledge they had upon hygienic subjects to efficient practice.

But in becoming a science in modern times hygiene was greatly widened in scope and multiplied in its protective resources, for with the increasing knowledge of nature came a better understanding of the causes of disease and increasing power of prevention. Men do undoubtedly live in ignorance of the laws of life, but that is only a fraction of the truth of the case; the fatal half of it is that they also die from ignorance. Hygiene is therefore an affair of knowledge, and of knowledge so familiar that it becomes an unconscious guide of the conduct. It is the high claim of scientific education that, if properly organized, a knowledge of the conditions of health and of the causes of disease will be its necessary outcome. Dr. Corfield, Professor of Hygiene in University College, London, in a late address thus sums up the subjects which must be understood for the efficient prevention of disease: "To this end we must study all the agents of whatever kind which modify the health of man. We must study man himself as regards his constitution, age, sex, habits, professions, etc. And again we must study all the modifications of the conditions in which man is placed, all alterations of the medium in which he lives, all the effects of various soils, of the proximity of seas, of the state of the water supply, the action of the various kinds of food and drinks, and of the narcotic stimulants used so much all over the world; of exercise, mental and bodily; and in fact all the agencies by which the health of man may be impaired and his life shortened. We must therefore call in the aid of all the physical and natural sciences; and, taking their data for axioms, proceed to the solution of the all-important and difficult problems which the study of the science of health presents to us."—Galaxy.

"Oh, grandma!" cried a mischievous little urchin, "I cheat the hens so nicely just now. I eat your gold breads, and they thought they were corn, and ate them up as fast as they could."

FUN AND FANCY.

SEEKING IS BELIEVING.—A notorious scamp was once brought before a Onondago Justice of the Peace. He was accused of having "come the strap game" over a native. The portly Judge wishing to decide understandingly, asked to see a sample of his skill. The party instantly produced a leather strap, gave a scientific whack across the table and remarked: "You see, Judge, the quarter under the strap?" "What!" interrupted the dignified functionary, "do you mean to say there is a quarter there?" "Sartin," was the reply. "No such thin," said the old Justice. "I'll go you a dollar on it," exclaimed the prisoner. "Agreed," said the Justice. With the accustomed adroitness the strap was withdrawn, when, lo! there was a quarter. "Well," said the astonished Shallow, "I should not have believed it if I had not seen it with my own eyes. Here is your dollar for gambling, contrary to the statute, in such cases made and provided."

The elongated countenance of the gambler required no additional evidence to testify his appreciation of the sell. —Happy bridegroom: "More money, madam! more money! have you forgotten that 'my' money has brought everything you possess—the very dress you stand in? 'Fair Bride—' 'No sir; nor have I forgotten that your money has bought what stands in it!'" —A Yankee paper says, in an obituary notice, that "the deceased had been for several years a director of a bank, notwithstanding which he died a christian and universally respected."

"The last word" is the most dangerous of infernal machines. Husband and wife should no more strive to get it than they would struggle to get possession of a lighted bombshell. —In chasing an annoying dog the other day, a Portland man ran against a clothes line, which widened his mouth and extracted two teeth without pay, and he didn't catch the dog either.

The editor of the Atlanta New Era, having had his umbrella stolen, makes the following liberal proposition: "If the gentleman who now owns it will call at this office, it will afford us much pleasure to present him with a small piece of the handle broken off a short time ago. He can have it glued on at a trifling expense, and the umbrella will then be as good as a new one."

A man and his wife riding near a railroad track at Columbus, Indiana, got into an argument as to whether they could cross the track before the train came along. She said they could, but he said "Martha it is impossible." He was correct, and they were both buried in one grave.

Certain ladies of New England have been informed that the best way they can contribute to the world's peace is to hold theirs.

In Chicago, it is said that suicides are so frequent that a "public stomach pumpery," open at all times, has been talked of.

The heathen Chinese is making whisky in California by fermenting old rice and rubber shoes and things, and the revenue people are after John. The whisky made in this way is much sought after by suicides.

The key to Darwin's theory which is ape-arent to all, is—Monkey.

Why are women extravagant in clothes? Because when they buy a new dress they wear it out on the first day.

Thomas J. Hanna, Auctioneer, General Commission Merchant, Agent for the sale of Real Estate, etc., Office and Sales-Room, 168 POYDRAS STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA. References: Messrs. Geo. W. Hynson & Co., Steel, Pinckard & Co., John O. Tarry, Esq., Lloyd B. Coleman, Esq., Samuel Barrett, Esq.

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