

HYPNOTISM.

WONDERFUL FACTS FROM A PHYSICIAN'S EXPERIENCE.

Throwing People Into a Trance in Order to Cure Them of Physical Infirmities—Extraordinary Cures Effected.

"This word 'hypnotism,'" said Dr. Joshua Thorne at a convention of Missouri doctors in St. Louis, "is a new and better term for certain physical phenomena which for eighty years were known as 'mesmerism.'" The word includes all the phenomena that lie in the nervous system in its expression of mental or physical condition. When the history of hypnotism is solved, man then will know the relations which exist between the man and his body—the house he lives in. The history of hypnotism is the physical history of the race—all the mysteries of ancient temples, of ghosts and witchcraft, second sight and animal magnetism, ecstatic trance, and frenzy of the prophets of old and the Oriental dervishes of to-day. Faith cure and mind reading, clairvoyance and spiritualism, are all included in the category of its phases. It is not a new force, but as old as life. It obtains not in man alone, but its powers and mandates govern organic life, from the infusoria to the highest beings.

"I propose at this time to give a few facts from my own experience with hypnotism as a student in this field for more than forty years. I shall give typical cases, each representing different phases of diseased conditions, passing over hundreds of cases similar in kind and in degree. I shall offer few words of comment, giving you the facts involved, knowing that in the presence of truth inexplicable science is the profoundest argument.

"Mrs. X., a widow, aged forty-one, came under my care in June, 1881, suffering from acute mania. She was violent, of disgusting speech and habit. Her delirium paroxysms usually lasted from six to ten hours, when a settled melancholy would supervene, lasting several days. This woman was, in her normal condition, spiritual in character, a woman of the highest education, the centre of a group of intellectual women of broad ideas and noble purpose. Her home and surroundings were of the best. Her father had occasional insane attacks for thirty years before he died, and died in an insane asylum. Her only children, two daughters, committed suicide while in delirium, each on her eighteenth birthday, about two years apart. The last daughter's death was the immediate cause of her mother's insanity, which had lasted five months when I first saw her. Upon my first examination the patient was very violent and resisted my approach. Without her knowledge, and in spite of her own efforts, I threw her under the hypnotic influence to the degree of trance. While thus entranced she described conversations with her departed daughters, spoke of herself in the third person, predicting a speedy cure. She remained in the trance state over two hours, and in the so-called magnetic sleep eleven hours. From that day till now her mind has been sound and strong; I gave her the sleep every day for about a week. She is now married to one of the most prominent lawyers in the East, and, in a letter from her a few days since, she says she has no symptoms of a return of the malady. She has a child five years old. In this case we have hereditary insanity, which she received from her father and transmitted to her two children, cured without medicine or time.

"Mrs. Jeffries, aged forty-four, a married woman, consulted me in January, 1885, for a very severe form of paralysis— which had lasted two years. The patient was perfectly helpless, could not feed herself, and required and received the constant aid and assistance of a nurse. She had been under treatment at home and in New York city, but found no improvement. The disease is supposed to have resulted from a severe shock—she found a man hanging in the barn. For one month I treated her with remedies and various forms of electric impulse without any benefit. I then treated the spine with the actual cautery, and sent her home without benefit. In two weeks she returned and consented to be hypnotized. In four sittings she was well, and remains a sound woman to-day. I never carried this lady beyond the conscious sleep. She never lost her identity or memory.

"James Frank, aged nineteen, in July, 1878, sent the blade of an axe into the knee joint. His father was a tenant on my farm, near Kansas City. I requested the late Dr. Taylor to attend him. On the third day after the injury Dr. Taylor informed me that tetanus had supervened. I had seen much of tetanus during the war, but never saw a worse case than this young man presented. If the knee was touched violent spasms ensued. The knee had not been dressed for thirty-six hours, when I first saw him on the fourth day after the injury. I placed him in the hypnotic sleep at 4 o'clock P. M., dressed the wound, removed pieces of bone, and directed him to sleep till 8 o'clock the next morning. At that hour Dr. Taylor and I were in his bedside. He awoke soon, having slept soundly all night. The tetanic spasms were gone. The boy soon got well.

"Mr. W., a prominent lawyer of Kansas City, consulted me in February, 1881, for insomnia, the result of chronic alcoholism. The man had no power over his appetites in any direction. A hard student and otherwise a good man, his friends regarded him as a physical and moral wreck. For months he had no proper sleep. Opium, chloral and all drugs had lost their power upon him. I found multiple neuritis, showing that the spine, as well as the brain, was involved. Nutrition had almost ceased. I requested him to submit to hypnotism. He said that he thought it would kill him and hoped it would. At my first sance he was put to sleep at 11 P. M.

He remained in a sound sleep till 8 the next morning. I kept him in bed for two weeks, put to sleep every night. He slept all the nights without waking. I fed him carefully. He often went to sleep of himself in the daytime. He never asked for or received any stimulants. Since that time he has continued well. He eats and sleeps well; drinks no liquor. He says he has no desire for it. He has grown fleshy. The neuritis is cured. He, soon after the treatment, got married, and is now the father of three healthy children, and is getting rich. He loves the influence. I can point my finger at him and he is at once under partial control. I never gave him any medicine.

"The various stages of hypnotism, from conscious drowsiness to the fierce frenzy of trance have many powers, all differing in kind and curative degree. Hypnotism is not as yet a 'cure all.' I have often failed for want of knowledge. The forms of disease in which I have succeeded best are those functional disturbances of the brain, spinal cord, or sympathetic nervous system in which the patient is abnormally susceptible to external impressions, and with an impaired power of will to resist their manifestations. It operating with this dynamic power you enter the temple of the Most High. Do not use it like the charlatan and the mountebank for either show or to satisfy a morbid curiosity, for you are taking an immortal soul into your keeping."

A Bird Boarding House.

Riding along Sixth avenue on a surface car the other day my attention was attracted by a sign which read: "Birds Boarded Here." Disembarking from the car, I entered the establishment in which the din of bird music was somewhat distracting. A woman of middle age seemed to be the presiding genius of the place, and to her I addressed some inquiries.

"Do you board birds here?" "That's what the sign outside says," replied the woman dryly. "And you can see for yourself we haven't lacking for canaries."

"Most of them belong to other people, I suppose?"

"Yes, we only have of our own about a dozen. You see, when folks go away in the summer to the seaside or to the mountains and shut up their houses, they have to get somebody to take care of their birds while they are gone, and they don't like to carry the birds with them. That's the reason we're in this business, sir. My husband—he's sick to-day with rheumatism—he calls this the Canary Hotel."

"How many feathered guests have you now?"

"Well, we have over four hundred. Some of them belong to pretty rich and high-toned people, too. One of the Vanderbilts, I don't know which one patronizes us, and that bird there in that blue-covered cage belongs to one of the big guns of Wall street. Folks are so particular about their birds. Some wants us to feed their pets black seed and some wants white and others want it mixed. One man told us to give his bird a fresh piece of cuttlefish every morning. There's a woman who would have us give her bird cold tea, instead of water, which she said made it hoarse. And then some people give their birds the queerest names. Do you see that big-necked canary who's asleep on his perch? Well, his name is Jack the Ripper. That one over in the corner is called Mary. This little beauty's name is Kathleen Mavourneen. The people she belongs to have gone to Europe. In the back room is a bird named Santa Claus—he's so old."

"What are your charges?"

"Oh, that depends on how long we keep a bird and how much he eats and how much care he is. We usually charge from \$2 to \$6, sometimes \$8 a month. We have charged more than that to rich folks that put on airs."—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

The Stealing of Charley Ross.

Charley Ross, a child in his fifth year, and his brother Walter, about six years old, the sons of Christian K. Ross, of Germantown, Penn., were playing on the street on July 1, 1871, when two men driving a buggy persuaded the two boys to go with them. After driving about town for a while the older boy was sent into a store to buy candy and torpedoes. While he was in there the men drove away with Charley. After a few days Mr. Ross received a letter demanding \$20,000 ransom for his son. A long correspondence was kept up. Mr. Ross refused to pay the money unless the child was delivered at the same time. He spent more than \$50,000 in the efforts to discover his child. After more than three years two burglars were killed while trying to burglarize the house of Judge Van Brunt, of Bay Ridge, Long Island. One died instantly, and the other, Douglas, lived long enough to tell that he and his dead comrade had stolen Charley Ross, but that the dead man was the only one that could have told where the dead child was concealed. Walter Ross identified, or thought he identified, the burglars as the child-stealers. Nothing more definite was ever learned in regard to the boy.—*Chicago Herald.*

An Emperor's Way of Reading News.

A number of officials are detailed to make cuts every day for Emperor William from the principal journals of Berlin, the *Cologne Gazette*, the *Franklin Journal*, the *Hamburg News* and several other leading German papers. These are pasted on long strips of paper with a margin. The name of the paper and a short sentence giving a synopsis of the contents are written on this margin. Subjects are grouped together. Only what would surely interest the Emperor is thus presented. The leading Paris and London journals are treated likewise. At times he just glances down an article, at others he reads it attentively. The synopsis not only tells what is the subject but in what spirit it is treated. He has no reader for this purpose. He is too impatient to listen.—*Pictorial.*

NATURE'S FREAKS.

ODD THINGS EVERY ONE HAS NOTICED ABOUT HIMSELF.

Why Ice Cream Makes the Temple Ache—Cramps and Stitches—Strange Phenomena of the Five Senses.

Why is it that upon taking an imprudently large mouthful of ice cream one is apt to feel a sensation of violent pain in the temple?

Such little physical phenomena as this, are experienced by every one and seem very puzzling, but how many persons ever think of inquiring as to what they signify?

As for the ice cream, when such a big mouthful of it is incautiously swallowed it produces a chilling effect upon the nerves of the larynx, or "voice box," and of the pharynx, in the throat. The sensation shoots back to the centre of those nerves in the brain; but there it finds a side connection with the great facial nerve that starts from in front of the ear and extends its branches over the side of the face. One branch of this facial nerve, extending across the temple, is a nerve of sensation, while the other branches are nerves of motion, governing chiefly the play of the mouth. The pain from the chill is side-tracked along the nerve branch that traverses the temple and the feeling is likely to be quite agonizing in that locality for a moment or so, very likely involving the eyeball sympathetically. This feeling of a sensation in one nerve when another nerve is attacked is what is called "reflex action."

Doubtless you have on occasions waked up in the night with a fearful pain in the calf of your leg and found the muscles drawn up in a knot. This "cramp," as it is called, is simply a contraction of the muscles caused by cold or fatigue. Irritation of any sort, however, may bring it on—an electric current, for instance, which will render the subject experimented upon incapable of extending the limb affected. A "stitch in the side" is the same sort of a cramp attacking other muscles; a "crick in the neck" is a contraction of the muscles of the neck owing to cold.

A slight wrench of the neck will oftentimes produce a most agonizing sensation of burning, one or more of the many ligaments that fasten the head securely in position having been strained for a moment. Every one has felt the pain in the side that comes from running for a distance; it is simply a spasm of the muscles of the diaphragm, from violent and unaccustomed exercise.

People are often unnecessarily alarmed by specks floating before the vision, imagining that blindness threatens. In most cases these are caused by nothing worse than a little indigestion or cold. A slight enlargement of blood vessels in the cornea that covers the front of the eye like a watch glass or in the mucous membrane stretched over the cornea will produce the symptom. But specks seen in this way may sometimes be particles of blood or of other foreign substances floating in the liquid of the eye—in which case disease may be indicated. When the specks are very movable it is presumably a trifling congestion of the superficial membrane.

Why is the roof of your mouth so sensitive that a few rubs with your tongue will render it unpleasantly sore?

Simply for the reason that beneath the mucous membrane covering that part are ever so many acute nervous papillae, only covered by a coating of epithelial cells. A rub or two with your tongue will scrape off these projecting cells and leave the sensitive nerve extremities bare. It is at the extremity of the tongue that such nervous papillae are most highly developed. They perform the function of the sense called "taste," and for its purpose they are distributed all over the inside of the mouth, palate and upper throat. Different viands produce upon these papillae varied effects of sensation, and by comparison of such effects the agreeableness of dishes served is estimated.

As an illustration of nervous action it is interesting to observe the fact that one has only to fix his attention upon any part of his anatomy for a brief space in order to make that portion very painful. Concentrate your mind upon your little toe for two minutes, and at the end of that time it will have begun to be almost agonizing. The mind, directed toward the part, irritates the nerve communicating with the part, and the result is discomfort.

Tear out the heart of a human being quickly and it will continue to beat for some seconds after it has been parted from the body. A frog's heart will pulsate for twenty-four hours after it has been taken from the batrachian. Ignorant persons suppose this to mean that the heart is still alive, and their notion is very natural. But the fact is merely that there are in the frog's heart certain groups of movement nerves, called "motor ganglia," which keep on agitating the organ until they are starved out by want of nutrition though no actual life is present. There are no motor ganglia in the human heart also, but they are not so strong in their action. When the flesh of a turtle is cut up in pieces for a stew the scraps continue to quiver for many hours. The popular notion is that the turtle is so tenacious of existence that it keeps on living, though chopped up. In reality the fragments of the motor nerves in the flesh, stimulated by cutting, keep up an automatic movement. Reptiles' flesh generally acts this way. Galvanism, by the way, was accidentally discovered through the chance contact of an electric wire with a frog's leg on Galvani's table. A human being dead for quite a while may be affected in like manner. The electric current applied to his leg, say, irritates a nerve that communicates with a nerve center in the brain. The nerve center responds with a message to the part that causes a sudden contraction of the muscles though life be some time extinct. Here is another example of "reflex action."

The causes and philosophy of sea sickness have always been a great puzzle; but the most generally received theory at present is that the trouble is due to inequality of pressure in the blood vessels. In a craft tossing on the waves the blood is made to flow first this way and then that, naturally producing disturbance. As for remedies nothing has been discovered that is more effective than the traditional piece of salt pork on the end of a string.—*Washington Star.*

Eye-glasses Are Made From Pebbles.

"Fully twenty per cent. of the grown people of the community are affected with some trouble of the eyes," said a Chicago optician to a *Post* man. "More have the far-sighted eye than the near-sighted. Failing sight is attributable to different causes. Many weak eyes are the result of natural defects, while in other cases weakness comes from injudicious use of the organs of sight. After people begin to use glasses they are seldom able to get along without them. The best glasses are manufactured in Paris. These are known as the French crystal and the French pebble. The pebble material in the rough is imported from Brazil, and being ground and prepared in France the goods are given the name of French. Paris is the great market for all kinds of lenses. What is the difference between the crystal and the pebble? It is a very marked difference. Pebble is the crystallized rock. The crystal is made just as the ordinary window glass is made, but of course the quality is very much finer. It is only manufactured for optical purposes.

"The glasses made from the pebble mined in Brazil are harder than any other kind. They are also cooler to the eye. This is a great desideratum where there is any particular irritation about the eye. The original pebble is cut into thin slabs and then is ground and polished. This pebble is extremely hard, so hard indeed that it cannot be scratched save with a diamond. The crystal, on the contrary, is much harder than ordinary glass, but it can be scratched. The French pebble glass, which is so highly esteemed, is the Brazilian pebble. This pebble is generally brought from the mines in Brazil as ballast in many cases. The main expense is in preparing it for the market. Like the microscope lens, the cost is in the grinding and polishing. There are some glasses made in this country that are not only excellent in quality but find a good and ready market. The American glass is a crystal lens, and it is made in Southbridge, Mass. The glass used in their manufacture is imported from Germany and Belgium and is ground at Southbridge. Of course it is a cheaper grade of lens than the French glass, but it has nevertheless much merit.

A Chinese Marvel.

In 1430 A. D., after nineteen years of ceaseless labor and an expenditure of about \$4,000,000, the Chinese Government finished the wonderful porcelain tower at Nankin, which stood for nearly four and a quarter centuries, until 1856, the most marvelous building ever erected by human hands. It was of octagonal form, 260 feet in height, with nine stories, each having a cornice and gallery without. The name of Porcelain tower was applied to this unique structure on account of the fact that the whole of the outside work was covered with porcelain slabs or various sizes and colors, but principally of red, white, yellow and green. At every one of its nine stories the projecting roof of the gallery was covered with green tiles, each corner being provided with a bell varying in weight from 300 to 1000 pounds.

There were 152 bells in all, each so nicely balanced as to rock back and forth as they were swayed by the breezes, giving out a continuous strain of beautiful but weird music. Ranged in rows between the bells were 129 brass, bronze and silver lamps, which were lighted every night in the year. The apex of the tower, starting from its base at the height of ten feet, was a monster gilded pineapple, surmounted by a copper ball about two feet in diameter. A spiral stairway of over 300 steps led from the base to the summit. The building was constructed as a gift to an Empress, and was always kept in repair by the Government. Lightning struck it in 1801 and tore down the three top stories. The injury was repaired as soon as possible. It would probably be standing to this day had not the Taiping rebels imagined its lights and bells disastrous to their cause.—*Commercial Advertiser.*

Relics of Prehistoric Times.

A good deal of interest was aroused at Fort Collins, Col., recently by the finding of the bones of a monstrous animal in a cutting that was being made by Contractor Fred Maury at a point about ten miles north of Fort Collins, in the Box Elder country. The bones were found in a stratum of very fine gray sand, about thirty inches in thickness, which rests upon a bed of coarse, compact red gravel, mixed with water-washed bowlders. Above the bed of fine sand is a layer of stiff blue clay about ten feet thick. Nearly all of the bones found were so badly decomposed as to crumble when handled; the teeth, however, six of which were found, were very perfectly preserved, the largest tooth weighing about four and a half pounds.

The bones of one foot were discovered so well preserved that they could be placed in position and give a fair idea of the size of the animal. The markings of the teeth show the animal to have been a mastodon. The nature of the soil in which this specimen is found shows that some time there has been a body of water where now are dry prairies; the stratification of the sand proves it to have been standing water; the overlying clay tells of the decomposition of immense beds of aluminum-bearing rock, the debris of which filled the lake, covering the animal remains which strewed the beach; the bones are a proof that these cold and barren plains once enjoyed at least a semi-tropical climate and were dressed in a tropical verdure of forest and jungle.—*New York Star.*

CURIOUS FACTS.

Old furniture still sells extremely well.

The United States contains half the world's railroad mileage.

Fort Myers, Fla., has a pineapple weighing six and one-half pounds.

A Japanese at Tokio has constructed a kite twenty-seven by twenty-four feet.

Over twenty million segars are manufactured every day in the United States.

A wren in East Bradford, Penn., built a nest in the sleeve of a garment that had been hung up in the yard to dry.

A Gainesville (Texas) boy, seventeen years old, ate forty-eight bananas in an hour on a wager, and then wanted more.

A white lobster was caught the other day by a fisherman in Penobscot Bay, Maine, and sold to a museum in Boston.

A citizen of Grand Rapids, Mich., named D. S. Dornink, wears on his watch chain a seal which has a record of over 300 years.

London, England, now boasts of a "Society for the Promotion of Relaxation from Business Care, and Enjoyment During Luncheon Hours."

Damascening is producing upon steel a blue tinge and ornamental figures, sometimes inlaid with gold and silver, as in Damascus blades.

Elk Rapids, Mich., has a mammoth pine tree in which an eagle has nested regularly for twenty-six successive years. It is a bald-headed bird.

Locusts are so numerous in some parts of South Australia that they cause a continual roar while flying, and the country is being stripped of everything green by the scourge.

The thickest octavo volume in the world known is the latest edition of Whittaker's "Reference Catalogue of English Literature." This book weighs twelve pounds and is eleven inches in thickness.

At the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the invention of the postage stamp, held recently in England, a stamp was shown worth \$500. It was from the British Guiana collection and showed a rude postmark on pink paper.

A Gallitzin (Penn.), man recently bought a pair of mules in Clearfield County for \$140, and discovered while taking them home that one of them had a plaster of paris hoof—the false work coming off and sticking in the mud.

Old Peter, a well digger living in Talbotton, Ga., was hired to clean out a well. When he came out of the well in the evening it was noticed that his jet black hair had changed its color from black to a bright yellow or golden shade. The cause is unknown.

Money lenders in Italy used to display the money they had to lend out on a banco or bench. When one of these money-lenders was unable to continue business his bench and counter was broken up, and he himself was spoken of as a bancorotto, i. e., a bankrupt.

In 1814, when the Thames at London, England, was frozen, a printing establishment was set up and many collectors rejoice over a little volume entitled "Frostiana; or, a History of the River Thames in a Frozen State. London: Printed on the Ice in the River Thames, 1814."

Thomas Baldwin, the American aeronaut, and the first user of the parachute, told a Denver (Col.) reporter the other day that within a few days he should attempt to cross the Atlantic in a balloon. He is now under contract with a Western newspaper to make an aerial journey of at least 1000 miles.

The grapple plant of the Kalahar Desert is said to be a real vegetable curiosity. In its general appearance it looks more like a starfish than a plant, and each ray or arm is tipped with barbs, which, when fastened to the wool of sheep, have to be cut out, that being the only way of removing them.

Saginaw, Mich., has a family which lives in a shed twelve by sixteen feet in area. The family consists of father, mother, three children, three horses, two cows, two goats, six dogs, a flock of pigeons and six cages of singing birds. A bale of hay separates the so-called brute portion of the family from the rest.

A Voracious Pike.

A female pike weighing twenty-nine pounds has been found in the lake at Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke, England, the seat of Lord Alexander Russell. It had apparently met its death in the vain attempt to swallow one of its own species weighing nine pounds. The two fish, in the position in which they were found, are being stuffed at Winchester. Pike have died in this manner before, and it is doubtful whether or not these should be regarded as instances of voracity or pure accidents. Pike, like many other fish, frequently do battle, and it has been suggested that when two savage fish rush headlong at one another the smaller one might easily enter the jaws of the larger. Once in there would be no getting out again, for the pike's mouth is lined with hundreds of sharp teeth which, like those of the shark, point throatward. As an undoubted instance of pishish voracity there is an unusually well-authenticated record of a pike of two pounds first swallowing a trout of one pound, and shortly afterward, while the tail of the trout was still in its throat, seizing an artificial bait three and a half inches in length.—*Poll Mall Gazette.*

The Emperor of Russia's Suite.

The Emperor of Russia's suite at present consists of 173 persons, of whom seventy-three are general and seventy-six extra aides-de-camp. To the suite belong fifteen members of the Imperial family, seventeen princes of not Imperial birth, seventeen counts, nine barons and 111 other noblemen. Their nationalities are: One hundred and twenty-eight Russians, thirty Germans, six Poles, one Pole, four Circassians, two Greeks and two Roumanians.

Bonnets and hats no longer match costumes.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Camphor has a remarkable power of absorbing sulphurous acid.

There is a spring in Georgia the waters of which cure all kinds of nausea.

A New York physician says that a plentiful supply of fruit denotes a healthful summer.

The beech is said to be crowding out all other trees in the struggle for existence in the Danish forests.

Emperor William, of Germany, has his meals conveyed from his kitchen to his dining-room on an electric railway.

The discoveries made by Explorer Stanley show that the Nile is the longest river in the world, being at least 4100 miles in length.

The German Railway Managers' Association proposes to distribute every four years prizes aggregating \$8000 for important inventions and improvements relating to railroads.

An ounce of aqua ammonia to each painful of water is said to provide the quickest restoration of tone to exhausted nerves and muscles, besides making the flesh firm and smooth.

As a rule, women need about nine-tenths of the nourishment requisite for men, boys of sixteen about the same as women, and children of ten half the quantity needed for adults.

Inexhaustible quantities of red and yellow ochre have been laid bare by a landslide near Drain, Oregon. It looks like rock, but dissolves readily in water and gives a fine color on wood.

A German scientist has discovered that trees, the trunks of which are covered with moss or lichen, are more liable to lightning strokes than others, and imputes to this the comparative immunity of the oak.

The diameter of trees varies not only from summer to winter, but from day to day. They are larger from noon until twilight next morning than from twilight to noon; they are smaller in winter than in summer.

Early rising is commended by the *British Medical Journal* as an excellent moral discipline and as an eminently healthful habit. Early rising is synonymous in long-life histories with short sleeping, which means rapid recovery from fatigue, a sign of bodily strength.

The latest report states that twenty-one observatories are now engaged in the international undertaking of photographing the entire heavens. Each observatory will have to take about 700 photographs in the zone assigned to it, and it is hoped to finish the work in three or four years.

Miss Kate Marsden, who has been investigating leprosy in Russia, had an interview with M. Pasteur in Paris the other day, with the view of ascertaining whether inoculation could be resorted to. M. Pasteur, however, could hold out no hope of dealing with leprosy in that way.

It is estimated that persons walking on the sunny side of the street are in light more than 5000 times stronger than are the occupants of an ordinary darkened room of a town house, while strollers on the seashore in sunny weather enjoy the influence of 18,000 times as much of the same health-giving agent.

The belief that chimney-sweep's cancer is disappearing from London with improvement in methods of sweeping does not seem to be well founded. Dr. Butlin shows from the Registrar-General's statistics that the liability of the sweeps to malignant disease is about eight times as great as the average liability of all males.

A writer in a London journal calls attention to the unappreciated uses and preservative qualities of soapstone, a material, he says, which possesses what may be regarded as extraordinary qualities in withstanding atmospheric influences, those, especially, which have so much to do with the corrosion of iron and steel, and from experiments made, it is said that no other material is capable of taking hold of the fibre of iron and steel so readily and firmly as this.

It is Difficult to Escape From Siberia.

Siberia, although of immense proportions, is so closely guarded that, on an average, not over 100 prisoners escape annually, and of these many perish from hunger and cold, or are eaten by wolves on the frozen steppes which surround much of the country. All around the borders are placed, at intervals, stations where are located a few officers and quite a number of soldiers or Cossacks, who intercept all travelers and stop their progress if they cannot show a pass from the Governor of some province or the Czar.

In the interior there are also many of these stations, at each of which the traveler finds his journey barred unless he has the proper passport; so it is a very difficult matter to escape, but many prefer to risk their lives on the frozen plains than bear the hardships of the prison. The lowest are the poorer people who there are three classes of prisoners. Have been detected in plots against the Czar. They spend the most of their lives in the mines, which produce gold, silver, copper and platinum, the greater portion of which is exported.—*Commercial Advertiser.*

Ninety-Six Days on Soda Water.

Tommy Sutton, of Dubuque, Iowa, after living without solid food for ninety-six days, is dead. During all his fast his only sustenance was soda water. A council of physicians united in pronouncing it a case of paralysis of the stomach and bowels. Some years ago the lad suffered a fall and was never in perfect health thereafter. Ninety-six days ago his stomach refused all solid foods, and soda water was the only liquid he could retain. His sufferings were intense, and he bore them uncomplainingly until death came to his relief. Physicians pronounced the case one of the most remarkable on record.—*Washington Star.*

About 70 per cent of Chicago's population is foreign born or of foreign parentage.