

## THE AMERICAN.

## CONSUMPTION.

**How Utterly to Prevent the Diffusion of Consumption.**

As the tubercles usually do not multiply outside of the living body, excepting under artificial conditions, and as it has been proved experimentally that the disease is due to those germs, it follows that when the disease occurs, it must be produced by some environmental germs that have been thrown off by some other human being or animal suffering from tuberculosis.

A vast amount of evidence can now be adduced to show that consumption is comparatively rare among those who live an outdoor life under normal and healthy conditions.

For every 1,000 deaths from all causes 167 farmers die of pulmonary tuberculosis, 109 laborers, 121 gardeners, 122 agricultural laborers, 167 grocers, while among valuers the mortality rises to 200 and among drapers to 201. Out of every 1,000 deaths among printers and compositors 410, or nearly 30 per cent of all, result from consumption.

The duties of state, municipal and sanitary authorities in this matter are clear and specific. Comprehensive and efficient means should be at once taken for the prevention of tuberculosis. These means should consist in educating the people as to the infectious nature of the disease, instructing them in the means and methods to be taken to render the sputum innocuous, in the systematic employment of bacteriological examinations of the sputum for the early diagnosis of tuberculosis, in the proper disinfection of rooms occupied by tubercular patients before they are again occupied by other people, in the establishment of public hospitals for the segregation, isolation and treatment of the consumptive poor; in the enactment of regulations which shall forbid the employment of tubercular patients in such occupations as shall injure the welfare of others, in the adoption of sanitary regulations to prevent the dissemination of infection by means of tubercular sputum in places of assembly, in the governmental inspection of dairy cattle and in the destruction of those found to be tubercular.

A person suffering from pulmonary consumption may be absolutely free of danger to his most intimate associates or his immediate surroundings if only the sputum is disposed of with scrupulous care. The sputum, and the sputum alone, in some way is the source of danger, and common sense, good sanitation, humanity and even the requirements of simple cleanliness demand that this should be destroyed or rendered harmless. Dr. Lawrence Flick of Philadelphia, who has studied this subject carefully, has expressed the firm conviction that with our present knowledge we have it in our power to completely wipe out pulmonary tuberculosis in a single generation, and he adds, "Were half the energy which is being spent in the almost hopeless task of searching for a specific cure for tuberculosis devoted to its extermination its accomplishment would be assured."—Forum.

## The English Boston.

In one respect old Boston is very much less attractive than its namesakes across the Atlantic. Its natural surroundings are decidedly unlovely and uninteresting. Approach from any quarter, the prospect is the same—flat land, unbroken by the merest pinprick of a hill, stretching as far as the eye can range, every acre of it cultivated to the highest pitch of perfection, the monotony of the scene varied only by an occasional clump of wind-tossed trees, or a minaret topped windmill, or a cluster of heavily thatched cottages round about one of the bridges which cross the innumerable dikes by which the country is intersected in all directions, or by one of the stately church towers for which the country is famed.

Straight as arrows run the fenland roads, raised high upon banks of luxuriant grass above the dikes, of which the dark motionless water is rich with crow-foot and brooklime, and meadow sweet and the great blue water forget-me-not. In the more sequestered regions we may meet with some of the ancient feathered inhabitants of fenland, with the sharp billed, shrieking curlew, the white tailed sandpiper, the bullying Norway crows, the heron and black backed gulls, but the roar of the Lincolnshire agricultural machinery seems to have frightened them away from more frequented districts, and the solemn stillness of the air, even during the spring months, is remarkable.—All the Year Round.

## What Becomes of the Old Directories?

Every year thousands of new directories are issued, but what becomes of the old ones? This question very seldom occurs to the mind of the public, and yet it is evident that the thousands of old directories which are displaced by new ones every year must go some place.

In the first place, some of the old books are not displaced at all, but are kept by their owners until they fall to pieces, when they are burned. Many of the directories are so racked up at the end of the year that they are not fit for further use, and a great number of these are sold as old paper and are manufactured into cloth. Then a large number of them are sold to second-hand book dealers for prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1 and are torn sold by them to people who do not feel like paying for a new directory, but do not begrudge \$1 or so for one a year old. Many more of the old directories are sold directly by the owners to other men for about \$1. Many take the new directory every year and also keep their old ones, and in some places of business may be seen a collection of directories dating back for six or eight years. Thus are the directories kept in circulation until they wear out and are thrown away or sold for old paper.—Toronto World.

## Light and Complexions.

In a certain house, where the people love nature so well that no drapery curtains are used and where the shades are usually rolled to their highest limit, it is observed that the women all look old. But at night, when all the soft lights shine out from under their shades of pink and yellow, they are young and fair. The opposite effect is observed in another house, where the women look their best in the daytime, and where the light is softened by shades and becoming draperies that are never thrown back from the upper part of the window. At night electric lights, under glass that can hardly be called artistic, glare down on eyes that are tired and bring out every mark of time. One woman abhors lamps in picturets; the other despises windows in draperies.—New York Post.

## A Mean and Cruel Sport.

By far the meanest, most cruel and most degrading forms of sport tolerated by the law are those which consist in the shooting, hunting or baiting of certain so-called "wild" animals, which are not pursued or killed in a true state of nature but are first captured and confined in some cage or enclosure in order that they may be afterward turned out and worried for

the amusement of the unashamed sportsmen.

Pigeon shooting, together with all kinds of trap shooting, is a well known example of this debasing class of pastime, and as was shown by the division list of the names of criminals as long ago as 1868 is associated with strong public disapprovement. "The birds made punishable," said Lord Balfour when he introduced in the House of Commons the measures for the prohibition of pigeon shooting, "was not the shooting of a bird, but the shooting at a bird out of a trap or other contrivance. There was a marked difference between confining a bird in a trap for the purpose of shooting at it and shooting it in a wild state."—Westminster Review.

## Took Him for Hunting.

Mr. Thomas Robinson was a tall, smooth man, and his appearance was rendered still more striking by his hunting dress, which consisted of a tight green jacket, buckskin breeches and a pistol's cap. He once set off in his hunting suit to pay a visit to his sister in Paris. He arrived at the house while there was a large company at dinner. The servant announced Mr. Robinson, and he walked this remarkable figure, to the amazement of the guests. One of them, a French abbé, lifted his fork three times to his mouth and each time laid it down without tasting the food. Unable at last to restrain his curiosity longer, he burst out eagerly, "Excuse me, monsieur, are you the famous Robinson Crusoe so remarkable in history?"—San Francisco Argonaut.

## A Coin's Return.

It is not often that a marked coin once put into circulation is returned to the person who marked it. Mr. George Troup, superintendent of Forest Lawn cemetery, before he left Scotland, had his name stamped upon a coin of the issue of George II. It was done in fun, and at that time he never dreamed that the coin would ever be returned to him. The coin was put into circulation, and a short time afterward Mr. Troup came to this country. More than 30 years passed by, and he thought nothing more about the circumstance. One day a friend of his at a lodge said to him, "I have a coin with your name upon it."

"I asked him to let me see the coin," said Mr. Troup, and when I looked at it I found it was the identical piece that I had marked so long ago. I wrote to the man who was present when the coin was marked in Scotland, and he recalled the circumstance, and I got the coin from my Buffalo friend, and now I would not take a good sum of money for it. Where that coin had been during the 30 years no one knows, but it is a strange coincidence that it should have turned up to me in Buffalo, the home I had adopted."—Buffalo Express.

## A Strange Race.

"There is a race of people in Hawkins county, Tenn., whose origin is a mystery," said G. L. Babbitt to the corridor man at the Laclede. "They are called the Melungeons and are found no place else. They have been traced back to North Carolina, but further than that nothing is known. They are not Indians, they are not negroes, they are certainly not of any known race of white people. But few of them can speak the English language, although they have lived here for over a century, and the language they do speak is an unknown one to the most accomplished linguist."

"They are dirty and degraded, but with a race pride about them that prevents them intermingling with the lower order of Americans or with negroes. A Melungeon will work when he is hungry, but only under press of necessity.

They avoid the towns and cultivate small patches of corn on the most barren mountaintops, the rest of their scant living being obtained by hunting and fishing. Every attempt made as yet to better their condition has been a failure, and yet the race continues to exist independently of the white people, growing no smaller and changing none of its attributes."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Discovery of Columbus' Map of America.

The remarkable discovery of a copy of a map by Columbus, drawn on a letter written from Jamaica in July, 1503, is recorded by Nature. This, although only a rough pen and ink sketch, shows exactly the opinion of Columbus himself as to the part of the world he had reached, which he believed to be the east coast of Asia. The original map, drawn by Columbus and his brother Bartholomew, was presented to a priest named Hieronymo, who gave it, together with a description, to Alexander Strozzi, a noted collector of early voyages. He is supposed to have copied the original map roughly on the margin of the letter from Columbus, which he had bound in a volume with other documents, and this volume is now in the National library at Florence, where the existence and significance of the map were discovered by Dr. R. von Wieser, professor of geography at Linzbruck, acting on behalf of the Austrian Institute for Historical Research.—Pall Mall Gazette.

## Statecraft.

The king of one country was angry with the king of another.

"Let the people fight it out," said they and went home to read reports from the field.

When the war was over, the conqueror king owed many millions to the victorious one.

"Let the survivors pay it," said they as they shook hands amicably, and neither blushed.—Kate Field's Washington.

## Japan's Great Artist.

Meizan is the name of Japan's greatest decorator of Satsuma art ware. A writer on the subject says Meizan is beyond question the first artist in Japan. No one can blend colors as harmoniously or paint flowers so delicately. No one is such a master of design as applied to borders. No one save Meizan, to put the case concretely, knows how to fill a bowl 2½ inches in diameter with 2,000 cho-cho, or butterflies, making each distinct and a thing of beauty.—Philadelphia Press.

## His Gentle Wit.

She shook her head sadly when he had asked a fateful question.

"I wish you were all the world," he sighed.

"You said I was that to you once," she ventured coquettishly.

"Yes, but I don't think so now."

"No?"

"No, for all the world loves a lover," and his gentle wit won her over to a reconsideration of the question.—Detroit Free Press.

Connecticut, the "land of steady habits," boasts of six cities with police matrons and has a school suffrage law.

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