THE GREAT WHITE PLAGUE

CAN CONSUMPTION BE STAMPTED OUT ENTIRELY?

Gratifying Decline in Deaths in Great Britain During the Past Fifty Years.

The prominence which has been given to consumption and its treatment of late years has erroneously led many people to think that the disease is spreading and accounting for an increased number of deaths every day. As a matter of fact, recent statistics show that in the last fifty years consumption has declined so considerably as to point to a possibility in the near future of its disappearance from the country altogether, just as other maladies, such as leprosy and typhus fever, have disappeared in the past. In 1838 the deaths from consumption were over 39 in every 10,000 persons. In 1906 the deaths were 11 per 10,000—figures which are distinctly encouraging to those who are engaged in fighting the great white plague, says London Tit-Bits.

At the same time consumption is still killing over 40,000 people in Great Britain alone every year, and it is with a view to further combating the disease that a Royal Commission is now sitting to report with regard to tuberculosis, and national sanatoria are being erected. There are already many sanatoria, both in Great Britain and on the Continent, but the majority of them are private institutions. There is no doubt, however, that the best means of curing a consumptive person is to send him or her, in the

EARLY STAGES OF THE DISEASE,

to a sanatorium, where those curative essentials—abundance of fresh air, sunshine, proper diet, and exercise—Can be properly administered.

For, so far as medical knowledge extends meantime, Nature is undoubtedly the best consumption cure, although protective inoculation and internal antiseptic treatment are undergoing investigation, and, like the Koch treatment by injection of tuberculin, have cured many cases. But they have not, up to the present, proved quite so efficacious as could be desired.

It may not be uninteresting to mention here some of the remarkable consumption cures which have been advocated of late years. The latest marvel of surgery is a wonderful operation recently performed in London, by which the diseased portion of a consumptive patient's lung was successfully cut away. A special instrument has been invented for staunching the flow of blood which usually rushes out when the lung is cut, with such rapidity that the patient bleeds to death in a few minutes, and the result of the operation seems to point to the fact that the surgeon as well as the physician will be able to cure phthisis in the future.

ANOTHER RECENT CURE

is the sea-water treatment, in which the Duchess of Sutherland is keenly interested Injections of pure sea-water, it is claimed, will effectively cure the disease, and the success with this method has been such that it has been adopted by several Paris hospitals.

Several other consumption "cure" injections have been tried of late years. Five years ago Dr. W. J. Fralick, one of the most eminent physicians of New York, gave a public demonstration in the Metropolitan Hospital of a new remedy for tuberculosis with which he claims to have successfully treated many patients. Briefly, his method of treatment is as follows. Incisions are made in the veins at the bend of the elbow, and into these are introduced glass nozzles connected by rubber tubes with glass funnels, into which a liquid, having properties similar to those existing in all normal blood, is poured, and thus carried into the blood currents, every part of the system being brought into contact with the new agency within three minutes. Several infusions, Dr Fralick says, are necesary to obliterate the bacteria. Ten would be the utmost required in any case, at the rate of

ONE OR TWO INFUSIONS A WEEK.

Four months after Dr. Fralick's demonstration Dr. Livet, the head of a hospital for consumptives founded at Roubaix, gave an account before a weekly meeting of the Academy of Medicine in Paris of a year's fight with phthitis by means of a somewhat similar method to that advocated by the New York physician. The experiment was tried of injecting a liquid composed of extracts from plants found in Chili and Columbia, which have already been employed separately with fair success in Germany, Belguim, and the United States. Of 130 patients treated with this process at the Roubaix home 84 per cent, recovered, improvement being noticeable within a few days from the beginning of the treatment.

What is known as the "light" treatment has also met with decided success. Professor Finsen has effected some remarkable cures by means of a special electric lamp, combined with concentrated rays of the sun. This was an advancement on the idea of Dr. J. Mount-Bleyer, the well-known specialist on lung and throat diseases, who eight or nine years ago asserted that by extracting the ultra-violet and other rays from the sunshine and showering them upon the human body microbes could be destroyed and

CONSUMPTION CURED.

The rays were collected by means of glass houses, with various colored panes of glass in the roof, under which the patient sat.

To a certain extent Dr. Mount-Bleyer's idea was adopted five years ago in England at a certain hospital. The patient was placed in a glass cubicle, but, instead of relying on the ultra-violet and other rays to effect a cure, the patient was given a constant supply of rarefied air, specially treated by ozone on an extended scale.

These and many other cures have been tried with more or less success; but consumption is a disease to which the old saying, "Prevention is better than cure," applies with particular force, and simple prevention wil go far towards stamping it out.

ILLS OF BABYHOOD AND OF CHILDHOOD

The ills of babyhood and childhood are many and may prove serious if not promptly cured. In homes where Baby's Own Tablets are kept there is a prompt cure at hand for such troubles as indigestion, sour stomach, colic, constipation, diarrhoea, worms, teething troubles and other minor ailments and the Tablets can be administered as safely to a new born baby as to the well grown child. Mrs. Octave Paulin, Caraquet, N. B., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets for both my little boy and girl for the various ailments of childhood and have found them always a splendid medicine. No mother should be without the Tablets in the home." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

THE WIZARD OF THE EAST

SIR ROBERT HART ABOUT TO SEE HIS FAMILY AGAIN.

Some of the Work He Has Done in China During the Last Forty-five Years.

There will shortly arrive in England, the land of his birth, a quiet, unassuming little gray-haired man, who, more than any other indivadual, has influenced the destiny of the Chinese Empire during the last 45 years, writes a London corespondent. Sir Robert Hart, the little white autocrat of Pekin, the Wizard of the East, inspector general of the Chinese customs, holder of the ancestral rank of the first class of the first order for three generations, and junior guardian of the heir apparent, has secured two years' leave of absence from his duties in China and has just left Pekin to return to England to see his wife and children from whom he has been parted for more than twenty years. Those who are in a position to know state that Sir Robert will never return to Pekin, but will shortly announce his permanent retirement, as prophesied in The Express.

Although Sir Robert Hart's official authority in the Celestial Kingdom extended over the customs service only, his real powers were much greater than that would imply. For many years he has been the financial pilot of the empire, and it is due almost entirely to his wise management that China is now in a state of financial solvency. In matters of foreign policy and trade

HIS WORD WAS LAW.

Even the Dowager Empress bowed to the judgment of this little man with the obsequious manners and infinite tact. Without for a moment relaxing his watchfulness of the customs services he took over and perfected the government system of lighthouses on ocean and rivers; he organized and ruled the armed fleet that patrolled the waterways of the empire for protection against smugglers; he arranged the huge loans that linked China with the Western world, and, finally, he established the national postal system, of which he became inspector general in 1896.

At the height of his power Great Britain offered to make the man who had left her shores a simple clerk 40 years before, her envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to China, but Sir Robert declined with thanks because he preferred to remain behind his desk at Pekin.

As inspector general of customs he ruled an army of more than 8,000 subordinates and a system unsurpassed by any machinery of government the world over. More than 1,000 Europeans held service under him, it being an invariable rule of the department that all positions of responsibility be held by white men. On the other hand, he handed a sop to the pride of the Chinese in the shape of a rule that natives alone should be allowed to handle the money.

THE FOREIGN DEVILS.

could not be trusted! English was the language used in official intercourse, but every document was afterward translated into Chinese, involving a stupendous amount of clerical labor.

Although very few of his thousands of subordinates ever laid eyes upon the little Englishman—simply knowing him as I. G., inspector general—Sir Robert was the hardest worker in the service. He was to be found at his desk at all hours of the day, and often far into the night. Although it is the custom of the service to allow a two-year vacation to all Europeans who complete eight years of service, Sir Robert has never availed himself heretofore of that privilege. He left Pekin only four times in more than 36 years. He kept track of the smallest detail of his great organization, and insisted upon personal reports being made to him by the heads of all the departments.

To the ordinary observer, familiar with the character of the Chinese, with Oriental aloofness and antipathy to Western ideals, it is little short of miraculous that Sir Robert Hart should have been able to exert the great influence which he did. His wonderful rise is due, in a large measure, to his tact. He is a born diplomat. As an instance of this, there is a good story told by his colleagues at Pekin. Of late years it has been the constant practice of the officials of the Tsung-li-Yamen (foreign office) to ask for the advice of Sir Robert on all important international questions. Almost without exception

HIS DECISIONS WERE ADOPTED

But in spite of the fact that he was virtually a deciding factor in these conferences he always took care to pretend that he did not know it. When invited to be seated in the presence of the Chinese officials, Sir Robert invariably sat on the edge of his chair, which, in China, is a sign of humility and submission.

Lady Hart and her children returned to England 27 years ago, and Sir Robert has not seen them since. They have been expecting him home year by year during all that time. He is 73 years old, but still believes that he has a decade of work left in his little body.

The life story of this man reads like a veritable romance. He was born in 1835 in Portadown, a little town in the north of Ireland. He joined the merchant service in an humble capacity at the age of eighteen. Landing in China in 1854 he deserted and secured a job as a student interpreter in the Hong Kong consulate. Nine years later, when he was only 28 years of age, he became inspector general of the imperial Chinese customs at a salary of $40,000 a year, and thus began his gigantic task of creating a modern business organization amid surroundings of superstition, ignorance, prejudice and dishonesty such as existed nowhere else in the world.

A. J. PATTISON & CO.

Weekly Market Letter.

A. J. Pattison & Co. in their weekly news letter to clients, report as follows:

The municipal Bond market has been more active during the week than for some time past. Large blocks of municipal Bonds have been taken up for investment to yield from 5 to 5½ per cent.

The Stock market, both in Toronto and New York, has shown unusual activity and advances in prices for the higher class of dividend payers was in a number of cases substantial. Some of the changes were from 5 to 8 points. The evidence of returning confidence in general conditions and the unprecedented accumulation of money at financial centers are factors in these results. We look for temporary recessions, but feel that purchases of the better class of stocks can be profitably made. The mining stock market has experienced very marked activity in the developed properties. Trethewey, Foster, Silver Leaf and Crown Reserve advanced from 5 to 8 points on increasing shipments of ore.

Several of the most prominent mines have, for some time been making large and profitable shipments and it is expected that some of these will be placed on a dividend basis within a short time. Trethewey and Foster appear to be well managed and are making an excellent showing.

Following are the weekly shipments from Cobalt camp, and those from January 1st to date:

Week ending May 9th since January 1st.

Buffalo 46,290, 563,810, Coniagas 380,910, Cobalt Lake 180,610, Crown Reserve 40,000, Cobalt Central 107,180, City of Cobalt 338,600, Drummond 92,340, Foster 68,800, 238,400, Kerr Lake 330,710, King Edward 127,240, La Rose 40,000, 1,901,652, McKinley 60,000, 1,183,900, Nipissing 122,240, 1,230,870, Nova Scotia 120,790, Nancy Helen 140,420, O'Brien 127,500, 1,763,070, Right of Way 60,470, 120,680, Provincial 143,210, Standard 39,730, Silver Queen 524,200, Silver Cliff 52,000, Silver Leaf 132,800, Townsite 85,100, Temiskaming 237,250, Temiskaming H. & B. 539,000, Trethewey 679,916, Watts 114,430.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTELLIGENCE

The character and the destiny which are involved are too momentous for parents to permit their children to grow up in ignorance, to leave them exposed to the corrupting influences of the street or the school, or to leave their children in the developing years without sympathy and wise counsel, or in the opening years of manhood and womanhood to leave them to learn by a series of sad blunders and terrible consequences what they should have been taught in a thoughtful and serious way.

Intelligence on these subjects is of utmost importance. Without intelligence vice and eventual defilement are most certain. The young should by all means be made intelligent, but intelligence alone will not always save them. To intelligence should be added moral instruction and religious character. When there is only moral training without intelligence, there is but little security against vicious habits; and when there is intelligence upon these subjects without moral principle or religious character, the security is not fully sufficient. But when the young have proper knowledge upon these sacred subjects and are not only intelligent, but are guided by right precepts and religious principles, they will be held to right courses of conduct and a pure life by an abiding moral character.

CANDOR AND SAFETY.

"Don't you consider it honorable to tell a man his faults to his face?" queried the youth. "Yes," replied the wise guy, "but I consider it safer to tell them to his neighbor."

Clothes may not make the man, but paying for his wife's clothes may break him.

Antwerp and Amsterdam are two of the healthiest of European cities.

FRAUDS OF FASTING MEN.

Senseless Exhibitions Which Defraud the Public.

A "fasting-man," who did not fast, has been pounced upon by the police in Vienna, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, together with a "watcher," who was his accomplice in defrauding the public.

The plan adopted was simple, yet very ingenious. The alleged fasting-man wore many striking coats, which he changed several times daily. Before these were introduced into the "hunger house," they were regularly offered to the spectators for examination, but none ever detected anything edible in, on, or about them, until a baby accidentally got hold of one, and commenced sucking at a button, with every sign of evident enjoyment.

This led to closer investigation, when it was discovered that chocolate, and not brown bone, as had been supposed, formed the material from which the buttons in question were made.

Similar frauds are not uncommon at these senseless exhibitions. One favorite device is to drink large draughts of water, in which a quantity of caster sugar has been previously dissolved. In this way a pound or more of nourishing food is taken into the system daily.

Another plan was made public owing to a county court case, which was heard some time back in East London. The "fasting-man" in this instance, it transpired, had been fed from outside the building, by means of a concealed tube, with real turtle soup, beef extract, chicken broth, custard, milk, cream, port wine jelly, and other similar liquid luxuries.

MARTYRS FOR SCIENCE'S SAKE.

Brave Men Who Sacrifice Their Lives for Humanity.

Death has been very busy lately amongst the select band of scientists whose lives have been devoted to original research on behalf of suffering humanity.

Edison has just been operated upon—for the second time—for X-ray dermatitis, the terrible and mysterious malady which kiled his principal laboratory assistant, Mr. Clarence Dally, in October, 1905.

Dr. Hall-Edwards, of the Birmingham General Hospital, has lost his left arm from the same cause, and expects very shortly to lose his right. Professor Goetz was killed by the disease in 1903; Dr. Blacker, of St. Thomas's Hospital, fell a victim in the year following; and almost on the very last day of the year 1905, the distinguished Dr. M. Radiguet passed away, after enduring indescribable agony.

Only a few months prior to this latter sad occurrence, there occurred the terrible tragedy at the Government laboratory at Kronstadt, in which a professor and two of his assistants lost their lives through accidentally inoculating themselves with plague bacteria, with which they had been experimenting. After a similar fashion, too, perished in the prime of his life, at Oporto, in 1899, Professor Camara Prestana, of Lisbon, most distinguished among modern bacteriologists.

The eminent Dr. Virlow, Pasteur's friend and colleague, died of hydrophobia, contracted while preparing a "culture" from the spinal cord of a rabid rabbit. Thuillier the French bacteriologist, in order to study the precise action of the cholera germ on the human system, inoculated himself and died.

And these instances are but typical of hundreds of others. Brave men! Martyrs, all.

9 YEARS BAD LEG HEALED BY ZAM-BUK.

Mr. C. Johnson, of Poplar Hill Creek, Athabasca Landing, Alta., says: "About nine years ago a running sore commenced on my right leg caused by a ruptured blood vessel. As time went on it got worse and my sufferings were intense. I had a very sore leg indeed, and had very small hopes of ever seeing it healed, in fact I was told by several who had known such sores that I would suffer with it for life. When I was almost in despair I heard of Zam-Buk and commenced using it. Other salves I had used caused me much suffering, but Zam-Buk soothed the pain, and as soon as the wound became clean it was only a matter of three or four days before it was healed."

Zam-Buk cures cuts, burns, pimples, ulcers, ringwarm, and all skin diseases. All stores and druggists, 50c box, or from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto.

NEW CURE FOR MENINGITIS.

The alarming epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis of 1904-1907 was prolific of one good result—it proved that the bacillus, Diplococcus intracellularia discovered by Weichselbaum in 1887, was the source of the disease. A commission was appointed by the board of health of the city of New York to study the disease with a view of discovering preventive and curative remedies. The special effort of this commission under Dr Simon Flexner of the Rockfeller Institute for Medical Research, was to secure some anti-diplococcus serum for injection into human victims of the disease. Experimental infections were induced in certain animals for the purpose of preparing such a "curative" serum once it was shown it could be effective in experimental infections.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis is an inflammatory disease of the cerebral membranes and spinal cord. It occurs most generally in winter and spring. It is epidemic, but not directly contagious from man to man. It appears oftenest in subjects of low vitality and among the scantily nourished dwellers of tenements and slums. It may prove fatal in its fulminant form within a few hours and is therefore a dreaded scourge. The proportion of recoveries by the old methods of treatment was about twenty per cent. In the several cities where the cases under the new treatment were made, the results indicate that in forty-seven cases thirty-four recovered and thirteen died. Four of the latter were of the fulminant type and therefore past control. Eliminating these from the calculation, this changes the percentage of recoveries to 79.9 and of deaths to 20.1—just reversing the former figures. The successful cases reported, too, made complete and rapid recoveries.—June Technical World.

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