

Is Cholera Spread by Drinking-Water?

For good health, pure water is as necessary as pure air, good food, comfortable quarters, and so forth. I myself am an enthusiast in the matter of drinking water, but not from fear of cholera or typhoid fever, but simply from a pure love of the good. For the water is not only a necessary article of food, but a real pleasure, which I prefer, and believe to be more healthful than good wine or good beer. When water fails, man may suffer not only from cholera, but from all possible diseases. In places where cholera prevails the water may always be indicated, for the supply is always a part of the locality, and the doctrine will frequently hold good, because the part may be mistaken for the whole. Where the influence of the water is held up to the exclusion of all other local factors, error is liable to creep in. In England, where the water-drinking theory is fully believed in, two like influences, in which every other local factor was excluded, were observed in the cholera epidemic of 1854. In one case, in a street in London which was supplied by two water companies, the Lambeth with pure water, and the Vauxhall with impure water, it was found that the cholera was practically limited to the houses supplied by the Vauxhall company. I was so much impressed by this fact that I endeavored to see whether the epidemic of 1854 in Munich could not be explained on a similar hypothesis. But my researches led to a negative result. Without doubting the facts observed in London, I am of opinion that the impure water of the Vauxhall company did not spread the germs of cholera, for the propagation of cholera was not effected by this means in Munich, but that the water increased the personal predisposition to cholera, or perhaps the local predisposition, since the water would be employed in the house and about the soil. Later on, in 1866, Letheby doubted the accuracy of the drinking-water theory, and proved that there had been considerable confusion, so that a house which was registered on the Lambeth company really drew its water-supply from the main of the Vauxhall company, and vice versa. The cholera epidemic of 1866 was essentially limited to East London. The East London Water company supplied this district with water filtered from the river Lea. Letheby brought forward a series of facts to prove that we might with equal justice accuse the East London Gas company, since the first case of cholera broke out at the gas factory.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Electric Lighting in America.

At the meeting of the Society of Arts on Dec. 3, Mr. W. H. Preece read a paper in which he stated that electric lighting is flourishing in America much more than in England. There are probably ninety thousand arc-lamps alight every night in the United States. He had found it a dismal experience to be transferred from the brilliantly illuminated avenues of New York to the dark streets of London. On the evening of Oct. 21 he drove from the Windsor hotel, New York, to the Cunard wharf, a distance of about four miles, through streets entirely lighted by electricity. On arriving in London, he drove from Euston to Waterloo without seeing a single electric light. In Montreal, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Boston he found the principal streets and washhouses, as well as stores and places of public resort, lighted by arc-lamps. Police supervision of the streets is rendered far simpler when they are brilliantly illuminated by the electric light. It is with arc-lighting that the greatest advances have been made in the States. In Chicago the number of arc-lamps installed has doubled during the past twelve months. It is now two thousand, and increases daily. More than one electric light company pays dividends to its shareholders, and all of the manufactures of supplies are busy. The great ferry-boats of the Philadelphia railroad are lighted by electricity; those magnificent hotel-steamers that ply between New York and Fall River, those on Lake Superior, on the Mississippi and other large rivers, are either so lighted or are gradually being fitted for the lamps. Mr. Preece said that electric wires carried overhead, in the unsightly fashion which prevailed in the United States, were hideous in the extreme, and the only advantage he had found for them was that they afforded a welcome shade from the fierce glare of the sun. He had counted 144 wires on one post in New York, and six lines of posts might be found on Broadway, there being thirty-two companies in the city carrying wires on poles. There was no necessity for it at all, for it was found by the English postoffice that, whenever the number of wires through a town exceeded fifteen, it was cheaper to put them underground than overhead.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

The Earth's Surface.

Scientific men have been disposed to attribute the evidences of changes on the earth's surface to violent catastrophes in the operations of nature; but Lyell and the more recent geologists say that most of the alterations we witness were brought about by the slow operation of natural forces, acting through vast periods of time. The several earthquakes which have recently visited the northeast quarter of North America did something toward either raising or depressing the surface of the region affected. It is known that the Atlantic coast between

Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod has been steadily sinking for centuries, and it is within the bounds of probability that before 2,000 years have elapsed the cities of New York and Brooklyn may be under water. When the Dutch colonized Manhattan island, 200 hundred years ago, the Indians told them that in the time of their great-grandfathers it was possible to cross Hell gate dry-shod from one bank to the other. Prof. Guyot estimated that the lowering of the Atlantic coast was 23 1/2 inches every century. At the same time it is certain that the greater portion of the American continent is rising, while the continent of Australia is as certainly sinking.

Very many islands of the Pacific ocean were once the tops of mountains on continents afterward submerged. The stupendous volcanic eruption of Krakatau, on Aug. 27, last year, entirely changed the physical aspect of the Sunda straits. A part of Krakatau was shot out of the sea and dropped into the straits eight miles northward. The greater portion of the island, containing several thousand million cubic yards of earth, was hurled through the air, over Zaung island, and plunged into the channel seven miles to the northeast. These two new pieces of land, which have been named Steers and Calmeyer islands, now appear above the sea where previously 250 feet of water existed. Where the volcano of Krakatau stood, a sea fathomless by a line of 1,000 feet now exists.

In the neighborhood of England, recently new lands have appeared composed of black volcanic rock, and so these mighty changes keep on. Oceans of vast antiquity are continents to-day, which the populous plains will, in the distant ages hence, be found at the bottom of the mighty seas.—*Demorest's Monthly.*

Facts for Skaters.

Said I the other day, to one of our leading physicians: "Doctor, what do you think of the present roller skating mania?"

"Well," he replied slowly, "it's a very good thing for the doctors, surgeons, and specialists, too. Oh, yes, indeed. It brings on the high-priced class of complaints, much more lucrative than common measles or rheumatism. In the first place, it is a sort of motion quite unnatural, and entirely different from anything to which a girl is accustomed, calling into most violent play muscles which are but little used. If it were not a 'craze' which seems to admit of no moderation, no gradual inuring of the muscular system which might grow tolerant of the exercise, the case would not be so bad. But this is not, after all, the worst feature. The prevalent, and all but universal mode of dress, is really the greatest cause of trouble. The average girl—though you may be sure she will indignantly deny it—could not get a full, free breath inside her corset to save her life. Oh, yes, she thinks she does, because she doesn't know what it is—a full, free breath, which reaches clear down to the waist line, and demands a free play of the abdominal muscles. Those muscles, and others so important to locomotion, are cramped and restricted, while all the time trying to respond to the violent and unnatural strain upon them, and as a result some of the more delicate organs of her complex system are sure to suffer, and suffer severely. It is with physicians no secret that there is a great increase of maladies and weaknesses among girls directly traceable to this sport. I would rather my daughter should run up and down stairs from cellar to attic forty times a day than become a devotee of this kind of amusement. The consequences are similar, but worse in the latter case."

"But do you consider it worse than skating on ice?"

"Skating on ice is not a good thing for many girls—for none but the heartiest who are accustomed to vigorous exercise—and not for them unless properly dressed. But the outdoor is, of course, an improvement on that of the rink, not only because of its purity and invigorating qualities, but because the cold puts a limit to the number of hours devoted to the amusement. Then, too, there is usually plenty of room, and, consequently, less liability to accidents of one sort and another. But, the one fact is, that girls can never profit by the present popular rage for physical exercises and pedestrian feats until they conclude to dress sensibly so as to allow the free use of the muscles they are ostensibly seeking to develop. It is perfectly absurd otherwise, and nothing can prevent its working an injury."—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

A Theological Question.

"How many husbands did a woman have in the Old Testament?" asked Miss Sanderly, who has just completed her education at a fashionable institute, in Austin.

"What do you mean by such a silly question?" asked Mrs. Yerger, to whom the question was addressed.

"I don't think it is silly. It says in the Bible, that whenever a man dieth he was gathered to his fathers. If the mother of the deceased did not have more than one husband how could the deceased be gathered to his fathers, which means more fathers than one. He certainly must have had several fathers."

"Perhaps," said Mrs. Yerger demurely, "the man who was gathered to his fathers had several mothers."—*Texas Siftings.*

Serious Questions.

"Willie," said Mr. Mulkittle, looking up from a book when the boy entered the library, "you are getting to be old enough now to understand some of the duties of life. Have you ever thought of what you would like to do when you become a man?"

"Yes, sir."

"I am glad to hear you say so. What business would you like to follow?"

"Drive a wagon," the boy quickly replied.

"Drive a wagon the mischief! Have you no higher aim?"

"Yes, sir."

"What is it?"

"Drive a stage."

"I am ashamed of you."

"Drive an omnibus, then."

"I am disappointed in you. Why are you not like other boys?"

"Cause they ain't like me."

"There you go. Never saw the like."

"When you was a boy what did you think that you would do?"

"Thought that I would preach."

"An' you did, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Are you glad?"

"I don't know that I am glad."

"Then why don't you stop, if you ain't glad?"

"'Cause I am doing the work that the Lord appointed me to do."

"Did He ask you what you wanted to do when you got to be a man?"

"Of course not."

"But He knowed, didn't He?"

"Yes."

"Then maybe He'll know what I want to do."

"I don't want you to be a preacher. There is no class of men who do so much work for so little pay. They are the servants of an ungrateful people. Don't be a preacher, my son."

"But s'posen the Lord calls me?"

The minister took up his book, put it down, arose, took up his gloves, put them down, walked across the room, stirred the fire, returned to his chair and sat down. The boy noticing his father's perplexity, repeated the question.

"The Lord may not call you."

"But s'posen He does? Must I run away an' let a whale swallow me an' then get away from the whale an' git mad when I wake up an' find the vine dead an'?"

"No, I tell you!"

"No, you didn't tell me."

"But I tell you so now."

"I'd rather you would behave yourself than do anything else. I am ashamed of you. Every time I begin to talk to you on a serious subject, you turn it off into something foolish. I don't know what is to become of you."

"Won't I be saved?"

"Now just listen to you! Run along now, for there is noise in talking to you."

"Why don't you tell me what you want me to do an' I'll do it?"

Never mind; run along."

When the boy ran along, the minister mused: "There ought to be a better understanding concerning a direct call. Of course we ministers understand it, but it is a difficult matter to—run along now."

The boy had come back.

"An' if I am called must I tend I didn't hear?"

Mr. Mulkittle reached out after the boy but he had vanished.—*Arkansas Traveler.*

Good Seed-Corn.

It is a poor plan to take seed-corn from the bin, or even save it at husking time. It ought to be selected just when the kernels are hardening, about the first of September. Then, in passing through the field, one can see where two ears are set upon one stalk, which should be of medium height, leafy and erect, with ears well covered with husks, and well tipped out. Such ears, upon such stalks, particularly the best ears on two-earred stalks, should have a string tied around them so that at the husking they will be thrown out unhusked. This is no uncommon practice among corn growers who take pride in their own seed-corn. When it comes to husking there ought to be four times as many ears thrown out as will be sufficient for seed, and they will probably be a fine-looking lot, with few exceptions. If the variety is a favorite or a really good one, there will very likely be a sale for these ears at a good price for seed after the best shaped ones have been taken for home use. Which are the best? First: The medium sized ones, because the large ones are monstrosities in a small way, and not so likely to reproduce themselves as to produce a diversity of ears, some large and some small. Second: The even-rowed ones, because irregularities in the rows indicate an unfixed type, and a tendency to depart from the type. An eight rowed corn should always be eight rowed, and eight throughout the ear; so with the ten, the twelve, sixteen, or twenty-rowed ears. Ten at the but, and eight at the tip, shows a wrong tendency, as already said, in the matter of type; besides, it shows an inclination to form big butts. Third: The butts must be small, easy to break off from the stem and husks, yet not weak and flabby, for those are as hard to break off as a leather thong. I have been into fields of corn to husk and had my hands blistered in a short time, on account of the size and toughness of the butts of the ears, while in other corn-fields the work of husking was a real pleasure, at least for a short time. Fourth: The cob must be small, straight and stiff. The size of the cob is easily known by the length of the kernel. When well ripened corn dries on the ear, the cob shrinks more than the grain. Hence it holds the kernel firmly set, and the whole ear feels as

stiff as an oak pin.—*Col. Weld in Amer. can Agriculturist for March.*

Spring Winds and Colds.

Our early spring weather is peculiarly trying to delicate persons, and no one who has any affection of the chest, or bronchial tubes, should expose himself to high winds, especially those that blow from the north or east. As a rule, still, cold weather will never hurt anyone, if properly clothed, but if moderate weather is accompanied by cold winds, then beware. Nervous people will usually find a headache and general depression of the whole system to be the result of a walk on a cold, damp, windy day. But there are many whose business calls them out in all weathers, and to these we would say, take the greatest pains to tone up the system so as to resist cold, and to protect the body against sudden changes. Chest-protectors of silk, chamois skin, or even layers of newspapers, should be worn both back and front, for the lungs lie nearer the shoulders than the chest. It is the food which is digested that supports life. It is a good plan, too, to dash the neck, chest and arms every morning with cold water, rubbing them vigorously afterwards, with a rough towel dipped in alcohol. Hot baths should be taken at night, and cold ones in the morning. When a creepy, chilly sensation is felt, and the first symptoms of cold appear, three or four drops of camphor on a lump of sugar, or in water, will often produce a reaction, and frequently ward off the threatened attack. Healthful sleep is Nature's great restorer, and this should always be procured, but by rational means alone; narcotics, except in extreme cases, are always to be avoided. A biscuit, a bowl of oat-meal porridge, or a glass of warm milk, taken on retiring, will aid in drawing the blood from the brain, and produce sweet, healthy drowsiness. Bedrooms should be well ventilated and comfortable, and the bed-clothes warm but not heavy. It is said that colds are often contracted in bed, and those with weak chests will do well to wear the lung-protector at night, as well as by day, as the portion of the frame most frequently unprotected is that between the shoulder blades.—*A. C. Sage in American Agriculturist.*

A French Feed.

A New Jersey granger sat down in a fashionable restaurant on Broadway, picked up the menu, which was plentifully interlarded with French dishes, or dishes with a French name, glanced over it, and then said to the waiter: "Durn your furrin' things! Bring me a good squar' dinner—roast beef and baked potatoes, bread and butter, vegetables of any kind, a cup of coffee, and puddin' and pie to top it off with."

His wants were attended to, and while he was doing full justice to the meal, he again took up the menu and commenced to read it.

"Menu!" said he, "I s'pose that means bill of fare. Well, let's see. I will tackle one of these here furrin' jawbreakers, just so's to tell mother and the girls about it. Here, young fellow, bring me some of that [pointing with his fork at haricots et porc au gratin en cocotte a la Bostonienne]. If it's as long as the name I guess it'll fill me up. There's something about pork in it, and pork is my best holt."

The waiter smiled and brought him a little oval dish of baked beans and pork, supposed to be in Boston style. The granger looked as if wondering, and said:

"Well, I'll be durned if that don't beat me! So that's what you call harrycoats and all the rest, is it? Gosh! but won't the gals laugh when I tell 'em about it!" and he slapped his knees and haw-hawed so that a young fellow opposite jumped and spilled his coffee down his shirt-front. Then, turning to the waiter, he astonished that party by asking in a loud voice: "Say, young fellow, did any of these here harrycoats get away while you was ba-ringin' 'em?"—*Chicago Ledger.*

Brown Bread.

Take away civilization and we haven't even a bar of soap left.

If there is anything under the sky at sight of which the gods weep, it is to see a woman trying to do up a package.

A man may be as full of piety as a Sunday-school book, and still look wicked when he comes down kerbump on an icy sidewalk.

If anything is harder to find than an honest gas meter, it must be something you have put away so carefully it will never more turn up.

Cooking is the sum of all science, but the man who degrades his stomach to do homage to a 10-cent restaurant don't seem to know it.

Don't go around looking for a flaw in your neighbor's eyes, but keep your own specks well dusted, and watch the corners on your own side of the street.

Hints to Farmers: Don't salt your cattle on the railroad track. It is a quick way of getting them to market, but rather tedious and red-tapish to collect the pay.

If there is anything more ungainly than a fat man on roller skates, it is a thin woman, loaded to her eyebrows with packages, rushing against time to board a street-car that won't stop.

The brightest promise may be dimmed. An Eastern man spent \$10,000 in educating his son; but the youth now talks through his nose, and has fallen in love with a girl who eats onions and is flat-footed.

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