

DANGER IN A SHAKE.

A LEARNED DISQUISITION ON DISEASE TRANSFER.

Microbes of Every Kind Find Lodgment in the Skin—Contact Even of the Cleanly May Spread Contagion—Serious Results From Hand Claspings.

Is it possible for one man to communicate disease to another by the shaking of hands?

If this question be true, should the custom be abandoned or should it be modified under medical instruction so as to minimize the danger?

The existence of micro-organisms inimical to life and health has been established beyond dispute. Dr. Breiter founds his thesis, recently printed in The Medical Record, on this hypothesis. But his leading point, insisted upon with much force, is the danger which is hidden in the apparently harmless and sometimes pleasing custom of shaking hands. He says:

"That the surface of the human body is a very hotbed for the propagation of a great variety of micro-organisms. Fuebinger, Mittman, Bizzozero, Magiora and Welch have elucidated most conclusively. It is certainly beyond the shadow of a doubt that in the presence of a predisposing factor and sometimes even without that the microbic diseases are ushered into existence by their individual prototypes, this being essentially brought about by contact in some way of the two contingent forces. Modern surgery is founded on this principle. The carelessness with which we prepare our hands and surgical instruments before and after a surgical operation well exemplifies the importance of a familiarity with its dangers in every sense.

"We recognize that many of our microbic diseases, especially of the exanthematic type, eliminate their toxic element very largely through the medium of the skin, which undergoes extensive exfoliation, disseminating the poison far and wide. Isolation is resorted to and enforced most rigorously, thereby checking the spread of the disease, and then disinfectants lavishly used cause the destruction of the offending armies. In the era of scientific prophylaxis consequent upon the introduction of the microscope, bacteriology and antisepsis we find a steady decline of epidemics either developing in the outer world or in our hospital wards. Yet accidental inoculations of tuberculosis, smallpox and vaccinia, as well as more horrible diseases, still exist and are but demonstrations of either an unavoidable cause or a faulty observance of established data."

Dr. Breiter gives a thorough discussion as to what may be the result of contact of the hands. He declares that with men who are of cleanly habits, but who have acquired disease and such as they would wish to hide from their fellow men, the specific bacillus of this disease has been found in filth collected from the hand. He has found tubercle bacilli in the dirt taken from the hand of the man suffering from tuberculosis, the Klebs-Loeffler microbe among cases of suspected diphtheria and had no doubt that the specific germs of every microbic disease may and would be found in millions on the surfaces of the hands if proper experimentation were made. He proceeds as follows:

"Many victims of scarlet fever, both in the early and desquamative stages, especially the latter, are walking the streets of every large city ready to ingraft upon the moist hand of any chance acquaintance the prolific virus of the disease. The same may be said of persons with pulmonary tuberculosis, whose hands and handkerchiefs, through constant wiping of the mouth, are foul and saturated with the bacteria laden expectoration of the disease. Tuberculosis of the hand, the lesion large or small in area, often painless and unrecognized as such for a long while and perhaps untreated, is by no means an infrequent occurrence. Scabies, we know, has a marked predilection for the hand. Need I mention others? Now whether these conditions are the result of hand to hand contact or not does not matter. The conditions themselves are dangerous elements, and it is the consideration of such factors in the causation of disease that we are studying.

"Of course the mucous membrane serves as a better pabulum for the invasion and development of micro organisms, but the skin is not absolutely negative in that respect, and if it were it would make little difference, as the two, skin and mucous membrane, are very often in close apposition with each other. We know that the hand has carried bacteria to the mouth, disseminating contagion in that way. Typhoid fever, Asiatic cholera, diphtheria and other diseases are known to have been produced that way. Why search through medical libraries for similar and perhaps more conclusive evidence? The subject has passed the stage of novelty. So why do we professional people are by reason of our profession forced to invite and then to battle—for we have antiseptics—with these enemies, there is no reason why we should unnecessarily and under the cloak of custom invite them and then leave them to do their harm.

"Some may look upon this subject with derision. Nevertheless the truth is this: No matter how small the percentage of evil consequences arising from this universal handshaking, the total number, in view of its extensiveness, must necessarily be great. The subject is deserving of serious consideration. Conscientious physicians and surgeons will accord it."

Freddy's Fear.

They pass a plate of cakes to Freddy at dessert. He puts out his hand, hesitates, then draws it back and begins to weep.

"What are you crying for?" asks his mother.

"Because you are going to scold me when I choose the biggest one."—Freddy.

ONCE THEY WERE MEDIUMS.

Now They Explain Their Sins by Tossing Balls of Blue Fire.

Close by the Northwestern tracks at Leavitt street is the home of the "juggling sisters." They were twin prestidigitators in their days of life, so runs the tradition, and now they toss balls of blue fire about as the juggler does eggs, cannon balls and the like. Their pet amusement is to stand on their heads and toss the balls as if they were standing afoot. The force of gravity seems to be reversed for their benefit, for they "toss" the balls of fire down, and the little flames "fall" up. All this is set down just as James MacCourtney, the oldest settler in the neighborhood, tells it. He said the other day:

"Them broad windys over there on the north side of the old building is the place where the sisters comes to show themselves. The year of the World's fair I counted up their performances, an they come every 56 days. The reason fer that is somethin I could never guess, but some smart young chap here figured out that it was always in the dark of the moon. I've noticed since that there never was no moonlight when they got up there in the windys.

"What's the cause of their hauntings the old place? Why, sir, the story's so old there can't no truth nor lie be made out on it. There's no man in these diggin's longer'n I be, an I ken the story only by hearsay, so to speak. I heard it from my granddaddy, an he said he heard it when he was a young man somin here. That mus' 'a' ben in the thirties. Onnyways he sed that the two sisters was peresididators. It seems like they give a performance in the house, which was new then in course, an the pair of them agreed ter be locked up in a box that was to be sealed an fastened, an then they was to get out without breakin in the seals. Well, they was locked up, but they couldn't get out, an purty soon they foun themselves so short of breath they couldn't holler loud enough to be heard. In course they was in a room away from the other people, so's the common folk couldn't see how the trick was turned. When they couldn't holler, they tried rappin, an the others only thought they was a-workin out of the box an so didn't pay attention. After an hour or so the other peoples got nervous an went in an opened the box, an there was the two sisters, cold dead. They buried 'em together in the box in the yard back of the house, an that's why they juggle the fire balls upside down like."—Chicago Chronicle.

MAKING ARTIFICIAL ICE.

How the Plants Are Constructed and Operated in Philadelphia.

Artificial cold or ice may be most readily produced by the evaporation of a more or less volatile liquid. In the first machines constructed this liquid was water. One-tenth of the amount of water used was converted into ice, but as it was necessary to maintain a vacuum in the apparatus its perfect working was a difficult problem. A more readily volatile liquid, therefore, had to be substituted, such as liquefied sulphurous acid and liquefied ammonia. Being gaseous at ordinary temperatures, they are very suitable substances for this purpose. The ammonia ice machine is the one in most general use—in fact, it finds exclusive application in this city. This liquefied ammonia is allowed to expand in coils of pipes which are placed in tanks filled with brine. The temperature of the brine is thus reduced to a point below the freezing point of water—that is, to 14-18 degrees F.

In this refrigerated brine are placed galvanized iron tanks having the shape of the large cakes of ice which one is accustomed to see in the wagons that pass through our city streets. After a period of 48-50 hours this can of water is converted into solid ice. The can is hoisted out of the brine, warmed with hot water, which allows the cake to slip out upon a shoot that runs into the storage rooms. The gaseous ammonia in the pipes can be used over and over again, a large compression engine being a part of the plant, which reduces the expense of the process. From this description it should be plain that there can be no taint of ammonia to give a taste to the ice.

The plants usually employ distilled or artesian water, so that the ice is of the best quality. Whatever impurities the water contains are collected in the white streak found in the center of each cake. The pure water separates from the impure and freezes first. Even ten years ago the demand for ice was supplied from natural sources, the harvests from our own Pennsylvania rivers, which were stored every winter in great houses on the shores of the streams, being supplemented by shipments throughout the summer from Maine. There are now in Philadelphia 16 ice-making plants, some of which yield over 100 tons per day each, and the artificial product for several years has been a serious competitor of the natural article.—Manufacturer.

No Negro in South Africa.

The word "negro" is not heard in South Africa excepting as a term of opprobrium. Over and over again have Afrikaner Englishmen stopped me when speaking of Zulua, Basutos, Matabele and so on as negroes. "You in America only know the blacks who come over as slaves. Our blacks are not to be confused with the material found on the Guinea coast."—"White Man's Africa," by Poultney Bigelow.

A Boston Newspaper Complains that the famous Bunker Hill monument, which when first erected was the tallest creation of man in this country, has now become quite insignificant in height. It is 220 feet high, or 327 feet shorter than city hall tower in Philadelphia.

Greater Glasgow, with a population of 858,000, has only 494 medical men, or one doctor to 1,726 of the population. It must be a healthy place.

A Few Industries Are Still Lagging.

But R. G. Dun & Co. Show a Gratifying Increase in General Business Circles.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

With a volume of business remarkable for the time of the year, 38 per cent. larger than a year ago and 10.4 per cent. larger than in 1892 in payments through clearing houses, it is discouraging that one or two industries are lagging. Demand for most goods is more heavy for the season, manufacturing works are better employed and orders booked and prospects for the future are more encouraging, than at this season in any other year of which equally definite records exist. Exports of products continue surprisingly heavy in spite of some rise in prices. Treasury receipts from customs were larger in twenty days of January than in the entire month of October or November.

Railroad earnings in January thus far reported have been 17.6 per cent. larger than last year, and 10.3 per cent. larger than in 1892.

The rise of wheat above a dollar in regular sales was not accompanied by signs of speculative excitement. The fact that cargoes of corn were shipped during the week both to Egypt and Russia, the very countries upon which Europe most relies for bread stuffs next to the United States, affected trade not unreasonably.

For this season, at least, the general demand for iron products is beyond precedent, including 150,000 tons steel rails for the week and 1,200,000 already this year, orders for plates so large that Pittsburgh works send away some to other concerns, unable to fill all they receive; orders for bar such that many concerns are obliged to refuse more; an excellent demand for sheets, and fair for structural forms. Prices of all finished products are sustained by the demand.

The great strike of operators in cotton mills of New England seems as convenient to mill owners with their heavy stocks unsold as if they had ordered it. Probably it will last long enough to work off stocks, and the print cloth market is already about 1 per cent. stronger while a slight advance is noted in some other cotton goods. With very stagnant markets for wool, the inquiry for round lots is mainly for three-eighths and quarter blood.

Failures for the week have been 374 in the United States, against 409 last year and fifty-three in Canada against sixty-five last year.

A rather curious legal decision has been rendered at Kingston, N. Y. It is to the effect that a subscription to a church debt cannot be collected by law on the ground that the subscriber, if not a member of the church, gets no consideration therefor. Surrogate Betts rules that an outsider, a non-church member, may be temporarily worked on in his feelings by fervent appeals to subscribe to help pay off a congregation's debt when in his cool headed, saner moments he would not at all do such a thing. It may be simply the "contagious spirit" of the occasion that prompts him to make the tender. Under these circumstances the surrogate decides that when in the cool after moments he takes no step to make good his word he cannot be legally compelled to do so.

NEVER WORRY—Take them and go about your business—they do their work whilst you are doing yours. Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are system renovators, blood purifiers and builders; every gland and tissue in the whole anatomy is benefited and stimulated in the use of them. 40 doses in a vial, 10 cents.—76. Sold by C. A. Klein.

Promise of a Mild Winter.

Thus far we have experienced only one real cold wave and that was not a remarkable one. We are now in the very heart of winter, in the midst of warm airs, and the grass on the lawns and in the fields are green. We have had little familiarity with snow and ice. While it is always rash to make predictions about the weather, and while even the weather men, with the benefit of all their observations, frequently miss it when they only make prophecy for twenty-four hours in advance, still, according to precedents drawn from former experience, we are warranted in the belief that the winter is going to let us off easy. If the cold does not get a good grip prior to this time in January it is seldom able to catch on. Last winter was similar to what this one promises to be. It gave us few really cold waves and those were not of long duration.

The absence of long periods of extreme cold means a great deal. It results in a great saving of fuel; it takes less to feed people, and it lessens the death rate, since extremes of temperature always prey upon the weak among us, while moderation prolongs life.

When bilious or costive, eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed. 10c, 25c. 4-T-I.

A Mother's Misery.

The story of this woman is the every day history of thousands who are suffering as she did; who can be cured as she was; who will thank her for showing them the way to good health.

The most remarkable thing about Mrs. Nellie J. Lord, of Stratford Corner, N. H., is that she is alive to-day.

No one, perhaps, is more surprised at this than Mrs. Lord herself. She looks back at the day when she stood on the verge of death and shudders. She looks ahead at a life of happiness with her children, her husband and her home with a joy that only a mother can realize.

Mrs. Lord is the mother of three children, two of whom are twins; until the twins came nothing marred the joy of her life.

Then she was attacked with heart failure and for a year was unable to attend to the ordinary duties of the home. In describing her own experience Mrs. Lord says:

"I had heart failure so bad I was often thought to be dead. With this I had neuralgia of the stomach so bad it was necessary to give me morphine to deaden the pain. Sometimes the doctors gave me temporary relief, but in the end it seemed as if my suffering was multiplied. Medicine did me no good and was but an aggravation. I was so thin my nearest friends failed to recognize me. No one thought I would live. I was in despair and thought that my

days were numbered. My mother brought me Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and the first box made me feel better. I continued the treatment and to-day I am well.

"When I commenced to take the pills I weighed 120 pounds; now I weigh 146 and feel that my recovery is permanent. I owe my happiness and my health to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. My husband was benefited by them. I have recommended them to many of my friends and will be glad if any word of mine will direct others to the road of good health."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People have cured many cases of almost similar nature.

The vital elements in Mrs. Lord's blood were deficient. The haemoglobin was exhausted. She was unfit for the strain she was compelled to undergo. Her nervous system was shattered and her vitality dropped below the danger point.

A collapse was inevitable. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cured her by supplying the lacking constituents of health by filling the veins with blood rich in the requisite element of life. The heart resumed its normal action; the nervous system was restored to a state of harmony, and the neuralgic affection disappeared.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by druggists everywhere, who believe them to be one of the most efficacious medicines the century has produced.

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Some Notable Features: CHAS. A. DANA'S REMINISCENCES These reminiscences contain more unpublished war history than any other book except the government publications. Mr. Dana was intimately associated with Lincoln, Stanton, Grant, Sherman, and the other great men of the Civil War. He had the confidence of the President and his great War Secretary, and he was sent on many important investigations in the army. Lincoln called him 'The Eyes of the Government at the Front.' Every word in these memoirs are bits of Secret History and Fresh Revelations of Great Men. These Reminiscences will be illustrated with many Rare and Unpublished War Photographs from the government collection, which now contains over 8,000 negatives of almost priceless value. The Christmas McClure's contained a complete Short Story by Rudyard Kipling entitled "The Tom of His Ancestress," the tale of a clouded Tiger, an officer in the Indian army, and a rebellious tribe. We have in hand also a New Ballad, a powerful, grim, moving song of War Ships. It will be superbly illustrated. Mr. Kipling will be a frequent contributor. ANTHONY HOPE'S NEW ZENDA NOVEL "Rupert of Hentzau," the sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda." In splendid invention, in characters, in dramatic situations, it is the noblest and most stirring novel that Anthony Hope has ever written. Rudyard Kipling, Robert Barr, William Allen White, Jan Macdaren, Octave Thanet, Stephen Crane, and many others, the best story writers in the world, will contribute to McCLURE'S during the coming year. EDISON'S LATEST ACHIEVEMENT Edison's Wonderful Invention. The result of eight years' constant labor. Mountains ground to dust and the iron ore extracted by magnetism. The Fastest Ship. An article by the inventor and express train. Making a Great Telescope, by the most competent authority. A character sketch and substance of a conversation with this eminent scientist on unsolved problems of science. Drawn from fifteen years' personal experience as a brakeman, fireman and engineer, by Herbert H. Hamilton. It is a narrative of work, adventure, hazards, accidents and escapes, and is as vivid and dramatic as a piece of fiction. THE CUSTER MASSACRE The account of this terrible fight, written down by Hamlin Garland as it came from the lips of Two Moons, an old Indian chief who was a participant in it. Its houses, streets, means of travel, water supply, safeguards of life and health, sports and pleasures—the conditions of life of the perfected city of the next century, by Col. George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner of the Street-Cleaning Department of New York. MARK TWAIN Mark Twain contributes an article in his old manner, describing his voyage from India to South Africa. The illustrations are by A. B. Frost and Peter Newell, and are as droll and humorous as the article itself. Andrew: His Balloon and his Expedition, from materials furnished by the brother of Mr. Stringberg, Andrew's companion. Seen Helium Unexplored Asia, a story of remarkable adventure and endurance. Lander in Tibet. His own story, he was captured, tortured and finally escaped to India. Jackson in the Far North. The famous explorer writes of the years he lived in regions far north of the boundaries of human habitation. NANSEN The great Arctic explorer has written an article on the possibilities of reaching the North Pole on the methods that the next expedition should adopt, and the important scientific knowledge to be gained by an expedition; concerning the climate, the ocean currents, depths and temperature of the water, etc. This knowledge will be of the greatest value to science. The best artists and illustrators are making pictures for McCLURE'S MAGAZINE. A. B. Frost, Peter Newell, G. D. Gibson, Howard Pyle, Kenyon Cox, G. R. Linton, W. D. Stevens, Alfred Brummer, and others. FREE! The November number will be given free with new subscriptions. This number contains the opening chapters of Dana's Reminiscences, Mark Twain's Voyage From India to South Africa, the account of Edison's great invention, and a mass of interesting matter and illustrations. Be sure to ask for it in subscribing. 10 cts. a Copy. \$1.00 a Year. The S. S. McCLURE CO., 200 East 25th Street, New York

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A LARGE and well furnished dining room has been opened by HARRY AURAND, on the second floor of his RESTAURANT, restaurant. Meals will be served at the regular dining hours for 25c, and they can also be obtained at any time. The table will be supplied with the delicacies of the season and the service will be first-class. Entrance by door between Restaurant and Malfer's grocery store.

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