

## Annotations.

## A LAST VOICE FOR PEACE.

Baroness Bertha von Suttner, who is so constant an advocate of international peace, and is designated as one of the recipients of the Nobel prize for her efforts to this end, has, as vice-president of the Berne Peace Society, and in the name of many millions, telegraphed to President Roosevelt begging him to act as mediator between Russia and Japan.

## FILTHY LUCRE.

We are entirely in sympathy with the *Lancet* in its contention that while all money systems of exchange, whether by means of coins or paper, are necessarily not quite in accord with the best interests of sanitation, at least some steps might be taken by bank authorities which would prevent the circulation of coin in a grossly filthy condition. The bronze coin doing duty in the public-house, for example, is frequently sticky from coming into contact with the swipes on the counter; the change from the butcher is often besmirched with something more offensive than fat, and the odorous trades, the fried-fish shop and the oil shop, leave evidence of their association upon the coin. The bronze and silver money handed in bulk to the banks from the environment of Billingsgate or Smithfield, or even Covent Garden, is often in the most disgusting state, and it is handed back again to the public in the same revolting condition.

Surely some steps might be taken to cleanse such coins when received by a bank before they are again issued. It is easy to realise that much disease may be spread by coins; thus the penny which has been in the mouth of the child sickening with diphtheria or other infectious disease, the coins handled by a person suffering from erysipelas, the paper money—more especially for small sums, such as dollars—which is constantly passing through unclean hands, the pice which in tropical countries are frequently handled by natives affected by leprosy and other diseases of the skin, must be a source of constant danger. Steps should certainly be taken in these days when we have some slight appreciation of the danger of dirt as a disseminator of disease, to render our currency as safe as may be, and, certainly, it should be cleansed periodically from the grosser impurities which it annexes.

## Medical Matters.

## ENEURESIS IN CHILDREN.



Dr. Percy Lewis, writing in the *British Journal of Children's Diseases*, says that the variety of causes to which this condition has been attributed, and the very diverse treatments which have been recommended for its cure, suggest that its pathology has not been accurately studied. The subjects of the complaint are mostly unhealthy in aspect, being either anaemic, bilious-looking, or lymphatic. Their skins are dull and inclined to acne or some of the low forms of eczema. They generally are not fond of meat, eat irregularly, and live mostly on farinaceous and saccharine foods. They are disinclined for exertion or school work. If these children are subjected to the usual routine of being taken up frequently during the night to pass water, they are found overcome with sleep and very difficult to rouse. They seem in a kind of stupor, into which they at once relapse on being put back to bed. At each time on being taken up they pass a large quantity of urine. Yet a short time later they are found asleep, and the bed "deluged" with water. If the urine be measured it will be observed that there is seldom less than two pints passed in the night, and that this is sometimes nearly or quite doubled. On analysis the urine is found to have a very low specific gravity (1002—1005 is not unusual), neutral or alkaline reaction, and with a deposit of triple phosphates or oxalates. Very frequently a trace of albumin is present. The condition then at night is one of polyuria. The urine tends to become normal in the daytime, except in cases where the incontinence is continued during the day. The large quantity passed and the way in which the bed is "deluged" show that the bladder is not emptied until it is full. The unirritating urine does not give a sufficient "call" to the central nervous system to awaken the patient, but enough to start the necessary reflex for emptying the bladder only.

The treatment of this complaint, which has for some years been successfully carried out by the writer, was suggested by the consideration of a similar condition which occurs in infants fed on starchy foods. Such children always pass a larger amount of urine than normal. Their nurses complain that they are always soaking their diapers. When their starchy

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