

his spring, on the newest and most improved methods, and it is hoped that it will lead to the erection of many similar homes in other places.

The Danish Government has issued the preliminary draft of a law concerning the combating of tuberculosis, in which notification of the disease plays a prominent part.

In Saxony—the first country in Germany to recognise by legislative measures the importance of the question—compulsory notification has been in force since 1900. Even the women who lay out corpses are bound to give written notice of all deaths resulting from tuberculosis of the lungs or larynx. In some parts of Norway compulsory notification is not only required of the presence of the disease, but also of any change of address of persons affected by it.

We have, undoubtedly, much to learn, as a country, from the methods adopted by others in this crusade, and we shall look forward with great interest to the reports from Paris in October.

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### Practical Points.

- Dr. Alice M. Smith, writing in the *Trained Nurse* on the general nursing of the eruptive fevers, gives the following note on cerebro-spinal meningitis:—
- Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis or Fever.**
- Age usually attacked.*—Under twenty-four.
  - Ætiology.*—Diplococcus of Fränkel.
  - Predisposing cause.*—Youth, poverty, debility.
  - Type.*—Severe.
  - Incubation or latent period.*—Varies greatly.
  - Prodromata.*—Severe, twenty-four hours to eight days.
  - Duration.*—Three to four weeks or longer.
  - Isolation.*—Six weeks or longer.
  - Temperature.*—May be 103 deg. to 104 deg. Fahr.
  - Pulse.*—May be 60 to 160.
  - Total duration of fever.*—Three to four weeks or longer.
  - Most infectious period.*—Not known.
  - Most fatal period.*—Fifth to eighth day.
  - Mortality.*—One in three.
  - Infection is chiefly through.*—Breath and the vapours from the skin.
  - The power of infection.*—Weak.
  - The vitality of infecting power.*—Weak.
  - Infective distance.*—Moderate.
  - First symptoms.*—Very sudden onset, vomiting, severe headache, pains in muscles of neck, and stiffness of neck.
  - Eruption appears.*—Second or third day. Not always present.
  - Characteristic odour.*—None.
  - Some of the characteristic differences of eruption and symptoms.*—Blotchy purple spots and petechiæ are sometimes universally present over entire body. Urticarial, roseolous or erythematous rashes have been observed. The spleen is usually swollen. Herpes is frequent. The urine may contain sugar, albumen, and even blood. The muscles of the neck and back become stiff—even opisthotonos and photophobia may occur.

*Eruption ends.*—In five to seven days.

*Desquamation.*—Scales.

*Organs chiefly affected.*—Brain, spinal cord, and muscles.

*Complications.*—The joints may become red and swollen; there may be stupor or coma, pleurisy, pneumonia, bronchitis, arthritis, pericarditis, chronic headache, nephritis, and parotitis.

*Sequelæ.*—Chronic headaches, chronic hydrocephalus, aphasia, mental impairment, defective vision, defective hearing, and paralysis of cranial nerves may result. Death is common.

An example of what can be accomplished by honest endeavour, controlled by scientific knowledge,

**Scientific Street Cleaning.** in the administration of affairs concerning the public is furnished by the work of Street Cleaning Commissioner John M. Woodbury, of New York. Not satisfied with the old and inefficient method of cart-sprinkling and sweeping, he introduced the plan of washing the streets by means of compressed air machines, or with hose from the hydrants. Instead of laying the dust by sprinkling, he says the streets should be washed so clean there will be no dust. During the past year an average of sixty miles of street has been washed daily, between the hours of one and four in the morning. By washing, Dr. Woodbury means applying the water with sufficient force to remove the gum which clings to the surface of asphalt; this, he says, is the only sanitary way to clean such pavement. The proof of his assertion is found not only in the comparative freedom from dust as raised by the older methods, but also in a more positive way of bacteriologic tests. The latter show that bacteria are very largely removed from the streets by washing them as described. An agar plate exposed at a point on Fifth Avenue just after the passage of a sprinkling wagon developed 460 colonies of bacteria. A second plate, exposed at the same place for an equal time after approved flushing of the street, showed only ten colonies. Another proof of the efficacy of the plan adopted is the low death-rate in the part of the city which has been so cleaned for a considerable period of time. Extended comment upon these facts would be superfluous. They are made possible by putting the right man in the right place, a consummation devoutly to be desired in many of our graft-cursed cities.

The advice of Dr. Weber for  
**The Prolongation of Life.**

the prolongation of life is summed up in eating, drinking, and physical indulgence, securing of pure air out of doors, and in keeping of every organ of the body as near as possible in constant working order, daily regular exercise in all weathers, supplemented in many cases by breathing exercises, climbing and walking tours, early going to bed and rising and restricting of sleep to six or seven hours, daily baths, according to individual conditions, cold or warm, or warm followed by cold, regular work and mental occupation, cheerfulness, employment of the great power of the mind in controlling passions and nervous fears and strengthening the will in carrying out whatever is useful in checking the craving for stimulants, alcoholics, and other injurious agencies. This is all very sound advice, but we have known many persons who have attained a hearty and sound old age, who have violated the majority of these provisions.

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