

ical Cavendish lecture called "Dreamy Mental Condition," Sir James gives numerous instances of eminent men who were subject to fits. Four of the greatest military names he disposes of in a breath, reminding us that Cæsar, Marlborough, Napoleon and Wellington were all thus afflicted. Mohammed depended on fits for his inspired utterances, like an oracle of old. Molière, Balzac, Sheridan, Flaubert and Dostoieffsky show that epilepsy is no bar to literature; and in every branch of art and science examples might be found of a similar kind. We are not to infer from this, however, that epilepsy is beneficial or even harmless. It is a sure destroyer of intellect, blighting and disabling as it runs its mysterious course.

The *Sanitary Journal* calls attention to the unsatisfactory conditions under which insanitary houses are closed, and cites the following instance:

In March, 1894, the medical officer of health of a small burgh represented to his Local Authority that a house in the burgh was in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

The house was let in tenements to five families, comprising in all thirty-one persons, and it contained three rooms in the ground story and three in the roof. Structurally the house was in bad repair, and it was damp; the lighting and ventilation were bad; there was no proper water supply; and there was overcrowding.

A closing order was made in due course, but no attempt being made to enforce it, the tenants did not leave the house. No rent was paid or demanded after May, 1894.

In March, 1895, without previous warning, workmen appeared in the early morning and proceeded to remove the roof, though many of the tenants were still in bed.

It was not definitely ascertained whether or not a demolition order had been obtained, but the demolition was carried out at the instance of the owner.

In spite of vigorous objections and attempts to smoke the workmen off the premises, the roof was completely torn off in two days.

During the progress of demolition two families left, one obtaining temporary lodgings in a stable, and the other being received into lodgings in the burgh. Ten persons remaining were quite unable to obtain in the burgh, house accommodation of any kind, a fact due not so much to the absolute lack of such accommodation as to their being notoriously bad characters. These people, including an infant three months old, remained in two of the rooms on the ground floor, covered by the ceiling alone, and this, broken in many places, readily allowed rain to soak through even where intact. The windows of these rooms were broken, light being admitted through thin cloths hung over the window frames.

This state of affairs continued for two weeks, and even then the people did not expect to get houses till the May term, some six weeks later.

It seems strange that in the name of the public health, a house, be the sanitary conditions never so bad, may be pulled down about the ears of its occupiers, so

adding to their misery and squalor and augmenting in every way the insanitary conditions of their existence.

Drug, Chemical, and Allied Trades' Exhibition.

THIS valuable exhibition was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Sept. 10th to 13th, and was organised by the *British and Colonial Druggist*. Our representative, who visited the hall, gives us the following description: No trouble or expense has been spared to make this exhibition a success. The exhibits are all arranged in most artistic form, and comprise the latest inventions and improvements of our principal firms. The Pompadour Band (Miss Eleanor Clausen's Orchestra of young ladies) has been engaged to perform each day, and have a very attractive programme.

On Tuesday there was a conference of chemists, "Anti-cutting" being the subject.

On Thursday an admirable Drill and Ambulance Display was given by the St. Clement's Ambulance Brigade.

The exhibit of Messrs. Forbes, Abbott and Lennard is specially interesting at this season, as they show various forms of a valuable disinfectant they have named "Vitos"—a special form of carbolic acid soluble in water in all proportions. This firm also shows Vitos Liquid Dentifrice, Vitos Tooth Powder, Vitos Smelling Salts, and a special preparation of Vitos for surgical purposes.

Tidman and Son, Limited, of sea-salt fame, exhibit Creamoline Soap, which is richly perfumed and most agreeable for toilet purposes, also Salicylic Soap for medical and nursery use, and also a novelty in the shape of a Tooth Powder Jar, with sprinkler top.

The Chemists' Association, Curtain Road, have a baby's Feeding Bottle, boat shape, with new wide mouth, and teat fitting on neck of bottle, thus avoiding the use of the dangerous long tube; also the Louise Feeder, graduated on side to indicate measurements, and a Tooth Powder Bottle of convenient form, with hole in side and revolving lid stopper.

Messrs. Hertz and Collingwood show their new tonic sherry and bitters, which they have named Jerez Cones Wine.

Hill's Cajuput Glycerine Jelly Nurses will find useful for their hands. It is neither greasy nor sticky; it is used in massage, and is excellent for tender feet.

Messrs. Glyn and Co. have Mineral Waters in all varieties, and will refill original syphons, thus dispensing with the trouble of charges for syphons.

Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds have an interesting exhibit of their various preparations. Lano-creolin is most useful for disinfecting the hands.

Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome have, as usual, a most artistic exhibit of their many valuable preparations. We will especially notice some of these next week.

Mr. Vincent Wood showed some excellently made Abdominal Belts, Corsets, &c.

The *British and Colonial Druggist* have a most artistic stall, showing their publications, together with THE NURSING RECORD and our other publications; and are to be congratulated on the able manner in which they have organised and arranged this exhibition for the comfort of exhibitors and the instruction of visitors.

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