

**Medical Matters.****OPEN AIR TREATMENT.**

ONE of the greatest advances which have been made in the treatment of Consumption, in recent years, has been due to the clearer comprehension of its causation and the consequent degeneration. The part played by impure air in the development of lung changes has now led to what is termed the open air treatment, which is being more and more widely adopted. In brief, the object to be attained is to supply the affected lungs with as much pure air—that is to say oxygen—as possible, and combined with this to protect the consumptive from harmful influences such as damp or impure air. For this reason, resorts are recommended of which the soil is well drained, where there is a high average amount of sunlight, and where the rainfall is comparatively small. With these conditions, it can be safely assumed that the air will be pure and fairly warmed and dry. In other words, the conditions are provided which are most destructive to bacilli, and least advantageous to their growth and development. It is, unfortunately, too much the fashion to send patients suffering from phthisis and other lung diseases to continental or foreign resorts. It is now known that within the limits of the British Isles there can be found places with equal climatic advantages and possessing the additional benefits obtainable by propinquity to friends and relations. One of the most harmful effects of sending abroad persons who are more or less seriously ill is to cause them more or less anxiety concerning those they leave behind them; a mental effect which undoubtedly plays its part in diminishing the good effects of the change of scene and climate. It is furthermore undeniable that, in England, many luxuries and comforts are obtainable which are conspicuous by their absence in foreign towns. With regard to the open-air treatment of Consumption, Ventnor and Falmouth have in recent years been shown to possess the greatest advantages in the case of many patients for whom the Riviera and Madeira were formerly so largely recommended.

**TUBERCULOUS MILK.**

JUST at present, there is a renewal of the crusade against Consumption, which has during

the last quarter of a century been several times attempted. The dangers of unboiled milk as a means of conveying tubercular disease have been pointed out on many occasions, and it has been shown that in spite of the improvement of the health of the people as shown by statistics, and the lowered mortality of adults, there is a greater mortality amongst young children than was formerly the case. And, moreover, the mortality from consumption is far larger than it should be, considering the great advance made by sanitary science. Rightly or wrongly, this mortality is being largely ascribed to the influence and dangerous effect of the milk of tuberculous cows. It has been recently stated that the milk from animals showing no ordinary signs of disease were found to contain large numbers of the tubercle bacillus; and that while increasing care is being taken to prevent diseased animals being used for human food, the same poison is being conveyed into our bodies in the more insidious form of milk. The remedy, however, is as simple as it is absolutely safe. If milk were boiled, any dangerous germs which it contains, whether those of tubercle, typhoid, or scarlet fever, are instantly destroyed, and rendered harmless; and that this is the actual result has been proved in many epidemics of fever, which did not appear in houses in which all the milk taken was boiled, while it attacked every occupant of other houses to which the same milk was supplied, but in which it was consumed in the uncooked state.

**BURNS.**

ON the Continent, the antiseptic treatment of burns is much more carefully carried out than is usually the case in this country. Critics may say that it is more advisable to employ such methods in the case of people who are less addicted to soap and water than Englishmen are. But, at any rate, the results which are obtained are excellent. All burns are soaked for more or less time in a strong solution of carbolic acid, which not only cleanses, but also to a considerable degree deadens the pain of the injury. Then the affected part is thickly dusted over with an antiseptic powder, and carefully bandaged with sublimate gauze; the dressing being retained or changed according to the severity of the burn, and recovery certainly being rapid and complete in the great majority of cases.

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