

### Annotations.

#### THE DANGERS OF THE PUSH-CAR.

A serious indictment is laid to the charge of the "toy" perambulator. The popularity of this type of vehicle has lately been very marked. On the score of cheapness it has much to commend it. A woman can buy one for the price of an ordinary umbrella. It folds conveniently for carriage by rail, and, being almost as light as the proverbial feather, it requires little effort to push it along. These advantages have told heavily in its favour, and since the folding push-car, as it is styled, was introduced from America, three or four years ago, it has been steadily superseding the mail-cart. The tendency is one which the medical fraternity views with dislike and apprehension. In the mail-cart the baby lies more or less on its back; in the toy perambulator it is forced to sit bolt upright, throwing the whole weight of the body on the spine. "The effect of such conditions as these," to quote the words of a doctor, "can only be injurious, especially in towns, where children are more liable to rickets, or softening of the bones, than in the country. To sit a baby upright and strap it into one of these things, for perhaps hours together, is absolute cruelty. No child under two years of age should be subjected to that sort of treatment. It is simply making work for the orthopædic hospital."

#### A SANATORIUM ON AN AXIS.

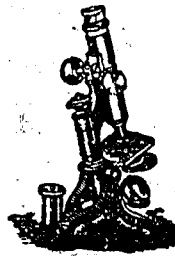
An architect of Paris has devised, for the benefit of consumptives, a revolving house. It is built on a steel plate, and can be moved on its axis in a complete circle, by manipulating a crank in the basement, the motion being so gentle that not an ornament in the house is disturbed. The difficulty about water and gas pipes has been overcome, and, according to newspaper reports, there is nothing to prevent one having a house, fitted with every comfort, which can be kept facing the sun all day. An entire town of these "sunshine houses" is suggested as a plan for a model sanatorium.

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

The House of Commons Committee which has been considering the Bill, empowering the Governors of St. Bartholomew's to demolish the church of St. Bartholomew's-the-Less and to use the site and adjacent burying-ground for the proposed extension of the hospital, last week passed it without amendment, so that it will probably soon pass its remaining stages and receive the Royal Assent.

### Medical Matters.

#### THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF ICTERUS.



Dr. S. Costa (*Rev. de Méd.*) relates the history of an epidemic of icterus, in which he is convinced that the disease spread by contact. The epidemic occurred in a battalion of infantry, consisting of six companies. In all, from July 7th to January 24th, seventy-seven cases of jaundice were treated. The disease was mild in form, and many cases occurred in which the patients did not report themselves sick. The ordinary symptoms of epidemic icterus were noted—discoloration of the skin, increase of urinary pigment, vomiting, and, occasionally, clay-coloured stools. The average duration of the cases was about fifteen days. The troops were operating in a hilly country, where malaria was unknown, and none of the civilian population were known to have suffered from jaundice. Until towards the end of the epidemic, the recruits and young soldiers escaped, only the old soldiers being attacked. The recruits were separated from the regular men. The six companies, being engaged in manoeuvres, were constantly being moved, and, as each was moved near to a company already infected, the jaundice spread to it. At first, the water supply of the camp in which the main body of troops was stationed was suspected, and the men were prevented drinking the water and served with tea at meal-times. This did not check the spread of the epidemic, and cases occurred in the neighbouring camp, which had a different and irreproachable water supply. In the course of the operations, there was only one stretch of country which all six companies had traversed. Cases of jaundice occurred in all the companies, but the first case of the epidemic was found in a company which did not perform this journey till a week after the man attacked had been sent to hospital. The two last patients were young soldiers who did not join the battalion till November, after the manoeuvres were over. They were not affected until twenty-four days after the case immediately preceding. Their illness was slight. Costa believes that this epidemic proves the contagiousness of icterus.

#### BACILLUS OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

What is styled a "colossal discovery"—by the local papers—has been made by Professor

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)