

The "Healtheries" at Dresden.

The Special Correspondent of the *Times* gives most interesting information concerning the Dresden Health Exhibition, who says that it promises to be of extraordinary value and importance. A great deal of space has rightly been given to the illustration of the whole system of workmen's insurance in Germany. From insurance the spectator passes to disease. "All that is known of the sources and methods of infection is explained exhaustively with a great wealth of bacteriological detail. There is a special section of great interest for 'immunity and protective inoculation,' arranged by Dr. Ehrlich and Dr. von Wassermann, and the greatest living authorities have dealt specially with tuberculosis, cancer, syphilis, and kindred diseases, and plague. It is noteworthy here, as indeed throughout the exhibition, that a highly 'modern' frankness has prevailed. It is not merely that wax casts of the most repellent kind abound, but every public aspect of disease is treated with absolute openness. Modern Germany seems to have arrived already at the final conclusion that in such matters the only safe principles are statistical accuracy and fullest publicity.

"A great deal of light is thrown on the care of the teeth in Germany, with reference especially to the school clinics which are springing up all over Germany. There is a special section dealing with 'care of the young,' with an extraordinarily interesting department illustrating the methods and successes of the modern institutions for the prevention of infant mortality. As is well known, Germany has made great progress in this work in recent years, and the success achieved is the principal set-off to the constant fall in the birth-rate. Every aspect of baby-tending and infantile pathology is here laid bare, with luminous demonstration of the greater mortality among bottle-fed infants and the precise effects of irregular nutrition and insanitary surroundings.

"The greatest attraction of the exhibition is a 'Popular' Section, in which the whole mechanism of the human frame is displayed by countless models and photographs, and all that is good and bad for man, as well as much that is neither good nor bad, is illustrated in every conceivable way. Whether from a physiological or a pedagogic point of view the contents of this enormous building are wonderfully interesting and stimulating. The guiding idea, constant repetition of the normal and the perfect among all the abnormalities and degeneracies, is never lost sight of. The principles of sound living are inculcated both systematically and exhaustively. The evils of alcohol are demonstrated—and no less effectively the ravages of corsets upon both the outside and the inside of the female body—and every application of the health-giving properties of air and sun and water is displayed, together with an exhaustive examination of food values and healthy housing. The exhibition is intended to show the public how to get more health for its money, and so foodstuffs and other things are examined from the point of view of the comparative amount of nutritive and other benefits that might be purchased for a mark."

Spots.

During the last epidemic of small-pox many little towns were much troubled in their communal consciences because they had no isolation hospitals. One town, to my knowledge—for I had the happiness to be staying there at the time—was so worried by the lack of any place wherein to put possible victims of the dread disease that they set to work to provide such a place without loss of time. There was no time to build; there were no buildings of any sort available; but fortunately the town is situated upon a wide tidal river. What could be better or safer than a boat, anchored a sufficient distance from the shore? The idea was received with enthusiasm, and its originator was regarded as a public benefactor, almost worthy of a statue in the market square.

A suitable boat was soon found, and as she was considered to be nearing the end of a long and arduous career the price was not high. The interior was fitted up suitably for its purpose—two small wards with two beds in each, one small cabin with two beds for the nurses, and one little kitchen with a one-berth cabin opening off it for the cook-housekeeper-wardmaid-general. A dark, mysterious hole was labelled "store-room," and a cupboard showed in letters of black upon its white-painted door the words "Dispensary."

The next thing for the men of affairs to do was to engage the cook-housekeeper-wardmaid-general (hereafter to be known as the C.H.W.M.G.). She was a difficult person to find. Many women answered the advertisement in the local paper, but some objected to doing their work in the vicinity of a small-pox patient, and the boat was so small that it would be impossible for anyone on board not to be in the immediate vicinity of the patients. Others disliked sleeping on a shelf (as they rudely termed the delightful berth provided for them), and demanded room for their boxes, and cupboards and drawers in which to place their impedimenta. Some even wanted an assistant, though none could say where the assistant was to put herself, the kitchen and the cabin being only built for one, and a small one at that. All objected to being vaccinated, for, as they truly said, no woman could be expected to cook and scrub if she had a bad arm, and if she had not a bad arm that was proof that she need not have been vaccinated.

At last a woman was found who answered all requirements. Having "done for" her old man until he died, and having been cook-housekeeper to an old lady until she died, she

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)