

the opinions of doctors, and even the chance of obtaining insurance at a reduced cost, seems to have very little influence on the habits of the age we live in. To the frequent admonitions of doctors and teachers of temperance, the reply is too apt to be that of Mr. Schmidt, who, upon being told that he could reduce his weight by taking more exercise and drinking no beer, said: "Vell, I would radder be happy dan shkinny."

However, the discrimination shown by life companies in favour of total abstainers from beer and tobacco appears to be thoroughly justifiable.

**The Law and the "Leicester Martyrs."** The so-called "conscience clause" inserted in the British vaccination act continues to occupy a lot of public attention. The latest story of the anti-vaccination crusade comes from Leicester, England. The Board of Guardians, thirty-five gentlemen and five ladies, appeared in the Court of Queen's Bench recently and were required to show cause why a mandamus should not be issued to compel the appointment of a vaccination officer. It seems that the guardians were elected under a pledge to resist compulsory vaccination, and with true British obstinacy have, up to the time of the proceedings in question, remained faithful to their supporters. However, oblivious to the strong if perverted views held by these ladies and gentlemen, the Court of Queen's Bench mandamusd them. Although London newspapers have been reporting great growth in the movement having for its object the withdrawal of the conscience clause inserted in the British vaccination act, it is evident that the "conscientious objectors" are a very lively body. We read that during the journey of the offending guardians to London crowds of sympathizers met them at various stations, and loudly cheered them. Upon their arrival at London they were met by a huge multitude of supporters, who cheered the "Leicester martyrs" and accompanied them in procession.

Some time ago, the Liverpool Health Officer expressed a belief that the freedom of that city from any serious ravages by small-pox is the outcome of the carefully organized system of maintaining vaccination stations to which the people had become accustomed, and the doctor further expressed the opinion that these stations were superior to any system of domiciliary vaccination.

Yet the anti-vaccination party are obdurate, and in the case of Leicester have stubbornly declined to appoint a vaccination officer. Of course, like law-abiding citizens, they will bow down to a mandamus.

The City Press stated that several metropolitan boards of guardians have passed resolutions calling upon the Government to take steps to release themselves from the grave responsibility assumed by their foolish concession to the fads of a few noisy agitators. The same paper added:—

"Possibly the clause will remain in force for a while, but it is very certain that before more than two or three years have passed we shall see the repeal of what ought never to have been placed on the Statute book." It remains to be seen whether the Government are wise enough to admit their mistake at once, or whether they will wait until the folly of the clause has been made apparent in a manner that even the agitators will be compelled to appreciate.

#### **Despite the Doctors.**

In the musical operetta, Trial by Jury, the tendency of the average member of an English jury to weakness, when a fair plaintiff sets "a mesh to entrap the hearts of men," afforded the writer of a very amusing libretto lots of opportunities for playful banter. Even the judge is pictured as yielding to the attractions of the jilted heroine, whom he is made to console by courtship and marriage at the close of the trial. That British juries are susceptible to the sighing and sobbing of a woman has recently been again illustrated in an insurance case tried in London. The Insurance "World" thus tells the story of a widow's tears and their "incalculable value" in influencing the verdict of an honest but soft-hearted British jury:—

"A gentleman lately living at Union Road, Wandsworth, was recently found dead at the bottom of a stone flight of steps leading to his residence. As the deceased was insured, the question naturally arose as to whether death was caused by the fall. An independent medical man gave it as his opinion that the fall did not accelerate death, and that opinion was endorsed by the medical adviser of the insurance company interested. Subsequently a jury found otherwise, and the company has to pay £2,000."

We are not told by the "World" if the winner of this \$20,000 suit was a daughter of the gods and divinely fair. But it is a safe deduction from the apparent contempt shown by this impressionable jury for the opinions of the doctors that she was a Pinafore-ically "plump and pleasing person." There may have been circumstances warranting the decision in question. At the same time we must say that if every British jury should at every similar trial offer up a life insurance company at the shrine of Venus, the dividends of its shareholders will become "small by degrees and beautifully less."

#### **The Next Presidential Election.**

The divergence of public opinion upon the outlook for the next presidential campaign cannot be better illustrated than in the following quotations from the New York "Commercial Bulletin" and a Southern newspaper, the "Daily States." The New York journal says:—

"Those who are familiar with the purposes of the Administration are convinced that the action of Congress at the next session will plant the country firmly upon the gold basis. Some misleading reports have been afloat that the President and the Republican Senators of the Finance Committee were timid about writing the word "gold" in the statutes. There is