

external environment. One group of 57 was manifestly affected more or less by alcohol; the other of 61 was unaffected, or very little affected. Of the 57 who exhibited the affects of alcoholism, 20 had inebriate fathers, the mothers and grandparents being moderate drinkers. Only 45 per cent. of these (9) had healthy constitutions: 31 had inebriate fathers and grandfathers, but temperate mothers and grandmothers. Only 2 of these, or a little over 6 per cent., were healthy. Six children had parents and grandparents intemperate: 1 of these survives, a sufferer from epileptic seizures. In remarkable contrast is the state of the 61 children belonging to temperate families, 82 per cent. of whom enjoy good health, 3 have died, and 8 are in bad health. Prof. Demme also reported the results of an experiment on several children, from whom all intoxicants were kept during eight months, and to whom the usual allowance of wine and water was given during the remaining four months of the year. These children were reported to have slept more soundly and longer, and to have appeared in better spirits and more active, during the non-alcoholic eight months than during the alcoholic four months.

ATMOSPHERIC BACTERIA

The following important conclusions with regard to atmospheric bacteria (from *La Riv. Internaz. d'Igiene*) are formulated from a series of experimental valuations of sea-air, made by Prof. Roster in the island of Elba: 1. The atmosphere of an island contains a much less number of bacteria than that of the main land, and this irrespective of the direction of the wind with regard to the point of observation. 2. The oscillations of atmospheric bacteria are much stronger on an island than on the main land, owing to the alternate prevalence of sea and land breezes. 3. The number of bacteria diminishes to an extraordinary degree when the wind blows from the sea, and correspondingly increases with the setting in of the land breeze. 4. A very small extent of sea will deprive of bacteria air that has passed over the island. 5. A passage of 10 meters over land will charge the atmosphere with bacteria. 6. Atmospheric bacteria increases in numbers with the velocity of

the wind. 7. Rain is a most effective agent for diminishing the number of atmospheric bacteria, whether by direct action in liberating the atmosphere of suspended germs, or by consecutive action in rendering the earth humid and impeding the passage of bacteria from the soil to the air. 8. The great reservoir of atmospheric bacteria is the superficial soil, from which they are detached and transported by the wind. Other factors, less energetic than the direction and force of the wind, rain, and the humidity of the soil, but which must be taken into account, influence the quantitative oscillations of atmospheric bacteria. The night air contains fewer bacteria than the air of the day, and the atmospheric bacteria are more abundant in August than during the months of September and October, when the temperature is lower and the fall rains begin.

TYPHOID FEVER AND FILTH.

Dr. McHenry, in Tennessee Board of Health Bulletin, says: I have now been engaged in the practice of medicine twenty-seven years, and I speak from positive knowledge when I say that, in every instance where I have been called to treat typhoid fever, I have found it to have had its origin from filthy surroundings; and as my practice has been entirely in the country, I have nothing to say about sewer gas and other sources of animal miasm. People in the country—and I doubt not in the city—can appear very neat, well dressed and apparently scrupulously clean, but as soon as you look into the cellar, closet and hidden places, you find them full of rotteness and all uncleanness. The door yard is full of chickens, many of them drooping with cholera, their poisonous droopings getting into the well. Ducks and geese holding a party in a greenish-black pool, which is constantly filtering back into the well out of which the family takes its daily supply, and from which, were you almost perishing with thirst—as I have been many times—you could not drink, nor would you let your horse drink. Is this common? Oh, no; but quite common enough to keep up a supply of typhoid fever in any given neighborhood. I have been twice in my time dismissed from the families wherein was typhoid fever, because, in as gentle a