

HUNGER AND INFECTION.—There is a popular notion that a person is more likely to take a contagious disease when the stomach is empty. Although this fact seems to be well established by experience, nevertheless until recently it had never been established as a scientific fact. Experiments have lately been made upon pigeons, by two Italian physicians, which demonstrate beyond any reasonable doubt that hunger is favorable to the activity of the infectious element, whatever it may be. Pigeons that had been starved, were found to be very susceptible to the contagion of anthrax, although when well fed, they were not at all subject to it. Thus it appears that hunger in some way lessens the ability of the body to defend itself from the attack of disease germs. This is probably largely due to the fact that when one is hungry, there is no gastric juice in the stomach, so that the protecting influence of this fluid is lost; while the lowering of the vital powers as the result of want of food, lessens the resistance of the body to disease.

DR. MACAN, ex-master of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, gave an instructive lecture on the subject of The Health of Mothers before the members of the Ladies Sanitary Association, in which he said: Lawyers did not go about, at the instance of philanthropic ladies, giving lectures as to the best way of avoiding the law or of escaping from it at the least cost by those who were unfortunate enough to get into its meshes. But the self-sacrificing character of the medical profession had emboldened the horary secretary of this Society to ask him to give a lecture to mothers as to the way in which to keep themselves in health. Something might be gained by him in this if it were the custom in this country, as in China, for the doctor to be paid for keeping people in health, and his salary stopped when they got ill; for then he might hope that some of his hearers might come and employ him to keep them in health, and not wait until they were really ill to consult him.

VAN MOLTKE, at ninety, it is authentically reported, rises at five o'clock, makes his own cup of coffee over a spirit-lamp, and busies himself with garden and farm till ten, when he takes a bowl of soup, or a biscuit, with a glass of wine, for a second

breakfast. After this he attends to his correspondence or other business till one. From one to two he lies down. At two he dines sparingly, and works again till friends drop in, with whom he talks or walks, till his eight o'clock tea, and at ten he is in bed. He attributes his clear head and good health to his regular and abstemious habits.

AN EXCELLENT proposal has been made, —that there be cheaper steam-ship travelling across the Atlantic, chiefly it appears by reducing the expenses of the table on the boats. H. P. in the *Illustrated London News* says: "This would be quite possible if the living on board the splendid vessels between New York and Liverpool were less costly. Plain, substantial, and enough is all that is required. Under the new diet regime, of course, there would be less ground-bait for the fishes, yet more comfort for the passengers." This *JOURNAL* strongly supports this wise proposal.

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE, especially in regard to medicine, is said to be a dangerous thing. But it is not a dangerous thing, provided it be knowledge. The self-reliant and pitiable conceit that so often crops up in those who possess the merest smattering of it, is a dangerous thing however.

"**TOMATO POISONING**," is a headline rough on the tomatoe. Dr. Mills (*Int. Den. Jour.*) describes a form of recession of the gums of the superior molars, which he believes to be due to the use of tomatoes as food. Great sensitiveness is manifested along the line of recession, similar to that of an exposed nerve. The only remedy was found to be abstinence from tomatoes. If the disease continues, the teeth gradually fall out.

DIED OF DINNERS, and not of "overwork," is what Miss Kate Field asserts of the late Justice Mathews. She cruelly exposes the sad fact that Chief-Justice Waite and Justice Miller also died of dinners, and that the other members of the Supreme Court are in imminent danger of going, from the same cause, to a sphere where "dinners are unknown."

THE CIGARETTE VICTIM is becoming a daily feature of the current news now, says a Philadelphia paper, and it took the filthy little roller rather longer than was expected to perfect their work, but they are now making a brave showing, which may be expected to increase rapidly as the constitutions of the victims give way.

NAPLES was called "the 'typhoid preserve of Italy,'" but she has banished that disease from her bounds by introducing a supply of pure water from the hills.