

CAPTAIN EADS SHIP RAILWAY.—The *Scientific American* of this week contains two full page illustrations of Captain Eads proposed railway for transporting ships with their cargo across continents. It shows the proposed construction of not only the railroad, but the appliances for transferring the ships from the water to the rail.

Captain Eads claims by his plan to be able to take loaded ships of the largest tonnage from one ocean to the other across the Isthmus of Panama, as readily as can be done by a canal after the De Lesepps plan and at a much less cost for engineering construction.

We must not hope to be mowers,
And gather the ripe gold ears,
Until we have first been sowers,
And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it—
This mystical world of ours:
Life's field will yield, as we make it,
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.

LONDON FOGS.—Dr. Frankland, who has been studying London fogs, finds that the fogs occur in comparatively dry air, and that they cannot be considered as a sign of dampness. Their persistency in a dry atmosphere he has found to be due to a coating of oil, derived from coal smoke, upon the surfaces of the minute vesicles of water composing the fog, and which effectually hinders the evaporation of the water.

THE following which is going the "rounds" should receive serious consideration from those who are inclined take patent "cure alls":—"The trouble about taking a medicine warranted to cure all diseases is that it may not know exactly what is wanted of it, and in that case it will go fooling round the system, liable to do much harm, trying to cure you of some disease that you have not got."

OF DIPHTHERIA, thirty-eight fatal cases were reported for the week ending November 6th, in Brooklyn, with a probability of an increase of the scourge as the winter sets in. The opponents of "traps on main drains" says the *The Plumber & Sanitary Engineer*, were listened to in that city, and to-day the majority of the houses there are without protection from the filthy public sewers, thus affording facilities for the spread of the malady, just in proportion as the germs increase. The Chicago Citizens' Committee, by one of their recommendations, also propose to afford facilities for the spread of similar diseases.

DANGER FROM GLANDERS.—Many people are not aware, says "*Good Health*," that glanders is a disease almost certainly fatal. It most commonly affects the horse, but is communicable to man. The increasing

frequency of the disease in horses makes it important that the public be warned upon the subject. A surgeon in the German army calls the attention of officers and soldiers, or all who have to do with horses, to the danger of using a pocket handkerchief to wipe away any foam from the mouth or nose of a horse which may have been thrown upon their clothes.

HAPPY THOUGHT.—There was once a man who suffered a long time from a decayed tooth, and he was perfectly aware of the cause of his pain. "Why don't you have your tooth pulled?" said a friend to him one day. "Sure enough, why don't I?" and he went and had the painful tooth removed, simply because some one asked him about it. And so we ask the question, "Why don't you clean your cellars?" "Sure enough why don't we?"—*Ex.*

ACCORDING TO THE RECENT CENSUS of New Zealand, the Maories, or primitive inhabitants, are rapidly decreasing, their numbers, which in 1861 were 55,334, having fallen in seventeen years to 43,595, or about twenty per cent. The causes given for this national decay are love of drink, bad food and clothing, neglect of cleanliness, and unwholesome dwellings. The natives of Hawaii are disappearing still more rapidly. In 1866 they numbered 57,125, and had fallen off in the next twelve years to 44,088.

CONSUMPTION IN FOWLS.—It has long been known that cows, sheep, hogs, and other domestic animals, are subject to consumption as well as human beings. What is known as pearl disease, a very common malady among cattle in most civilized countries, is identical with scrofula, which is closely allied to consumption, if not identical with it. It has recently been shown that common domestic fowls are also subject to the very same disease, it being in hens familiarly known as "gapes." When we connect with the above facts, says an exchange, the further fact that tuberculosis is a contagious disease, and is particularly communicable through the use of the flesh of a diseased animal, it becomes very evident that too much care cannot be exercised in the selection of healthy animals for food.

GLUTTONY.—Dr. Gaetan Delaunay, in an address to the French Academy of Science, devotes a chapter to the study of *gourmandise* or gluttony, which, in his opinion, is more commonly observable in men in proportion as they are lower down in the scale of civilization. Intellectual development and an immoderate love of eating and drinking are rarely to be met with in the same person, those who are most addicted to gluttony being savages, negroes, idiots—all, in short, whose brains lie dormant.