

pressed woman-kind. Women are not driven into mourning at the point of the bayonet. The Quakers get along very well without wearing it at all. The sincerity of their grief is not questioned because they remain clad in every day attire. Grief would seem to be a personal affair, sacred to the bereaved individual, needing no outward sign of its having taken the world into its confidence. The moral influence of mourning is even more to be deplored than its physical effects. Gloomy garments, darkened rooms, all the subdued life of the house of mourning, depress the powers, lower vitality, and absorb an undue quantity of domestic ozone. Speed the day when it shall be considered unbecoming to wipe our eyes upon the public or to dust our neighbors' shelves with any personal woe! All that Diogenes asked of Alexander was that the king should stand out of his sunshine. And we all have a right to demand of society that it take its mourning out of humanity's sunshine.

#### LIABILITY OF PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.

—A decision which may be important has recently been given by the Supreme Court of Georgia as to the liability of the proprietor of a patent medicine (so-called) for injury produced by its use, (Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour.), the Court held that as the proprietor of such a preparation intended its composition to be secret, and expected to derive a profit from such secrecy, he was liable for all injuries by anyone who takes his preparation in such quantities as may be directed by him. It is not, the judgment runs, "the duty of a person using medicine to ascertain what poisonous drugs it may contain. He has a right to rely upon the statement of the proprietor, printed and published to the world; and if thus relying he takes the medicine and is injured on account of some concealed drug of which he is unaware, the proprietor is not free from fault, and is liable for the injury thereby sustained."

THE GASTRIC JUICE A GERMICIDE.—Drs. Straus and Wurtz (in Brit. Med. Jour. from paper in Arch. de Med. Exper.) have conducted a series of experiments in order to ascertain the action of the gastric juice on the bacilli of tubercle, charbon, typhoid, and cholera morbus. The juice from man, dogs, and sheep was selected for the experiments. It was found that digestion for a few hours at a temperature of 100° F. destroyed all the germs. The bacillus an-

thraxis was killed in half an hour, the bacillus of typhoid and cholera in under three hours, whilst the bacillus of tubercle bore digestion for six hours, under which time it was still capable of provoking general tubercular infection. Even when digested for from eight to twelve hours the bacillus was still capable of producing a local tubercular abscess, not followed by general infection. Over twelve hours digestion destroyed it completely. The germicide influence of gastric juice appears to be due to its acid contents, as it was found that hydrochloric acid alone, dissolved in water, in the same proportion as it is in gastric juice, proved as active a destroyer of the bacilli. The pepsin appears to have no influence on the germs. Drs. Straus and Wurtz, wisely remind their readers that the germs, when protected by animal and vegetable tissues and introduced into the stomach in ordinary nutrition, are not exposed to so direct and prolonged action of the acid constituents of gastric juice as in these experiments.

#### SANITARY SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS.—

A paper on the necessity for sanitary supervision of schools, by Dr. Geo. H. Rohé, of Baltimore, (in Jour. of Am. Med. As.), contains an excellent summary of the subject. As a remedy for the evils admitted to exist in all schools Dr. Rohé proposes the appointment by the Board of School Commissioners of special officers to act as "Sanitary Supervisors of Schools." It would be the duty of these officers to secure the proper construction, ventilation, heating, lighting, and furnishing of school buildings, and to concert with municipal authorities, teachers, and parents means of preventing the spread of contagious and infectious disease. His duties would also include a medical examination of children on admission, and a general supervision of their health while pupils, directing attention especially to the prevention of overpressure and the removal of the causes of short-sightedness, such as improperly designed desks, badly-printed school books, and insufficient illumination. He would also test the vision of all children once a year, and would give instruction to the teachers upon principles and practice of school hygiene. A committee has been appointed by the American Medical Association to report on the advisability of securing legislation in this direction.