

**DISEASE IN RAILROAD COACHES.**—In the laboratory of the Imperial Board of Health of Germany, experiments have recently been made which show that the seeds of consumption were found in abundance in the dust collected, not only on the floors, but on the walls and seats of carriages. Samples of dust were taken from 45 compartments of 21 different passenger cars and 117 animals were inoculated with them. Part of these died very soon thereafter of various contagious diseases before they had time to develop consumption; of the rest, killed four to six weeks after inoculation, two had tubercles. These three, however, were inoculated with sleeping-carriage dust, taken, not from the floor, but from the walls, cushions and ceilings. Bacteria at the rate of 78,800 per square inch were found on the floor of a fourth-class carriage, and 34,400, 27,000 and 16,500 per square inch on the floors of the third, second, and first-class carriages. Thus, even in the latter, the average passenger, who usually has at least half a compartment to himself, say 3,000 square inches of floor, has an army of 49,500,000 deadly enemies aiming at his vitals on the floor alone, to say

nothing of other millions in front and rear, on both flanks and overhead. It would seem impossible to escape; but the Board of Health is said to have reported measures for removing or reducing the danger which the railroads are considering.

**FROM IRON TO HÆMOGLOBIN.**—The absorption of iron by the body, though very important and interesting, is exceedingly difficult to trace, because when iron unites with organic substances its reactions are masked. The investigations of Professor A. B. Macallum, of Toronto University, led him to conclude that hæmoglobin is formed from nuclein, and possibly from prozymogen. His experiments in feeding the inorganic compounds of iron to guinea pigs and other animals showed that the intestinal mucosa absorbed these to an extent which varied with the nature of the compound and with the quantity fed. With small doses absorption occurred only in that portion of the small intestine adjacent to the pylorus, extending only a few inches from the stomach. When one large dose was given, the absorptive area sometimes

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