

THE HOUSE ON WHEELS.

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The American Public Health Association held its annual meeting at Washington recently, when the statement was made by one of the members thereof in the course of an animated discussion on the spread of disease, that the sleeping-car was a potent factor in the transmission of consumption. Perhaps the speaker had good grounds for making this broad statement, and knew perfectly well what he was talking about from his own experience and observations, and one can scarcely wonder at it being correct, when another medical publicist from an adjoining State declared that an official investigation made by him had disclosed the fact that the blankets were only cleaned once in six months. Such a condition of affairs should, without a doubt, be condemned. It is gratifying, however, to assure the travelling public of Canada, so far as our information allows us, that they need have no fears on these grounds when travelling in the sleeping cars of the Canadian Pacific Railway. We are assured by the superintendent of the sleeping, dining, and parlor cars of that system, that his company, as well as the other companies of Canada, as far as his knowledge extends, do all in their power to render their cars at once healthful and cleanly; a dusty car, sometimes after a long run; a dirty car—never. At the end of a run these cars are thoroughly cleaned by the modern compressed air system, which includes the blowing out by means of compressed air, of the blankets, carpets, cushions, seats and head-rests. In addition to this, all the cars are, every ten days, thoroughly fumigated by means of formaldehyde. Whenever it is ascertained that they have been carrying a passenger with any contagious or infectious disease, that car is immediately put out of commission, and is not used again until it has been most thoroughly and satisfactorily disinfected. In the case of consumptives, when any passenger having that disease has been carried, all the linen and blankets utilized by him are subjected to a separate