

watch and timed it. It made a hundred and forty-seven to the minute. I tried to look at my tongue. I could only see the tip, and was more certain than before that I had scarlet fever. I had walked into that reading-room a happy, healthy man. I crawled out a decrepit wreck.

ON THE GERMICIDAL ACTION OF THE GASTRIC JUICE.—Dr. Kianofsky, of St. Petersburg, in the *Vratch*, gives in a lengthy paper the following conclusions, from elaborate experiments on fifty persons, some healthy and some with gastric cancer, dilatation, etc.:—A fasting healthy stomach always contains great numbers of microbes of various species. The gastric juice possesses distinct antimicrobial properties, attributed mainly to the presence of free hydrochloric acid. Given a gastric juice of a normal average general acidity, with normal proportion of this acid, the secretion kills the bacteria in a systematic manner. Nobody should allow the stomach to remain empty for a long time after morning rising; especially should medical practitioners take care in this regard. In times of epidemics everybody should avoid fasting for a long period.

SOME STREET DANGERS.—It would be hopeless within the limits of our available space to discuss at length the various causes of danger which in yearly growing numbers beset the path of the street passenger, or to attempt to hedge them in with adequate precautions. Now it is the crush of wheel traffic, now some slippery fruit skin, or the greasy, miry pavement itself which compels him to walk warily. A snapped or fallen electric or telephone wire has again and again wrought serious mischief. Flying chimney-pots and loosened slates have likewise played their part. The security of boardings, too, has of late been sorely tested. These latter, and the whole series of swinging signs and sign letters, now so common in large towns, constitute a perpetual menace to the life and limb of wayfarers. Placed where they can well catch the wind, and constantly exposed to corrosion by weather, it would indeed be strange if their creaking attachments did not often prove unequal to the weight they have to support. As a matter of fact, the overthrow of many is among the most familiar incidents of a storm on land. Aesthetically the reverse of attractive, their demolition thus or otherwise could only be regretted on utilitarian grounds. It is therefore clearly to their owners' interest to ensure their stability. It is also no less clearly within the functions of councils and local authorities to provide all possible safeguards against these and other evident causes of street accident.

CARBONIC ACID RESPIRATION.—At the late International Sanitary Congress Dr. W. Marcet, F.R.S., read a paper on the effects of the respiration of carbonic acid on man. His conclusions were:—1. That when air containing an excess of carbonic acid is breathed, the gas accumulates rapidly in the blood, and under such a condition the phenomenon of nutrition is more or less interfered with; people forced to work in ill-ventilated rooms and buildings should sleep in as pure an atmosphere as possible, to rid their blood of the carbonic acid absorbed in the day time. 2. That the effects produced by inhalation of carbonic acid gas depend greatly on the rapidity of the exposure. The sudden inhalation of air containing a large proportion of the gas may produce rapid insensibility and death, while this same air might have been breathed for some time with a certain degree of impunity, had the carbonic acid present been increased gradually. 3. That when life is threatened by the inhalation of carbonic acid there is no reason to despair of artificial respiration so long as the heart is beating; the gas will diffuse rapidly from the blood into the air with which the lungs are inflated, and thus be carried out of the body.

THE AREA AND POPULATION OF THE GLOBE.—The recent publication of the *Bevölkerung der Erde*, of Drs. Wagner and Supan, by Perthes, of Gotha, gives us the most reliable information as to the area and population of the earth now obtainable. The estimate for the present total population of the earth is 1,480 millions, an increase of 46 millions over the last estimate, for 1882. The exact enumeration of 836 millions (about 56 per cent of the whole) has been accomplished by census or registration. The population of the chief divisions of the globe is, in round numbers: in Europe, 357 millions, giving 94 inhabitants to each square mile of area; Asia, 825 millions, or 47 to the square mile; Africa, 163 millions, or 14 to the mile; America, 121 millions, or 8 to the mile; Australia 3 millions, or 1 to the mile; and in the Oceanic Islands, 7 millions, or 10 to the mile. In Europe, Belgium exceeds all other countries