

To many therefore it will sound like rank blasphemy to hint that this supreme remedy covers a hidden poison and that if rashly and indiscriminately applied it is as likely to kill as to cure. The medical men of to-day cannot bring forth the statistics to support their views, but they can present their observations of cases showing that inordinate and ill-directed education is working havoc amongst the rising generation and that a stern penalty will have to be paid hereafter for the physiological improvidence of to-day. They have seen healthy children grow sickly under the pressure of school tasks, and revive again when these were interrupted. They have seen clever children turn dull and stupid under the burdens laid upon their sprightly but immature minds. They have seen delicate and badly nourished children break down altogether under their work, and die of school-bred disease. Their professional experience convinces them that educational pressure is being applied injudiciously, in the attempt to make the weak keep abreast of the strong, and the young, tender, growing nervous systems cannot without detriment pass through the educational ordeals now required of them. They see true education lost sight of in a confused turmoil of examinations and cramming, and they would be culpable if they did not protest against the pernicious system in vogue. Suicides have been increasing in number all over Europe and have in all places advanced *pari passu* with education. The revival of suicide in Europe has almost coincided in time with the modern extension of schooling, and suicides are now most abundant in the very regions in which schooling is most extended." Some months ago we gave statistics showing that crime has been much more common, proportionately, in the New England States than in the South, with much greater educational advantage (?)

THE MICROCOCCUS OF SCARLET FEVER.

—In the *Gazette Medicale de Paris* of Sept. 29, M. Pohn-Pincus states his belief that he has discovered, in the desquamating epidermis of scarlet fever

patients, micrococci which are the germs of the disease. He demonstrates them by partially detaching a lamella of the epidermis. He uses mettyl-violet for staining, scrapes off some little fragments of tissue, subsequently places them upon a glass slide, and teases them out as finely as possible with needles. He says their dimensions are very small, but does not give measurements. They are united in small groups and are found in the depressions upon the borders of the detached cells. No attempt has yet been made to cultivate these micro-organisms or to inoculate them.

AIR AND WATER UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.—The bureau of medicine and surgery of the United States navy have some valuable and beautiful micro-photographs, which have been produced by members of the medical corps. These photographs represent the conditions of air, water, etc., when viewed with the microscope. "Some of the most interesting are those representing chains of micrococci in sewer culture-fluid, spores in torula form from scum from sewerage, specimens of dust in air of bedrooms (presumably unventilated), blood from patients suffering from typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and other diseases, foreign substances in air and sediment in water. The many specimens of moisture condensed from air show a heavy deposit of spores, crystallized substances, irritating solids, etc., one showing the condensation of air long stagnant, being especially rich in foreign substances. These specimens show the necessity for thorough ventilation."

TUBERCLE-BACILLI OF CONSUMPTION.—

After a series of culture and inoculation experiments, made in conjunction with Dr. Arndt, in Königsberg, Dr. P. Baumgarten concludes that it is the peculiar bacteria discovered by Dr. Koch and himself which call the tubercular process into existence. If it be urged that the contagion does not exist in the bacilli but is simply associated with them, he would reply that from the experiments it is evident that this hypothetical extra-bacillar virus is so intimately bound to the bacilli that it acts only with