

THE CONSUMPTION OF BEER IN FRANCE.—The quantity of beer consumed in France varies remarkably in the different cities. Thus in Nantes only 4 litres a year for each inhabitant are drunk; in Paris, 12 litres; in Havre, 22; in Nancy, 48; in Amiens, 100; in Saint Quentin, 234; and in Lille, 301. But France is still far behind its hated rival, Germany, in this respect. In Munich, the amount of beer consumed reaches the very respectable figure of 400 litres a year for every man, woman and child in the city.—*Lancet-Clinic*.

That there are now and then unfortunately (for themselves) born into the world strong masculine women devoid of domestic tastes and maternal longings, all will admit. George Eliots, George Sands, and such as they, are fortunately the exception, and should not society permit them to wrestle with the inconveniences of their surroundings and not overturn the established order of things for their special benefit?

In an address to the women of America DeWitt Talmage forcibly says:

“O woman, stay a woman! You belong to a very respectable sex.”—*Weekly Medical Review*.

Dermatologists may be a little disappointing in their therapeutics, like the rest of the profession, but when it comes to giving diseases names of real, rasping, polysyllabical stridulousness, they leave other specialists, including the author of Volapük, far behind. Dr. Hyde has recently reported three cases in which the patients were affected with symmetrical and recurrent or persistent tylosis of the palmar and plantar surfaces, accompanied by hyperidrosis, alopecia, bromidrosis, and a species of onychiaux, which the author supposed to be due to the same process in the skin which produced the callosities.—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

THE DOCTOR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PRISONS.—Prince Krapotkine recently delivered a lecture in Paris on “The Moral Influence of Prisons.” He argued that prisons were of no use as safeguards to society; that criminals were persons who were suffering from some disease of the brain, heart, or stomach. The only way to deal

with such classes was to put them under medical care in order to cure their physical disease. Krapotkine's views contain a germ of truth. A considerable proportion of criminals have congenital brain-defects, and many more have bodily deformities, phthisis, syphilis, and other diseases.—*Lancet-Clinic*.

A BLIND TAILOR.—No medical or philanthropic visitor to Florence should omit to see a wonderful specimen of what education can do for the blind, in the case of Gaetano Baldelli, now exhibiting his powers at the Museo Internazionale dei Ciechi (International Museum of the Blind). We are familiar with those similarly afflicted who can read printed letters with their fingers; who, introduced into a room, can, by clapping their hands, tell us how large it is, and whether it contains furniture; who can cultivate flowers and distinguish them from weeds. But what must we say to a blind youth who can measure for clothes, cut them out, and make them up in the latest fashion? Baldelli does this before admiring crowds.—*Florence Correspondent, Lancet*.

STROPHANTHUS.—Haas, of Prague, concludes, from his clinical study of strophanthus, that the apex beat of the heart is much less distinct under the influence of strophanthus than under the influence of digitalis: the latter drug produces a sharply defined pulsation, while strophanthus does not so clearly mark the boundaries of the cardiac area, which becomes diffuse. In cases where an exaggerated second pulmonary sound is present, the accentuated quality disappears under the use of strophanthus. The frequency of the pulse is, in the cases described, regularly lessened. In three cases of stenosis of the cardiac apertures of high degree, the patients became cyanotic after taking strophanthus, complained of great dyspnoea, and went into collapse. Haas found that patients suffering from fever bore much larger doses than those who had no fever; fifty drops of the tincture and more were given to fever patients without ill effect, while thirty drops, in twenty-four hours, was the usual dosage for patients not suffering from fever.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte—Medical News*.