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JEWISH HYGIENE—THE TALMUD AND VARIOUS OTHER JEWISH WRITINGS HERETOFORE UNTRANSLATED— SUPERIOR ABILITY OF THE JEWS.

The following is an abstract of an interesting paper read at the last meeting of the American Medical Association, at Washington, D. C., by Karl H. VonKlein, A. M., M. D.

We are now in the age of pride and the Niobe of nations. But when we look back even to the dark age of the Egyptians, we find that our sanitary measures are far behind any other advancements of modern civilization. Hygeia, commonly called the goddess of health, and from which the term hygiene has its etymology, was a pretender, as well as her father Esculapius, who styled himself the god of medicine. But when we look back beyond the days of those pretenders, we find that nations lived hundreds of years before them, whose literature was ever preserved by a nation which has preserved itself and survived nations of ordinary power. When the Egyptians strove amongst themselves, their literature was destroyed, and the loss of the library of Alexandria is felt at the present age. But of those people of whom I am now about to speak, though driven from country to country, and from nation to nation, at all ages and in all centuries, and are still persecuted, nevertheless their literature is preserved and shines forth with them in full maturity. Hippocrates, who is supposed to have lived about 400 years before Christ, whose writings on medical art have been preserved, and who

endeavored to explain the causes of disease in the human frame, and their symptoms, and pointed out their preventives, and laid down sanitary regulations and exercises for the preservation of health, appears to have been acquainted with those large volumes of scientific writing, as he well describes their contents. I am surprised at Galen, the great master, one of the most illustrious men in the annals of medical science, that he does not mention something about them. But I am not surprised at Paracelsus, the father of quacks, who styled himself Theophrastus Bombastus, Philosophus, and other great names to which he was not entitled.

Every since the days of Hallé, and to the present day, men have lived in both hemispheres who became illustrious for their researches in sanitary science, still, on those great works which embrace the teaching and learning of human hygiene, they are mute. I mean the illustrious works of the Jewish Talmud, the greater part of its contents, hygiene, a perfect treatise for preserving health. One might not think it possible that the researches of the learned could overlook such a valuable scientific writing. It is strange but nevertheless true, and can be partly explained. They are writings and teachings of a creed whose name was, before the crucifixion of Christ, and ever since has been hated, persecuted, and rebelled against. Secondly, they are written in languages that modern scientists are unacquainted with, from the fact that the Talmudic language is a conglom-