

Rumours and Bulletins. Rumour is a flying or popular report; a current story passing from one person to another, without any known authority for the truth of it. A bulletin is supposed to be a brief statement of facts respecting some passing event, as military operations, the health of some distinguished personage, issued by authority for the information of the public. It must have been made painfully apparent to those who recall the startling stories published by the newspapers since the outbreak of the present war in South Africa that Dame Rumour is also a lying jade, and that the bulletin-boards on which announcements of news are put up, particularly at newspaper-offices, are not worthy of serious attention. It is most regrettable that so many of the stories of the war should prove to be false; but the daily exposure of their falsity is fast educating the public into a want of belief in the reporter of the period.

Censorship of the press by the military authorities is being justified by the eminently plausible fictions published by the newspapers, and the brief bulletins issued by the War Office are now regarded as the only reliable statements of what is happening in South Africa.

Paris Exhibition Risks. The executive of the British Fire Prevention Committee have decided to withdraw from any participation in the Paris Exhibition, and they express the reasons for this action and their regret at taking same in the following announcement:

This withdrawal is due to the leading members of the fire-proofing trade who were to have been represented by a large collective exhibit, arranged under the auspices of the committee, considering that the general tenor of French political business and social feeling towards Englishmen has of late been anything but satisfactory.

The decision of the executive to cancel their participation has, however, not only been arrived at after due consideration of these wishes, but after thorough investigation as to the state of affairs at Paris, and they fully concur with the firms concerned that this is not an opportune moment for arranging an exhibit of this kind in France. They have hence also cancelled their own exhibits, which were to have been of an essentially scientific character.

The executive regret that this decision should have been necessary, as the collective exhibit of fire-resisting materials, systems, etc., would have been the first of its kind, and considerable trouble had already been taken in preparations.

It would, perhaps, be well to add that the collective exhibit would have been representative of the work of no less than forty-five firms, connected directly or indirectly with the fire-proofing trade, quite irrespective of the scientific work, etc., to be shown by the committee.

Tuberculosis and Milk. Sir Richard Thorne, Chief Medical Officer to the London Local Government Board, recently addressed a meeting of the Medical Society of London on "The Prevention of Tuberculosis."

He said that the difficulty of successfully dealing with the terrible scourge of consumption was intensified by the serious housing problem which was presenting itself in our great cities. If people could only be made to realise that it was a necessity to health for them to live amid open surroundings, the tubercular death-rate would steadily decrease. Of course, it was argued that such a remedy was impossible, because the price of land in the large towns was too excessive. This should be met, at least temporarily, by a refusal on the part of the populace to pay rent for dwellings situated in an unhealthy neighbourhood. Furthermore, the millions which were yearly spent on the treatment of zymotic diseases would be far better employed in opening up the towns, and thus stamping out the causes of the evil which doctors could only relieve and modify. Another step which would, he believed, appreciably lower the number of deaths from tubercular affections was the proper supervision of the growth and preparation of various articles of diet. Milk was one of the most dangerous of all foods, for probably some 90 per cent. of our milch cows were tubercular. In a herd of 40 selected beasts belonging to the Queen 34 were thus diseased. Such a state of things was most dangerous to the health of the community, for the bacilli were too minute to be readily detected, and passed with ease through the udder of the cow into the milk-pail, and thus into the human organism. Still another means of reform was to be found in a systematic drainage of the subsoil. If this were done, and the other matters to which he had referred were duly attended to, it would speedily be seen that consumption did not run in families, although it certainly did run in houses.

Diluted Milk and Adulterated Food. Although to mingle milk with water and sell the mixture as milk is, we fear, a common offence, very

few of those who purchase the diluted stuff are seemingly aware that the law has provided punishment for those who thus impose upon them. In fact, it is not easy for the ordinary resident of a city, unable as he is generally to distinguish a cow of Jersey breed from any other ruminant quadruped of the bovine genus, to tell if the so-called milk delivered daily at his dwelling is remarkable for purity or the presence of pump-water. Under these circumstances, it is satisfactory to note that one of the Montreal milk inspectors is doing his duty to our citizens with a zeal born of knowledge of the ways of the wily purveyor of whitened water.

The inspector in question recently found a milkman (!) with a can three-quarters full of water in his sligh. Upon being charged with using this water