

same lines of investigation show how very dirty people can be. Seventy-eight examinations of the impurities under finger nails were recently made in the bacteriological laboratories of Vienna, and the cultivations thus produced showed thirty-six kinds of micrococci, eighteen bacilli, three sarcinæ, and various varieties; the spores of common mould were very frequently present. The removal of all such impurities is an absolute duty in all who come near a parturient woman or a surgical wound. It is not enough to apply some antiseptic material to the surface of dirt; the impurity must be removed first, the hand antiseptised after. It is sometimes said that the scratch of a nail is poisonous. There is no reason to suspect the nail tissue; it is more likely the germs laid in a wound from a bacterial nest under the nail. Children are very apt to neglect to purify their nails when washing hands; and this matter is not always sufficiently attended to among surgical patients. Personal cleanliness is a part of civic duty, and, as Dr. Abbott well expressed the matter in his address to teachers, should be taught to school children and insisted on in practice. The facts we have recorded might well form the text for a school homily, especially when any epidemic was in the neighbourhood.

**A POINT ON TEMPERANCE.**—Mr. O. Cherington, Arthur, Oregon, writes: I naturally or hereditarily liked the taste of liquors but since I quit using meat, tobacco, tea and coffee have no taste for liquors. I honestly believe that intemperance can be cured by eating proper food. If each member of the different Temperance Societies and each person belonging to the Prohibition Party would go to work and prohibit themselves from using bad food and drinks, more good would be accomplished. Meat, tobacco, tea, coffee, etc. are poor material for food. I believe meat and tobacco alone are doing double the injury that whiskies, brandies and wines do. Hatred, unkindness, abuse; trying to pass laws of force to change our neighbors' appetites in a bigoted and domineering way is very, very poor spiritual food.

**HOT WATER AND CHILDREN.**—Dr. Grace Granger gave in a Medical Exchange the following, which we can endorse: "Hot water is highly useful in the digestive disorders of children. A child will live for several days with nothing else to eat and be in much better condition than with a demoralized digestive tract. On hot water it will live comfortably, and scarcely seem

to miss the mother's milk. With a colicky baby the hot water frequently acts as an anodyne, putting it to sleep. If it seems distressed after nursing, the hot water relieves the pain even if it be caused by an over-filled stomach.

**IRON SEWERAGE.**—In an address delivered before the Chicago Master Plumbers, March 13, 1890, by Mr. P. Nacey, he said (Sanitary News): If iron sewerage were substituted to take the place of the clay-pipe system, broken house drains would never disturb the equanimity of the occupant or sanitarian. Iron pipes to be thus used should be as heavy as that employed in our water supply. The lengths being joined together with molton lead and regularly caulked by skilled artisans. When completed the system should be tested by atmospheric or water pressure and a certificate given by the Board of Health Inspectors as to its correct construction. Iron man-holes having flushing devices should be placed at intervals in the drains and brought to the surface; thus the occupant of the building, knowing the exact location of the sewer, could at will flush and clean the interior of the drain pipes, which could be always kept in a state of scrupulous cleanliness. It would then be unnecessary to tear up the floors, concrete or flagging to cleanse these pipes; to be obliged to dig down in order to remove sediments from traps situated at curb wall would be a duty known only in the past; and lawns could revel in their brightest robes without fear of having their beauty destroyed.

**THE EVILS OF HYPNOTISM.**—The Therapeutic Gazette says that according to Prof. Germain Sée, hypnotism favors and develops tendencies to hysteria. Hysteria is a disease in which the higher cerebral activities are suspended; now this is a leading and essential characteristic of the hypnotic state. The Minister of War in France, in consequence of certain bad results, has forbidden military physicians to resort to hypnotism among the soldiers. The same proscription, says Professor Sée, ought, with at least equal force, to apply to the practice of hypnotizing children, who may be made fools or crazy by the constant repetition of such practice. Gilles-de-la-Tourette declares that those that are hysterically predisposed are almost certainly made hysterical by frequent hypnotizing, and as for those already hysterical, if, by chance, one now and then succeeds in curing a paralysis or a contracture, it is only to make the disease locate itself elsewhere, or substitute a series of fits.