

THE "SPARE BED," which has probably upon times been the beginning of disease and death to unsuspecting victims, comes in for a rather funny "discourse" in "Golden Rule." "When I go out into the country to visit my relatives, the spare bed, rises up before my imagination days before I start, and I shiver as I remember how cold and gravelike the sheets are. I put off the visit as long as possible, solely on account of that spare bed. I don't like to tell them that I would rather sleep on a picket fence than to enter that spare room and creep into that bed, and so they know nothing of my sufferings. . . . The bed is as square and true as if it had been made up to a carpenter's rule. No matter whether it be summer or winter the bed is like ice, and it sinks down in a way to make one shiver. The sheets are slipperily clean, the pillow-slips rustle like shrouds, and one dare not stretch his leg down for fear of kicking against a tombstone. "Ugh! shake me down on the kitchen floor, let me sleep on the hay mow, on a lounge, stand up in a corner, anywhere but in a spare bed! One sinks down until he is lost in the hollow, and foot by foot the prim bed-posts vanish from sight. Did anyone ever pass a comfortable night in the spare bed?"

CONSUMPTIVE TRAVELERS are now at length properly receiving attention. In an article in the Australian Medical Gazette, by Mr. G. R. Macmullen, barrister-at-law, the writer calls attention to the possibility of contracting consumption from an invalid companion during the voyage. The writer supposes the case of a healthy man who secures a berth in a cabin in a steamer or sailing ship bound, say from London to Australia. He goes on board, settles down, and finds that luck has associated him for the voyage with a highly consumptive individual. The cabin is most likely very small. Naturally enough the consumptive man will have a considerable dread of ventilation, at least such an amount of it as a healthy man would desire; and so at the very outset, the healthy and ailing find their wishes not in accord.

AS A REMEDY Mr. Macmullen suggests some such regulations as the following: In the first place, all intending passengers should, on booking, be able to produce to the shipping agents (who should under penalty insist on its production) a medical certificate stating that the intending passenger is in good health, or if not so the nature of his or her ailment. Secondly,

the medical officer in charge of the ship should have the power to remove a passenger into the ship's hospital, which, in view of such contingency, would be properly fitted up for the reception of patients. When a passenger occupies a whole cabin the rules could be relaxed. This would be no hardship to the patient, but a positive benefit, and would result in general convenience and satisfaction.

ONE OF THE MANY DANGERS resulting from keeping dogs in dwelling houses is a risk of disseminating the ova of the *tænia echinococcus*. The possibility of the transmission of this dangerous parasite, says the N. Y. Medical Times, is too generally overlooked, but if the dog plays with the children, the latter often allow themselves to be licked, and in this way the ova may be transferred. In dry weather the ova may be wafted about by the wind, also find their way into the body. In Iceland where every body possesses half a dozen dogs, 28 per cent. of which are affected with this *tænia*, hydatid cysts are very common. As the process of development is a slow one, the source of infection may and probably will, escape attention, and in any case would only be thought of when the evil had been done.

IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NASAL DISCHARGE. —Dr. Daniel, of Washington, D. C., suggests in the Medical World, that a little patience is better for the irritated mucous membrane than the habit of 'blowing out' the uneasy organ at all times, and especially in cold, windy or dusty places. The mucus serves the membrane as a defence against increased irritation from cold, dust, gases, &c. The usual diminution of nasal discharge during sleep may be partly due to the relapse of the pocket-handkerchief into 'innocuous desuetude.'

IN BUCCAL BACTERIOLOGY, an exchange says, Dr. Miller, one of the greatest living authorities finds that by using the following mixture he can completely sterilize the mouth, cavities in carious teeth, etc. Thymol, 4 grains, benzoic acid, 45 grains; tincture eucalyptus, 3½ fluid drachms, water 25 fluid ounces. The mouth is to be well rinsed with the mixture, especially just before going to bed, since most of the damage by fermentative and putrefactive processes in the mouth is done at night during sleep.

MOSQUITOS and other insects may be kept away from their would-be victims by weak carbolic acid solution. According to the Lancet,