

The novelty of the method is such that figures are as yet lacking to prove the effect of such work on the health of the community. But in the children in the German cities where a system of inspection has several years' standing, results for the better are evident. In one of these cities, the school inspector, Dr. Motz, reports in this fashion: "By means of the school and the school-dental-infirmaries, parents, children and teachers have acquired much clearer insight into the importance of the care of the teeth. An increase of physical strength and intellectual capacity is noticeable among the pupils and more time is gained for the lessons."

Social Hygiene in Wilmersdorf.

An interesting experiment in social hygienics is being made by the town council of Wilmersdorf, a flourishing western suburb of Berlin. In the belief that valuable aid can be given in the fight against tuberculosis by acquainting the people with the nature of the disease and by showing them the means of avoiding it, the council has opened an exhibition in the great hall of one of the modern high schools. The exhibition has been arranged and prepared by the Wilmersdorf Board of Health and the German Central Committee for Combating Tuberculosis, and its direction is in the hands of medical experts.

In one section the origin and spread of tuberculosis are explained pictorially in a manner suited to the comprehension of the ordinary layman. A second section contains anatomical preparations which show, on the one hand, the exact appearance in natural colors of various organs of the human body, and, on the other hand, the appearance of the same organs when affected with tuberculosis. A third section is devoted to the means of combating the disease. Tables are hung on the walls showing the favorable influence on mortality rates of social legislation and the eminent success achieved by the outdoor treatment for tuberculosis, so energetically championed by the administrative authorities of the State insurance funds for workmen.

The exhibition is open free to the public daily from three to ten o'clock, the mornings being reserved for the visits of pupils of both sexes in the two upper classes of all the municipal schools. Each batch of children will be accompanied by a teacher

or medical men, who will explain the exhibits and their object. This idea of awakening the attention of young members of the community to the perils of tuberculosis and of preparing them at the start of life is much lauded by the newspapers. In the evenings popular lectures will be delivered of a social hygienic or medical character by authorities on the subject: one of the first being on tuberculosis and the care of the mouth, and another on centres of information for alcoholists and persons afflicted with tuberculous germs.

Vienna and High Buildings.

A commission of experts appointed to conduct an official investigation with a view of reforming the building regulations of Vienna has discussed the advisability of the erection of "sky-scraper" office buildings. An exhaustive debate covering the æsthetic, hygienic, technical and economical sides of the question resulted in the unanimous decision that such buildings would neither improve nor cheapen the housing conditions of the city. There are no "sky-scrapers" in Vienna. The height of the buildings along the widest thoroughfares does not exceed five storeys, and the authorities peremptorily refuse to permit a greater height.

Manchuria and the Plague.

A valuable paper on the outbreak of pulmonary plague in Manchuria was read recently before the French Academy of Medicine by one of the leading French medical scientists, Professor Chantemesse, who had prepared it in collaboration with his colleague, Dr. Borel.

Professor Chantemesse attributed the origin of the outbreak to the hunting of a species of beaver, known locally as the tarbagan, in Western Mongolia, to the east of Lake Baikal. This animal, which is found in great numbers there, and which is much sought after for its fur, is peculiarly liable to attack by the plague virus. This fact has long been known; and it is equally well known that in their haunts along several of the Siberian rivers they infect each other constantly. In the autumn of last year a number of trappers were engaged in hunting these tarbagans; and towards the end of October six of them, who had killed a large number and had handled their skins, were attacked, in succession, by an illness that began by vio-