

Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics* the number of clergymen who reach the age of 70 is estimated at 42 per cent., while that merchants is only 33 per cent.

The Jews, in regard to the use of alcohol, are an exemplary people; they belong essentially to the ranks of the moderate drinkers. A Jewish drunkard is rare and a Jewish teetotaller is equally rare. The Jews are also careful of their health—their conduct and their habits are the converse of reckless and devil-may-care. Possessing these qualities the Jews are, as might be expected, better lives than the average of the Christian communities among whom they dwell. Dr. B. W. Richardson (I quote from the *Briton Life Almanack for 1883*) deduces from tables supplied to him by Dr. Asher that the mortality among London Jews, between the ages of 35 and 45, is better than that of the whole population of London, in the proportion of 5 to 8.

Those who believe, on certain very strong and broad grounds, that the use of alcohol must be of some important service to man—or at least to European man—may be allowed the conjecture (were it possible to express it without involving a contradiction in terms) that the typical teetotaller might still further enhance his expectation of life if, while preserving his other careful habits, he added thereto an equally careful use of alcohol.—WILLIAM ROBERTS.

BANK NOTES AND INFECTION.

A contemporary directs attention to a point of some sanitary interest in connection with the use of a paper currency—namely the transference of infectious disease by this means. He discourses with somewhat alarming realism on the mischievous power possessed by the dirty notes for small sums which are common in some foreign countries. In a like strain he deals with the well-thumbed £1 notes so familiar in the sister kingdom of Scotland. Greasy, discolored, and old, he seems to trace them passing from hand to hand and class to class, avoiding no form of illness but escaping all measures of disinfection. The question thus opened is indeed to some extent a practical one,

and there certainly is, from the medical standpoint, more to be said in favor of a frequent issue of new notes than of continued circulation of old and dirty ones. The velvet softness of a well-used note is familiar to many of us, and it suggests the distinct advantage of using in the exchange of money some smooth and crisp form of paper upon which the germs of disease would be less likely to establish themselves. No form of paper money can of course be purged from all such injurious influences, but there is no doubt that cleanliness even in this matter is in keeping with sanitary rule.—*London Lancet*.

To this may be added the well-thumbed volumes of circulating libraries which have probably helped to wile away the tedious hours of convalescence. The furniture in second-hand stores and auction rooms, recently doing duty in sick and infected chambers, as well as the soiled tickets left by bakers, milk dealers and others for their customers' use, all these may become mediums of infection.—*MANITOBA LANCET*.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT FOR THE SICK.

The effort that was made a short time since to secure, by means of a tent, the utmost practicable amount of open-air treatment for the Emperor of Germany affords an indication of the progress that is being made in order to secure such treatment for a large number of cases in German hospitals. The subject is dealt with at some length in an article entitled, "Notes on Modern Hospital Construction," which is contained in the *Practitioner*, where the writer, Mr. P. Gordon Smith, architect to the Local Government Board, describes, by means of illustrations and otherwise, the large balconies and verandahs in which patients in some of the German and other hospitals at times remain by day and by night for long periods during the months of May to September, both inclusive. The climate of North Germany has so many features like our own that the possibility of applying the same practice to hospital treatment in this country deserves consideration.