

ples, nine-tenths of the crime and pauperism of the world would be abolished, and that the public debt of England, if desired, could be liquidated in thirty years.

A word now in regard to the sixth-class vegetarians, who may be called such from necessity, or the requirements of a diseased system,—and it must be admitted that of these there is little either of interest or value to say. As a rule, they are men who, having already weakened and ruined the constitution by excessive indulgence contrary to nature, adopt vegetarian principles as a last resort, in the hope of regaining bodily and mental health

These miserable specimens of humanity are often found in vegetarian hospitals, and, as walking shadows and death-marked victims, are pointed out by the opponents of vegetarianism, as warning examples of a fallacious system. But the "full-blooded vegetarians" offer a very different aspect: they are erect pictures of perfect health, and have long cheerfully and serenely accepted the epithets of "grass-eaters" and "starvelings," bestowed upon them in ridicule by the dyspeptic, diseased carnivorants, comforting themselves with the full conviction that "he laughs best who laughs last."

THE MANAGEMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—IMPORTANT TO PARENTS.

DR. E. R. Squibb (Gaillard's Med. Jour. and American Lancet) in a paper makes the following practical points:

1. Susceptibility to disease must precede diseased action: and the cause of disease, whether communicable or not, must be evolved from this susceptibility.

2. This susceptibility is acquired upon a normal basis of health, which basis has a normal tendency to persist or to resist, and therefore the susceptibility is preventable.

3. This susceptibility varies in degree from insusceptibility up to the highest rate; and the degree of virulence of contagious virus must coincide with the degree of susceptibility in the production of disease, either factor being impotent without the other.

4. In controlling susceptibility, the virus of contagion and other causes of disease are necessarily controlled.

5. Susceptibility is acquired gradually and imperceptibly through a process of evolution, and its control or management must be through a similar process.

The practical deductions to be drawn from these conclusions constitute the object of this note.

Without any relaxation of the effort for the treatment of communicable disease as it occurs, for the destruction of the virus of contagion, and for the protection of susceptible individuals; persistent effort should be made in another direction not commonly considered; namely, to lower the rate of susceptibility. In every community physicians see examples of successive generations of well-ordered lives in the rearing of offspring in a rational, nearly normal way, and see that in a broad average such always show themselves fittest to survive. All such examples, and all that approach them, should be encouraged, supported and multiplied.

One of the increasing defects of late generations seems to be want of proper parental discipline and training of the young. Education without power behind it to enforce its teaching, is not sufficient to restrain from injurious inclinations and appetites.

Children are perhaps very generally taught that self-denial, and not self-indulgence, must be the order of well-lived healthy lives. Yet upon this teaching the cultivation of perverted appetites and the indulgence of them, is the common practice: and as candies and cakes take the place of more wholesome natural food, artificial digestives are required, and conditions are gradually established upon which disease is more frequently and more easily acquired, and upon which disease itself is gradually developed and intensified into a more frequent and more easy communicability.

The doctrine that disease is penal, and that as a penalty it is always earned and always sure, is not only true upon the grand scale of the past ages, but is a good working hypothesis for the present time. The practical utility of the doctrine is however much weakened by the circumstance that the offences of one generation are entirely or mainly punished in succeeding generations. In this remoteness of causes from their consequences, their connection fails to be realized at its actual value, yet all vital processes are based on absolute justice and truth, and, as is well said by Emerson, the universal law of transgression is retribution.

Hence it would appear that the control of disease must be by a process of evolution incited and fostered mainly in the management of the young, that is, of the commencing generations, where control is at once easiest and most effective.