

soul needs emotions as the body needs exercise, and the exciting sports of the palæstra met both wants at once. We try to suppress these instincts, but their motives remain, and if thwarted in their normal manifestations they assert themselves in some abnormal way, chemically instead of mechanically, as Dr. Boerhaave would say, by convulsing the organs of digestion, since the organs of motion are kept in unbearable inactivity. In times of scarcity the paupers of China and Siam silence the clamors of their hungry children by dosing them with opium ; and for analogous reasons millions of our fellow-citizens seek relief in alcohol ; they want to benumb a feeling which they cannot satisfy in a healthier way.

After finishing his day's work the Grecian mechanic went to the gymnasium, the Roman to the amphitheatre, and the modern European and American goes to the next "saloon," to satisfy by different methods the same instinct—a longing for a diversion from the dull sameness of business routine. There is no question which method was the best—the only question is which of the two bad substitutes may be the worse : the brutalizing, *i. e.*, soul-hardening spectacles of bloodshed of the Roman arena, or the soul and body destroying poisons of the liquor-shop ?—*Dr. Oswald in Pop. Sci. Mon.*

DIPHThERIA.

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Of the various diseases observed in our section of country, few have attracted a greater degree of interest than diphtheria, and chiefly through the unfortunate circumstance, the death of the Princess Alice, which was a source of deep regret to the whole medical profession. It may with truth be said, that all classes alike in this country sorrow for the loss the Queen has sustained. Diphtheria as a disease has long been known, and its etiology shows it to be not of a continuous character, but rather of apparently unconnected outbreaks and epidemics. It has been traced back as far as the days of Aretæus, and during the 16th and 17th centuries it was observed in Spain, Italy, Sicily and various other parts of Europe, the records leaving no shadow of doubt that the disease which then prevailed was '*genuine diphtheria.*' In the next century it was epidemic in several of the more northern parts of Europe, including Great Britain and France, and also in several parts of the Continent. In 1818 diphtheria made