

mercury, hydronaphtol, carbolic acid, and many other antiseptics; but for stopping it abruptly, and for sterilizing a suppurating wound, we have only one antiseptic that is generally efficient, so far as I know, and that is the strong Peroxide of Hydrogen. Therefore I have qualified it, not as "good," not as "useful," but as "necessary."

OBSERVATIONS made in Buenos Ayres, where diphtheria has been very prevalent, go further to show the intercommunicability of this disease between man and animals. Most of the houses in that city have open spaces within, known as *patios*. These are not paved, and among the poorer classes horses and hens are kept in them. The soil is retentive and always damp, and hens living in these places are subject to a throat disease which is without doubt diphtheria. From the statistics given, there seems to be no doubt that children in large numbers contract the disease from these animals. It is well known too that in the French army diphtheria is three times as prevalent in the cavalry regiments as in the infantry. The same holds true in Germany and in other countries.

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, who has uttered many wise sayings, never said a truer thing than that "the best prescription for longevity is the acquisition of an incurable disease," whether regarded satirically or seriously. How frequently we hear of the death of some one, whom we supposed to be in robust health, while the "chronic invalid" "hangs on" for years. The knowledge that one has some chronic disease brings about that regard for hygiene which tends to counteract the fatal tendency of the disease and to indefinitely prolong life; while, on the other hand, the feeling of supposed perfect health renders one less prudent if not absolutely reckless.

ORDERS have been given the Prussian Army Surgeons to measure the chests of recruits every four weeks. All are to be regarded as narrow-chested the circumference of whose chests is less than half the length of the body. Narrow-chested men, whose bodies are not widened by drill, are to be regarded as predisposed to consumption and to be discharged as soon as possible, lest they infect healthy soldiers.

AN ENGLISH PHYSICIAN suggests that the reason why the women of the present day have such small waists in comparison with those of the women of some generations back, is because they are undergoing a process of evolution by which their brains are getting larger and their waists smaller. Although corsets have doubtless caused many deaths—badly made corsets

and weak young women not knowing how to wear them—and so has Koch's "cure" caused many deaths, already, but we have always maintained that this much abused under garment has done much good—made women more graceful, and, it may be, developed the brain. The only ones we can recommend, however, are Ball's Elastic Health Preserving Corsets, made by Messrs. Brush & Co., Bay Street, Toronto. All ladies over whom we have much influence wear only these.

THE MODEL FEMALE FORM of average size, scientists says, should measure about as follows: Height, 5 feet 4 inches; circumference of neck, 13 inches; chest, 34½, with an expansion and contraction of about 4 inches; arm, largest point above elbow when straight, 11½ inches, when bent, 12½; arm below elbow, largest point, 10 inches; waist, 27½ inches; hips, 37 inches; thigh, 20 inches; calf, 14; and weight without clothing, 129 pounds.

THE Committee on Public Health of the Massachusetts Legislature recently passed a resolution that the State Board of Health should undertake an investigation into the dangers to human life and health arising from tuberculosis in the food products of cattle. It was recommended that authority be given to spend a sum not exceeding 15,000 dollars on the inquiry.

STATISTICS of longevity just published by the German government, show that in 1888 there were ninety-one persons in Prussia who were over a hundred years old, and between 1864 and 1888 upwards of seven thousand persons of over a hundred died, and of these one hundred and fifty-five were more than one hundred and nine.

FURTHER, in relation to longevity, Dr. Chas. Cotton, M.R.C.P., etc. (Ramsgate), writes to the British Medical Journal (March 7th inst.) "During the years 1879 to 1889 there were 177 deaths amongst the patients in my practice in Ramsgate (not including infants under one year of age); their aggregate ages amounted to 10,258 years, an average age of 57 years, 7 months 8 days. Of the total number, 42 died between the ages of 70 and 80, 27 between 80 and 90, and 7 between 90 and 99. Thus five-twelfths (or nearly one half) of the whole number lived to be over 70 years of age.

PROF. F. W. NEWMAN, of London University, brother of the late Cardinal Newman, and one of the most eminent literary men in England, has been a strict vegetarian for more than thirty years, it is said, and during a considerable portion of that time has been president of the Vegetarian Society of England. He is still active, although more than eighty years of age.