

male or female, reach that period before twenty, many not before twenty-five. Very few young women are fit to enter upon the high duties and responsibilities of the married state before the age of twenty-one years; and it would be far better for the individuals, as well as for the well being of the race, if nearly all of them put off this event until the age of from twenty-two to twenty-five.

HEATING HOUSES.—A writer in the Canadian Architecture and Builder gives the follow summary to an article on heating and ventilating: Every system possesses some bad points as well as advantages. Of the hot-air system we cannot say much beyond the fact that its promptness and vigorous power may recommend it in some cases, but the difficulty of distributing heat evenly, already mentioned, may sometimes prove a great objection. The steam system possesses the advantages of the hot-air system without some of its faults. Its application commends itself to those large edifices which require to be well heated at short notice and for short intervals. Hot water should in general be preferred to any other system, especially for the home, it being considered less costly and more easy of management than any other. Parke says that "the practical limit of air purity will depend on the cost which men are willing or able to pay for it."

PHYSICAL FATIGUE FAVORING INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The Paris correspondent of the A. M. Med. Assoc. says: In a note by Dr. Charrin and Roger published in the *Revue Scientifique*, the authors endeavored to afford experimental confirmation of the generally received view that physical fatigue is a powerful factor in the production of infectious disease. They subjected a number of white rats to severe exercise (running in a rotating cage) for four consecutive days, at seven hours each day. Eight of these tired-out animals were then inoculated with attenuated anthrax virus, four animals in a normal condition of health being inoculated with the same virus at the same time, in order to serve as a standard of comparison. The result was that seven of the eight animals belonging to the first series succumbed, while all the animals of the second series survived. They thus explain the curious tendency of epidemics to break out among soldiers during great manœuvres and on campaign, and they urge that many a soldier is rendered susceptible to disease by fatigue who would otherwise have escaped.

INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF ANTISEPTICS ON THE TEETH.—Blochmann reports (*Deutsche Med. Ziet. in N. Y. Med. Times.*) a series of experiments which show that the fashion of using the prominent antiseptics in tooth preparation is injurious. Small particles of dentine were submitted to the action of one per cent. solutions of salicylic acid, thymol and corrosive sublimate, and a ten per cent. solution of borax, for eight days. Chalk and phosphoric acid from the dentine were then found in all the solutions. The proportions were slight in some cases, but nevertheless decomposition had taken place. Cream of tartar so often recommended as an addition to dentifrice, also exerts destructive influence.

BARBERS' BRUSHES AND CONTAGION.—The *Lancet* (Lond. E.) says: The frequency with which the contagion of parasitic sycosis has been traced to its source in a barber's shop is almost characteristic of the disease. In our issue dated February 15th, attention has once more been directed to this point in a note on four cases, all of which appear to have owed their origin to the attentions of one particular operator. The writer, probably with justice, attributes the transference of the infective germs in these cases to the use of unclean brushes and a common soap supply. He suggests that the former evil should be obviated by immersing the brush after each time of use in boiling water. As regards the soap, a safeguard already exists in the practice, now common among hairdressers, of using for each client a separate portion of soap-cream, thus avoiding all danger of intermixture. The suggestion respecting the brush is well worthy the attention of barbers, and we might add a further injunction that the water be not only boiling, but fortified in its cleansing property by some simple antiseptic. It is taken for granted that the razor, being both easily and regularly cleaned, is rarely, if ever, a medium of infection. Since an occasional razor cut may occasion the transference of more serious diseases by the mixture of blood with soapsuds, every cleanly precaution becomes the more imperative.

FINGER NAIL DIRT.—The British Medical Journal (The organ of the British Med. Assoc.) of May 24th, says: The progress of bacteriology has shown that aseptic surgery means scientific cleanliness; the