

opinion of the profession in Massachusetts on the question are as follows: 80 per cent. take the affirmative, 10 per cent. the negative, 0.95 per cent. doubtful, and 9.04 per cent. returned no answer. The fact is unquestioned, that wherever a superabundance of moisture exists, the crops are meagre and the inhabitants affected with fever, rheumatism and consumption. Whilst cholera carries terror to the mind by the rapidity of its ravages, consumption and the ordinary epidemics are in reality more alarming from their permanence (often becoming endemic), and from the fact of their slower operation challenging, in a less marked degree, the public attention. The annual slaughter in England and Wales, from preventible causes of typhus, which attacks person in the vigor of life, have been shown to be double the amount of what was suffered by the allied armies in the battle of Waterloo.

Simcoe.

C. W. C.

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## Selected Articles.

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### CARBONIC ACID AND ITS FATAL EFFECTS.

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BY W. H. THAYER, M.D.

[Read before Med. Society, Co. of Kings, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1874.]

The success of a doctrine depends much upon the manner in which it is presented by its advocates; and scientific facts may sometimes fail to receive universal assent, for want of being forcibly put

The necessity of a thorough ventilation of sick rooms is nothing more than what is taught by every well-informed and thoughtful doctor of medicine. Yet so far are the majority of physicians from putting their ideas on this matter in practice with any considerable degree of consistency, that it cannot be supposed they thoroughly appreciate the premises. I purpose, therefore, to put the subject in another form, to see if it cannot be presented in such a manner as to produce a more decided effect.

I start with the proposition that the most serious impediment to recovery in fatal cases of acute disease is the daily