

These results differ considerably, it is pointed out, from those published by Tyndall, who says a few cubic centimeters of air will in most cases, bring infection into the most diverse infusions. M. Miquel compared the number of deaths from contagious and epidemic diseases in Paris with the number of bacteria in the air during the period from December, 1879, to June, 1880, and, certainly, each recrudescence of the aerial bacteria was followed at about eight days' interval by an increase of the deaths in question. Unwilling to say positively that this is more than a mere coincidence, he projects further observations regarding it. M. Miquel further finds (contrary to some authors) that the water vapor which rises from the ground, from rivers, from masses in full putrefaction, is always micrographically pure, that gases from buried matter in course of decomposition are always exempt from bacteria, and that even impure air sent through putrefied meat, far from being charged with microbes, is entirely purified provided only the putrid filter be in a state of moisture comparable to that of earth at 0.30 meter from the surface of the ground.

CONCERNING THE PULSE.

Every intelligent person owes it to himself to learn from his family physician how to ascertain the pulse in health; then by comparing it with what it is when ailing, he may have some idea of the urgency of his own case, and it will be an important guide to the physician. Parents ought to know the healthy pulse of each child; as now and then a person is born with a peculiarly slow or fast pulse, and the very case in hand may be that peculiarity. An infant's pulse is 130, a child of seven about 80, and from twenty to sixty years it is 70

beats in a minute, declining to 60 at four-score.

There are pulses all over the body, but where there is only skin and bone, as at the temples, it is more easily felt; the wrist is the most convenient point. The feebleness or strength of the beat is not material, being modified by the finger's pressure. Comparative rapidity is the great point; near death it is 140 and over. A healthy pulse imparts to the finger a feeling of a woolen string; in a fever it feels harder, like a silk thread; if there is inflammation, which is always dangerous, it beats fast, spiteful and hard, as if a fine wire was throbbing against the finger. When the pulse beats irregularly, as if it lost a beat, then it hurries to make it up, there is something the matter with the heart. But do not worry about it; take nothing, do nothing, except by the advice of an intelligent physician.

ROPE JUMPING.

As cooler weather approaches, says the *Scientific American*, the jumping rope will be more and more in the hands of girls. Properly used it is not an objectionable plaything. But children cannot be too frequently cautioned against jumping against time or competing to see who can jump the greatest number of times without stopping. In an essay on popular customs on public health in the recently published annual report of the Department of Statistics of Indiana, Dr. J. W. Hervey, of Indianapolis, lays great stress on the danger of this practice. None, he says, is more injurious; and in illustration of its evil effects he mentions a case of real occurrence in that city. The patient, a girl of twelve years, was dead when he reached the house. He says: "On inquiry I learned that she had jump-