

Matters Recent and Current.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, we wish for each and every one of our Subscribers; and sincerely hope that nothing will prevent the fulfilment of the wish, and that they and the Journal may all meet again next December, the better for having lived another year.

WHY WILL NOT each one of our Subscribers induce some one who is not a Subscriber to become so, and so spread sanitary information and help us to improve the Journal? If each one wills to do so, it could easily be done. To each one individually we say, please will to do so before the New Year.

THE DON MARSH, TORONTO.—The condition of this waste piece of earth and water is receiving deserved attention at the present time. Such a marsh in the immediate neighborhood of a city should not be allowed in any case, and of course this one is not improved by the filth flowing constantly into it. What is to be done with it? In this age when trains of cars run through mountains and the waves of the sea can be stilled—with oil, why could not a portion of the Scajoro heights be “run down” over the Don marsh and form good, solid building sites? What Engineer will look into this?

NO GERMS IN THE MOUNTAINS.—Among the mountains, (*Med. Times and Gaz.*) we are told by Freudenreich, there are no germs; on Lake Thun there is scarcely one to each litre of air; in a room in Thun Town, sixty in the same amount of air. Contrast these figures with Miguel's results, viz., at Montsouris observatory 760 germs per litre of air, and in the Rue de Rivoli 5500. The reason for this strange difference is doubtless that

up in the mountains the germs are starved, whereas in a town street they increase and multiply up to the food limit—the Malthusian theory being, no doubt, true of germs, if of nothing else. Expose a carcass on the top of the Schilthorn, and see if the air around it will not soon teem with germs, flocking down on it like vultures out of the blue. The converse of the experiment—the removal of all food out of the way of germs—is what sanitarians are constantly attempting at lower levels, with, as yet, but moderate success.

ORGANISM OF CROUPOUS PNEUMONIA.—Some observations upon the micrococcus of croupous pneumonia *Medical Times and Gazette*, Dec. 1, have lately been presented to the Physiological Society of Berlin by Mr. Friedländer and Dr. Frobenius, of that city. The micro-organism is characterised and distinguished by the presence of a peculiar mucous capsule, which it retains when recultivated in gelatine. Inoculation with this “cultivated” material was made into the lung-tissue of rabbits, but without effect. Similar injections into dogs and, with still more constancy, into mice produced all the phenomena of genuine croupous labar pneumonia. In a few cases, inhalations of the material in pulverised form were equally successful.

AFTER DEATH FROM CHOLERA.—In the November number of this JOURNAL, was a notice of the result of the German Commission to investigate the cholera in Egypt. M. STRAUSS, has just made a report to the Société de Biologie on behalf of the French Cholera Commission. The report includes the study of twenty-seven autopsies, which were performed within half an hour of death, so that putrefaction may be excluded as a cause of any of the changes found. The stools contained rice-like bodies, formed by collections of epithelial cells affected with that special form of necrosis known as “necrosis of coagulation.” Microscopically, in the contents of both the stomach and alimentary canal, were a great many microbes. There was superficial desquamation of the mucous membrane of the small