

the disease." The statement is made that, "There is little proof that the bacillus tuberculosis retains its vitality outside of the body long enough to infect another person under such circumstances."

This statement is sadly at variance with the experiments of authorities cited by Whittaker of Cincinnati, in the first volume of Sajous' Annual of the Medical Sciences for 1889. By these it has been proved, that the bacilli in dried sputa retain their viability for periods varying from three to six months; and that dust collected from the walls of rooms, where sputum cups had not been used, had been capable of transmitting the disease to animals experimented upon; check experiments were made in these cases.

I have not seen the "absurdly impracticable suggestions" referred to by the *Popular Science News*, but it would certainly not be too much to expect the railway people to provide cuspidores made of hard rubber or other noiseless material, and instruct porters to hand these at night to passengers afflicted with expectoration, instead of having the expectoration stored in a handkerchief, and probably smeared from it upon the mattress or upholstered head-piece. These could also be protected by being enclosed in a cotton covering, as is often done by the very careful housekeeper with the drawing-room furniture.

Railway managers are generally desirous (in these days of competition) of promoting the comfort and safety of passengers.

I do not know that it would be too much to ask that, in a case where a suspicious case has been in a berth, the car conductor should report the fact, so that the wood-work of that berth could be washed down by the car-cleaner with some disinfectant solution.

Railway authorities should also be induced to provide means, and enforce regulations, for suppressing the filthy practice of spitting and expectorating on the floors of day cars. To say nothing of the sanitary part of the question, it is most disgusting for people to find themselves sitting with boots and skirts in contact with the excretions of a previous occupant. These deposits are also liable to become part of the atmospheric dust of such cars.

Yours, etc.,

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Books and Pamphlets Received.

Field Hospital Service with the Army of the Potomac. By W. W. Potter, M.D.

A Dermoid Cyst of the Left Ovary. By W. W. Potter, M.D., and W. C. Krauss, M.D.

Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina; 26th Annual Session, 1889.

Discussion on Craniotomy; reprinted from the transactions of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, September, 1889.

Book Notices.

Neuroses of the Genito-Urinary System in the Male, with Sterility and Impotence. By Dr. R. Uitzmann, of the University of Vienna, translated by G. W. Allen, M.D.

The author deals with this subject in a commendable manner, avoiding the disgusting details of sexual perversions and abnormalities. The physician will find in the work reliable advice as to those cases in which something more than moral treatment is usually required.

Wood's Medical and Surgical Monographs. Vol. 5, No. 3, March, 1890. Wm. Wood & Co., New York.

In this number are contained Treatment of Cancer by Electricity, by J. I. Parsons, London; The Dreadful Revival of Leprosy, by Sir Morrill Mackenzie, M.D.; Diseases of Old Age, by Dr. A. Seidel, Berlin; Urinary Neuroses of Childhood, by Dr. Guinon, Paris; Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremities, by W. H. Bennett, F.R.C.S.; Uses of Electrolysis in Surgery, by W. E. Steavenson, M.D., London.

The Pulse. By W. H. Broadbent, M.D., Senior Physician to and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in the Medical School of St. Mary's Hospital. Lea Bros. & Co., Philadelphia.

In this book Dr. Broadbent reproduces, with some amplifications and additions, the Croonian Lectures delivered by him in 1887 before the College of Physicians, of London. The work is especially valuable as the expression of opinion of one of the best known and most highly esteemed of English clinical observers; opinions based on the observations of a lifetime.