

RICHARDSON'S HYGIENIC RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—Dr. B. W. Richardson, in 1856, published the following rules for the hygienic treatment of consumption. They were looked upon with disfavor by the medical profession of that time. But under the new animalcular pathology they are largely approved. He publishes them in his *Aselepiad*. We give the rules, omitting the explanations of the same: 1. A supply of pure air for respiration is the first indication in the treatment of the consumptive patient. Especially should the consumptive be the sole occupant of his own bed and bedroom. 2. Active exercise is an essential element in the treatment of consumption. 3. A uniform climate is an essential element in the treatment of consumption. 4. The dress of the consumptive patient should be adapted to equalize the temperature of the body, and so loose that it interferes in no way with the animal functions. 5. The hours of rest of the consumptive patient should be regulated mainly by the absence of the sun. 6. The occupation of the consumptive patient should be suspended if it is indoor or sedentary; but a certain amount of out-door occupation may be advantageous. 7. Excessive mental exertion should be avoided by the consumptive. 8. Cleanliness of body is a special point in the treatment of consumption. 9. Abstinence from all habits of gross sexual indulgence is an essential part, both in the prevention and cure of consumption. 10. The diet of consumptive patients should be ample, and should contain a larger amount of the respiratory constituents of food than is required in good health. 11. A consumptive of either sex should never marry.—*American Lancet*.

MERULIUS LACRIMANS—THE DRY ROT.—A short time before his death, Prof. H. R. Goppert, of Breslau, in connection with the chemist Professor Poleck, made a study of the *hausschwamm*—a fungus commonly known with us as dry rot, which had caused great injury to buildings in northern Germany. The results of their combined studies now appear in a pamphlet by Professor Poleck ("Der Hausschwamm" Breslau, 1885.) The dry rot, *Merulius lacrimans*, seems to be unknown in a wild state in Germany, but is confined to woodwork of different

kinds, and attacks by preference coniferous timber. Strange to say, the fungus does not usually infest old structures, but generally makes its appearance in comparatively new buildings: and a startling series of figures shows the amount of damage done in the region of Breslau. Chemical analyses by Poleck show that the *merulius* is particularly rich in nitrogenous compounds and fat, which is rather remarkable, when one considers the chemical constituents of the timber on which it grows. Injury to health, or even death is said to result from exposure to air containing large quantities of the spores of the *merulius*; and several authenticated cases are reported. In a supplementary note, Poleck considers the relationship of *merulius* to *actinomyces*, a fungus which causes a characteristic disease in man and cattle; and he apparently comes to the conclusion that what is called *actinomyces* is probably only the *merulius* altered by the peculiar matrix on which it is growing. His statements on this point can hardly be called conclusive, or in fact, other than vague.—*Scientific American*.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.—In the Superior Court of Massachusetts, in an action for rent against the tenant of rooms in an apartment house, it appeared that the steam heat which the landlord agreed to supply was inadequate; that additional heat became essential to a proper enjoyment of the premises; that the flues and chimneys were defective, improperly constructed; that her apartments were often filled with dense smoke; and that the elevator service was inefficient. The court held that these grievances were an obstruction to the beneficial enjoyment of the premises, constituting a constructive eviction, and justified the tenants' abandonment.—*Scientific American*.

FOITZL, (Deutsche Med. Wochensche), reports a case in which he hypnotised a woman in confinement, by holding the bulb of a thermometer before her eyes. The contractions increased in force, the woman remaining insensible for an hour and a quarter, during which time the child was born and the placenta delivered. She was then aroused by violent shaking. She was very much astonished to find the labor completed, as she knew nothing of what had transpired during the period of hypnosis.