

Some months ago it was announced that Professor Koch, the great German physicist, was on the high road to a discovery which would rob consumption of its terrors. For a time there was not much said about it, and it was feared that another failure had been made, but now the good news has been proclaimed that the experiments have been successful, and the Professor will give his remedy to the world. If subsequent events prove the correctness of the claims that the lymph kills the bacillus of consumption, Professor Koch's niche in the temple of fame will be secure. He will indeed have made a discovery of value to mankind, and will receive not only honors from many sources, but the gratitude of those who are afflicted with the dread disease. His remedy cannot supply new lungs, but it professes to check the disease in its early stages. Dr. Koch will now experiment with a view to obtaining a cure for diphtheria.

Smuggling has become so common in Quebec that Cardinal Taschereau had a mandement on the subject read in all the Roman Catholic churches in the city of Quebec on a recent Sunday. The sin of smuggling was dwelt upon, and it threatened the withdrawal of the sacraments of the church from those who persist in it. This decisive action on the part of the Cardinal should have an immediate effect in checking the illicit trade, for in Quebec, where the population is largely Catholic, the displeasure of the Spiritual superiors of the people is a stronger detriment than almost anything else. The illicit trade, which is mainly in spirits brought from St. Pierre and Miquelon, is said to have a very demoralizing effect upon the settlers upon the banks of the St. Lawrence. The profits made upon the smuggled spirits is enormous. The stuff is sold by the smugglers at about \$2.40 a gallon, and as it is very much over proof, the purchasers water it until one gallon becomes three, and then they retail it. The *Quebec Chronicle* suggests that a revenue cutter be placed upon the Lower St. Lawrence, to the end that the men who are protectionists by day may not forget their principles at night. Smuggling is a sin not generally considered serious unless the offender is found out, then the enormity of it is demonstrated. In the matter of spirits especially, something should be done to prevent it. It is stated that the Customs have been defrauded of half a million dollars during the past two years. With a revenue cutter on the alert, and the Catholic church setting its face against the evil, it ought to be suppressed before long.

When people hear of a pump in connectic. with milking apparatus, they are often inclined to laugh and make jokes about it, but now it seems that a process, which is but an adaptation of the principle of the pump, is about to be brought into use for extracting the milk from the cow. It has been tried on the estate of the Duke of Portland, and is said to have worked in the most satisfactory manner. One person can attend to the operation of milking six cows at once by this process, and it only takes ten minutes to milk each cow, while an almost unlimited number can be milked at the same time. The apparatus necessary consists of an ordinary iron pipe, one inch in diameter, which is carried around the cow-house at a convenient height above the shoulders of the cow. This pipe communicates with a hand pump, whereby the air is drawn from the pipe, a circular tank connecting with a shallow well of water serving as a regulator of the vacuum. Opposite the space between every pair of animals is a projection on the pipe, finished with a stop-cock, for making connections with the milking apparatus. To any one of these connections a length of India rubber tubing may be attached, the other end of which is made fast to a nozzle near the top of the milk pail. The pail is cylindrical in form with a truncated conical top. Its opening, which is four inches wide, is closed by means of a thick glass disk, which rests inside flush with the outer rim of the pail, supported by a thick rubber band, held in place by a projecting ledge underneath. On one side of the shoulder of the pail is the nozzle, before mentioned, and on the opposite side are four similar nozzles, all of which are like the small connections on the iron pipe. These four nozzles are to be connected by means of tubing with specially constructed teat cups, each of which receives a teat of the cow under operation. The cups, as well as the pail, are of tinned iron, and each one is provided with a stop-cock. The milk pail has, in addition to its handle, a couple of hooks, by means of which it can be suspended a little in front of the cow's udder, a broad band of girthing being laid across the animal's loins for the purpose. When the time comes for milking, the operation is proceeded with as follows:—The attendant works the hand pump and exhausts the air in the pipe. A pail, with its cups attached, is then adjusted under the cow, and the long rubber tube is joined to one of the connections on the pipe, the stop-cock is opened and a partial vacuum is established within the pail. Then the cups are moistened and placed in position on the teats, the stop-cocks are opened, and the teats are thus brought under the influence of the vacuum, and the greater external atmospheric pressure at once causes the milk to flow. In from eight to ten minutes the cow is milked "dry." The glass in the top of the pail enables the operator to observe when the milk stops flowing. The great cleanliness of this method recommends it almost more than any other advantage, for it would be impossible for any dirt to fall into the air-tight pail. Besides this, an obstreperous animal would find it difficult to resent the milking process by the time-honored method of kicking the pail over, or switching her tail into the milker's face. Once the machine was placed in position there would be no help for the cow, and the iron milk-maid would go through the work with quick despatch. The cows are said to take very kindly to it, for it frees them from much rough handling. The expense in the first instance would probably be greater than any milking apparatus at present in use, but it appears to us that it would soon make up for it in the saving of labor and in the cleanliness of the milk. It would be especially beneficial on large dairy farms, where a number of cows have to be milked.

Birchall, the Woodstock murderer, paid his debt to justice on Friday morning last at 8.27 o'clock. He made no confession, but on the contrary published a document expressly stating that there would be no confession. He met death without flinching, and we cannot help admiring his pluck.

One of the evils inseparable from party-government is that the system postpones almost indefinitely the consideration of measures upon their own merits. We do not agree with Professor Goldwin Smith in thinking that party-government can be dispensed with, for not even Professor Smith himself has yet succeeded in devising a good working substitute for the present system. But we do think the inevitable defects of the system should be borne clearly in mind, and the difficulties arising from them thus minimized. It requires clear and frequent warnings from the independent section of the press to induce people to question impartially as to the real drift of a proposed measure or policy. It is so hard to look far ahead. It is so easy for party-speakers and partizan journals to juggle with catching generalities, the answers to which are difficult with detail and qualifications, and hence not listened to with patience. If a certain line of policy seems adapted to the exigencies of party leaders, the mass of their followers are ready to adopt it with enthusiasm, even though its real tendency be directly opposed to their most cherished principles. The appeal to partizanship shuts off a too close examination of the policy. It should be one duty of the independent press to drag measures out of the mists of party prejudice and force men to view them in the plain light of common sense and honest patriotism.

Our public schools and those who instruct and train the minds of the pupils who attend them, are, as a general rule, of an excellent character, and inspire feelings of pride and confidence in the breasts of our citizens, but it is advisable that teachers should carefully abstain from actions that excite adverse criticism. A case recently came to our ears, in which a teacher committed a grave breach of etiquette. A pupil, it seems, had been absent, or for some reason or other was required to take a written excuse to his teacher. His mother accordingly sent one, which happened to have some little error in it. This was seized upon by the teacher as a good opportunity to "show off his learning." He read the lady's note aloud to the class, and commented upon the mistake in a manner better calculated to teach bad form and ill-manners, than to instruct them in the principles of English composition. This is one example from near home; others from a distance are not lacking. In Montreal a teacher was recently fined for boxing a boy's ears. This was right. If such antiquated methods of correction still retain their hold upon the favor of people supposed to be intelligent, it is quite time means were taken to put a stop to them. The ear is a sensitive organ and might be seriously injured by a blow. Not long ago a discussion took place in Hamilton on the subject of the punishment of recalcitrant Sunday Scholars, and one speaker said that in a certain school when a boy developed a streak of naughtiness, his teacher took him kindly but firmly by the ear and marched him up and down the room singing a gospel hymn. If boxing the ears is bad, pulling the ears to a pious accompaniment is worse. Teachers have a strong influence upon the minds of those under their charge, and should be ever on the alert to see that it is for good and not for evil. What the effect of such actions as we have mentioned would be, can be imagined. The influence would certainly not be elevating.

Two particularly sad occurrences took place last week. We allude to the loss of the British torpedo cruiser *Serpent*, about twenty miles north of Cape Finisterre, on Monday, the 10th, and the drowning of Captain Lindall, of the steamship *Vancouver*, on her voyage from Liverpool to Quebec. The first mentioned was a most deplorable disaster on account of the tremendous loss of life entailed, as well as the destruction of one of the best of British cruisers. The *Serpent* was a twin screw vessel of 1,170 tons and 4,500 horse power. She carried six guns. A heavy mist prevailed at the time she went on the rocks, and owing to the violence of the storm it was impossible to send assistance from the shore. Of the 276 persons on board only three managed to get to shore. It is well to note the strong contrast between the reception of the news of the disaster in different quarters. The Duke of Edinburgh was attending a Patti concert when he was informed of the loss of the *Serpent*. He at once left the hall and hastened to obtain further details of the catastrophe, and then went directly home, expressing the utmost sorrow at the fate that had overtaken so many brave men. Lord George Hamilton, First Lord of the Admiralty, who broke the news at a Conservative banquet at Acton, must be made of sterner stuff. He simply stated the sorrowful facts and then proceeded to make a rollicking speech, provoking frequent outbursts of laughter. This has been denounced as scandalous, and it is stated that it will be used as an offset to the accusation that Mr. Gladstone attended the theatre on the evening of the day when the news of the death of Gordon at Khartoum was received. Incidents of this sort form no unimportant part of the stock in trade of political parties. As to the second tragedy, nothing but universal regret is expressed for the loss of the brave captain of the *Vancouver*. The ship had been out six days, and the captain had been on the bridge two days and two nights without an interval for rest, and had only just retired to the chart room to try and secure the much-needed refreshment, when the sea which struck the steamer carried away the bridge and chart house, and with them the captain and quartermaster, who were so diligent at their duty. Captain Lindall was an officer universally liked and respected, and was a great favorite with children. His untimely death will be regretted by all who have known him. He never neglected his duty, nor the responsibility that rested upon him. He met the death of a sailor, and we can but say "How can man die better than facing fearful odds" in the discharge of his duty.