

dissolved. "Patent ice pitchers" may now be had in which the ice cannot dissolve in the water. Bacteria are not destroyed by temperatures as low as the freezing point. At a temperature of 32° to 39° F. bacteria become dormant and are incapable of propagation, but they retain their vitality. Experiments have shown that bacteria exposed to a temperature far below zero have, upon being warmed to 43°-54° F., been able to resume all their normal functions. It is therefore certain that ice frozen naturally or made by artificial process from ordinary water may contain bacteria and germs. Dr. Carl Fraenkel of the Hygienic Institute in Berlin has made some observations in this direction which have been published in the *Zeitschrift fuer Hygiene*. Dr. Bischoff of Berlin has also made chemical and microscopical examinations of the various kinds of ice, natural as well as artificial, for sale in Berlin. Many of the samples of ice thus examined were found to be as impure and unfit for use as the most impure and unwholesome drinking water. While great care is sometimes observed in the selection of drinking water, it is most astonishing how little thought or care is bestowed upon the more dangerous impurities contained in ice. The German government ordered Dr. Robt Koch to make an official investigation. It was thus conclusively shown that freezing did not destroy the bacteria. American experiments have fully corroborated the best European authorities.

UNVENTILATED railroad cars are a common source of severe colds, and worse, and dangerous trouble. The editor of the *New York Medical Times* writes thus: There is a legal punishment for the man who leaves the door of an elevator open if a passenger, unconscious of danger, plunges through it to death or serious injury, and a legal punishment also to the engineer of a fast moving train who through neglect of the signals wrecks his train and injures or destroys human life, but there seems to be no penalty for railroad officials who permit their passenger cars to be so overheated and poorly ventilated that marked discomfort and frequently sickness and death are often the penalty of a lengthy journey. A few weeks ago we were called in consultation to a neighboring town, and before we had half passed the twenty miles of our journey the air was so impure and the heat so intolerable as to produce faintness. The thermometer stood at eighty-six. We re-

turned on the same train and found all the ventilators closed and the thermometer standing at eighty-four. The patient we had just visited, a man of large wealth and widely extended influence for good, was dying of double pneumonia contracted by going from those overheated, badly ventilated cars into the cold air. On a very cold night last winter we were obliged to visit Albany, and, entering a drawing-room car, threw off the overcoat and sat down to a cosy chat with a friend. Pretty soon there came a shiver and the overcoat was resumed. By the time we reached Peekskill the whole body was in a shiver, and as the conductor passed through the car we asked him in regard to the steam. He put his hand to the pipes and found them perfectly cold. John had only forgotten to turn on the steam. And so it goes on to death.

STRONG EVIDENCE of the Intercommunicability of Tuberculosis between mankind and the bovine race is given in the *British Medical Journal* of March 16, 1889. At the International Medical Congress of Australia, held in January last, Dr. McLaurin, President of the Board of Health of Sydney, in an address, gave the following important evidence in relation to the probability of Tuberculosis being communicable from animals to man: After stating that the mortality from consumption in the cities there was 1-30 per 1,000 of the population per annum (a very high rate), said: "Consumption has got a footing amongst us and is now one of our most important causes of death. There is a good deal of trafficking in tuberculous cattle in New South Wales, for both slaughtering and dairy purposes. A law is urgently required making it penal to traffic in deceased animals. Among the Jewish population of New South Wales, numbering 4,000 persons, in three years there was but one death from consumption. Taking the average of that colony, the expected deaths in the 4,000 persons would have been 13.68: and as the Jews live chiefly in the cities we might expect the mortality to be higher. The result is largely due to the avoidance of tuberculous meat."

DR. BERNARDO, the energetic provider of "Homes for Destitute Children," is doing a great deal of good for the children, which is a very important consideration indeed. But no doubt a good deal of over-sight should be exercised, with regard to the waifs, before they are allowed to mingle with other children. It can