

THE AREA AND POPULATION OF THE GLOBE.—The recent publication of the *Bevölkerung der Erde*, of Drs. Wagner and Supan, by Perthes, of Gotha, gives us the most reliable information as to the area and population of the earth now obtainable. The estimate for the total population of the earth in this present year is 1,480 millions, or an increase of forty-six millions over the estimate for 1882, when the last edition of these statistics was published. The exact enumeration of 836 millions (about fifty-six per cent. of the whole population of the globe) has now been accomplished by census or registration. The population of the chief divisions of the globe is, in round numbers: in Europe, 337 millions, giving ninety-four inhabitants to each square mile of area; Asia, 825 millions, or forty-seven to the square mile; Africa, 163 millions, or fourteen to the mile; America, 121 millions, or eight to the mile; Australia, three millions, or one to the mile; and in the Oceanic Islands, seven millions, or ten to the mile. In Europe, Belgium exceeds all countries in density of population, with 530 persons to a square mile; next follows Holland, with 365; and the United Kingdom, with 312; but whereas in England the density is 480, in Scotland, it is only about one-fourth, and in Ireland about one-third that of England. In Norway and Finland, the most thinly populated countries of Europe, there are only about sixteen persons to the square mile. Of China the estimate is 361 millions, giving a density of about seventy-seven to the square mile. It is in respect of Africa that the greatest doubt necessarily exists. The statistics make it manifest that there are still vast areas of the habitable surface of the earth almost, if not quite, unpeopled; and which will for many a long year to come receive the surplus millions of Europe and other parts of the globe in which the density of population is most keenly felt.

JOSH BILLINGS ON DOCTORS.—Doktors are not all quaks; you hav got wrong noshuns about this. Doktors, lawyers, and ministers have a hard row to ho; they hav to deal with kredulity, knavery and fears of the people—three of the most difficult traits in human natur tew handle. If i was a doktor and understood my bizzness, i should doctor my pashunts, and let the disease take care ov itself. More folks are cured this way than enny other.—*Med. Times.*

ARE DRUNKARDS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES COMMITTED WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL?—Much has been said upon this subject of late, and most that has been said has been in the negative. The affirmative, have, as a rule, thought reply not necessary, and yet the observing must have noted a growing tendency upon the part of the alienist to regard the drunkard as irresponsible for acts committed while drunk. In his seventeenth annual report of the Cincinnati Sanitarium the eminent superintendent, Dr. O. Everts, makes the following timely remarks:

Common sense and common law (which is but an expression of common sense tested by experience) hold men responsible for remote, as well as immediate, consequences of criminal acts. No man is permitted to plead his own wrong in mitigation of his offences. Common law, and common sense, recognizing intoxication as a vice, hold inebriates responsible for crimes, although committed while incapable of self-control, and oblivious to the consequences of their acts. The school of neuropathic doctors who recognize all of the antecedents of inebriety to which it is sequential as pertaining to disease, holds inebriates as irresponsible for their crimes, as they were from the beginning incapable of resisting their morbid appetites, or doing otherwise—unaided—than to become drunkards. Whatever the logic of such inferences, sustained by whatever facts, it is not probable that such extreme views of the irresponsibility of drunkards will ever generally obtain. Society—that co-operative condition of mankind, in which the rights, or necessities, of the many are recognized as superior to the rights or necessities of the few, in the interests of which laws are made and executed; the necessities of which constitute the only rational criteria of the responsibility of man to man—can not afford to exempt a class of offenders from responsibility, whether sane or insane, while they are, at the same time, exempt from legal restraint, because of alleged infirmities. Necessity is not often sentimental.—*Med. and Surg. Report.*

TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.—M. Hayem (*Concours Medical*), in one of his lessons on therapeutics, describes a new method of treatment of typhoid fever, which he has used with excellent results for several years. It consists in the exhibition of lactic acid as an intestinal disinfectant, and as a means of controlling the diarrhoea. He rejects all