

receive the treatment, and while there may be great benefit in suitable subjects, there will be much bitter disappointment. Meanwhile a fortune awaits the clever charlatan who will open a Gas Institute, lay pipes to each bed, and advertise to cure consumption with one hundred injections. I would have distributed with each rubber bag a copy of Bishop Berkeley's "Siris" or "Philosophical Reflections and Inquiries concerning the virtues of Tar-water," which, as John Stuart Mill remarks, illustrates how great and seemingly conclusive a mass of positive evidence can be produced in support of a medical opinion, not borne out, except to a limited extent, by experience. Had there been a daily press to "boom" the great philosopher's *universal medicine*, he would have been able to found the college in Bermuda and carry out his schemes of civilization in the West.

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A few weeks ago I spent a morning in Dr. Prudden's laboratory at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and was much interested in his studies on the bacteria of ice. He has collected samples from the various localities on the Hudson River and adjacent ponds from which the chief supply of New York is obtained, and by the culture method has isolated various forms of bacteria to the number of at least thirty. In three hundred analyses of ice taken at different times from the Hudson and its ponds, he found the average number of living bacteria for one cubic centimetre was 2033. In one sample of ice which was being distributed in a suburban district there were from 20,000 to 30,000 living bacteria to the cubic centimetre! It is quite possible that some of the forms found may be pathogenic; fortunately, however, he did not, in the numerous experiments, meet with the typhoid bacillus, which resists freezing for many days, and may retain its vitality in ice. These researches will prove most useful in causing greater care to be exercised in the collection of ice, and in checking, to some extent, the indiscriminate use of ice in drinking water.

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Every one interested in heart disease should read Sir Andrew Clark's remarkable report in the *British Medical Journal* of Feb. 5th, 12th and 19th, on "Cases of valvular disease of the heart known to have existed for over five years without causing serious symptoms." He has tabulated 683 cases (from his private note-books), in which there were signs of valvular disease, the presence of which was not indicated by symptoms, and did not interfere with the general health of the individual. This extraordinary number he met with between 1873 and 1886 during the morning consultation hours, and he distinctly states that all