

enclose a piece of litmus-paper colored red. It is quite clear that presence of lactic acid in the tube suffices to explain many obscure disorders of the alimentary tract for which physicians are often at a loss to find a satisfactory explanation.

Dr. O. W. Holmes: Nothing is clearer than that the Merciful Creator intends to blind most people as they pass down into the dark valley. Without very good reasons, temporal or spiritual, we should not interfere with His kind arrangements. It is the height of cruelty and the extreme of impertinence to tell your patient that he must die, except you are sure he wishes to know it, or that there is some particular cause for his knowing it.—*Medical Age*.

A TROUBLESOME PATIENT.—An incident in professional life is reported from Vienna, in which a tailor, on being told by his physician, whom he had called to consult as to a disease from which he was suffering, that recovery was impossible, forthwith shot the physician in two places, and then turned his arm—or rather arms, for there were several—against himself, with a fatal result so far as he was concerned. Nine shots in all were fired; and the number may, perhaps, be accounted for by the fact of this recalcitrant patient being a tailor; but it is to be hoped that a needless complication will not be introduced into professional life by such a practice becoming general. Medical men have already a good deal to put up with from patients; and, if further difficulties be introduced, the relations of doctor and patient may become strained. In any case, the medical man, if he must needs take lead, would probably prefer it in the shape of false coins to the more conical form of revolver-bullets. We are glad to state that the physician was not much hurt, and will shortly be able to resume what may be considered an eventful career.

According to some recent observations made by Dr. James Cameron, medical health officer for Hendon, England, and reported on by Mr. W. H. Power, Inspector for the Local Government Board, it seems to have been proved that the milk from cows suffering from a disease

characterized by the appearance of vesicles and sores on the udder, is capable of producing scarlet fever in the human subject.

In the course of its remarks upon the importance of this discovery, the *Lancet* says that "we have no hesitation in expressing our belief that we are at least brought face to face with the origin of scarlet fever. The possibility of exterminating this disease will be at once apparent, and it is satisfactory to know that Dr. Klein's services have been enlisted for the further prosecution of the inquiry on lines which the report indicates. The consideration whether these expectations will be immediately realized must be left till Dr. Klein's labors are ended and his report presented; but under any circumstances, the facts, which are already known, will give fresh impetus to the study of animal in relation to human diseases."

EXTIRPATION OF PAROTID.—J. Harry Thompson records a case of fibroid growth of the parotid in a lady 32 years of age. The tumor had been noticed five years previously, at first of slow growth, but the last six months the increase had been rapid. The visible portion was as large as an orange, and extended up behind the zygoma. A semilunar incision was made from the zygoma around the angle of the jaw and forwards, the upper part of the tumor was easily detached, the lower and posterior portions required careful and difficult dissection. The styloid muscles were preserved, the temporal, facial, occipital, internal maxillary, the lingual and external carotid arteries required ligatures. The wound left by the operation was frightful. On one side was seen the internal carotid, the internal jugular and the pneumogastric, deeper still the styloid muscles and the aperture of the pharynx. Covered by its muscles only a portion of the aponeurotic sheaths of the vessels was taken away with the tumor, the edges were brought together with sutures and carbolated compresses applied. In thirty days the wound was entirely healed and all the ligatures had come away. The facial paralysis was slight and became less.—*Giornale Internazionale delle Scienze Mediche*.

The French have taste in all they do,  
While we must go without;  
Nature to them has given goût!  
To us she's given gout!