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## PREVENTION VERSUS CURE—GOOD LIVING VERSUS INOCULATION.

**A** DISSIPATED, broken down young man who once consulted a celebrated French physician from whom he received some good hygiene advice, said: "Any idiot would know he'd get well if he did that which you advise, but I don't want to do that; I want to do just as I have been doing and have some medicine to cure me." This is just the way with the general public. They want to live on in their unnatural, unhygienic ways—to live as they please—luxuriate, dissipate, as their disordered tastes dictate—eat bad food and breath worse air, and then to have something injected under their skin, no matter what, to cure or to kill them. The same public are now dancing with delight in the hope that they can live on in their evil ways and need not even try to avoid the "great white plague," consumption; that when they contract the disease they can get cured of it by a few drops of Koch's mysterious lymph.

Koch is a great man, a good man. We have the utmost respect for him. Jenner was a great man. It may be that vaccination has lessened the mortality from small-pox. But like many other sanitarians we firmly believe that could notification, isolation, and disinfection have been and had been practiced in Jenner's time as they can be and are now, amongst a more enlightened public, the mortality would since then have been still less, and the repulsive practice of inserting a disease direct from the cow into the human body need never have been adopted. As evidence of this, from among much other evidence, we may mention that we not long ago reported several outbreaks of small-pox, in one year, of imported cases.

in "one of the worst vaccinated towns in England," which were promptly suppressed by strict isolation, &c., and without spread in a single instance. And elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL the reader may see what a correspondent of the British Medical Journal has to say, bearing upon this view, relative to small-pox in Prussia and Austria.

"Science" in its progress has made some great mistakes; especially has medical science. The "inventor" of phlebotomy, of opening a living vein—blood letting, was doubtless regarded in his time as a great man; but the practice has cost the world an incalculable number of valuable human lives.

Whatever the result, at the best, of Koch's reputed cure, it will not lessen the need of the vigilant practice of preventive measures which sanitarians have disclosed and recommended for the suppression of consumption. Koch himself bears witness to this. Koch's lymph cannot dispense with pure air, sunlight, wholesome food temperance in all things. Whatever the result, at best, of Koch's discovery, "the soul that sinneth it shall die."

THE MEDICAL RECORD, commenting upon the forty days fast of Signor Succi, says that the lesson to be learned from it is that people eat too much and drink too little; that wrong feeding is the basis of gout, rheumatism, diabetes and most stomach ills.

IPECACUANHA, Dr. Neal recommends in all cases of insect bites. Recently a patient traversed India, bidding defiance to mosquito bites with the following application: Powdered ipecac,  $\frac{1}{4}$  a dram, with  $\frac{1}{2}$  an ounce each of alcohol and sulphuric ether,—easily tried.