

THE CLINICAL THERMOMETER.—What is the use of a thermometer anyhow? Does it give a better idea of what is the cause of the trouble? Are the symptoms on which a diagnosis turns explained? Does it tell you why the skin is cool and the pulse 110 or 120, or, when a woman is raving with pain resembling neuralgia of the bowels, that it is or is not impaction? Then, what does it do? One thing it does—it seems to mystify the gullible public. “Taking the temperature” seems to have some satisfactory effect on the minds of the friends of the sick. “Temperature, doctor says, is 103.45°. That settles it—he is sick, bad sick.”—*General Practitioner*.

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OUR ADVANCING PHYSICIAN.—Great are the achievements of contemporary science in the department of therapeutics. Just now the medical novelty seems to be the pursuit of the microbe. It is carried on with an ardor that sometimes makes both laymen and doctors smile. One hears such stories as that of a man who went to his physician with a slight sore throat, left a little of the lining of it to be examined, got a gargle and went home. That night he went to the theatre, but was called out in the middle of the performance and told that the membrane from his throat had diphtheritic microbes in it, and that he must go home, which he did; but all the folks with sore throats in the audience who happened not to have seen a physician staid the show out.—*Harper's Weekly*.

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THE DANGEROUS SPITTING NUISANCE.—Drs. Hermann Biggs and T. Mitchell Prudden, the Health Board pathologists, have prepared a report on the practice of spitting in public places and conveyances, which, in their opinion, is responsible for the dissemination of diseases, such as consumption, pneumonia, influenza, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, or whooping-cough. That the practice is merely a habit, and not a necessity, is shown, they say, by the large number of men who are free from it, and the insignificant number of women who are addicted to it. The practice should be abated, the report says, and could be with the assistance of the community. Accompanying the report are resolutions providing that signs should be placed in elevated and surface cars and on the stations of elevated roads, signed by the Health Board, and warning the public against the practice. These signs should also be put in all municipal and federal buildings, and the authorities and elevated roads should be requested to provide spittoons in public places. The resolutions also ask the Manhattan Elevated Railway to give orders to guards to prevent passengers from spitting into the street.—*Medical Record*.