

yet turn out that the true etiology of the disease will be determined from a consideration of such local peculiarities. It is the opinion of Dr. M'Nab that the absence of pulmonary consumption in the Hebrides is ascribable to the great abundance of marine algæ. He thinks that a great evolution of oxygen occurs from this vegetation, which renders the atmosphere unusually oxygenated. Admitting this to be a fact, which we are by no means prepared to do, we cannot agree in the explanation given. The carbon theory of the production of phthisis must be first assumed, to make this view tenable; and the theory in question, as already hinted, we hold to be "not proved." We must nevertheless congratulate Dr. M'Nab on having produced an essay valuable for the facts which it has put before the profession.

—*On the Action of Digitalis in Typhoid Fever.*—Dr. Ernest Hankel has reported the results of investigations made on 80 cases of typhoid fever, under the care of Wunderlich, which were treated by the administration of an infusion of digitalis—1½ or 2 grammes to 180 grammes. The following were the chief results. 1. Digitalis, administered in suitable quantity in typhoid fever, always produces a considerable diminution of fever, lasting for several days, and lowers the pulse for some weeks. Hence the use of the drug is indicated in cases in which the temperature in the evening attains the height of 40.5 C. (105 Fahr.), and in the morning presents only slight intermissions; also in cases in which the contractions of the heart are 120 or more in the minute, particularly when these signs occur in the second week of the attack. 2. Digitalis lessens the delirium, and is indicated whenever this symptom coexists with unusual height of temperature and frequency of pulse. 3. The pulse, especially when small, becomes fuller after the administration of digitalis. 4. The administration of the drug is not contra-indicated by albuminuria, or even by Bright's disease. 5. With proper caution on the part of the medical attendant, dangerous and deadly collapse need not be feared. Digitalis may be given without danger to anæmic and depressed patients. 6. A tendency to hæmorrhage is not much increased by administering digitalis. The infusion may be even continued during bleeding, if this be not very profuse. 7. Gastric catarrh is increased naturally by digitalis. 8. The duration of the attack is prolonged under the influence of digitalis, so that this remedy ought only to be administered in cases where danger is threatened by fever, low pulse, and cerebral symptoms.—*Archives del Heilkunde.*

Art.

—*The Influence of Art Museums.*—Mr. Jarves in his "Art Thoughts," thus writes regarding this subject:

"The educational advantages of galleries and museums, and their conservative and refining influence on society, in teaching respect for the past, and affording means of estimating the actual progress of the manners and ideas of various races, are less notably considered. In America the popular notion of them is simply as depositories of curiosities to amuse an idle hour, but not of sufficient importance to be critically examined. The general impression of their contents is that they are well enough for those who wade through them, but we have got beyond all of this. Even for no higher purpose they deserve to be multiplied; for they beguile many from haunts of vice, and in the end will assuredly come to be esteemed on more rational if not æsthetic grounds. As it has taken several centuries to reduce the sense of beauty in us as a race to a mere negative state, probably it will take as many more of culture and encouragement in the opposite direction to make it a vital force again.

"Few persons have any conception of the crowd of visitors a gallery attracts. A conjecture of the number that visits the Louvre and Versailles museums may be hazarded from the fact that more than three hundred thousand francs are received annually from the sale of catalogues which are probably not bought by one visitor in twenty. Before canes and umbrellas were admitted with their owners, one hundred thousand francs were taken in one year from the deposit at the doors. At the current fee of two sous each, this sum would represent one million persons who brought these articles with them. Undoubtedly there were very many more who did not thus encumber themselves. It is notorious that the inhabitants of any city are less disposed to enjoy their own sights than those who are obliged to journey to see them. Hence it is reasonable to compute that one million Parisians do not furnish one-tenth part of the frequenters of their galleries. The statistics of the British Museum give corresponding results. They exhibit indirectly the pecuniary advantages conferred on those communities which possess artistic attractions of sufficient interest to draw to them vast concourses of sight-seers, independently of the instruction and enjoyment they offer to the inhabitants themselves. Indeed, not a few towns in Europe may be said almost to live on their old art, which really, especially in Italy, constitutes for the whole country a productive capital of untold value, supporting a large number of people. As is natural in America, we think more of establishing railroads and other channels of commerce. But were one of our towns to own a great museum, visitors would flock thither from all parts of the Union in such

numbers as would soon repay it, and leave it, as it were, a free gift to posterity, with a prolific income for the benefit of the citizens at large. The pecuniary gain would be none the less because chiefly flowing in from indirect sources. Providence so regulates cause and effect that the best things morally, intellectually, and æsthetically are certain of the best consequences, in not merely these respects, but ultimately in material well-being. To use an expressive Americanism, Central Parks "pay." So do national museums, as that city will discover which is the first to found one on a Central Park scale of organization and administration."

—The jewelry of the Etruscans, some of which made over 2,000 years ago was recently worn in public by an Italian lady, it is declared by competent judges to be superior in workmanship and finish to any made at present in Paris. This rather upsets our exalted notions about modern progress.

Legal.

—*Liabilities of Railways.*—The limits of liability of railway companies as carriers of passengers have been very elaborately and accurately reviewed and defined by the Exchequer Chamber, in the case of *Readhead v. The Midland Railway Company*. The result is lucidly stated by the reporter in the head-note, and it is important alike to the public and to the companies, says the *Law Times*, that the real nature of their responsibility should be clearly understood, which certainly has not been hitherto. It is now distinctly laid down by the judges that no contract either of general or limited warranty of safe conveyance is undertaken by a carrier of passengers. The contract and obligation is only to take due care, including in that term the use of skill and foresight; negligence alone is a breach of this contract. "Due care" means, however, a high degree of care, and throws upon carriers the duty of exercising all possible vigilance to see that whatever is required for the safe conveyance of their passengers is provided and kept in proper order and repair. But this duty will not make carriers responsible for injuries to passengers arising from a latent defect in the machinery they are obliged to use, and which no human skill or care could have either prevented or detected. It was further intimated, but not expressly decided, that even in the case of common carriers of goods, there is no warranty on the part of the carrier that his carriages are road-worthy.

—*Cab Law.*—In *Cave v. Storey*, 20 L. T. Rep. N. S. 618, the Court of Exchequer decided, remarks the *Law Times* that a railway station is not a public place within the provisions of the Hackney Carriage Act, and consequently that a cab there is not bound by the provision of the statute which requires the driver, under a penalty, to take any passenger who requires the use of it. It is a familiar trick with Cabby not to see certain customers when there is a chance of selection, having a decided preference for a party of three or four, or for a stranger visiting London. According to this decision of the Court of Exchequer, at a railway station he is pre-privileged to do this, and it cannot be doubted that he will make good use of the privilege of refusing to take a fare which he considers unprofitable. A railway station should be declared by statute to be a public place within all the statutes that regulate streets and public places. For instance: abuse, being drunk and disorderly, are offences only when committed in a public place. Should not a railway station be as public for such purpose as the street that is not nearly so much frequented?

Discoveries and Inventions.

—*Antiquities from Smyrna.*—Some antiquities which arrived in Malta from Smyrna some months ago on board H. M. S. Antelope are now on their way to England. They are intended for the British Museum, and fill upwards of two hundred cases. The greater portion of these antiquities is the result of six months' excavations among the ruins of the Temple of Minerva Polias at Priene, in Asia Minor, by Mr. R. P. Pullen, who, as architect of Mr. Newton's expeditions to Halicarnassus, rendered good service to archaeology, and has since distinguished himself by his explorations of the Temple of Bacchus at Teos, and of Apollo Smintheus at the Troad, under the auspices of the Dilettanti Society. The cases now on their way to England contain fragments of the sculptural and architectural adornments of the temple, including portions of the celebrated statue of Minerva, mentioned by Pausanias, a colossal female head of a fine period, parts of several draped statues, heads of the Macedonian time, and fragments of the frieze, which in style closely resembles the reliefs on the mausoleum, and is believed, in fact, to be by the same hand. There are also a few inscriptions of much interest.

—*A Curious relic.*—A child, while playing near Drogheda, Ireland, found a curious piece of metal, which she gave to an old woman, who took it to a dealer in old iron and got a shilling for it. The dealer in his turn sold it for two pounds ten shillings, and it has finally been purchased for the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin for three hundred pounds. It proved to be the celebrated "Tara Brooch," one of the most remarkable pieces of goldsmith's work known to exist. It is formed of white bronze—this probably saved it from the melting-pot, to which countless treasures of gold and silver have been consigned—the surface overlaid with gold filigree-work of surprising intricacy and marvellous delicacy of execution. Such is its excellence that one of the most accomplished living goldsmiths declared that he could not find a workman, with every apparent advantage of modern knowledge and appliance, competent to make such another.