

Correspondence.

"Sanitary Sleeping-car Accommodations."

BURLINGTON, Iowa, Nov. 14. 1901.

To the Editor:—The abuse of the sleeping-car toilet room as complained of by your correspondent and made the subject of editorial comment in *THE JOURNAL* of November 9, should be a topic of interest to every one who has the health of the traveling public really at heart.

I rode in a sleeping car once, and while I was much more comfortable than some folks might think possible, I still feel that I might have had more for my money. Two dollars a night for a double berth three-quarters wide is enough. But when one has also to contribute an additional 25 cents towards the porter's salary, get an indifferent brush and shine, and see the wash basins used as described, there is room for one to feel that he has been "buncoed."

For that extra quarter one has a right to imagine that the porter should either furnish a special wash basin for each passenger, put the small supply usually on hand through a steam sterilizer, or make an inspection of the passengers individually, to the end that the passengers having lunch-counter remains in their mouths, sooty noses, hands begrimed with infectious dirt, and un-Chesterfieldian manners generally, may be debarred from the use of the basins altogether. Or it might answer the purpose if the basins were numbered and labeled thus: No. 1, wash hands only; No. 2, for faces only; No. 3, for mouths and noses, etc.

I am told that in England they manage these things better. There, every one is expected to bring his tub with him. Years ago I heard an old lady say to her son, who was starting out on his first long journey: "My boy you should be content when you get a clean bite, a clean bed, plenty of good water, soap and towels. People who have these things away from home and complain, may be set down as not having many comforts at home." But I think the old lady had never traveled in a sleeping car.

In conclusion I want to advise every one to do as I did that time I was in the sleeping car. Before using the basin I washed it out carefully and dried it with a clean towel (as I always do when I have strange basins, and frequently those at home). Then I proceeded to forget every unpleasant thing I had seen, and when I got home I found that I had not caught anything. Truly yours,

H. B. Yocxd, M.D.

Miscellany:

A new x-ray effect has been developed in the laboratory of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, which, as described in the current *Electrical Review*, displaces the silhouette with the stereopticon. By using two sources of x-rays in the same tube of the apparatus designed for the purpose, the picture stands out distinctly with the intervening spaces of the objects viewed. The relations of the broken bones, etc., to their surroundings as thus indicated to the eye, it is expected, will be of great value as surgical and pathological guides to diagnosis.

Trailing Dresses at Health Resorts.—The authorities at Ems placarded the walls at the beginning of the season with an appeal: "In the interests of the public seeking health at this resort, every effort is made to prevent dust and to prevent its diffusion in the air during the dry and hot season, as is urgently required by consideration for affections of the respiratory organs. The streets and grounds are kept sprinkled to keep down the dust as much as possible, and the feminine portion of the public would essentially contribute to this end if they would refrain from trailing their skirts at this health resort. This is especially desirable during the morning promenade to and from the springs." The *Deutsche Med. Wochenschrift* states that the appeal has had no effect, as "might have been

anticipated from the character of the sex which is certainly the weaker sex as far, at least, as the mandates of fashion are concerned." It adds that as the matter is one that affects the general public health, the central health authorities for the empire should take steps to regulate it.

The International Sanitary Congress.—At the recent Pan-American Medical Congress at Havana, the organization of an international sanitary congress was recognized as a necessity. It has now been completely organized and will meet at Havana, Feb. 15, 1902. It is for the purpose of conferring on sanitary matters affecting the various Pan-American countries collectively and individually. Each country is entitled to three delegates, a physician, an engineer and a merchant. The duties, rights and penalties of each country in respect to sanitary matters will be discussed, and the means to aid those nations without resources for such measures for the public health. The Congress will also discuss prophylactic measures in general, and as applied to each particular port. The greatest publicity is desired and membership is open to all men of science, manufacturers and merchants who apply to the committee of organization. Dr. Thomas V. Coronado, of Havana, is secretary, and Dr. Juan Santos Fernandez is president. English, Spanish, Portuguese and French are to be the official languages of the Congress. Further particulars will be furnished on application to the secretary.

Loeffler's Suggestion of the Treatment of Carcinoma by Induced Malaria.—It is an old-established fact that malaria has a favorable influence on the course of certain pre-existing diseases. Hippocrates asserted that persons affected with quartan fever did not become epileptic, and that quartan fever occurring in an epileptic cured his epilepsy. A Hungarian professor of anatomy published in 1775 the history of a case of mammary cancer cured in the course of a few weeks by an intercurrent double tertian fever. Loeffler thinks that these and similar facts justify the attempt to cure carcinoma by artificially inducing malaria, which is a disease over which we have effective control. He suggests that possibly the increase in cancer in temperate countries may be due to the extinction of malaria, and calls attention to the extreme rarity of cancer in the tropical, that is, the malarial-infested countries. He urges physicians in the tropics to collect data in this line, and cites Pagel, who states that he can not remember a single case of cancer in ten years of practice in northern Borneo. Loeffler concludes his communication to the *Deutsche Med. Wochenschrift*, just received, with the assertion that physicians would be justified in experimenting on an extensive scale to cure carcinoma by the inoculation of malaria.

Women in Medicine.—Two important historical works have recently been published in Paris on this subject, one by Melanie Lipinska, and the other by Mareel Baudouin. The latter was undertaken in honor of the semi-centennial of the admission of Elizabeth Blackwell to the medical profession, Jan. 23, 1849. Woman's progress during the last decade has been remarkable. In Russia there has long been complete equality between men and women physicians, and women have recently won their cause in Hungary, Austria and Germany, and the prejudices against the admission of women to the medical profession are rapidly subsiding even in France. Spain still refuses to recognize medical women, although two and three centuries ago several Spanish women acquired some fame by their practice of medicine. Women physicians are now recognized in Belgium since 1890, in Italy since 1878, in Portugal since 1886, in Mexico since 1887, in Sweden since 1870, in Switzerland, Roumania, Bulgaria, in this country and Australia. Baudouin relates the history of Henrietta Faber, who practiced medicine in Havana for years, disguised as a man. She married in 1820 and was at once prosecuted and condemned to ten years of imprisonment. Medical women were numerous in ancient Greece and Rome, and in Italy during the Middle Ages.

The Scientific Investigation of Consumption Cures.—There is a general feeling among the public that methods of treatment of consumption which are not brought forward