

simply gets a cold in the head. As for the horses, they very probably escape scot free in the absence of any special or general variation in the tissue tendencies.

While we recognize clearly enough that certain diseases are largely influenced by inherited tendencies, there are others, and these the majority, in which the influence of heredity is more or less indistinct; but it is as certain as any thing of the nature of a deduction can be that the conduct of a particular organism, in the face of morbid influences, is determined largely by inherited qualities of tissue, even when the susceptibility is difficult or impossible to make out. The problem before us is to discover and elucidate the natural laws which govern and regulate the transmission of mental and physical qualities, or, in the words of Mr. Lewis, "the paths along which forces travel to their particular results." We are already in possession of a large number of facts and observations bearing upon the "how," though the "why" still remains, and is likely to remain, unfathomable. These relative individual differences of bone tissue-cell, organ, membrane, and vessels, which are admitted by all competent authorities, really form the foundation of all sound views in pathology; and the more they are recognized and appreciated, the more will the art of medicine acquire scientific exactitude and increased usefulness to humanity. In the words of Sir James Paget, better treatment will follow better diagnosis, and better diagnosis will certainly follow a more exact pathology.

PEA-SOUP AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR BEEF-TEA.—Dr. Ris of Kloten, Switzerland, says *The British Medical Journal* of Sept. 28, emphatically recommends pea-soup as an excellent substitute for beef-tea for invalids, convalescents, and more especially for patients suffering from cancer of the stomach, or *diabetes mellitus*. Take pease, water, and sufficient amount of some vegetables suitable for soup, and one-half per cent of carbonate of soda, and boil the whole until the pease are completely disintegrated; then let the soup stand until sedimentation is complete, and decant the fairly clear, thin fluid above the deposit. The product is stated to resemble a good meat-soup in its taste, to be at least equally digestible, and at the same time to surpass the very best meat-soup in nutritive value. The latter statement may appear surprising, but the author reminds us that pease (as well as beans or lentils, either of which may be used instead of pease) contain a considerable portion of legumen; that is, a vegetable albumen which is easily soluble in a faintly alkaline water, is not coagulated by heat, is easily absorbed, and equal to the albumen of eggs in its nutritiousness.

MALARIAL FEVER IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.—The results of a study on this subject by Charles H. Cook, M.D., of Natick, are, (1) that the disease seems thus far to have been limited to the cities and towns along the Charles and Sudbury Rivers and the branch of the Blackstone; (2) that it seems to have travelled to the east rather than to the west, that is, in the direction of the prevailing winds rather than against them; (3) that it seems to have developed and increased in seasons below the average temperature equally well as in those above; (4) that some of the marked outbreaks occurred in cold and wet periods, as well as in hot and dry seasons; and (5) that an "essential," as given by at least one authority, — namely, that there must be an average temperature of at least 58° F. for twenty-four hours to develop the disease, — does not hold good in this analysis; neither does another "essential" of an average temperature of at least 65° F. for twenty-four hours to produce an epidemic.

TRANSPLANTING OF A CHICKEN'S CORNEA.—Dr. Gravenigo, of the University of Padua, is said to have successfully performed an operation which hitherto has been vainly tried by various experimenters, both in France and elsewhere. The operation consists in the grafting of a chicken's cornea into the human eye. In the successful case reported by Gravenigo the graft is said to have united quickly, and formed a cornea which was very transparent, shining, and convex.

THE SANDWICH ISLAND LEPER COLONY.—The leper colony on the Sandwich Islands contained a hundred persons in 1884. At present the number is smaller, and most of them are men. The government, according to recent reports, contributes one hundred

thousand dollars a year toward the expenses of the colony, and three years ago the king personally inspected it. The average duration of the disease is eleven years, and the mortality fifty-eight per thousand. The local physician, Dr. Hoffman, is a victim of the disease.

THE FOODS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLES.—Many nations, many dishes! Some articles that are esteemed as delicacies by certain nations are regarded with disgust by others. According to the *Pacific Record*, the Turk is seized with violent trembling at the very idea of eating oysters. The American Indians look upon an invasion of grasshoppers as a mark of especial favor from the Great Spirit, and make the best of such a time to lay up a store of provisions for the future. Buckland states that among certain people a mixture of fish nearly putrefied and soapsuds is preferred to the best butter. In Canton and other Chinese cities rats are sold at ten cents a dozen, and a hind-quarter of dog is more expensive than mutton or beef. Some of the East Indians eat serpents dried in the oven, but despise the flesh of rabbits. Lizard-eggs are a delicacy in the islands of the Pacific, and many people besides the aborigines of the Argentine Republic esteem the flesh of the skunk. Ants are eaten by many peoples, and in Siam a curry of ants' eggs often tickles the palates of the wealthy. The silk-worm is eaten with relish by the Chinese, and a dessert of roast snails is considered a fitting termination of a feast in New Caledonia.

THE DREAD OF DEATH.—Sir Lyon Playfair, in a letter to Junius Henri Browne, author of a paper with the above title, says, "Having represented a large constituency (the University of Edinburgh) for seventeen years as a member of Parliament, I naturally came in contact with the most eminent medical men in England. I have put the question to most of them, 'Did you, in your extensive practice, ever know a patient who was afraid to die?' With two exceptions they answered, 'No.' One of these exceptions was Sir Benjamin Brodie, who said he had seen one case. The other was Sir Robert Christian, who had seen one case, that of a girl of bad character who had a sudden accident. I have known three friends who were partially devoured by wild beasts under apparently hopeless circumstances of escape. The first was Livingstone, the Great African traveller, who was knocked on his back by a lion, which began to munch his arm. He assured me that he felt no fear or pain, and that his only feeling was one of intense curiosity as to which part of the body the lion would take next. The next was Rustem Pacha, now Turkish ambassador in London. A bear attacked him, and tore off part of his hand, and part of his arm and shoulder. He also assured me that he had neither pain nor fear, but that he felt excessively angry because the bear grunted with so much satisfaction in munching him. The third case is that of Sir Edward Bradford, an Indian officer now occupying a high position in the Indian office. He was seized in a solitary place by a tiger, which held him firmly behind the shoulders with one paw, and then deliberately devoured the whole of his arm, beginning at the end and ending at the shoulder. He was positive that he had no sensation of fear, and thinks that he felt a little pain when the fangs went through his hand, but is certain that he felt none during the munching of his arm."

CHOLERA IN ASIATIC TURKEY.—Bagdad and Bussorah have been visited by an epidemic of cholera. The disease was first noticed in obscure inland spots, whence it spread to the port of Bussorah, near the head of the Gulf of Persia.

TOBACCO AND INSANITY.—The essay recently read before the San Francisco Medical Society by Dr. Shiels, on tobacco and its effects, was one deserving of exceptional credit, as well for the thoroughness of his investigations as for the general fairness of his conclusions. The doctor addressed a series of questions to the members of a leading New York medical society individually, and upon their answers his deductions are mainly based. The general trend of the decisions of this medical tribunal is that smoking in excess is bad, which few will be found to dispute. The question, "Have you ever seen a case where the brain was permanently affected by the use of tobacco?" elicited a symphonious chorus of noes all along the line, disturbed only by the solitary demurrer of