

## SCIENTIFIC TRUTH

### Regarding the Functions of an Important Organ,

Of Which the Public Knows but Little, Worthy Careful Consideration.

To the Editor of the Scientific American: Will you permit us to make known to the public the facts we have learned during the past eight years, concerning disorders of the human kidneys and the organs which diseased kidneys so easily break down? You are conducting a Scientific paper, and are unprejudiced except in favor of truth. It is needless to say, no medical Journal of "Code" standing would admit these facts, for very obvious reasons.

H. H. WARNER & CO., Proprietors of "Warner's Safe Cure."

That we may emphasize and clearly explain the relation the kidneys sustain to the general health, and how much is dependent upon them, we propose, metaphorically speaking, to take one from the human body, place in the wash-bowl before us, and examine it for the public benefit.

You will imagine that we have before us a body shaped like a bean, smooth and glistening, about four inches in length, two in width, and one in thickness. It ordinarily weighs in the adult male, about five ounces, but is somewhat lighter in the female. A small organ, you say. But understand, the body of the average size man contains about ten quarts of blood, of which every drop passes through these filters or sewers, as they may be called, many times a day as often as through the heart, making a complete revolution in three minutes. From the blood they separate the waste material, working away steadily night and day, sleeping or waking, careless as the heart itself, and fully of as much vital importance; removing impurities from sixty-five gallons of blood each hour, or about forty-nine barrels each day, or 9,125 hogheads a year! What a wonder that the kidneys can last any length of time under this prodigious strain, treated and neglected as they are?

We slice this delicate organ open lengthwise with our knife, and will roughly describe its interior.

We find it to be of a reddish-brown color, soft and easily torn; filled with hundreds of little tubes, short and thread-like, starting from the arteries, ending in a little tuft at the midway from the outside opening into a cavity of considerable size, which is called the pelvis, or, roughly speaking, a sac, which is for the purpose of holding the water to further undergo purification before it passes down from here into the ureters, and so on to the outside of the body. These little tubes are the filters which do their work automatically, and right here is where the disease of the kidney first begins.

During the vast amount of work which they are obliged to, from the slightest irregularity in our habits, from cold, from high living, from stimulants, or a thousand and one other causes which occur every day, they become somewhat weakened in their nerve force.

What is the result? Congestion or stoppage of the current of blood in the small blood vessels surrounding them, which become blocked; these delicate membranes are irritated; inflammation is set up, then pus is formed, which collects in the pelvis or sac, the tubes are at first partially, and soon are totally, unable to do their work. The pelvic sac goes on distending with this corruption, pressing upon the blood vessels. All this time, remember, the blood, which is entering the kidneys to be filtered, is passing through this terrible, disgusting pus, for it cannot take any other route!

Stop and think of it for a moment. Do you realize the importance, nay, the vital necessity, of having the kidneys in order? Can you expect, when they are diseased or obstructed, no matter how little, that you can have pure blood and escape disease? It would be just as reasonable to expect, if a pest-house were set across Broadway and countless thousands were compelled to go through its pestilential doors, an escape from contagion and disease, as for one to expect the blood to escape pollution when constantly running through a diseased kidney.

Now, what is the result? Why, that the blood takes up and deposits this poison as it sweeps along into every organ, into every inch of muscle, tissue, flesh and bone, from your head to your feet. And whenever, from hereditary influence or otherwise, some part of the body is weaker than another, a countless train of diseases is established, such as consumption, in weak lungs; dyspepsia, where there is a delicate stomach; nervousness, insanity, paralysis, or heart disease in those who have weak nerves.

The heart must soon feel the effects of the poison, as it requires pure blood to keep it in right action. It increases its stroke in number and force to compensate for the natural stimulus wanting, in its endeavor to crowd the impure blood through this obstruction, causing pain, palpitation, or an out-of-breath feeling. Unnatural as this forced labor is, the heart must soon falter, becoming weaker and weaker, until one day it suddenly stops, and death from apparent heart disease is the result.

But the medical profession, learned and dignified, call these diseases by high-sounding names, treat them alone, and patients die, for the arteries are carrying slow death to the affected part, constantly adding fuel brought from these suppurating, pus-laden kidneys, which here in our wash-bowl are very putrefaction itself, and which should have been cured first.

But this is not all the kidneys have to do; for you must remember that each adult takes about seven pounds of nourishment every twenty-four hours to supply the waste of the body which is constantly going on, a waste equal to the quantity taken. This, too, the kidneys have to separate from the blood with all other decomposing matter.

But you say, "My kidneys are all right. I have no pain in the back." Mistaken man! People die of kidney disease so bad a character that the organs are rotten, and yet they have never had a pain nor an ache!

Why? Because the disease begins, as we have shown in the interior of the kidney, where there are few nerves of feeling to convey the sensation of pain. Why this is so we may never know.

When you consider their great work, the delicacy of their structure, the ease with which they are deranged, can you wonder at the ill-health of our men and women? Health and long life cannot be expected when so vital an organ is impaired. No wonder some writers say we are degenerating. Don't you see the great, the extreme importance of keeping this machinery in working order? Could the finest engine do even a fractional part of this work without attention from the engineer? Don't you see how dangerous this hidden disease is? It is lurking about us constantly, without giving any indication of its presence.

The most skillful physicians can not detect it at times, for the kidneys themselves can not be examined by any means which we have at our command. Even an analysis of the water, chemically and microscopically, reveals nothing definite in many cases, even when the kidneys are fairly broken down.

Then look out for them, as disease, no matter where situated, to 93 cent, as shown by after-death examinations, has its origin in the breaking down of these secreting tubes in the interior of the kidneys.

As you value health, as you desire long life free from sickness and suffering, give these organs some attention. Keep them in good condition, and thus prevent (as is easily done) all disease.

month go by if you need it, without taking a few bottles as a preventive, that the kidneys may be kept in proper order, the blood pure, that health and long life may be your blessing. H. H. WARNER & CO.

### Mental Disease.

It would have been more accurate to specify crime, instead of speaking vaguely of sin. The *Saturday Review*, in an article on this topic, restates and professes to find approximate satisfaction in the familiar legal questions about insanity: "Did he know that what he was doing was wrong? If he did, could he help doing it?" We are unfortunately compelled by the facts of the case to join issue, and contend that a man may know he is doing wrong, and do it without obligations or impulse of any sort, and yet be insane. There is unquestionably such a thing as "moral insanity"—that is, insanity of the conscience of morality; and this particular form of mental disease—for such it is—cannot unhappily be very readily or certainly distinguished from that depravity of the moral sense which characterizes alike low developments and what Herbert Spencer has designated, and Hughlings-Jackson has demonstrated in pathology, as "dissolution." There will be no substantial progress in the study of mental disease until this branch of science is rescued from the toils of the lawyers. The judges, by their formulation of imperfect views of facts in medicine—and therefore beyond the province of non-medical observers, however able and acute—have done violence to truth and principle, and they have placed a great stumbling-block in the way of the doctors. For the present we must stand on the defensive, and may in all truthfulness be described as lost in amazement at the wondrous and inexplicable folly of those who, while attempting to recognize a disease and to discriminate between it and health, should set themselves against the study of the only methods by which diagnosis, in a medical sense, can be safely or successfully performed.—*The Lancet*.

### A Grim Collection.

The city of Paris has become lately the possessor of a remarkable collection of documents, which will have great interest in years to come for historical investigators. This was the series of death warrants, extending from the 7th of April, 1808, to the 8th of December, 1832, belonging to Sanson, the notorious headman of the revolution. The collection was bound up in nineteen volumes, and Sanson has prefixed to each volume a summary of the contents. It appears that during twenty-five years he executed 7,143 capital sentences, being an average of 217 executions in each year—rather a busy life. During the twenty-five years he only twice ascended the scaffold without a fatal result—once in 1815, when Gen. Count Lavalette was to have been executed for complicity in the return of Napoleon, but escaped the night before his intended execution through the heroism of his wife. The second time was in 1817, when Philippe-Jean Antoine, a noted coiner, was respite at the last moment by Louis XVIII.

### A Horrible Form

Of malarial disease is dumb ague. Constant drowsiness, sleep interrupted by a chill, succeeded by a consuming heat, and that by an exhausting sweat. A sensation as of numbness from cold, but no shaking attends it. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters invariably eradicates it, though it is the most obstinate form of miasmatic disease. To conquer it with quinine is as impossible as to battle down Gibraltar with a howitzer. Malarial disorders of every kind are attended with derangement of the liver, a fact evinced by the saffron tint which the skin assumes in such diseases. For this symptom, as well as for its cause, the Bitters is a certain remedy. Constipation, dyspepsia, rheumatism, and inactivity of the kidneys and bladder, are also relieved by this fine alternative.

### The Germ Theory.

In 1721, the year of the great plague, Goffin, a physician of Lyons, wrote as follows: "Minute insects or worms alone can explain these diseases. It is true they are not visible; but it does not therefore follow that they are non-existent. It is only that our microscopes are not at present powerful enough to show them. We can easily imagine the existence of creatures which bear the same proportion to mites that mites bear to elephants. No other hypothesis can explain the facts. Neither the malign influence of the stars, nor terrestrial exhalations, nor miasmata, nor atoms, whether biting or burning, acid or bitter, could regain their vitality once they had lost it. If, on the other hand, we admit the existence of minute living creatures, we understand how infection can be conveyed in a latent condition from one place to break out afresh in another." It will be seen from the above that at least one of Pasteur's ideas was anticipated by 165 years.

MR. J. HOWARD JAMES, manager Stuckert's Livery, 619 N. 5th street, Philadelphia, Pa., says: After trying all other remedies without relief, for a heavy cold on the chest, accompanied by a severe cough, I used Red Star Cough Cure, and in a very short time was entirely well.

A YOUNG man who suffered pretty regularly three times a week with severe attacks of neuralgic headache, was relieved by discontinuing meats, or adopting a purely vegetable diet. Meats when not thoroughly digested as they are apt to be in case of torpid stomach and liver, develop poisonous compounds which favor rheumatic and neuralgic affections.—*Dr. Foote's Health Monthly*.

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How Patti and Nilsson Once "Ras-sailed."

The Paris correspondent of the Philadelphia *Times* tells of a dinner party in that city in 1867, where Patti and Nilsson met, relating the following extraordinary occurrence:

Coffee was served in the salon, and Ambroise Thomas tried to induce both Nilsson and Patti to sing something, but neither would consent to do so, although the eminent composer volunteered to play the accompaniment's.

"I have eaten too much to be able to sing," said La Patti; and then she added, "but I am ready to wrestle with Nilsson if she likes."

"Ras-sal! q'est ce que c'est que ça?" asked Saint Armand, who knows no language but French, and that not as well as he ought to.

Explanations followed, and then took place a laughable, not to say somewhat naughty, trial of strength between the two rival divas. Mlle. Patti made quite a plucky struggle, but in the end Nilsson put her fairly on her back, amid loud applause led by the illustrious composer of "Faust." Then some one suggested that Gounod and Thomas should wrestle, but they declined, and the athletic entertainment was broken up by the Prince going to the piano, where he sang a love air from "Philomena et Baucis" to his own accompaniment.—*Texas Siftings*.

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IS IT not strange that the masculine singers do not start a bass bowl club?

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MUDDY streets are dangerous because they are full of cart ridges.

### Sixtieth Year.

The *Youth's Companion* celebrates this year its sixtieth anniversary. It might well be named the "Universal Companion," since its readers are found in 400,000 families. It is so wisely edited that its pages are as interesting to adults as to the young people. Besides the best short and serial stories it contains a great variety of popular and useful information on natural history, science, home arts, games, and sports, and is fully illustrated. It costs but \$1.75 a year, and a subscription sent now is credited to January, 1888.

### How to Make Money.

No matter in what part you are located, you should write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive, free, information about work you can do and live at home, at a profit of from \$5 to \$25 and upwards daily. Some have made over \$50 in a day. All is new. Capital not needed; Hallett & Co. will start you. Either sex; all ages. Those who commence at once will make sure of snug little fortunes. Write and see for yourselves.

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"Rough on Rats" clears out rats, mice. 15c. "Rough on Corns"—hard or soft corns. 15c. "Rough on Toothache." Instant relief. 15c. "Rough on Dentist" Tooth Powder, 10c.

Wide awake 3 or 4 hours every night, coughing.—Get immediate relief and sound rest by using "Rough on Coughs" Troches, 10 cents.

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### Human Calves.

An exchange says:—"Nine-tenths of the unhappy marriages result from human calves being allowed to run at large in society pastures." Nine-tenths of the chronic or lingering diseases of to-day originate in impure blood, liver complaint or biliousness, resulting in scrofula, consumption (which is but scrofula of the lungs), sores, ulcers, skin diseases and kindred afflictions. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" cures all these. Of druggists.

TALK is cheap—except you employ a stenographer.—*Somerville Journal*.

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AN ode to a goat may be called a nanny-versary.

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