

SCIENCE:

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Attention is called to the "Wants" column. All are invited to use it in soliciting information or seeking new positions. The name and address of applicants should be given in full, so that answers will go direct to them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open.

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HEALTH MATTERS.

Treatment of Consumption.

FROM the *Lancet* of Aug. 30 we learn that Koch's views on the treatment of *phthisis pulmonalis* have received interesting support from the experience of a chemist, Herr Reuter, made public in April last at a full meeting of the Lower Austrian Industrial Union. Koch, it will be remembered, maintained at the Berlin congress, that, among the remedies capable of bringing the malady to a standstill, the salts of gold and silver are of the greatest value, and that among these the first place must be given to "cyan-gold." Reuter, who, as director of the great *fabriques* of metallic wares at home and abroad, paid particular attention to those in which the articles in question were galvanically gilded or silvered, observed that in the latter industry the employees who had consumptive or tubercular symptoms, some indeed who suffered from hemoptysis, found marked relief in their work, and continued to improve so rapidly that in a few weeks their return to health was assured. The favorable impression made on Reuter as to the curative effects of the gold and silver industry on phthisis, he found confirmed by the testimony of employees of every age in these establishments; men, young and old, who had the well-known symptoms of pulmonary consumption, even at an advanced stage, rapidly getting well as they continued from week to week at work. Further investigations strengthened that impression still more, till he had satisfied himself that for the disease in question a healing virtue resides in the prussic acid generated

particularly in those workshops where "cyan-metals" dissolved in "cyan-kalium" are used. Impressed by Koch's views, the Medical Association of Vienna has since bestowed special consideration on Reuter's experiences embodied in the paper read before the Lower Austrian Industrial Union last April, and, while admitting the confirmation given to those views by Reuter, it is of opinion that the honor of priority in discovering the efficacy of gold and silver salts in the treatment of *phthisis pulmonalis* belongs undoubtedly to the latter.

Medical Treatment of Fractures.

In a graduation thesis in Havana an author discusses the advantage of prescribing various forms of phosphorus for patients suffering from fracture. As given in the *Lancet*, he carried out a series of experiments on dogs and fowls by breaking the femur by means of an osteoclast, and putting up the limb in splints. He then divided the patients into two groups, the first group being treated with phosphorus in various forms, the second being left without medication. The result was that the callus was more abundant and firmer in animals treated with phosphide of zinc than in those treated with phosphate of lime or than in those not treated at all. These results were confirmed by observations made in the surgical wards, where it was found that patients with fractures who took from a quarter to an eighth of a grain of phosphide of zinc daily made exceptionally good and rapid recoveries. The only unpleasant effects produced by this treatment were that one out of the eighteen patients on whom it was tried suffered from slight diarrhoea, and in one the pulse became slow and hard.

The International Medical Congress at Rome.

Dr. Guido Baccelli, president of the Accademia Medica of Rome, and professor of clinical medicine at the Sapienza, took the chair at a recent meeting of the Società per il Bene Economico di Roma, to consider the means of insuring the success of the International Medical Congress to be held three years hence in the Eternal City. Among the adjuncts to that congress, as we learn from the *Lancet*, it was decided to form an international exposition of hygiene in connection with the sanitary department of the programme, and, with that object, to appeal to all the leading industrial and professional centres throughout the peninsula to contribute their best and latest additions to the "Armamentarium Hygienicum," so as to place Italy at as great an advantage as possible in the inevitable contrast between her own sanitary work and that of the other powers represented on the occasion. Florence, which has hitherto led the van in hygienic progress in Italy, has already promised her energetic co-operation; and other cities, like Turin and Milan, are expected to do likewise. Concurrently with the medical congress, an international exposition of the industries of all nations is also being organized; so that Rome will be the busy scene of quite a gathering of the peoples, on a scale she has not yet known since she ceased to be mistress of the world. The early summer months (May or the beginning of June), or the early autumn months (the latter half of September or the beginning of October) are likely to be those selected for the medical congress, all risk of malaria at either time being improbable.

Color-Blindness among the Chinese.

Six hundred men and 600 women were examined by Dr. Thomson's stick of Berlin wool-tests. In this number, according to *The Medical Analectic and Epitome*, 20 color-blind were met (19 men and 1 woman). Of the 19 men, 13 were completely green-blind, 5 were completely red-blind, and 1 incompletely red-blind; the woman was completely green-blind. The 19 color-blind men were divided thus: 11 farmers, 2 teachers, 1 hospital assistant, 1 preacher, 1 mason, 1 boatman. There was almost a universal lack of discrimination between green and blue. The tests were not well adapted for proving what was suspected,—that many Chinese are violet blind.

Possible Dangers of Hypnotism.

As long ago as 1784 some of the dangers of hypnotism were pointed out by De Puységur, a pupil of Mesmer. The danger to which he referred more particularly was the criminal use which