

mostly well disposed of. But some of the germs may find the proper soil, multiply, and cause disease. Of such diseases, consumption is by far the most deadly, and the one most easily spread, since the germs are being constantly scattered in the sputum in streets, public buildings, and public conveyances. Consumption is, however, preventible, and to this end the destruction of the sputum would distinctly tend. The author's severe strictures of the street-cleaning department are fully justified. "We virtually condone manslaughter just as long as we permit men to hold municipal offices who fail in their plain duty in the protection of the public health."

Germ-laden dust readily finds its way into private rooms: hence, after sweeping, the furniture and floor should be cleaned, not dusted. "Dust and its Dangers" is an excellent, suggestive, and temperate little book.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

AMONG the features of *Outing* for January, 1891, are "Artificial Skating Ponds," by C. Bowyer Vaux, who teaches our boys how nature can be "coached" into the skater's service; and "Sailing on Skates," and the method of rigging up such an outfit.

—The D. Van Nostrand Company of this city have published, in a neat octavo of a hundred pages, a work on "Maximum Stresses under Concentrated Loads, treated Graphically," by Henry T. Eddy, C.E., Ph.D., professor of mathematics and civil engineering in the University of Cincinnati. It is a reprint from the "Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers," and is illustrated by twenty-five figures in the text and one folding plate. The object of the work, as stated by the author, is to introduce a new graphical method for determining what position a moving train of wheel weights must have in order to produce the greatest stress in any given part of the bridge truss or girder over which the train is passing. The method proposed depends princi-

pally upon the construction and use of a class of polygons or curves named by the author "re-action polygons." These are readily constructed graphically, and their properties are such as to give with ease the train positions for maximum stresses as well as to decide which one of several maxima is the greatest. The proof of these constructions is given in algebraic form, the graphical constructions being really only representations of the algebraic conditions for maximum stresses. The treatise shows how the algebraic theory leads to convenient graphical solutions of the equations of condition for maximum stresses, and will prove a serviceable addition to the growing literature of bridge engineering.

—In *The Chautauquan* for January, 1891, may be found "The Intellectual Development of the English People," by Edward A. Freeman; "The English Constitution," IV., by Woodrow Wilson; "England after the Norman Conquest," Part I., by Sarah Orne Jewett; "The English Towns," by Augustus I. Jessopp, D.D.; "Studies in Astronomy," IV., by Garrett P. Serviss; "How the People are Counted," by H. C. Adams; and "Plants in Legends," by Dr. Ferd.

—The American Book Company have just published "Greek for Beginners," by Edward G. Coy, professor of Greek in Phillips Academy. It is intended to be a companion book to the Hadley-Allen "Greek Grammar," and to be used as an introduction to either Coy's "First Greek Reader" or the *Anabasis of Xenophon*. A book bearing the same title, prepared by Professor Joseph B. Mayor, was published in London in 1869. An American edition of that book, considerably altered in form, was published in 1880 as "Coy's Mayor's Greek Lessons." The book now issued is a revision of the last-named edition, but the changes introduced by Professor Coy are so numerous and extensive, that, in justice to both Professor Mayor and himself, he has deemed it advisable to assume the entire responsibility for the work. He has therefore

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