

THE OBSERVER

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RURAL SANITATION.

Mankind owes more than it realizes to the sanitation. Without him the Panama canal could not have been built and the darkness of Africa would never have been penetrated by the forces of civilization. He points the way to greater achievements day by day, foreshadowing the time when man may be free from the hugbear of preventable disease and stand forth proudly in the image of his maker.

In practically every community in the world health officers are preaching the importance of cleanliness. The things which may take into his body through his food, his drink or the air he breathes are what play havoc with his physical system and finally drag him down to an untimely grave. Therefore, it behooves everyone to take care what he eats, drinks and breathes.

Purity in all these directions depends in large measure upon the surroundings of one's home. Boards of health in cities work constantly to enforce regulations on these points, trying to save people from the penalty of their own folly or their own ignorance. The public is obliged to protect itself whether it will or not, against unsanitary conditions.

In the country, however, the situation is different. There boards of health are commonly unknown, and, aside from the advice of family physicians, the people have little but their own common sense and prudence to guide them on the road to healthful old age. Naturally rural folks ought to be far healthier than urban dwellers. They have plenty of fresh air and sunlight, both of which are deadly enemies of a whole army of harmful disease germs. Their lives in the country presupposes plenty of physical exercise which so large a proportion of city people are denied.

But in this respect theory and statistics do not agree. Country people are not, generally speaking, healthier than city people. In one word the

cause is to be found in a carelessness of sanitary truth practiced by rural residents. On farms and in small towns precautionary measures which are enforced in cities are completely ignored. The result is that in certain well defined diseases more victims are found in the country than in the city.

Comparatively few country homes may have the conveniences that are common even to the most modest of city dwellings, but there are certain common but costly errors which every rural resident should avoid.

house, for instance, should be set high and have a dry, light cellar. The house itself should be arranged to give the maximum of light and air.

The very greatest care should be exercised to see that the drinking water is pure. Spring water is usually pure, but well water usually is not. "Clean" milk should be insisted in with equal vigor. The out buildings should never be set so that the natural drainage is toward the well or the house.

Water waste from the kitchen must be carried far from the house and well if danger is to be averted. Care needs to be used to see that surface drainage does not upset calculations otherwise well made. Concrete is cheap in these days and its liberal use about one's country premises might save many lives.

The health of the coming generations depends not alone upon city but upon country people as well. Sanitation is by no means purely an urban problem. Residents of rural sections have a responsibility all their own in the matter.

A SWORD OF HONOR.

It Was the Means of Betraying Marshal Ney to Death.

A saber of honor brought Marshal Ney to dishonor and death. When Napoleon entered Cairo on July 22, 1798, he was presented with three swords of honor richly inlaid with precious stones. He brought them back to Europe, and in 1802 he gave one to Ney and another to Murat, keeping the third for himself.

Ney received his at an imperial reception. The sword passed from one to another of those present, among whom was a young subaltern of the Auvergne regiment. When Napoleon escaped from Elbe Ney left the king and took sides with his former chief. After the allies entered Paris Ney made preparations to get out of the country, but his wife and a friend persuaded him that there was really no danger, and he decided to remain in France. Then came the order for his arrest. He fled to a castle in the possession of some friends and succeeded in reaching it without his presence being known.

One day, feeling tired, he threw himself on a couch, first taking off his oriental sword, which he always wore out of affection for the emperor. Hearing voices, he sprang up and hurriedly left the room, forgetting his sword. A minute later a party of women and men entered the room, one of them being the young subaltern of the Auvergne regiment, now a colonel. He at once recognized the sword and, calling in some gendarmes, proceeded to search the premises.

Finding that he was discovered, Ney gave himself up quietly. On Dec. 7, 1815, the marshal, whose sobriquet was the Brave of the Brave, the hero of a hundred battles, was shot. Scarcely two months after the owner of the second sword, Murat, had met his fate in the same way.

A Generous Empress.
It is said that one morning at breakfast a general related to the emperor the misfortunes of a brother officer, who, "because he had not 15,000 francs, must be dishonored." While the emperor questioned further particulars Eugene flew to her room and, returning with a package of banknotes, said, "Take them, general, and never tell me his name." And his name the generous empress never knew.

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