

## CONTAGION IN CARPETS.

Sewerage in these days is receiving a fair share of public and private attention, and the walls of houses, where contagious diseases have been, are very generally cleaned, whitewashed, or newly papered; but carpets are too often overlooked as the carriers of disease. The truth is that they, more than any article of furniture, more even than the walls of the room, gather and retain dust; and this dust, though chiefly inorganic and comparatively harmless, contains organic germs, which only need to be raised into the air and taken into the human economy to develop into active disease, creating, under favorable circumstances, an epidemic. Dust usually considered as comparatively harmless, is a most fruitful source of catarrh and consumption. The irritation of the mucous membrane of the nose, throat and lungs, becoming chronic, leads to serious disease, that undermines health and destroys life.

Many women say: "If it were not for the sweeping of my carpets I could get along with housekeeping very well." Many women know from experience that sweeping is one of the great trials of the housekeeper's life, and that it causes much of "the weakness" among women. "Forewarned is to be fore-armed." When we see the need of change, we are ready to accept the better methods. What shall these better methods be in relation to carpets and disease?

How easy carpets may convey contagion was proved by a case quoted by Prof. Tyndall, when he showed that a case of scarlatina, which was supposed by the physicians to be sporadic, was not so, but obtained by contagion. He said: "The question arose, how did the young lady catch scarlatina? She had come on a visit two months previously, and it was only after she had been a month in the house that she was taken ill. The housekeeper at once cleared up the mystery. The young lady, on her arrival, had expressed a wish to occupy a nice isolated room. In this room six months previously a visitor had been confined with an attack of scarlatina. The room had been swept and whitewashed, but the carpets had been permitted to remain."

**NINE SUBJECTS FOR THOUGHT.**—The following lines were copied from the album of a young lady of Elizabeth, N. J.:

1. Three things to admire: Intellectual power, dignity and gratefulness.
2. Three things to love: Courage, gentleness and affection.
3. Three things to hate: Cruelty, arrogance and ingratitude.
4. Three things to delight in: Frankness, freedom and beauty.
5. Three things to wish for: Health, friends and a cheerful spirit.
6. Three things to avoid: Idleness, loquacity and flippant jesting.
7. Three things to fight for: Honor, country and home.
8. Three things to govern: Temper, tongue and conduct.
9. Three things to think about: Life, death and eternity.

**COAGULATED PETROLEUM.**—If powdered soapwort (root of *Saponaria officinalis*, L.), previously wetted with water, be added to petroleum, no matter how light its density, the two substances form a thick mucilage; so that the vessel containing the mixture may be inverted without any of it flowing out. On adding a few drops of carbolic acid and stirring, the mucilage becomes clear in a few minutes.

He had broken his promise to marry the girl, and the father wanted a money consideration to help heal a wounded heart. The young man said he would consider a reasonable proposition. "Well, then," said the irate father, who was seeking justice for his daughter, "young man, how does a dollar and a half strike you?"



THE "BOSS" OF THE ROAD.

## FISH CULTURE.

The following article on the culture of fish is from a series now being contributed to the *Pacific Rural Press*. The preceding article we gave in our last issue: The hatching pond, mentioned in my last letter, serves more particularly for natural impregnation and hatching; or rather for natural propagation, as generally a number of male and female fishes are placed in the pond. Here the female drops the eggs, during the spawning season, upon aquatic plants (grass or bush), where they are impregnated by the male. The female bears a great number of eggs, as has already been stated. A small number only are impregnated, nor do all of these come to life. I think a fair estimate is 1,000 or 1,500 young fish to one old female. It is hard to say what is the best number of spawners to place in the hatching pond, as the views on this subject differ widely in Europe. The hatching pond need not be as large as the breeding pond. Its depths should not exceed one or two feet over the central ditch. The outer edge should be from three to six inches deep, and the pond should be from 20 to 40 feet in width. In this hatching pond is where you want your grass and aquatic weeds. This pond must be well guarded against the intrusion of pike, eels, bass, catfish, tritons, trout, water-shakes, turtles and water-lizards, rats and water-fowl, or any voracious animals. A fine grating will prevent the former, and against the latter various traps are used.

The young fish stay in this pond until spring, and then must be transferred to a larger pond. This should be done with great care. The water should be drawn off very slowly through the grated outlet, so that no fish is left in the mud.

The larger ponds have the same construction as the hatching pond, only they are larger and deeper. From 800 to 1,000 stock fish are calculated to one acre when not fed, and if fed a great many more.

In favorable ponds where the carp is left to seek its food, it will gain about one and one-half pounds in the ensuing autumn; but when

well fed, it will gain considerably more.

I have given some of the rules of carp culture, according to the different ages of the fish, in special ponds (hatching, breeding and carp ponds). This is termed "class culture." I will now speak of mixed ponds, where there are fish from one to ten years old. Not much can be said of this method, as there are no hatching and breeding ponds; but only one pond which, however, must combine all the characteristics of the different class ponds. It must, therefore, have shallow places, over-grown with grass, or aquatic plants, for the spawners and young fish, and also deeper water for the larger fish. There is, I presume, a situation on one-fourth of the farms for a pond of this kind which would yield both pleasure and profit. If a farmer has a pond only four or five rods square, he can have many a mess of the finest fish in the world, and pleasure enough to pay for all trouble. I will speak of their food, and give something of their profits, in my next.

**A WARNING TO AMATEUR CHEMISTS.**—A recent fatal explosion of an oxygen retort in London, calls out the fact that two other accidents of the same nature have occurred within a few years. In both these cases biniodide of manganese was used as the source of the gas, and it was afterwards discovered that the oxide was adulterated, in one instance with soot, in the other with antimony sulphide, making mixtures as dangerous as gunpowder under the conditions required in the manufacture of oxygen. As this compound of manganese is very frequently used in the production of oxygen for experimental purposes, in the class room and elsewhere, it should always be tested beforehand for such adulterations.

**STRAIGHTENING A WOODEN SHAFT.**—Mr. D. A. Ammen, of Snowville, Va., sends the following: A wooden shaft can be straightened by taking hard seasoned wood and baking it in a stove or oven to get it to the smallest possible size. Dovetail it into the swagging side of the shaft, at the crookedest part. I straightened, perfectly, my bolt shaft, 22 feet long, in this manner, and have used it three years.

A WELL-KNOWN resident of Washington died from the effects of the bite of a man.