

might be taken from the rich. Time and again was San Gabriel's pillaged by the desperadoes. But one night the ruffians were slaughtered in ambush, and peace reigned until another band arose.

The mission was reputed the richest in the territory, and the robbers determined to raid it. Twenty of them left Los Angeles one night, their designation the adobe houses, the ruins of which still show near the mouth of the San Timoteo canon. They arrived the night of the second day, met and defeated the Indians and servants of the priests, and looted the mission. In the morning they started back on the road to Los Angeles, but they never reached that settlement. The Indians who had been defeated the night before stirred up their companions and an ambush was made in a narrow defile. One man escaped the slaughter. The plunder was recovered and returned to the mission.

A short time later the padres heard of another expedition against them, and they determined to conceal their treasures where they would be safe until the troubles were over. All the valuables were loaded on burros, and, accompanied by a couple of peons, one of the mission officers started for a high mesa overlooking the Santa Anna river, where the treasure was to be buried. A hole was dug in a locality known as the "green spot," and into it were placed the gold and silver. Then the leader told his men to lie down and rest, as their walk had been far and wearisome. They slept, and the tradition that tells story says they awoke no more, and only the officers knew the hiding place of the wealth. The attack was made on the mission, the men who had the secret of the treasure fell, and there are many who yet search for the precious metals.

It is quite likely the mines of the mission will all be discovered, and with them the treasure trove of San Gabriel, beside which may be found the bones of the peons, guarding a trust, the secret of which they were not considered worthy of sharing.

LEPROSY.

Our knowledge is largely inferential, and the facts which come under our individual notice and point in some particular direction naturally impress us more than those which are observed by other persons, which perhaps may lead to a different conclusion. According to the principal theories in vogue in recent times leprosy may be acquired:

First—By heredity.

Second—By a diet of imperfectly cooked or decomposing fish.

Third—By contagion.

The Norwegian physicians for many years supported the doctrine of heredity, and to this day numerous observers in all parts of the world consider that the disease is transmitted from generation to generation. As Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson has well shown, and as all of us

know, Englishmen and others who have no family taint are occasionally liable to become leprosy when they dwell in countries where the disease is epidemic. Heredity therefore has, sometimes at any rate, nothing whatever to do with its development. Were leprosy to any material extent hereditary we might reasonably expect to find cases among the descendants of the lepers who have emigrated from Norway to the United States. Dr. Hansen, who recently visited North America for the purpose of investigating this question, found, however, that of the 160 Norwegian lepers who had settled in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota, none of the offspring—in some cases as far as the great-grandchildren—have shown signs of the disease. With the eminent exception of Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, the "fish theory" has now little scientific support. Although the principal centers of leprosy are often in districts, as on the coast of Norway, where fish, frequently in an uncooked, salted or dried state, forms a staple article of food, we must remember that the disease is widely prevalent where fish is rarely or never eaten; e. g., in some inland districts of India, China and Brazil, and that numbers of individuals in Scandinavia, Africa and elsewhere, who largely consume fish, and even stale fish, never develop the disease. A belief in the contagiousness of leprosy was formerly almost universal with the result that rigorous measures of isolation were nearly everywhere adopted; but during the last half century the "contagion theory" has fallen somewhat in abeyance—at least in the medical mind—mainly in consequence of the arguments of Drs. Danielsson and Boeck in their celebrated treatise published in 1848, and of the authoritative expression of opinion on the part of the committee of the Royal College of Physicians in 1867, whose valuable report, as his royal highness the Prince of Wales has stated, was drawn up after extensive inquiries carried out under the Duke of Newcastle. At the present time, however, the view that the disease can be contracted by the healthy from those who are suffering from leprosy is undoubtedly gaining ground, and facts are certainly accumulating which point to this conclusion. It must nevertheless be admitted on the one hand that there is a vast amount of negative evidence in reference to the communicability of leprosy from person to person and, on the other, that the supporters of the theory are able to produce but very few and trustworthy cases which cannot be otherwise accounted for than by pure contagion. In the words, however, of a Dublin physician who has published almost as good an instance of the communicability of leprosy from one man to another as it is possible to obtain "one fragment of positive evidence carries more weight than a vast amount of negative evidence." The important discovery of Dr. Hansen in

Norway that a certain microscopic fungus much resembling that which is characteristic of "tubercle," is always to be found in the diseased tissues of a leper—an observation which has been over and over again corroborated by pathologists in all parts of the world—has had much to do with the growing belief that leprosy must be regarded as a specific.—*Dr. Phineas S. Abraham in the Fortnightly Review.*

STEAMBOATING.

It is not easy to predict what is to be the future of this great boating interest. We have over twenty thousand miles of steam navigation, we have original and enterprising boat builders, and an enormous traveling public. We have had in the past a phenomenal fleet of steamboats, particularly on our western rivers, and yet the business has been greatly depressed, and there are fewer boats afloat today than twenty years ago. Moreover—and this is the most serious matter of all—our canals are being abandoned year by year. While Europe spends millions on canals and waterways, while France is trying to make every little stream navigable, and England is trying to turn her interior cities into seaports, we permit our canals to fill up foolishly, give them away to impetuous railroads for roadbeds. Is it wise? Are we safe in trusting all our freight business to railroad corporations? Today we can, if the need come, send gunboats inland from the Delaware to New York bay. If we permit the railroads to destroy the business and our navy yards, we may be sure that in every European war office the fact of our folly is carefully noted for future reference. Once Great Britain fought a great battle to destroy the water route that connects the port of New York with the back door of New England. Saratoga was fought to destroy a vital water route. Fortunately, the English generals who planned in London thus to cut the country in two failed, and yet today we are abandoning our canals and see our great internal steam navigation system decay without thought of the consequences.

On the other hand—for there is a brighter side to every picture—there is a disposition among the traveling public to demand larger, finer, and safer boats everywhere. We are being taught by English tourists who visit us how to see our own country. We may complacently talk of our limited trains and all that. Every foreigner who visits us asks first of all for our steamboat routes, because our lake, river, and sound boats are known of all the world.

Every child should be taught to pay all his debts and to fulfil all his contracts, exactly in manner, completely in value, punctually at the time. Everything he has borrowed he should be obliged to return uninjured at the time specified, and everything belonging to others which he has lost he should be required to replace.