

REVEALED TRUTH CONFIRMED BY SCIENCE.

LATE in the year 1889 the disease known as *la grippe* in France, and as influenza in Italy, made its appearance as an epidemic in Europe, and in a few weeks it assumed vast proportions, sweeping over almost the entire European continent. Its victims numbered, in the aggregate, several millions. In a number of instances a large proportion of the inhabitants of a populous city or district were affected simultaneously. It was not attended with great mortality, but it was a plague that caused much suffering and financial loss. It also swept the United States, but in this country a smaller proportion of the people were seriously affected, than in Europe.

In the latter part of last year the disease also showed itself as an epidemic in this and some other countries and still prevails. It appears to have increased in virulence during the last few months. A larger percentage of cases terminate fatally, or leave serious complications in their train. *La grippe* is now recognized as likely to leave the system in such a condition that it renders the patient an easy prey to many other forms of disease.

To a great extent, this malady is still a mystery to the medical faculty, an *opprobrium medicum*. But the prevalent theory in regard to it is that it results from a germ, a microbe, a minute but living organism, which infests, in vast numbers, certain parts of the human body, when once a lodgment is found for it.

It has been abundantly shown by observation that perfectly healthy persons are much less liable to be attacked with *la grippe* than those who suffer from an impaired state of health from any cause. The flesh, blood, mucous membranes, etc., of a perfectly healthy person are antiseptic, and do not afford pasture for the existence and propagation of such living organisms as those which produce *la grippe*. But the parasites find, in the systems of those whose blood has been vitiated, or vital powers weakened, by any other cause, favorite places of lodgment and proliferation.

The germ theory of disease has gained converts so rapidly, during recent years, among medical scientists, that it may be said to be quite generally accepted, at least as applied to a large number of maladies from which human beings and animals suffer, including most, if not all, known to be infectious or contagious. And the rule that healthy persons are less liable to be attacked than sickly ones, by any

particular contagious disease, is too well known to require argument in its support. It may be observed that physical strength and vigor do not always prove perfect health, as there may be a poison lurking in the system, which, from lack of time, or of development, or some other cause, has not materially affected the physical powers.

The study of the germ theory has led to the conclusion that persons who have kept their blood and bodies pure and free from taint, whose food has been wholesome, whose habits have been moral and consistent with the laws of health, and who have avoided the use of stimulants and narcotics, and the inhalation of foul air, are in far less danger of attacks of disease, epidemic and contagious as well as other kinds, than are persons who have indulged in the reverse course. It used to be popularly supposed that a person in perfect health and of proper habits

life and diet, who had not been subjected to the inhalation of vitiated air, was as liable to be stricken with an epidemic disease, as one would be whose vital powers had been vitiated by ill health or bad habits. But this idea has been exploded by modern medical research.

Any proficient medical man will admit that the physical system of the individual who has been addicted to the use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, stimulants, or improper food, or whose habits have been immoral, is far more likely to become infested with disease germs, than is the body of one whose habits have been of a different character. Among the Jews anciently, there was held to be a connection between a man's sins, and the disease from which he suffered. This was then a theological proposition, but in modern times it has come to be fully sustained by science.

The foregoing leads up to the truths enunciated in that great lesson in morality and hygiene, known among the Latter-day Saints as the Word of Wisdom, a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith. At the time it was given, medical science did not harmonize with and support it in the manner in which it now does; but recent discoveries in that science confirm the teachings of that revelation, and aid in giving it the character of one of the most important disclosures relative to the laws of life and health, ever made to man.

The line of life indicated in that communication from the heavens will yet be proven, by the experience of afflicted humanity, to be the only means of securing immunity from such plagues as *la grippe*, and others more deadly,

which are destined to become a feature of the times in which we live. Science and human experience will continue to combine to vindicate revealed truth.

ELECTRICITY AS A MOTIVE POWER.

THIS city has an electric street car service which is probably equal to that of any other city in the country, at least of similar size; and there is more or less interest among our citizens in the progress that is being made in the use of electricity as a motive power. On January 1, 1890, there were in the United States 162 roads operated wholly or in part by this motive power, while on January 1, 1891, the number of electric roads was 281, an increase of 74 per cent. in one year. As the increase in street car companies during the same period was only about 5 per cent, these figures show that many horse railroads have changed to electricity.

During the period named the number of electric lighting stations increased in a heavy ratio, but not in as large a proportion as did the number of electric roads, and the advance made in the use of the subtle fluid for propelling machinery was very rapid. In short, as a motive power and illuminating agency, electricity is rapidly superseding all others. That it, will probably cut an important figure in modern naval warfare, is indicated by an exchange:

"The application of electricity to marine architecture forms an interesting subject of thought. Taking one of our war vessels as an example, we find there are as many as sixty auxiliary engines in different parts of the ship, used for ventilating, heating, lighting, hoisting, elevating guns, handling ammunition, etc., the space occupied by these engines and their connection being very great. By placing one electric plant deep in the hold of a man-of-war, all these auxiliary engines could be supplied by means of wires, which, if broken by a shot, could be repaired in a moment by the electrician, thus doing away with the danger of broken steam pipes and escaping steam."

Should some method be discovered by which gunpowder could be superseded by the tremendous power of electricity, in projecting missiles, the problem of shot vs. plate would be effectually solved. Already it is admitted that the former has the best of the contest, but no plate capable of being floated could withstand the force of electricity, if once a method of applying it, in a concentrated form, behind a projectile, were discovered. That this will be done, seems by no means unlikely.

CHAR. A. Campbell and R. F. Glover have gone to Helena as Wyoming's delegates to the annual convention of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, to meet the 21st.