

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY JUNE 19. 1897.

## RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK.

MONCTON CYCLISTS HAVE A MORTGAGE ON THE TOWN.

A Resident of the Railway City Complains of their Riding on the Sidewalk—Why Their Rights Should be Considered by the Ordinary Pedestrian.

MONCTON June 4, 1897.—Editor Times: For the last month, the sidewalks on the east side of Church street has been a bicycle thoroughfare; so much so that it is exceedingly dangerous for children to appear on the sidewalks at all. Good riders are not so much to be feared, but beginners turn corners suddenly and wobble along in the most careless manner, the police paying not the slightest attention, apparently, to anything beyond Main street. As I understand it, the sidewalks are intended for pedestrians, and not for wheeled conveyances moving at the rate of five or fifteen miles an hour. We either have or have not policemen enough. If we have, the councilors whom we have elected to manage our affairs, should see that they do their duty; if we have not let us have one or two more, under an arrangement that their pay will be forfeited should they appear on Main street while on duty. I hereby respectfully notify the city authorities that should an accident befall any of my family by collision with a bicycle while on the sidewalk, I will at once enter an action for damages against the city.

CHURCH STREET.

Judging by the above communication which appeared in a recent issue of the "Daily Times," someone who resides on Church Street and who is evidently not a wheelman himself, seems to be seriously put out! He must be very angry indeed, so much so as to have utterly lost his head, as the saying is, else he never would have committed the wild and worse than useless folly of asking for policemen on the side streets. Surely he must have lived long enough in Moncton to know that our police force is not intended for anything so common as use, but merely kept to set off the streets and form a pleasing ornament for our city. Under these circumstances I do not see how "Church Street" can be so unreasonable as to expect that the beautiful beings in blue and gold should waste their charms on the side streets. Main Street is the only proper setting for them and if they should wander beyond its confines strangers coming to the place might not see them, and would thus be in danger of leaving the city with the impression that we had no police force beyond the imposing specimen of that genus which adorns the I. C. R. railway station, and strikes such terror into the hearts of intending evil doers, that they usually leave town by the next train, lest haply they be hauled before the judgement seat and forced to give an account of themselves.

But the attractive subject of the police force in its summer uniform has lured me away from Church street, and its indignant resident, and I must return to my labor of convincing him that he cannot expect a "peeler" in full uniform to perform any such menial office as arresting a contumacious bicyclist who insists on using the sidewalk for his stamping ground, instead of keeping "in the middle of the road."

I must say that I sympathize with "Church street" to a certain extent! I don't ride a wheel myself, and therefore I am lacking in that broad-mindedness which never fails to distinguish the wheelman and convince him that the whole realm of nature in his alone, and the rest of humanity mere superfluous atoms, dotted about the face of nature for the purpose of filling in the landscape. I know I take the narrow view common to pedestrians, that people who don't care to scurry about the country sandwiched between two wheels and working their passage for dear life, have a right to exist, and even to walk about unmolested, and enjoy the privilege of feeling safe upon the little strip of ground at each side of the street which constitutes a sidewalk. We expect to have our lives and limbs endangered every time we attempt to cross the street, but we are accustomed to that, and stay on one side as much as possible, avoiding the perils of the crossing and clinging timidly to the little haven of safety we could call our own.

It was hard to be called upon to yield up even this modest coign of vantage and allow the lordly cyclist to claim the whole earth, but we did it uncomplainingly this year, partly because the worst, and most persistent offenders were always ladies, and knowing that we could scarcely either trip them up, or elbow them off the sidewalk, they rode us down in the most unblushing manner—and partly because the cyclists were stronger than the pedestrians, as far as numbers went, and we could not very well do anything else. But as long as the rest of the downtrodden minority accepted their fate in silence and made no moan, I don't see why "Church

street" should suddenly burst out into such a chapter of lamentations just as if he was the only sufferer from this modern wheel of Ixion. It is really too absurd to suppose that children have any right on the sidewalks, they should be kept indoors, or strictly within the bounds of their own front yards, where they will not only be perfectly safe, but out of the cyclist's way, thus freeing him from even the small amount of anxiety he might feel on their account, and the inconvenience attendant upon a coroner's inquest in case he should be so unlucky as to kill one. If parents will be so unreasonable as to insist on sending their offspring to school, or allowing them to go out for amusement or exercise then let them see that the youngsters either take the middle of the street or the consequences, whichever they like. The choice is a simple one and would relieve the cyclist of all responsibility in the matter.

The absurdity of "Church Street's" threat of an action for damages in the event of any injury to his family, will be apparent to all right thinking people at once, and the colossal impertinence of such a suggestion cannot fail to cause a smile of gentle toleration for his ignorance to flit across the countenance of every wheelman who reads the outburst. The idea of supposing that any pedestrian could collect damages for injuries which were clearly caused by his own gross negligence, or reckless indifference to the imperative necessity of haste, and activity in getting out of the way when a cyclist rings his bells! The thing is too ridiculous, and the sooner "Church street" is taught his place the better! It is high time that some public spirited person showed such arrogant upstarts the error of their ways, else we shall soon have them imagining that they own the middle of the street also, and the wheelman will have even more to contend with than he has at present!

Seriously though there is really something to be said on the cyclist's side of the question too. The unprecedented rain of the present season has made it impossible to keep the streets in anything like order, and the only place where a wheel can really be used is the small part of Main street which is paved with blocks, the side streets are as absolutely impassable for a bicycle as a freshly ploughed field would be, and as the season is so short, for wheelman, it is really rather hard on those whose who possess wheels to be unable to use them because the only place where they are allowed to go, is not prepared for them, and the only place they can ride on at all, they are not allowed to use. So on the whole, I think we who do not ride should be a little tolerant of those who do, and try to put ourselves in their places sufficiently to make some allowance for them, trying as they often prove, and selfish as they almost invariably are.

GEOFFREY CUTHBERT STRANGE.

## HOPE FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

The Cure not in Koch's Lymph or Other Specific, Though.

There is hope for the consumptive. The thing to do nowadays is not to let one's self succumb to the tubercle bacilli, but to put them to rout. This takes a great deal of vital resistance; but the fact that the death rate from consumption is being lowered every year in the United States proves that the bacilli are not invincible. There was a time when a person old or young, who realized that consumption had laid hold of him gave up at once. If the victim had an inherited tendency to the disease he thought it was necessarily fatal to him because it had killed his grandfather and great-grandfather. People aren't so resigned nowadays, and as a result a great many consumptives are cured every year.

After all the talk about the lymph, that specific, and the other advertised sure cure what new information has been secured about consumption and its cure? When this question was put to Dr. George F. Shady he said:

"The idea that consumption is incurable is absurd. True, no single medicine or combination of medicines yet known to science can be considered a specific; but

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great progress has been made in applying methods. Consumption is a complex disease, and has to be treated complexly. All most all persons who have consumption are predisposed to it. It is merely a question of the seed's taking good root in the properly prepared soil. When there is no preparation of the soil by hereditary predisposition or lowered health standard a person may be exposed to consumption day in and day out and feel amply guarded against attack. One degree of vital resistance is the real element of protection.

There is no disease that has more transmitting power from one generation to another than phthisis. Cancer does not hold a light to it. Much more is known about the disease since the discovery of the tubercle bacillus, but it is not yet settled whether this is the cause or an associated condition of the disease, and we can't tell which comes first. One thing is quite certain, however, and that the soil is prepared for the bacillus when it flourishes. It was originally believed that the microbes were the direct active agents in poisoning the system until it was demonstrated that the agency causing disease was due to the chemical product excreted by the micro organisms themselves. Koch first thought that his lymph, which represented the toxin of tuberculosis, would destroy the tubercle bacillus in the living body, but he was mistaken. No germicide sufficiently safe and powerful to overcome the poisonous effects in the system has been found. Such a germicide would kill the disease and the patient at the same time.

Tuberculosis does not affect anybody unless predisposed or in a very low state of health. With pulmonary consumption the dust of the dried expectorator on is believed to be the direct medium of infection. When we stop to consider the thousands and tens of thousands who breathe the bacilli everywhere they go—in street cars, theatres, churches, hotels, sleeping berths, even in their own homes—it would seem that the disease should be almost universal. It is a satisfaction, however, to know that the chances of infection for a healthy person are so exceedingly small as not to deserve attention. But why do healthy persons, with no inherited tendency, often take the disease from nursing a consumptive? Some one will ask. Because the health standard is lowered by anxiety and care and the soil is properly prepared for the seed which is being breathed every day. This view also throws some light upon the well-established fact that consumption among the Southern slaves was almost unknown, and while few of the emancipated slaves died of it, the succeeding generations are suffering very much more from tuberculosis in proportion to population than the white people of the same districts. They breathed the same air then as now and it no doubt teemed with just as many bacilli. The reason for this then must be their changed manner of living. They are not so well cared for and consequently have not so great a degree of vital resistance.

Tuberculous patients are very bright and intelligent as a rule. Great mental activity is associated with the disease, and often a sufferer reminds one of a diamond wearing out its setting. In some families the predisposition extends through five or six generations, and yet even this fact should not make the seventh hopeless. Again in other families the disease develops at the same time and it the predisposed one can hop over the period he may generally consider himself safe. This is the result shown by broad biological laws. Even after the disease is developed in a patient

it is absurd to assume that it cannot be cured. Think what climate alone does in effecting cures—the Adirondacks, the Georgia Pines, and Colorado, for example. Patients go there or somewhere else, recommended by a physician, and live for years. Some attain old age. This only shows that when one's vital resistance is stimulated to the utmost it is possible to throw off the disease and to withstand another attack. A consumptive has to be fitted to a climate just the same as to medicine or a pill. It depends upon the stage of the disease and the condition of the patient at the time whether he should have a colder or a warmer, a dryer or a more humid atmosphere, and frequently two consumptives from the same family have to be sent to entirely different climates.

The death rate has been much lower in the last twenty years as the result of the disease being treated on broad lines. Long ago we had specifics, and consider that it was only a question of emptying the lung and destroying what was in it. The history of the disease, however, is one of elimination or destruction. One of two things happens when a person contracts consumption. The disease must be eliminated or else it kills the patient. The whole effort these days is to get the patient to throw off the disease and at the same time to raise the vital strength. We strengthen the individual and lessen the load of disease.

Pulmonary consumption is essentially of such a chronic nature and attended with such radical organic changes that there does not appear to be much chance of altering the predisposed condition of the soil by actively strengthening any of the purely resisting tendencies of the blood itself as we do by means of the serum treatment in certain acute diseases. Suppose there is a special soil in the individual for every disease, if the person takes diphtheria by the use of antitoxin, all the diphtheria soil seems to be used up, and that person never has diphtheria again. There is no soil in which the germs of the disease can take root, and so he is said to be "immune," or, in other words, is guaranteed against the poisonous influence of the disease. So it is in smallpox. We are made immune by vaccination. But there are acute diseases, particularly diphtheria, which acts very quickly along the line and kills quickly. Koch's lymph was expected at first to be to consumption what antitoxin is to diphtheria; but it is claimed that instead of mitigating the disease it appeared to scatter it over the whole body. In diphtheria the knowledge of its cause brings a promised means for its cure. In other words, the vital resistance of the blood itself keeps off phthisis, while in ac-

tively infectious diseases an alteration of the condition of the blood gives immunity.

Patients who have phthisis are peculiarly susceptible to re-infection, but nobody now need fear who has the disease. In the adaptation of different climates to the cure of this disease and other chronic ailments, a new science of therapeutics has been created. The study of the temperature, range, barometric pressure and rainfall of different localities has been as faithfully carried on and with as careful reference to the need of the invalid as the composition and strength of the various medicines coming his other prescriptions.

Consumption is prevalent, however. The disease faces us everywhere, and patients will die of it, especially among the poor, who are unable to have the necessary charge of climate, combined with skilled medicinal treatment, and therefore, cannot increase their vital resistance to throw off the bacilli.

## WOMEN LIVE LONGER.

More Centenarians Among Women Than Among Men—Why Is It So?

A report from the office of the Registrar-General of England shows that there are more female than male centenarians. Out of a million people 225 women reach the age of 100 years, while only eighty-two men round out the century. Now, the great conundrum which is proposed is: Why is this so? According to the popular superstition, it takes much longer for a woman to reach even the age of 50 than it takes for a man to reach that age. If this is true, it makes the showing all the more remarkable. It has even been asserted that association with women makes a man live longer, as shown by the fact that the average life of the married man is longer than the average life of a single man. The fact, however, is denied by the endman at the minstrels, who says that the life of the married man is not really longer, but only seems so.

So far there is no satisfactory explanation of the original proposition why more women live to be a hundred. Some say it is because women are less addicted to tobacco and strong drink, others say that it is because it is more healthy to spend money than to earn it, and so on. It may be many of the men who would live to be a hundred are killed at an early age in casualties to which women are not exposed. It may be that tight lacing is a life preserver, and it may be not a fact, after all. Possibly the English Registrar-General may be mistaken. The situation is replete with possibilities.

## AYER'S ARGUMENT.

If there is any reason why you should use any sarsaparilla, there is every reason why you should use Ayer's. When you take sarsaparilla you take it to cure disease; you want to be cured as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible. That is why you should use Ayer's: it cures quickly and cheaply—and it cures to stay. Many people write us: "I would sooner have one bottle of Ayer's Sarsaparilla than three of any other kind." A druggist writes that "one bottle of Ayer's will give more benefit than six of any other kind." If one bottle of Ayer's will do the work of three it must have the strength of three at the cost of one. There's the point in a nutshell. It pays every way to use

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.