Physical Culture in America.

A bill has been recently introduced into the Senate of the United States providing for the creation of a department of physical culture, whose head is to be "a member of the Cabinet." Each State, moreover, is to have "a Commissioner of Physical Culture" at a salary of £800, whose duties will comprise the preparation of plans for playgrounds, gymnasia, parks, public baths, and other facilities for physical culture, and who will have general charge of all such matters within the State limits.

If the war just concluded has inculcated any great truth, it certainly is that of the vast national importance of physical health and development. It has demonstrated that national wealth or intellectual culture are useless in war unless associated with physical vigour, and there can be little doubt that what is true of the struggle of war is equally true of the competition of peace. Nothing probably is or can be of greater importance to the nation than this question of physical development, brought home to us as it has been by the enormous number of rejections of recruits in some districts during the war.

The member of our Legislature, however, who would venture to introduce such a proposal as the above would run the risk of being spoken of as the member for Bedlam. The bill, if it becomes law, should have an important influence on the mental health of the population of the United States, and demonstrate again the truth contained in "*mens sana in corpore sano.*"

Epidemic Irrationality: an American City of Unreason.

"Leaves of Healing," which the *Lancet* describes as "a very curious sheet," gives information of the foundation of "Zion City," already possessing a population of several thousands (medical men being excluded), a mayor with corporation, subordinated to a Theocratic committee, itself dominated by the Rev. J. A. Dowie. "Theocracy" must now, therefore, be added to the list of the forms of government.

All disease in the new city is to be treated by prayer, the

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