

EDITORIALS.

SCARCELY has Captain Hall's Arctic Expedition been fitted out before a member of the French and American Geographical Societies declares that his expedition to the pole by Jones' Sound is impracticable. M. T. Octave Pavy is the gentleman's name. He says that it is well known that in winter the Sound is closed with packed ice, and in summer time is so full of drift ice borne along by a very strong current that it is utterly impossible to make any headway. This is the evidence of all who have visited that region. Captain Hall says he will winter at eighty degrees, but if he reach so far there will be no reason for going into winter quarters, as at that latitude open water is to be found according to Belcher, Austen, Penny and Stuart. He also says he will proceed on Ellesmere Land to the Pole, (believing the land to extend so far). There is no reason to suppose that such is the case and M. Pavy's theory is that the Arctic circle is open water at all seasons of the year. Supposing Captain Hall should reach eighty-two degrees north by land and then attempt the remainder of the journey by sea, how exceedingly perilous it will be! His boat is, M. Pavy states, unseaworthy and not capable of holding sufficient meat provisions for a journey of sixteen degrees (eight to the pole and eight back). Well, the Pole is reached—is that enough? What observations can be made with the limited appliances he can carry on the tiny craft to justify the expenditure of \$100,000.

M. Pavy is willing not only to find fault with Captain Hall's route, but to go himself by a route which he thinks a better one. He proposes to go by Behring's Straits in a north-westerly direction. He will leave San Francisco on the 15th of July next, thence proceed to Petropaulski, in Avatcha Bay, Kamschatka. Furs, dogs, three natives (making, with four Europeans, including a Russian and himself, a party of eight) and every necessary will be procured and shipping taken to the north of the Gulf of Anadyr, where the party will debark and journey overland to Cape Jakan, on the north coast of Siberia, a distance of 300 miles. At Cape Jakan, where a Russian military post is established, a short stay will be made before starting north for Wrangel's (now known as Kellet's Land). He will take with him from San Francisco, provisions sufficient to last the party till this land is reached, and then game, which is known to abound there, will be hunted and a large supply stored up for further needs. The boat M. Pavy takes is made of gutta percha, covered with canvass—similar to the *Nonpareil*, which made a voyage across the Atlantic—and therefore amply seaworthy. It can float ten thousand pounds weight, and has this great advantage, that when necessary it can be rolled up into a very small compass and strapped on to the sledge. He is provided with a quantity of dry collodion, so that there can be no difficulty in taking views with the photographic apparatus he takes. Communication will be kept up with the Russian post at Cape Jaken by carrier pigeons, carrying photographic sketches of his journal. To further his object he is in correspondence with the Russian government, with a view to securing the assistance of their officials in Siberia.

PROFESSOR JAY, of Columbia College, New York, has recently contributed an article to the *Scientific American*, on the value and importance of the earth closet, and of dry earth as a disinfectant. He says he has thoroughly tested this invention, and is convinced that ignorance only prevents its general adoption. Its very simplicity stands in the way of its success; persons unacquainted with the virtues of dry earth, when they desire to use a disinfectant, want some extravagant chemical, nothing short of carbolic acid, permanganate of potash, protosulphate of iron or chloride of lime; and if dry earth be recommended, like Naaman when commanded to wash in the Jordan to heal his leprosy, they turn away wroth at the simplicity of the thing. The professor recommends all to use dry earth, when a disinfectant is necessary. He says it is surprising how thoroughly it absorbs all bad gases, and disinfects deposits, and no one, who has not tried it, can appreciate its value in this respect.

We regard this subject as one of very great importance to the people of this city; and in connection with it, desire

to call their attention to two or three items which we think especially worthy of their consideration. It is well known that for many years past diarrhea and dysentery, in an epidemic form, have prevailed, with more or less virulence, among the children of this city, from the beginning to the termination of the hot season. Various theories have been broached to account for this, and efforts have been made to prevent its recurrence, but hitherto unsuccessfully. Last year it was not as violent as in some previous years, but still it visited many families and thinned them by taking off some of the youngest members.

The weather is now getting very hot, and the time is fast approaching when, judging by the experience of the past, the advent of these summer diseases may be expected. If anything can be done, (and we believe it can) to avert their recurrence or diminish their violence, it should be promptly done. It is well known, experience in various countries having demonstrated it, that cholera, scarlet fever and other epidemics of a dangerous and fatal character, flourish most in districts where drainage is defective, and where foul gases are allowed to germinate and develop.

The plan of Salt Lake City, being laid out in ten acre blocks, each of the latter being subdivided into lots of an acre and a quarter, has drawn forth unequalled admiration; and the evident design of preventing the people crowding together thickly, as in most cities elsewhere, has been fully answered; but excellent as this is, it has given rise to another evil, to which in some measure the yearly recurrence of diarrhea, dysentery and like diseases may probably be attributed. Those who have lived in large cities elsewhere know, that water-closets and back-houses do not form such a prominent feature in the landscape as in Salt Lake City; here these unavoidable and necessary nuisances disfigure every lot, and where lots have been divided and are now occupied by two, three, or four families, these conveniences have also been multiplied; and to the exhalation of foul gases arising from these places we are inclined to believe that the diseases which have prevailed to such an alarming and fatal extent among the children, owe their origin. If by the plentiful use of fine dry earth these, and other out-houses, such as pigsties, &c., can be freed from every offensive smell, there can be no doubt that it would improve the general health and comfort of the people, whether or not it perceptibly diminished the violence of the disease, to which reference has been made. It is not in the power of every head of a family in this city to purchase an imported earth closet; but it is in the power of all to use dry earth for the disinfection of their back-houses, pigsties, cow-houses, stables, and all places from which exhalations of a poisonous character have hitherto emanated. The necessity of the disinfecting process in privies and pigsties must be apparent to all who give a moment's thought to the subject, for all are aware that from them, however clean, in the ordinary sense of the term, they may be kept, an almost intolerably sickening odor constantly proceeds; and if a cheap and easy means of deodorization can be employed it should be adopted by all. Dry earth is said, by those who advocate its merits, to furnish a perfectly effective disinfectant. This can be procured in any quantity on every lot; all that is necessary being to pound it fine and sprinkle it plentifully over all offensive deposits. By this means odors and gases injurious to health, may be destroyed or prevented, and besides this, every lot on which the system is adopted will be enriched and improved by the manure, rich as guano, thus manufactured.

The subject is one of great importance, and commends itself to every head of a family. The expense in carrying it out is nothing, and if by its adoption, the comfort and health of the members of his family can be promoted and secured, all the trouble which it may occasion will be infinitely repaid.

THE accounts which have come from Buenos Ayres of the ravages of yellow fever during the past few months are of the most frightful character, and remind one of the ravages of the plague and black death in Europe, two or three centuries ago. Correspondents, writing recently to eastern papers from the plague-stricken city, say that the disease was imported from Paraguay and Corrientes in January last; but for some time it was confined to one or two localities. There being little attention paid to it, and the unsanitary condition of the city being peculiarly favorable to

its growth, its ravages soon became alarming, and baffled every effort then made to stay its progress. The deaths soon became so frequent that a panic seized the citizens and all who were able to do so sought refuge in flight. The death rate reached over five hundred during two or three days, and by the end of March, according to official returns, twenty thousand people had died of this disease alone.

In the midst of such a carnival of death little respect got, at last, to be paid to the burial of the victims. The death carts would go round and gather up their loads, which were hauled to the cemeteries and their contents placed in holes prepared for them, there being frequently no attempt at burial service, and Catholics and Protestants interred in the same hole, a thing never before known in those countries. Between three and four hundred men were kept busy digging graves. Nearly every family in the city has been visited; but the greatest ravages have been in the large tenement houses, some of which contained three or four hundred inmates of the lowest class of natives and foreigners.

At the beginning of the present month the disease had abated somewhat, and, as the authorities were then doing all in their power to extirpate everything likely to encourage it, and the cool season was approaching, it was hoped that it would meet with a permanent check. But a good idea of the extent and terror of the visitation may be formed when it is stated that at the beginning of the present year, the population of the city ranged somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000; but at the beginning of June, owing to flight and death, it was only about 50,000.

The disease has been confined exclusively to Buenos Ayres; for, strange to relate, although so many left the city after it made its appearance there, not a single case, it is affirmed, has been known in the districts in which the fugitives settled if they were uninfected at the time of their departure.

No more striking instance of the necessity of drainage, ventilation, and cleanliness can be found than is afforded by the experience of this ill-fated city the last few months. Its climate is considered to be one of the finest and most salubrious in the world, but it lacks the most ordinary sanitary arrangements. A correspondent of the *London Times*, under date of June 1st, says it has no roads, no drainage, almost no pure water, no baths, and a system of cess-pools which probably has no parallel in the history of civilization, and the people live in a filthy and meagre way, hate soap and water, and do not know what ventilation means.

THE New York *Herald* of the 18th instant tells of a singular and exciting affair which took place among the members of an Israelitish congregation, while assembled, the day previous, for worship at a synagogue in Chrystie Street. It seems that the male and female members of the congregation had been at variance for some time previous, and on that day during the saying of prayers the ladies began to hiss and laugh and create disturbance generally. Several of the gentlemen went to the nearest precinct police station, obtained a squad of officers and returned to the synagogue, when four of the riotous ladies were given in charge, and were immediately taken before Judge Led with for examination, some two or three hundred of their co-religionists following, to the court room to be present at the proceedings. When the malcontents were arraigned they said the row did not commence until the close of the meeting, the cause of it being: they simply asked the Vice-President why it was that nothing had been done to obtain the release from jail of two of the brothers, whose families were in distress. This gave rise to a hubbub, when they, much to their surprise and against their protestations, were carried off to the police court. As no refutation of the ladies' statement was made, they were reprimanded and discharged.

NOTICE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—That cash entry, No. 2807, for the Townsite of Mantl, Sanpete Co., Utah, made May 15, 1871, embracing: The S half of Sec 1, and the E half of NE quarter and the NE of S E quarter of Sec. 11, and all of Sec 12, Township 18, S Range 2 E, and Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Sec 7, and Lot 7, Sec 6, Township 18, S Range 3 E, containing 1,230 acres, has been made in trust for the inhabitants, and is now ready to be disposed of in lots to any person or persons entitled thereto.

All persons claiming to be owners or possessors of any portion of said entry will take due notice and make application, as provided in the Statutes of Utah.

LUTHER T. TUTTLE, Mayor.
Mantl City, U. T., May 15, 1871. w15 3m

Z. C. M. I.

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H. B. CLAWSON, Supt.