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THE BUTTE CALAMITY.

The people of Utah will sympathize deeply with Butte in the terrible disaster that has befallen her, especially so in view of the fact that one of the victims is a member of a family highly esteemed in this Territory. The news at the place where the catastrophe occurred, even as briefly described in the dispatches, are mortal to contemplate. The event is indeed a sad one to record, notwithstanding the hope that in the excitement the horror has been exaggerated. Whatever may come to modify the first reports, there remains the fact that many lives have been sacrificed to the discharge of the bounden duty of firemen, that many souls among the unsuspecting spectators have been hurled into eternity, leaving a pall of sorrow upon the bereaved ones.

Salt Lake has had an experience with explosions, which, on one occasion, some forty tons of powder on Capitol Hill exploded, spreading ruin and disaster, and killing several persons. That event caused powder magazines of all kinds to be hustled outside of the city limits in short order. The experience of Butte, however, should be a reminder to this city that some steps are necessary to be secure against a like calamity here. The Capitol Hill explosion has been in a measure forgotten, and explosives now are handled or allowed to stand for considerable time in larger quantities than is consistent with public safety. In their sympathy for the Butte sufferers, the police and fire commissioners of this city should find a timely suggestive for requiring a more strict compliance with wholesome rules than is given at present by some who handle explosives in the city, lest there should be an occasion when the Salt Lake fire department will be exposed to a danger similar to that which has wrought such a horror in our neighboring state.

SCIENCE AND REVELATION.

An entertaining writer in the Nineteenth Century, discussing the recent discoveries of medical science and particularly the anti-toxine remedy for diphtheria—an account of which has appeared in these columns—points out that the discovery is a most important one because it lays the explorer to the very fundamental principles of health and life.

The recognition of the great truth that in all disease nature alone has the power to heal, while the proper function of the physician is to assist nature in its efforts to conquer disease, dates back to the infancy of medical science, but the processes employed by nature have hitherto remained a complete mystery. The discovery that many diseases owe their devastating power to the ravages of bacteria or germs has led to further discoveries of a most interesting nature, which in part at least throw open the vast laboratory of nature and reveal the methods in more improved.

It is now accepted as a fertile cause of disease that germs are present in the atmosphere. Where these, with the human organism, without doing any injury, this is due to the successful resistance against them by the white cells of the blood. These white cells, as soon as doubly numerous enter the body, instantly gather in great numbers against the intruder and commence a war of extermination. As long as these white cells are strong, hearty and vigorous, and as long as the multiplication of poisonous bacteria is not too rapid, the former always succeed in killing the germs or rendering them powerless. These little white cells actually devour the microbes or envelop them in a phagocyte and thus prevent their further propagating. Sometimes the invaders are captured and carried to the liver and other organs where they are destroyed. This wonderful work of the white cells is in the blood and the lymph is only according to the writer in the Nineteenth Century, the creature of nature's nerves, but facts brought to the public of science by recent or more or less scientific observation.

It would therefore seem perfectly clear now the injection of germs into the blood stream, or into the lymph, may arrest the progress of a deadly disease. The white cells of the blood are by this means re-inforced by an army of vigorous cells that have already vanquished battles against that particular enemy. Instantly they join the army of invasion encamped at the seat of war and together they destroy the foreign invaders.

And it is not equally clear that healing by the power of the Priesthood, in the light of these discoveries, is given a perfectly natural and rational explanation? If the history of disease shows that the organisms of the blood are for some reason or other rendered too weak to contend it, and if their strength depends on the activity of the spiritual force by which they are made to move and act—as it necessarily must so—then it is not difficult to understand that the infusion of new spiritual force into the body, through the sacred means ordained by the Almighty and further sanctioned by faith, results in rendering the cause of disease inoperative. The principle is the same as that on which the serum therapy is founded.

In fact, ancient, inspired men seem to have anticipated modern scientists. In Corinthians, the good elder says that he wrestleth not with flesh and blood, but with principalities, with powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Paul knew that there was a spiritual force by which he was able to overcome the evil influences of his day. Modern science is now beginning to recognize the existence of a spiritual force by which the human organism is able to overcome the evil influences of disease germs