

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

TO VOTERS.

Careless or exceedingly nervous persons who have the elective franchise may make blunders in casting their ballots under the new election law, but there is no reason why any person with the intelligence and judgment which should be a qualification of every voter should make any mistake whatever. By observing a few simple rules, every elector may vote for the persons of his choice without fear or uneasiness as to his ballot being wrongfully cast or counted. These rules are:

1—If you wish to cast a straight party ballot, put a cross in ink in the blank square to the right of your party emblem, and make no other mark.

2—If you wish to make any change whatever from a straight party ticket, do not make any mark opposite either party emblem.

3—When you do not vote a straight ticket but pick your candidates, put a cross in the space at the right of each candidate you wish to vote for, and make no other mark on the ballot.

By following these rules you will have no difficulty whatever in having your ballot just as you want it to be.

To do it right, the whole thing is simple and easy as "falling off a log." If a voter does too much marking, as, for instance, putting a cross at a party emblem and also at the name of another party's nominee on the ticket, his vote is lost for the office doubly marked; if he has ten legislators to vote for on a ticket and marks eleven, then his vote for that whole bunch of legislators is lost; if he only marks eight when there are ten, his vote is counted for eight. The observance of the three rules given will keep him out of all such trouble.

There has been much said about educating the voters how to cast their ballots; a tenfold greater necessity is for the various county commissioners to educate judges and clerks of election to count and mark the ballots in a correct and proper manner. This is really an intricate piece of work, which unsophisticated judges of election will get in a quandary over. The county commissioners of each county should see that the election judges get the proper schooling to do their work accurately. There is more danger of inefficiency in that department than of blunders by the voter, but it can be guarded against by judicious instructions to those called to fill the important duties of judges and clerks at elections.

A NEW MICROBE.

If the New York World is to be relied upon, a Brooklyn physician has now discovered what he calls the death germ—the mottis bacillus—to whose action upon the human system it is claimed death of old age principally is due. The name of the discoverer is Dr. G. Fish Clark, and he is said to be engaged at present in studying the habits of the microbe with a

view to finding some means whereby to destroy it or to neutralize its power of destruction. He believes he is on the point of discovering the secret of the remarkable longevity which according to all accounts was the rule in remote generations.

In an article on his alleged discovery Dr. Clark states that there are myriads of living beings within the human body, subsisting on degenerate tissues. When through immorality, or ignorance of nature's laws, the tissues are depleted, the ever-present microbes find their way to those tissues and commence the work of destruction. This is disease.

Oxygen is the great life-saver. In case of sickness nature generally attempts to mend herself by increasing the speed of the stream that carries the life-giver to the tissues of the body. The temperature is heightened on account of the rapidity of the chemical changes, and fever is produced. The red corpuscles of the blood are the oxygen-laden globules. Every time we breathe millions of them help to renew life. Stop breathing for a moment only, and the tissues begin to die. "Here then," the doctor says, "is the vulnerable part in life—at the focus of all tissue metamorphoses. This is the point at which we find the mottis bacillus."

The discovery of this death microbe is best given in the doctor's own words:

In July, 1893, while examining the blood under a powerful microscope I observed two or three red corpuscles unite and form a white corpuscle. Over the field of the glass with an amoeboid movement I saw for the first time a bright reddish cell move away. It was smaller than a single red corpuscle and with the added characteristic of independent motion. The oxygen and other vital ingredients of the red corpuscles were gone, the corpuscles united and formed themselves into a white corpuscle. The tissue lost the precious oxygen upon which it feeds; the mottis bacillus purloined the morsel. In a negative way such a change would lessen the carrying powers of the red corpuscles in their function of relieving the system of the deadly carbonic acid gas.

Concerning the character and habits of the little animal he says:

The mottis bacilli may occur in groups or singly. They are minute globules. They change their shape. Sometimes they appear like minute spiders extending themselves in every direction, sometimes they shrink up and are almost round; at other times they flatten themselves and then again they look like canary seeds. They multiply rapidly under the proper circumstances by dividing themselves; they are about 1-5500 of an inch in diameter, though they vary in size. They move by means of protruding a part of their body forward and drawing the other part to it. They are of a fawn to a reddish color. They are numerous in proportion to the condition of the individual. In a case of typhoid fever from which I drew a few drops of blood, I discovered that the red corpuscles did not exceed the white, and that the mottis bacilli were everywhere present. In a healthy child of healthy parents I searched in vain to find them.

In conclusion he states that equalor,

filth, ignorance or immorality produce conditions which make it possible for the ordinary disease germ to exist, and the existence of such germs originates a condition favorable to the existence of the death germ. The latter feeds upon the oxygen of the blood at a time when the depleted tissues stand in need of instant relief. The red corpuscles are diminished and the deadly work is soon completed.

Should further investigation confirm the claims made by the Brooklyn physician, it would be no exaggeration to say that his discovery is the greatest of this age. That the primary cause of death is the violation of the laws of the Creator has been made known through revelation and corroborated by scientific investigation, but the means whereby it is effected has remained a deep mystery. Is that now about to be revealed?

HEALING AND HEALERS.

Now that Arthur Schrader, the "healer" as he is called and as he advertises himself, is in town, the rush to him of many with real or imaginary afflictions may be looked for here as elsewhere. It makes no difference that many of his claims have been shown to be beyond the facts, just as they have been with Schlatter and others; a certain class of people will rush to him all the same. Perhaps he does possess some of what is known as "magnetic" power; many persons do, and are able to use it for good or ill purposes. But that he is a "healer" in the scriptural sense is entirely another claim. Perhaps some persons who exercise faith in him may be relieved of some ill; it is well established fact that heathens and some who would not like to be classed as heathenish or barbarian have been so relieved by their faith in idols, charms, and the like, for the mental powers of the individual have a marked influence upon the physical condition, and a strong will often overcomes pain and disease. But even this is not healing. Persons may be relieved of an affliction, and nature may heal them, just as a foreign substance, for instance a thorn or splinter, may be removed from the flesh, which will be healed afterward. Sometimes this removal of the cause is a good act; sometimes not, for it may be merely the cessation of an evil act. For illustration, one man may unmercifully beat another, and his stopping the cruelty is not a good deed in the sense of doing good; it is merely a cessation of the bad act, and the effect of his work is evil. So devils afflict people by sickness and in various forms, and then cease to afflict them in a way calculated to deceive. This ceasing to afflict is not a "healing;" the removal of the cause gives nature its opportunities to heal, but the affliction was an evil. The scriptural healing is not at all relieving of ill; the gist of the miracle, as it is termed, is in using the forces of life more rapidly than is ordinarily the rule in nature, and sometimes instantly, to restore to the perfect condition of health. Many persons by their own will power, personal magnetism, etc., are able to check disease and pain in themselves;