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A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

The latest investigations by means of the most improved appliances for the culture of disease germs, has demonstrated a fact which should be known to all physicians and also to the general public. That is, the diseases known as diphtheria and membranous croup are pathologically identical. While diphtheria usually attacks the tonsils and membranous croup the trachea, actual experiment has proven that the bacillus causing the disease is the same in both cases.

Experience has also shown that diphtheria, as diagnosed by physicians, has been contracted by contagion from membranous croup. They have been considered in the light of separate and distinct diseases, so much so that diphtheria has been held as contagious, and quarantine has been established against it, but membranous croup has been treated as non-contagious, and quarantine has not been considered necessary in relation to it. This distinction has now fallen down completely, and the same precautions will have to be taken, whether the disease attacks the tonsils or the trachea.

The arrangements which have been made by the State Board of Health are so complete, that the nature of bacilli from diseased parts of the human system can be scientifically examined and determined within twenty-four hours from their receipt. But it would seem to be almost needless to state, specimens should be hermetically sealed in tubes made for the purpose, and not forwarded in the inconclusive manner resorted to by an Oregon doctor, as reported by Dr. Beatty, secretary of the Board of Health, who received from that doctor a piece of membrane supposed to be diphtheritic, in an ordinary envelope. Such carelessness denotes lack of medical training if not of ordinary common sense. Culture tubes may be easily obtained, and should be used in every instance when tests are required and samples are forwarded. The tests are made free of cost to the physician and tubes will be furnished on application to the State Board of Health.

Whenever a case occurs that is pronounced by a physician as membranous croup, the same precautions as to quarantine and isolation should be established as if the disease was said to be diphtheria. Attention to these important particulars will aid in checking the ravages of this terrible malady, which we regard as far more dangerous and fatal than smallpox. Physicians ought to investigate the pathology of these two forms of a disease which usually attacks the throat or its organs, so as to come to a unity of understanding on the subject, and thus be able to fight it as effectively as possible. And the public should know that quarantine regulations as to diphtheria are to be regarded just the same in cases that are called membranous croup.

THE CUBAN SUGAR QUESTION.

The arguments presented by the advocates of the removal of the duty on Cuban sugar, before the Congressional committee on ways and means, do not strike a common mind as being very forcible. The synopsis which has come by regular press dispatches may not do them full justice, but they appear to be somewhat contradictory.

Mr. Edwin F. Atkins of Boston, in opening the discussion, spoke of "the enormous over-production of sugar throughout the world, amounting to about 1,500,000 tons," which he said had resulted in a crisis in the industry. That is a remarkable statement, and the action of the German government in relation to this matter, as represented by Mr. Atkins, is still more remarkable in view of this enormous over-production. To meet it, he said, the German producer was assisted "by means of a bounty," and was thus able to sell sugar at a half cent per pound below its cost of production. That is to say that over-production can be avoided by helping the producer to increase materially the volume of the product. This to us is a very singular way of attempting to cure an alleged evil.

After some further statements by the Boston gentleman, he was asked whether his sugar business was profitable last year, and he had to concede that it had been, although he claimed that planters had not done a very profitable business. This sugar dealer favored a reduction of 50 per cent on the duty upon Cuban sugar, and further admitted that "a very large percentage of the Cuban sugar industry was owned by citizens of the United States." Other advocates of pretended relief for the Cubans favored the free admission of sugar from that island, with reciprocal concessions on American goods entering its ports.

It has been positively asserted that

one of the reasons for the movement to reduce or abolish the Cuban sugar and tobacco tariff, is that American trusts have secured options on the land and crops in Cuba, and the purchase depends on the action of Congress in relation to this tariff. If the duty on sugar and tobacco is taken off or substantially reduced, the lands and crops will be purchased; but if not, the options will be suffered to lapse, and the Cubans will be left to shift for themselves. In either event the natives of the island will not reap the benefits, but they will accrue to the trusts which are scheming to control the trade.

We notice that the threat of "annexation" is being held up before the committee, as an inevitable result of failure to remove or reduce the duty on sugar. That does not seem to us to be a very terrible alternative. There may be reasons why the absorption of Cuba into the Union would not be desirable, for the present at any rate. But we do not think Congress should be deterred from doing what is right and for the best interest of the United States, by any such bugaboo.

It is known that the sugar and tobacco trusts have a body of shrewd and experienced manipulators at the seat of government, working in their interest and doing all in their power to accomplish the purpose in view as set forth by the gentlemen who have addressed the committee, and their plea for aid to the poor Cubans is merely a cover to a movement, for the crippling of the best-sugar industry at home, and the aggrandizement of the capitalists engaged in sugar refining and in the manipulation of sugar stocks.

The senators and representatives from the states in which the best-sugar industry is flourishing, are united in the presentation of their side of the question, and when their turn comes will doubtless present before the committee an array of facts and figures, which will make the representations and arguments of the trusts look exceedingly small. It is probable, however, that some reduction will be made on the Cuban tariff with a reciprocal arrangement as to the admission of American goods into Cuban ports.

Notwithstanding the power of wealth and the forces that will be brought to bear, we feel assured the result will be not at all disastrous to the best-sugar industry which is of so much importance to western states and territories. It has been placed upon a firm foundation, and is able to make its way, even though there should be small concessions to Cuban interests and the sugar magnates of the United States. There is not any cause for alarm on this question.

A NEW ROYAL HOUSE.

According to an exchange, Whitaker's Almanack for 1892 has created quite a stir in England, by recording the present king as the first ruler of a new royal house, the Saxe-Coburg, instead of as member of the house of Hanover. Victoria is made the last of this line. To those interested in the subject, the following explanation is offered:

"The Norman male line ended with Stephen. The change in the house of the sovereigns came with Henry II, whose mother, Matilda, was the daughter of Norman Henry. Her husband was Geoffrey Plantagenet, and when the second Henry came to the throne he was known by his father's name. He and his immediate successors were the Plantagenets. The Tudor kings began with Henry VII, whose claim to the throne was based on his mother's descent from John of Gaunt, son of Edward III. His father was Edmund Tudor. While the son inherited the crown from his mother, his house—that of the Tudors—took the surname of his father. Stuart was the name of the Scotch royal family, when James I became king of England, through his descent from a daughter of a Tudor, he adopted the name of his father, Henry Stuart. The house of Hanover came in through Sophia, a granddaughter of a Stuart. But her son, George I, retained the title of his father, the elector of Hanover.

"If the same precedent is followed in the case of Edward VII, the house of Saxe-Coburg is now the ruling family of England. The Prince Consort, father of the present king, was Albert Wettin of Sax-Coburg. The family name of the Hanoverians was Guelph, Victoria was of the twenty-sixth generation of the successors of the first prince of that name, as she was also of the twenty-sixth generation from William the Conqueror. But in the royal house of England, Wettin is now to be substituted for Guelph, and Saxe-Coburg for Hanover."

SPEAKING OF AIR SHIPS.

A prize of \$200,000, it seems, has been offered by the managers of the St. Louis fair, for a successful flying machine. This is a generous offer, and it will undoubtedly bring out a great number of devices for the solution of a problem on which so much ingenuity, labor and money have been expended, without entirely satisfactory results.

Among those who have stated their intention of trying for the prize, is one David B. Page, of Kansas City, and, according to the Star, he means to pursue the subject along entirely new lines. He believes that his predecessors have experimented almost in vain, because they have adhered to the balloon idea. Successful air navigation, he holds, will only be possible, when we have learned to overcome gravitation by motion, or in some other way.

He suggests that scientists may be possibly in error as to their idea of gravitation as an operating force, constant and determinable as to measure. It may be "only a higher expression of cohesive force." This is what he will find out by experiments, and if this is so, "positivity and motion are the only sources of successful aerial navigation." If, on the other hand, gravitation is what it is commonly understood to be, "then we must learn to degenerate matter."

To the question how that can be done, he replied: "Only by motion, perhaps; a top stands by motion—water adheres to a sphere by motion. A gyroscope represents the diurnal and annual motion of the earth, swinging out from a pivotal point on the axis of the earth's axis. We must construct such a motor—with leverage power at will, to add to or diminish—that will entirely degenerate all substances connected with it—not that it will operate against gravity as a frictional gravity, but suspend entirely the operation of gravity."

"Electricity at present seems to be the universal motive force, but just beyond electricity lies a still more subtle something which we are near to grasp

ing and which will give us an ability to launch a ship in the air as we now launch one in the water, adopting our tonnage to the gravity of displacement, ballasting or lightening it will by the application of our degenerating motion."

The talk about overcoming the law of gravitation, or to "degenerate" matter, would have sounded idiotic some years ago. But so would also suggestions as to the possibility of photographing the interior of living human beings, or conversing with friends hundreds of miles away. With such "impossible" feats rendered an everyday occurrence, there is little room for doubt as to the possibility of other propositions. Natural laws, as long as their operations remain a mystery, act as bars to the accomplishment of human designs, but as they become understood, they aid in the accomplishment of such purposes. Some one said more than thirty years ago, that there is no reason why, in due time, men should not find it as natural to navigate the air as it is to cross the water, and be able to send explorers to the moon, or the nearest planets, as they now do to unknown parts of the earth. And why not, if it is possible to overcome the law of gravitation? The successful solution of that problem must mean almost unlimited possibilities in the line of communication between one point and another in our part of the universe.

PEACE RUMORS.

A rumor comes from Amsterdam stating that the Boer delegates in Holland anticipate that peace overtures will shortly be forthcoming. In London a similar rumor was heard the other day, and it was added that the surrender of the Boers was expected on the 15th of this month. The rumors were said to come from reliable sources, but at the war office, the officials asserted that no peace overtures had been received.

It would create no surprise to hear, any day now, of the complete collapse of resistance to the British arms. Those who have followed the contest lately cannot have failed to notice that the patriots have lost quite a number of men in nearly every engagement fought, while they have gained no advantage that can have a bearing on the final outcome. And to them the thinning out of the ranks is an irreparable loss, while to the British the death, or temporary disabling of thousands, does not mean the surrender of one single important position. Under the circumstances, how much longer can the conflict rage?

The very fact that so many Boer prisoners are reported, seems to be an indication that the warriors are growing weary of the fight. Formerly they had a wonderful skill in getting away from their pursuers, but now they fall into the hands of the enemy in great numbers. General De Wet is about the only general still in the field, and his operations are becoming more and more aimless. In the meantime, business is being resumed in the districts held by the British. Property is again rising in value. Schools are being established, and normal conditions are gradually being resumed. Under the circumstances, the termination of hostilities is to be looked for. That they have been continued for over two years is little short of a miracle.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The remarks of the German chancellor, Count von Buelow, concerning the triple alliance are made the subject of much comment. He told the Reichstag that Germany can regard the further development of affairs with all the more tranquility because the situation today is essentially different from that in 1879, when the late Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy laid the foundations of the triple alliance. No one, he said, can now use the argument prevalent thirty years ago: "If we do not choose a suitable moment for attacking Germany, she will choose her moment for attacking us." Today, if any one should speak of warlike intentions on the part of the German emperor and the German empire, such calumny would fall to the ground.

This is apparently a declaration that, in the opinion of the chancellor, Germany has no longer any need of the support of the other members of the alliance, but the probability is that the statement was intended as a reply to Russian suggestions to the effect that Austria draw out of the compact, on account of the alleged oppression of Poles under German rule.

The triple alliance was formed in 1882 when Italy was admitted to the dual alliance between Germany and Austria. According to the agreement, if Russia should attack either Germany or Austria, the forces of the two empires should unite in repelling the attack, and if France should attack either Germany or Italy, the two countries should act together for the defense. Further, if France and Russia combined should attack either of the three powers, the three should unite against the combined forces. The agreement is about to run out, and will have to be renewed, if the alliance is to continue. The compact has been of great benefit to Germany, and to the peace of Europe, generally, but Italy has gradually found that the military burdens it engendered were too heavy. If it is true that Germany is indifferent as to the renewal of the treaties, and if Italy feels incompetent to meet the expenses involved, the chances are that next year will be the last of the triple alliance. Italy would then naturally join the Franco-Russian alliance, and Germany and Austria would probably continue to stand together.

A London paper claims to know that the German emperor is thinking of visiting this country in the fall, in his yacht Hohenzollern. The Kaiser may be assured of a cordial welcome, and his trip will certainly be as pleasurable, if not politically profitable, as was his famous pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Dr. Bracken, secretary of the Minnesota state board of health, says people who are true to be vaccinated ought to be immunized if they are discovered to have contracted smallpox. What would he do with a person who had been vaccinated and was still audacious enough to contract the disease? On the quiet,

the "News" thinks Dr. Bracken ought to be sent to a blacksmith shop to have his head mended.

The pope is again reported to be near death's door. He was born on the 2nd of March, 1810, and has, therefore, reached the ripe age of almost 92 years. He was appointed to his present exalted position nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Out of all the telegraphic dispatches published by the morning press today there was as much as half a column that the "News" did not have people reading on the streets at 5 o'clock yesterday evening. "The evening paper is the paper of today."

Now it is the pickle people that are combining to raise prices. Doubtless there will be as many wry faces made over the announcement as there have been over the eating of some of the awful product. It is a case of pickles, pickles, pickles and people plucked.

In the visions of William T. Stead, the Boer republics appear as "the stone out without hands, which smote the clay feet of the great imperial image," but to an ordinary observer the damage done to the "image" does not appear irreparable.

Periodically the news is flashed over the wires that small children who have been left at home alone are burned to death. It is unrighteous to be vindictive, but it does seem that it would be justice if the cabbage-headed parents who left the innocents alone perished with them.

Blanche Walsh, the actress, is said to be a devoted Buddhist. At her New York home she has a room full of images and mystic emblems, and her dressingroom at the theater where she is now playing is said to have been fitted up in Buddhist style, by some of her admiring friends. There is a large bronze bust of the oriental divinity, and there are serpents and lotus flowers, and other paraphernalia of worship. A theater and church combined! Truly the devices of advertising are many.

It is claimed that as New York's marriage laws now are, it is possible for two persons to make a written agreement declaring themselves husband and wife, and they are legally married. But if at any time within six months they are dissatisfied with the arrangement, all they have to do is to tear up the piece of paper, and neither one of them has thereafter the slightest legal claim on the other. If they wish their marriage to stand they must file a certificate with the county clerk within six months after the agreement was signed.

The Musical Courier scours the American public on account of its "crave" for foreign music, in this manner:

"American singers are not able to make any money, even when they give great recitals of great and new songs, such as George Hamlin, with his Richard Strauss cycle, presented last week, and with 316 receipts, in New York City. Had it been Georgiobasky Hamlin, of Georgiobaskyville, Gumbulcumkin, Turkistan, singing in a language which no one could understand, he would have had \$1,500 in the house; the name alone would have done it, and we should have heard of his unshapely skull \$108 more would have been taken in at the door."

Generally this is true, but there is evidence, from the experience of foreign musicians who have appeared in our own music-loving city, that foreign music does not always pay.

THE RETURN TO PEKIN.

New York Mail and Express.

Borne in golden chairs, accompanied by many gorgeous noblemen mounted on magnificently caparisoned horses, with escorts carrying hundreds of gay banners and umbrellas, the medieval Chinese court today re-entered its revelous home, Peking. Everything was done to make the return appear like a triumph. Everything was done to cover up the suggestion that there has been any change. Yet the empress dowager, who comes back apparently all-powerful, the reins of government as much in her hands as ever, as she emerged from the Temple of Heaven, the "foreigners pouring down, and in herds." The news here is significant in this simple incident. Very likely the empress has never bowed to foreigners before.

Boston Herald.

The Kodak artists appear to have been abundantly satisfied on the walls about Peking on the occasion of the triumphant return of the Chinese court to its old stand, after seventeen months' absence. So we may reasonably anticipate seeing some pictures of the bewildering and barbaric splendor, as soon as the plates arrive, if not before.

New York World.

The emperor and dowager empress of China took the first ride on a railway train during the return of the court to Peking. Thus even "moving day" in China shows that "the world do move."

Springfield Republican.

The Chinese court's re-entry to Peking was like the triumph of a returning hero. But, whatever the character of the spectacle in the streets of the imperial city, it is a satisfaction to all the great powers to have some native sovereign installed again at the Chinese capital. If there had been none at hand it would have been necessary to create one.

New York Evening Sun.

The empress dowager of China is a striking proof of the absurdity of the theory that women have not a keen sense of humor. Some time before the outbreak of the Boxers, the old lady received the wives of the ministers at Peking in the Forbidden Palace. They went to see, but found that they were on parade and the cause of considerable amusement to the attendants of the mistress of China. Then came the siege of the city, and the empress dowager, who had been so much amused by those wicked patriots, but at any rate the hostess may be relied on to say the right thing, even if it is necessary to be a trifle untruthful.

New York Evening Post.

Whatever may be the effect of the spectacular return of the imperial court to Peking, there is little doubt that that city will remember the autumn of 1900 as the Romans still remember the spring of 1871, when the troops of the Constable Bourbon sacked the city. The effect of the foreign occupation and of the numerous punitive expeditions was exemplary, even upon the populace of Peking, should not be assumed too lightly. The Chi-

nese of Peking have certainly learned to fear the foreigner, but it is by no means certain that they are not waiting their chance for revenge.

New York Times.

The best thing that could now happen to China would be to follow the example of Japan, to recognize and acquire modern civilization, and to cultivate closer as well as better relations with modern nations. But there is no to visible in China. The one Chinaman who might have played that part has lately died, having sunk in his old age to be little better than the tool of Russia, the power which was doing most to dismember his country.

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