

the court of inquiry to make the descent and to see for themselves. Nearly all the naval officers who attended the torpedo school at Newport learned diving. It was pointed out that an ordinary experienced diver would be unable to testify with any degree of accuracy as to the immediate cause of the explosion.

New York, Feb. 21.—The invention is announced of the phonendoscope, an instrument of wonderful value in studying the condition of the internal organs of the body. It is declared by physicians to be a tremendous advance on the old stethoscope. The phonendoscope conveys to the physician the sounds made by the internal organs, thus telling him whether they are healthy or not.

By its aid he can not only ascertain the condition of an organ, but trace its shape. It has been discovered with the phonendoscope that the stomach assumes a different form when full of the different kinds of food and drink. The rapidity with which various kinds of food and drink are digested can also be studied accurately with the phonendoscope. The instrument is the invention of Drs. Blauch and Bazzi of France.

Havana, Feb. 21.—At about midnight last night, while a masquerade ball was in progress at the Irifio theater, a bomb was exploded on the second floor, destroying window blinds and the roof, and wounding a lawyer named Pow, and his father and two other persons. The explosion caused great confusion and many of the masqueraders abandoned the theater. Others continued dancing.

New York, Feb. 21.—According to a Key West correspondence of the Herald, John Sawyer, a prominent merchant of this city, was on the steamer Olivette yesterday when the explosion was heard in Havana. When the vessel was ten or twelve miles from Havana, Mr. Sawyer says, a report like that of the charge of a cannon was heard. Looking back in the direction of Havana, he saw a big volume of smoke rising over Havana. The smoke was so dense and rose to such a height as to cause an involuntary remark by a passenger that the entire city had been blown up. Others thought that it must have been the discharge of one of the immense Krupp guns mounted on the beach outside of Morro castle. What gave color to this belief was the fact that notwithstanding the distance and that the wind was from an opposite direction, the report was distinctly heard on board the Olivette.

New York, Feb. 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Key West says: It is learned from what may be considered a semi-official source, that divers sent down on behalf of the United States to examine the wreck of the battleship Maine have made a preliminary report of the result of their work.

Incredible as it may seem, it is said that after a partial examination of the magazines of the Maine, the divers report that the one in which the explosion is supposed to have occurred, is intact.

According to the correspondent's informant, the contents of these magazines are unharmed. Therefore, if this report be true an entirely different aspect is given to the terrible explosion which brought death and destruction to the Maine.

This report reaching Key West, it is said, caused the members of the court of inquiry to decide to proceed to Havana and begin their investigation at once instead of organizing the court here. At any rate, the lighthouse tender Mangrove, with the court of inquiry aboard, left for Havana yesterday evening. Upon reaching Havana, the court will make a personal examination of the wreck and will then take

testimony regarding the loss of the vessel.

New York, Feb. 2.—The World says: Nearly 100 telegraphic dispatches were sent during the past twenty-four hours from Governor's Island, the army headquarters, to various points of fortifications along the seaboard from Eastport, Maine, to Galveston, Texas. All of these fortifications in which guns and mortars have been mounted are under the control of General Merritt, commander of the department of the east.

General Merritt spent very little of the day at the island, his staff attending to the usual amount of telegraphic correspondence.

During his absence, Col. Barber, adjutant general of the department of the east, was in charge. Col. Barber refused to discuss the reasons of the activity along the seaboard, except to say that everything now being done was merely the execution of a coast defense program outlined several months ago.

It was learned from other sources that orders had been received on the island on Friday night to send from Fort Wadsworth to Sandy Hook twenty men to clean the big guns in the fortifications there and to transfer considerable quantities of ammunition. The same orders brought instructions to send forty men from Fort Schuyler to Point to clean the guns there and to overhaul the ammunition. Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook is also still in the hands of the army engineers and ordnance bureau. The engineers are constructing the emplacements for the guns and mortars yet to come, and when they complete the work the ordnance bureau will have to set the guns and carriages and test them before the fort can be regularly transferred to Gen. Merritt's command. The work will not be finished until late in the spring and the quarters for the artillery will not be finished under the present program until October. Not till then will Fort Hancock be an official reality.

Two days ago the artillery expert stationed at Governor's Island, the man recognized by army men as the most skillful artilleryman in the country, returned from a tour of inspection of the fortifications from Boston to Charleston.

The last place he visited was Fort Caswell, near Cape Hatteras. On his way back to Governor's Island he stopped at Washington and conferred with Secretary of War Alger. At Fort Caswell he found three high caliber guns in splendid shape which he did not know had been set up. He visited the Boston forts, the fortifications at Dutch, and gullstands at the entrance to Long Island Sound, those at Forts Schuyler and Willets Point, Forts Hamilton, Wadsworth and Hancock and Slocum, the fortifications on Delaware Bay, and at other places down the coast.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—The Union Pacific road is reported to have been paying a commission of 18 on immigrant business to California. The company has been notified by the Western Immigrant Bureau and the Transatlantic Steamship companies that unless the payments cease at once the Union Pacific will be shut out from any participation in the immigrant traffic. The authorized commission on this business is 4.40.

Prescott, Ariz., Feb. 21.—A disastrous fire occurred here about midnight, resulting in the total destruction of the Johnson house, a hotel owned by Miss Christine Johnson. The house contained between twenty and thirty guests, and the fire made such headway before being discovered that they lost nearly everything and many had hair breadth escapes. While no fatalities occurred,

many were quite seriously injured. Dr. D. P. Kayner was seriously injured about the head, feet and back. Doctors express a doubt of his recovery. Chas. Perkins jumped from the second story and sustained injuries of the spine. S. H. Garrett, a stenographer, jumped from the third story and was also injured in the spine and otherwise bruised. Annie Pierson, a chambermaid, discovered the fire and remained on the third story awakening guests till the flames had closed every avenue of escape by the stair ways, and she was compelled to crawl through a window to the Mansard roof, where she was rescued, badly burned.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Referring to Gen. Miles's recent order to Gen. Merritt, commanding the department of the east, to immediately detail men and officers to all coast defense points where modern guns are mounted, it was said at the war department today that while the order was issued, as reported, it was nothing more than following out the plan of the war department formulated several years ago, when the present system of coast defense was inaugurated. The order calls for at least twenty men and the necessary officers to take charge of such coast defense emplacement as have been completed and turned over to the war department.

These defense points are planned and constructed by the engineer corps and the guns furnished by the ordnance department. As soon as completed they are turned over to the war department and men are at once detailed to care for the expensive works and ordnance. It is said that a detail of twenty men, so far from being an effective fighting force, is barely sufficient to properly care for the property. There have been a number of these coast defense works completed recently, and the order detailing men to care for them is merely a routine matter.

In addition to detailing the men, a special board is now in session in Washington preparing plans for permanent quarters at the various new posts, and work will begin on these as soon as practicable. The men who are stationed at these new points will be drilled in the use of the guns and will form the nucleus of a permanent heavy artillery force, which will be augmented from time to time.

It is for this service that the war department has asked of Congress two additional artillery regiments, and the officials express great hope that this request will be speedily complied with, as there is at present not enough men to effectively man the many new works which, in the development of the modern coast system, are being rapidly completed and turned over to the department.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Inquiry at leading foreign embassies and legations today fails to confirm rumors that members of diplomatic corps have reached the conclusion that a crisis in Spanish affairs is near at hand and that several of the foreign representatives have notified their governments that war is inevitable. The rumors mentioned the French and British embassies but members thereof stated positively today that no such reports have been made from these quarters. Of the other foreign representatives it is said by those in a position to speak intelligently that, while the progress of events undoubtedly has been communicated to the home governments, there is no knowledge of any reports being made that war is imminent. It is pointed out that diplomats are guarded in their official reports in making conjectures on the future.

The man who poses as an Apollo is apt to be nothing but an Apollo-gy for one.