

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE UPPERMOST THEME.

So far as the reports of this year's Fourth of July orations have come to notice, scarcely one of them but sounds a war-note against the evils that threaten the Republic and makes a plea for active, earnest patriotism with which to combat them. Such unanimity in the selection of a timely topic furnishes reason for both sadness and gratification: sadness, that the evils should be so impending and should exist so palpably as to excite the warning comment of all the orators; gratification, that one and all lift up their voices in exhortation to the better elements of American manhood, pointing to the way to victory, and appealing to sentiments that have never yet failed to prove responsive.

A time is fast approaching when party lines as now commonly understood will have to be swept away. The "machine" in politics has become a very dragon of destruction. Its foul breath carries disease into the body of the nation, and its coils are tightened about the public offices to such an extent that purity flees affrighted from the scene. "Trusts" are one of its latest and most potent agencies, and they dominate men and measures to a degree perfectly appalling. Independent manhood in a public servant is almost an unknown tribute; corruption ceases to evoke surprise, and moral obliquity has become the normal state in nearly all political affairs.

It will take heroic treatment to correct all this, but we have confidence that when the hour arrives, the men for the crisis will be there also. Oratorical platitudes will not cure the trouble—it is too deep-seated to be rooted out by fine phrases. Parties, each, will be equally impotent; they will no doubt continue to make fine promises, but in the business of winning elections all the old tricks will continue to do service who ever a few votes can be gained. But the people, ah, the people—they will arise in their might one of these days, and, giving practical force to the theory of putting "the country ahead of party," they will cause such a shaking and sweeping up of the tricksters as will make the political world wobble on its axis. Those of them who are doing any thing—and their number is greater than most observers believe—are laying up a great store of wrath that will prove vexing in its outpouring, but it will clear and purify the atmosphere amazingly. It will be a sad day for those who preach purity and practice devilry, but it will be a happy time for those who love their country and who desire for its institutions a flourishing perpetuation.

A CHINESE GIRL DOCTOR.

Hu King Eng is the name of a Chinese young lady who returns to her native country after having spent nine years in the United States and completed her medical studies. She was a little girl when she arrived here and

was first sent to a school in Delaware to learn English. Then she entered the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia. In May, 1894, she received her medical degree and was chosen to serve on the Philadelphia Polyclinic, where she took her post-graduate course of a year and was an assistant in the eye-clinic. She has now made a special study of diseases of women and children, and affections of the eye, and anticipates many opportunities of doing missionary work among influential families in China, as ladies of rank and wealth there prefer women physicians and especially those of their own people. It is said that this Chinese girl, in a school of 200 students, among whom she and a Russian lady were the only foreigners, distinguished herself by remarkable ability, and great results from her labors as a physician and missionary are therefore anticipated in the Asiatic empire, just commencing to arise from its long slumber in a progressing world.

From an anthropological point of view it may be interesting to notice that children of so-called inferior races, when given proper opportunities and training, seem to have an innate power of rising to eminence in various spheres created by scientific and civilization, without the necessity of passing through the supposed inevitable evolutionary stages. This has been proven more than once in case of young boys taken from the desert of Africa, and placed in the hands of educators, and the success achieved by Miss Hu King Eng is another instance of the latent powers of the human intellect in an apparently lower race, none the less remarkable because found in a sex considered inferior everywhere except where the teachings of Christianity are accepted and understood. The ancient view that all nations of men dwelling on earth have a common origin is rendered unnecessary by such evidence.

GRINNING APE OR STUBBY FISH?

Darwin's theory that man is the degenerate descendant of an anthropoid ape, is now supplanted or rather carried further by the important discovery of Prof. Cope of the University of Pennsylvania, namely, that to his original and primitive state man was "a paleo-zo fish, pointed at both ends like a cigar." Of course it is conceded by the parent of this delightful dogma that the product now called human passed through various stages and processes of development, having been at various epochs a salamander, a lemur, a creature with hoofs and then a monkey. But the main point is that we were originally a fish, and a paleozoic one at that, having neither brain, skull nor red blood.

If one may be permitted to make a choice of progenitors out of the assemblage offered, the majority will probably prefer to trace back to the cigar-shaped fish and be done with it rather than to stop at the grinning monkey.

Neither of these ancestors could be expected to have a progeny distinguished for mental acquirements, and if mankind as a species is not all that reformers would wish it to be, the scientists will be charitable enough in view of these explanations to make excuses for its unpromising beginning. Meanwhile the further the monkey the rists and fish fanciers extend their dreams and follow their imaginations the more palatable becomes the Genesis as divinely explained. Apart from its truth, it is infinitely more agreeable to contemplate than anything the wise philosophers of the day can hatch out.

DEATH TO DIPHTHERIA.

The anti-toxine treatment of diphtheria is having its ups and downs, as every new thing, and indeed every good thing, invariably must have; but it is coming out of the tests with flying colors and overcoming the prejudices of the skeptical in a really brilliant manner. Germany, where advanced thought is always on the alert for novelty, yet is extremely conservative in accepting it, seems to have been completely captured by the serum treatment, and after exhaustive experiment and the closest study of hospital statistics for a year, the conclusion of a noted congress of German physicians, recently held, was almost unanimous as to "the efficacy of the anti-toxine treatment in reducing the rate of mortality in diphtheria; there was also a general consensus that thus far no serious complications imputable to the anti-toxine serum have attended the injections." A leading doctor of Berlin reported that by the use of the new remedy the rate of mortality had been reduced from 39 per cent to 21 per cent; and that out of 181 cases of pure diphtheria of which he had personal knowledge, all in which the treatment had been applied on the first or second day recovered, and only two of those in which the injections were first administered on the third day had a fatal termination. The record of the imperial hospital in the German capital was even more gratifying, as given by another physician. For four years before the treatment was introduced the average annual rate of mortality was 41 per cent of the cases, and this was reduced during the first year after the new treatment began to less than 16 per cent. That this was in no wise due to the less virulent character of the disease is interestingly shown by the fact that during two months of the latter year, when the treatment was temporarily discontinued owing to exhaustion of the supply of serum, the rate of mortality swiftly mounted to 52 per cent. A prominent physician of Munich and one from Vienna declared unequivocally the conviction that in the hospitals in both those cities the mortality from diphtheria had been reduced more than one half since the introduction of anti-toxine.

All this appears to be expert testimony of the most valuable and indisputable kind; and a suffering world is to be congratulated upon a discovery that promises to put a check upon the ravages of a disease that hitherto has