

tively that the coronor and city physician were guilty of criminal neglect. It was their plain and direct duty to examine it. If the cuts existed and they failed to observe them they made no examination whatever. The cuts certainly were made this side of the cemetery, because there was no opening of the coffin after it left the undertakers. Hence if they were inflicted after death it was done in the city jail or in the office of the undertakers, those being the only places where the body was retained, except when being conveyed from the former to the latter point, and from the office of the undertakers to the cemetery.

With regard to those cuts discovered subsequent to the examination of the body, however, there is no relief for the officials connected with the affair, whether they were made before or after death. If before dissolution an examination of the body would have disclosed them; if after death, they were made without authorization, and the person inflicting them would be guilty of mutilation of a corpse. Our theory is they were made before death, but not by any of the officers. Notwithstanding this opinion, we also hold, viewing the occurrence as a whole, that the officers immediately concerned are censurable for a glaring neglect of duty and for an offense against the better instincts of humanity.

THE BLACK DEATH.

THE appalling intelligence reaches us from Europe that "Black Death" has appeared once more in eastern Russia. In the 14th century this terrible scourge desolated the world. It was given the name of black because of the spots of that color which appeared on the skin in one of the stages of the disease. These spots indicated that decomposition had already set in even before death.

In Europe the period of the most terrible ravages made by this pestilence was between 1348 and 1351. London alone lost over 100,000 persons. Fifteen of the other European cities lost in the aggregate 300,000 souls. Germany lost nearly 1,600,000, while Italy lost one half of its entire population. It is estimated that in Europe alone 25,000,000 human beings were carried off by this fearful malady.

In the Oriental countries it is calculated that upwards of 40,000,000 people were swept away by black death.

The symptoms of the disease were boils on the thighs, arms and face; in many cases black spots all over the body. In some other cases affection of the head, stupor, and palsy of the

tongue, which became black; burning and insatiable thirst; putrid inflammation of the lungs, attended by pains in the chest, expectoration of blood and a fetid breath. After two or three days the victim perished. Many when affected with spots and boils did not wait for death, but killed themselves.

The history of this malady is involved in obscurity. However, it is generally accepted that China was its birth-place, but the date of its first appearance there is unknown. In 1333 A. D. China was wrecked from centre to circumference by earthquakes, droughts, famines, floods and other calamities, and then followed this terrible scourge.

About this time Europe also experienced climatic phenomena. The order of the seasons seemed inverted. In 1342 a mild form of the disease appeared but created no alarm. In 1348 it broke out in its most virulent form. The course of the plague was tracked directly from China by means of the caravan routes. It appeared first on the northern coast of the Black Sea, next in Constantinople, then in Italy, whence it spread to Germany, France and Scandinavia, and finally to the British Islands.

One writer says:

The mortality caused by the plague was, however, only one of the evils to which it gave rise. Its moral effects on the survivors and the frame of society were no less momentous. Many died of fear, which among the living dissolved the ties of kindred; mothers forsook their plague-stricken children; the worldly became quickened to a maddening sense of sin; the religious fixed their eyes more steadily on futurity; all rushed to sacrifice their means to the Church, while the priests drew back from the gold showered over their walls as being tainted with death. Superstition finally banded multitudes together by common means to work out the common safety. In Hungary, and afterwards in Germany, rose the brotherhood of Flagellants, who undertook to expiate the sins of the people, and avert the pestilence by self-imposed offerings. Originally of the lower classes, they gathered to their order as it extended crowds of the highest, both men and women, and marched from city to city, robed in sombre garments, with red crosses on the breast, back, and cap, and their heads covered as far as the eyes; they went chanting in solemn processions with banners, with down-turned faces, and bearing triple scourges with points of iron, with which, at stated times, they lacerated their bodies.

In place of helping to avert the plague these peculiar fanatics only helped to spread it. They created panic and confusion wherever they went. In addition to this, a rumor was started that the Jews poisoned the wells, and this gaining hold of the popular mind, the most terrible feature of the scourge was inaugurated. The people rose up to exterminate the Hebrew race, 12,000 Jews in Mayence alone were murdered. All through Europe, wherever a Jew was found,

murder immediate and horrible was his doom.

These were dreadful days. A repetition of them in our time would be awful. God grant that such may not be the case.

A MYSTERIOUS MURDER CLEARED UP

A MYSTERIOUS murder in San Francisco has lately been traced to its perpetrator. The victim was Samuel M. Jacobson, a young merchant, who was shot and killed on the 15th of last August, in front of his residence. The assassination was for a long time enveloped in mystery. At last, only a few days ago, detectives succeeded in discovering the assassin.

It appears that two persons were concerned in the murder, Sidney Bell and Edward W. Campbell, both employees of the Singer Sewing Machine Company in San Francisco. At the solicitation of the first named, Campbell joined him in the footpad business, as a side source of money-making. Young Jacobson stepped from a street car near his home, when Bell pointed a pistol at him and told him to throw up his hands, at the same time calling to Campbell to do the searching part of the transaction. The latter was frightened, refused to assist and stood off some distance. Mr. Jacobson resisted and seized Bell. A struggle ensued, in which the unfortunate merchant was shot immediately below the heart, death resulting.

Bell and Campbell are both in jail and the latter has made a full and detailed confession.

INTERESTING JEWISH STATISTICS.

THE Eleventh Census returns reveal some curious facts in relation to the Jews, when it is understood that the Jewish nation is politically extinct and in the Christian sense of the word Judaism is not a religion.

No common authority binds Jews in the religious sense. There is no court in existence before which a Jew can be tried for heresy. A council or synod has no power to decree what is Jewish belief or unbelief. Any ten adult Israelites can form a congregation and appoint their own rabbi. It is not infrequent to find congregations without a rabbi. Nor have the Jews any authorized creed, except that written by Maimonides during the middle ages, if it may be so considered. But this forms no part of the Jewish liturgy.

Here then we are face to face with a people maintaining an individuality in race and religion yet without a country or a creed. This is one of the strange paradoxes of our time.