

coming season, to get in closer touch with their numerous American and English patrons. One of the first to "discover" the genius of the French artist was the Duchess of Marlborough who sat to M. Hellen a long time ago. After doing her portrait he executed pictures of Mrs. Walpole Astor, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. Channing and several other American women.

BOTH ARE AUTOCRATS.

Both these men charge immense prices. They are both autocrats in their profession and if the desire of a prospective client please them not they have no hesitation in declining the order and in a somewhat brusque manner, too.

A well-known American, who must be nameless, recently went to Hallow and offered him whatever he chose to ask for her portrait. The lady's son, too, sold her portrait at a high price, and more likely to find suitable expression in oils, so he turned to her and said:

"Madame if I am to paint you, I shall first have to starve you for a month. Your proportions are utterly unsuitable for silver point. You had far better go to your own Sargent and get him to paint you in oils. Silver point is for the other half."

GONE TO EGYPT.

Mrs. Charles Lawrence, who was Miss Catherine Somers Wiggins of New York and married a brother of the late Lord Lawrence in 1881, has gone to Egypt and does not mean to be back in London until the first week in May. She has a large circle of friends here who all meet on frequent occasions at her house in Eaton Square, where it is a case of "let them all come." She is quite one of the most hospitable hostesses in town. Perhaps the reason why Mrs. Lawrence is so popular is because she has kept up so energetically with all her old friends. Nor has she ever made the slightest effort to get into the magic circle of rivalry, for as she says it involves spending too much money upon people for whom you care nothing, and she prefers to lavish it on those she knows well and for whom she cares.

LADY MARY.



NOTED BRITISH WOMAN ORGANIZER HERE.

Miss Mary R. MacArthur, Scotch by birth and distinguished throughout the United Kingdom for her remarkable success in organizing trades unions among women, has come to America to extend her propaganda and to tell the working women of this country of the success of trades unionism as results show in Great Britain. She has already been instrumental in organizing 140,000 of the 5,000,000 women workers in Great Britain into trades unions and looks forward with great hope to a successful campaign in the United States.

DEATH LIST OF MILLIONS.

Appalling Prospect in Famine-Swept Region in Russia—Efforts Being Made in the United States to Mitigate the Horror.

Special Correspondence.

NEW YORK, April 2, 1907.—Unless the outside assistance so urgently demanded by the dieters of humanity is immediately forthcoming, the famine in Russia, already the greatest and most dreadful in the history of that country of many calamities, threatens to become one of the most appalling in its toll of human life that the world has ever known. One of the relief workers on the ground has said: "We shall be fortunate if in Russia alone we escape with 200,000 deaths in a total of 2,000,000 inhabitants." That is 18 and two-thirds per cent of the population; but it expresses the hope, rather than the fact, of those who are striving to check the ravages of the hunger-wolf among the peasant population of Russia; for the scanty relief that is being extended by the St. Petersburg government has been so long delayed and so hopelessly inadequate that the inhabitants of entire provinces have been reduced to their last extremity to maintain life, and are no longer in a physical condition to withstand fever and disease, the inevitable consequences of long-continued starvation, which have already made their appearance. Even this proportion, however, if maintained throughout the 21 provinces involved, means a death toll of at least 2,000,000; a total exceeded only by the Indian famine of 1877, which carried off 5,000,000 of the inhabitants, and the famine in North China in 1877-78 in which 3,500,000 are said to have perished.

It is the history of these calamities that they usually result from a partial or complete crop failure involving the chief means of support of the working classes and extend over a period of sev-

eral years, increasing in severity until the death rate reaches sometimes as high as 20 per cent of the population. This was true in Ireland when the great frost of 1789 destroyed the unharvested potato crop. The famine continued until the harvest of 1792 restored normal conditions. During that interval a pest of malignant fever slaughtered one-eighth of the population, and the total loss of life directly due to the famine was variously estimated at 200,000 to 400,000 in a population of 2,910,221.

The same thing was true in the "Great Famine" which began in 1845, when blight again destroyed the potato crop. Of that calamity a writer of the times has said that "the deaths resulting from it and the emigration which it caused were so vast that at one time it seemed as if America and the grave were about to absorb the whole population of this country between them." Ten million pounds were expended on relief work, but in spite of it all nearly 2,600,000 people had disappeared by the end of the first quarter, 1,240,000 of whom had died of starvation and disease. The death rate among those who emigrated to Canada was over 17 per cent. The same statement is true of the present famine in Russia which really began with the crop failure of 1905 and was aggravated by that of 1906. Such a rate of mortality among the 30,000,000 inhabitants involved as occurred in the Irish famine of 1845-51, would mean a death toll of more than 5,000,000.

It is far from unlikely, however, that even this rate may be exceeded; for in many of the provinces typhus, scurvy, and blindness, the results of starvation, have broken out with great violence and are spreading, scurvy especially, with great rapidity, despite all efforts at prevention. This is particularly

true of Ufa province, where the authorities have been slow in beginning relief work. Four hundred and thirty-eight new cases of scurvy are reported to have occurred there during the fortnight of March compared with 114 cases during the preceding fortnight. In Saratov province, 536 cases were reported from March 1 to March 15, as contrasted with 220 for the last two weeks of February.

These figures, however, are taken from government reports, and the actual conditions are far worse. Many cases are caused entirely by insufficient food and the crude substitute for bread made from diseased grain and noxious weeds, which the people are compelled to eat, were not reported to the government medical inspectors at all. The conditions are expected to grow steadily worse; for, although the authorities are so far able to keep the famine under control, the fever may get out of hand at any time, with what results no one can predict.

So far the Russian government has appropriated \$3,500,000 to meet an immediate need for 10 times that sum. Even if it all had reached the starving population for whom it was intended, it was insufficient to afford more than very slight temporary relief. The most acute suffering is in the interior of the country, far removed from railroad and other adequate transportation facilities, and the enormous cost of distributing supplies necessarily has greatly reduced the purchasing power of the appropriation. This feature of the situation is not its worst, however. It seems probable that even the most devoted public official could stoop to graft under such circumstances. Nevertheless, the actions of Assistant Minister of the Interior Gurko, in connection with the appropriation of the famine relief appropriation have become so notorious that a deputy in the duma a few days ago boldly charged the government with stealing the money, and cited as an example the Ljatal grain contract scandal to which that official is alleged to have been a party. After several months of work under his administration, it was found that two-fifths of the 100,000,000 rubles (\$5,000,000 bushels) ordered to be brought had never been delivered to the famine sufferers at all, but the money for its purchase had gone to line the pockets of officials and contractors.

Beyond that is still other graft. Contracts are made with dealers to deliver grain to certain districts, and a certain district, and when the grain arrives, the quantity is found to have shrunk one-half. Even this half is adulterated in every possible way, frequently by the substitution of common earth for a portion of the grain.

The relief at present afforded consists of one pound of bread furnished daily to each person in the famine districts between the ages of 1 and 17 or over 59. Infants under 1 year old the great majority of the population between 17 and 59 receive nothing, but depend upon sharing the allowance of the young and the old. As a result, it is doubtful if the relief averages more than one-third of a pound of bread daily per person, which means only one-fifth of the usual food of the Russian peasant, which consists in ordinary times of five pounds of bread daily.

The Russian government is negotiating for a loan of \$5,000,000 to defray famine relief, but while the negotiations are making, thousands are dying of starvation, and it is doubtful if a much larger proportion of the sum, when it is finally available, will reach the suffering.

Under all these circumstances, the best hope for starving Russia seems to lie in such organizations as the Russian famine relief committee, which has been organized by prominent New York philanthropists with headquarters at 135 East Fifth street, and this city, for the collection and transmission of funds. Bishop Henry C. Potter is president of the committee, Dr. Samuel J. Barrows is secretary, and Morton Hurst company is treasurer and acknowledged all subscriptions, however small. Needless to say the money received will not be turned over to the Russian government, but will be direct relief and expended in the most effective way, through the representatives of the Russian Zemstvos and the Free Economic society.

Already a large number of Americans have contributed to the fund which the Russian famine relief committee is gathering, and a few days ago the first instalment of the fund was cabled to Moscow to be used in purchasing grain. President Roosevelt has endorsed the work of the committee and has himself sent a subscription to "the cause of humanity" while urging his fellow Americans to do likewise. The committee reports that the suffering is so great that assistance must be widespread and prompt if lives are to be saved. It adds that \$5 will represent the saving of a human life, as that sum will support a peasant until the next harvest.

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SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The mystery of the spiral nebulae of the sky is further from solution than it is sometimes supposed. Prof. T. J. See rejects the theory that they are true nebulae condensing into systems of worlds or stars, as no proof exists that they are gaseous nebulae at all, while it is by no means certain that nebulae form stars. The outline of the spirals suggests repulsion rather than condensation, this view being in harmony with recent investigations of radioactive and other repulsive forces. The circularity of the planetary orbits makes it absurd to assume that the solar system ever formed part of a spiral nebula. At present we must admit that the nature of the spiral nebulae is quite unknown; and while we cannot be sure that nebulae develop into stars, we may justly hold that the stars are the outgrowth of gravitational condensation of matter which was once dark.

January was made memorable by the unusually high atmospheric pressure that prevailed over Western Europe during most of the month. The extreme was reached on the 23rd, when the barometric reading was 31.55 inches at Riga, and the region of 31 inches, and above embraced parts of England, Scotland and Ireland. Previous records being exceeded at some stations. The highest reading on record at any place is 31.72 inches, which occurred at Irkutsk, Dec. 4, 1871, at Semipalatinsk, Dec. 16, 1877. The lowest record on the earth's surface, and reduced to sea-level, is 27.12 inches, and this was made at False Point, on the coast of Orissa, British India, Sept. 22, 1855.

The promising elastic road now being tested at Zurich consists of a thick rolled layer of fine tarred gravel. The grains, about a twelfth of an inch in size, were coated with tar in a revolving drum, and then hardened for two months.

The problem of life's origin continues to be attacked patiently and persistently, and we cannot fail to find something of interest in such work as that of Dr. H. C. Bastian, F. R. S., who now after more than 30 years of investigation, has produced living organisms from what he believes to have been lifeless chemicals. After being heated and hermetically sealed in tubes, various saline solutions containing ammoniacal salts were again heated, in a calcium chloride bath, to temperatures ranging from 250 degrees to 156 degrees Fahr. According to accepted theories, the tubes should have been absolutely sterile, and every

trace of life should have been destroyed. The tubes were then exposed to diffused daylight or placed in an incubator for five weeks to four months. When opened, all contained one or more kinds of micro-organisms, but control tubes, which had been exposed only a few hours, showed no traces of such organisms. The solutions seem to have lacked carbon—the universal constituent of living things—though containing silicon, its chemical ally.

The normal pulse has a wide range, but is always faster in females than males, and steadily declines from birth to death. Eminent physicians have thought it possible to tell a person's sex and age from the pulse alone. The average rate at birth is 150 beats a minute in girls and 130 in boys; at the age of 4 or 5, 110 and 100; in maidens and youths, 95 and 90; in mature women and men, 80 and 75; and in elderly women and men, 60 and 50. In one recorded case the pulse of a healthy man of 87 was only 30 a minute. The pulse varies with stature, position of body, exercise and health, and in disease it has been known to fall to 14 a minute.

In the new electric furnace of Prof. W. H. Bristol, a fused quartz receptacle is wound—for temperatures as high as 2,300 degrees F.—with platinum wire insulated with asbestos thread, and this heating chamber is incased in asbestos. Full current may be turned on at once without injury, giving maximum heat in one minute instead of the usual 10 or 15 minutes.

The odors of metals—long neglected and often stated to have no existence—are shown by the remarkable experiments of C. Grubb, of Berlin, to be due to something different from volatilized metal, and it is inferred that these and other odors are analogous to radioactive phenomena. Copper, aluminum, tin, zinc, lead, iron, etc., have a faint smell at ordinary temperatures. This is not affected by cleanliness or oxidation, but on heating to 100 degrees or 120 deg. F., the odor becomes at first much stronger, gradually diminishing. After the metal is cooled two or three hours, heating again produces the same effect. The experiments seem to prove that the odor is due to a transformation product from the atoms of the metal, and that the cold metal stores this emanation to the point of saturation and gives it off on heating. Some of the odorous matter has been separated and isolated in a vessel—just as radium emanation has been isolated.

The curious, cork-like substance produced by Eardmann and Kothner of Charlottenburg results from the action of acetylene on heated copper. It is an interesting product, but must be given greatly increased strength to make it a complete substitute for cork.

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READY APRIL 13

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