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## DISEASE GERMS.

The discoveries in relation to germs, or the spores of bacteria, as the cause of disease continue to recall the fact that carelessness often spreads malignant maladies.

The bacteria of disease, it may be observed, are a species of microscopic fungi, so small that millions of them would scarcely be perceptible to the naked eye when held on the point of a needle. They are propagated by spores—invisible microscopic dust that floats into the air from dry substances on which these plants grow while in moisture. As long as they have food and moisture the bacteria multiply rapidly, and would do so indefinitely, except for the fact that they produce and throw off poisons that operate to check their own multiplication. Certain germs increase most rapidly at about the temperature of the human body, but when their food supply fails, they stop multiplying and simply pass into the spore stage. In this form they are far more difficult to destroy than when in their ordinary life stage. Cold, for example, in the spore stage, seems to have no effect upon some of them. They will live frozen in ice for long periods. This is especially true of the germ of typhoid fever, which retains its virility though repeatedly frozen. Heat is the sure agent of their destruction. Boiling in water for a few minutes is regarded as a safe means of destroying them. This fact teaches the efficacy of the use of hot water for cleansing purposes. Any of the disinfectants, even common soap, in the hot water will add to its germ destroying power.

In the spore stage the bacteria float, as invisible dust, alighting anywhere and germinating when conditions are favorable. In the human body conditions are favorable for their reproduction if the vitality is low, or if they gain entrance into the blood through any abrasion of the skin.

Thus the germs of diphtheria, physicians say, may be in the saliva of healthful persons without any ill result; but if a sore throat from any cause then occurs, the germs will lodge upon it and be supplied with food where the ulceration or break in the mucous membrane occurs. Then they multiply rapidly, producing a poison that may be fatal to the patient.

In Chicago, the city provides for the cultivation of the germs found in the mouth of any person taken with sore throat. No physician there ever pronounces a throat disease diphtheria. He sends the saliva to the board of health, which supplies the germs with conditions necessary to their rapid multiplication, and in a very few hours anyone can see, by mere inspection, whether or not the germs are those of diphtheria. Promptness in this determination is all important, since the germs multiply with such rapidity that the patient is in serious danger long before the physician can tell, without the laboratory test for the presence of the bacteria, whether the disease is diphtheria or not.

These definite, plain, and simple results of bacteriological science are recognized in Chicago and the death rate there from diphtheria is said to be far smaller than in cities like our own, which are content to rely upon the slow and necessarily uncertain general diagnosis of the physician. Here is a fruitful field, in which an intelligent city council can do some really important work for the progress of this City and the health of its people.

## DISESTABLISHMENT.

One of the remarkable signs of the time is the growth of the sentiment in favor of disestablishment, among the English clergymen. This was in evidence at a recent church congress in England where that topic was earnestly discussed. The Bishop of Norwich was one of the speakers. He did not favor separation between the state and church. But, his opposition was almost a plea for separation. He argued that the church would not lose thereby.

The Bishop admitted that the "establishment" has succumbed almost to the killing point the voluntary societies of the Church latly. He pointed to the position of the Church outside England, as contrasted with Nonconformity. Whereas the Church communicants outside England in 1904 numbered 1,405,862, the communicants of the four bodies Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists are put down as 19,228,973. His own experiences, as said, in the Colonies have furnished him with a graphic picture of what goes on in new settlements, as accounting for this disparity. In the early days of a settlement the churchman, whose home traditions have developed his self-help, waits for a clergyman to appear. In the meantime "the members of the various voluntary denominations have met, raised a fund, put up a temporary building, sent a call to a regular minister, and appointed a man of good character, one of their own number, to lead them in worship until the minister comes. When at last a clergyman of the Church puts in an appearance, he finds flourishing religious communities and the more pious of the Church people settled down with one of the voluntary bodies.' In conclusion, the bishop said: "The establishment of the Church is only of value, and should only be maintained if, as we believe, it is of real moral and spiritual benefit to the nation;" and that "it would not be justifiable, even if possible, to bolster up the Church as an Establishment against the convictions and the will of the people of England."

When the leading dignitaries of the Anglican church take this view of the demand for separation, there can be no valid reason for the members of Parliament to close their ears to the popular demand. Dissenters who have their own churches to maintain justly protest against the state taxing them for the maintenance of the established church too. The question of salary for the clergy has so far been the great consideration. But the Bishop of Norwich admitted that this evil would not be so great as many have imagined. Bishops, he said, would lose their seats in the Lords and a large part of their incomes. But that would be no great misfortune. The position of the parochial clergy would be improved. "Whoever would, in the case of disestablishment, be losers, it would not be the parochial clergy." He thought they would be better paid than now, and adduced in evidence the ministers of the American Episcopal Church, "who receive, on an average, far better stipends than ours."

The views expressed by the Bishop were endorsed by other prominent speakers. It is true that union between church and state has a tendency detrimental to spiritual life. Unless there is absolute freedom, the forms will become lifeless. Dissensions multiply under religious oppression. The church and state problem is one of long standing in England. It may be nearing its solution in peace.

## AN ARTIFICIAL PANIC.

The government has decided to issue $50,000,000 in Panama bonds and $100,000,000 in treasury certificates, and it is supposed that this will relieve the situation, by drawing out the greater part of the hoarded money and putting it in circulation again. Consequently the plan is enthusiastically endorsed by financiers at home and abroad.

There is some reason for the supposition that the prospective profit will attract the hoarded cash. While gold shipments arrived in New York, Wall street brokers were publicly advertising a premium on all forms of currency, payable in certified bank checks; and in response to the 2½ to 3½ per cent thus paid, between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000 of currency, hoarded in the recent run on the banks and trust companies, was sold over the counter. This proves that profit will attract coin.

It looks really, as if the money stringency had been created artificially, for speculative purposes. It looks as if large sums of money had been deliberately withdrawn and locked up for the purpose of extorting money from the public. At any rate, the situation suggests the necessity of another investigation—in this age of investigations—for the purpose of ascertaining the reason why, in this country, a relapse to primitive methods of exchange is possible in a time of peace and prosperity. Something is wrong somewhere. In no other civilized country could the present experience of the United States be repeated. A London paper, commenting on recent occurrences here say they remind one of Lord Cromer's description of the difficulty with which Egyptian natives can be induced to leave their cash in bank, and their constant tendency to take it out and hide it. In our case it appears that many owners of bank accounts simply withdrew their money for the purpose of embarrassing the business world and compelling the government to pay them an extra profit for the use of their cash. Such performances would not be possible in England, France or Germany. They should be rendered impossible here, too.

## WHO PAYS?

Considerable interest was manifested in the tax convention recently in session at Columbus. A number of current questions received thoughtful consideration from the speakers. Among these were inheritance taxation by the states, personalty taxation and the proper substitutes for it, exemption of public debts, interstate comity with a view to the avoidance of double taxation, uniformity in the distribution of burdens, local autonomy in taxation, and the desirability of complete separation of state from local sources of revenue.

One thought emphasized by some of the speakers was this: that tax-dodging is not the greatest evil of our present system, but ignorance among the voters on the question of who really pays for political corruption and extravagance. Governor Guild of Massachusetts expressed his opinion that fifty per cent of the voting citizens do not realize that they are being robbed by dishonest officials. They know that someone is being victimized, but they do not care, as long as they are not, as they assume, touched in their pocket books. He insisted that our fundamental need is to give the mass of voters a direct "pocket interest" in local government. The following remarks by the governor ought to be read carefully:

"The demagogue in the great cities can afford to ignore the discussion of extravagance that refer hits directly at the masses. Padded payrolls and corrupt contracts do not seem to hurt the average city voter. They may mean a job without work for this voter's cousin, or a contract with thousands in it for distribution to that voter's employes. The people pay in the end, of course, for indirectly somebody has to pay for extravagant furniture and paint bills, for armies of loafers supported in joyous idleness at the public expense. Usually it comes out of real estate. The tenement house owner pays the added tax for his house and raises his rents. The provision dealer pays it for his shop and raises the retail price of steak. The non-taxpaying voter pays his increased rent with a curse, not at his own foolish vote for a corrupt government, but at the capitalistic landlord who he has been told is grinding the faces of the poor. His wife returns from market with similar criticisms on the duty on beef, which is, of course, absolutely inoperative and utterly without effect on prices. Neither appreciates that the extra dollar for rent or the high price of steak goes in the shape of taxes to support armies of political barnacles for doing no service beyond sticking to 'the organization.'"

Lack of confidence, lack of cash.

One and two dollar certificates are the latest paramount issues.

A man who is perfectly willing to be drafted generally is drafted.

It is unfortunate that Secretary Taft is not twins, he is so in demand.

A clearing house certificate is not cash but it is something equally good.

In Chicago the Black Hand doesn't let the White Hand know what it is doing.

What the country most needs just now is something that will cure a panic in twenty-four hours.

The barbarian hordes that overran the Roman empire were not so bad as the monetary hoards are.

The Bell Telephone company without Mr. Wallace as president will seem something like "Hamlet" with the melancholy Dane left out.

"Why is a mildly crazy man said to have 'wheels?'" asks the Los Angeles Express. Because very likely, he revolves on his axles.

Emperor William left ten thousand dollars at Windsor Castle to be distributed as tips among the servants. And thus the tipping evil is given a great send-off.

A New York woman has been ordered by the courts to pay an expert in heraldry $500 for tracing her ancestry back to Alfred the Great. And now she is kicking over the traces.

To say that a safe, elastic currency is needed no more solves the financial problem than to say that a safe, dirigible airship is needed, solves the problem of aerial navigation. Or in other words, "if to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces."

The fall of the year is a time when various diseases are more prevalent than at other seasons, and special care should be taken by the health authorities to see that unsanitary conditions are reduced to a minimum. Official notices are posted around warning against dumping refuse in the streets but if they are not enforced what is the good of them? A case in point can be found on Sixth South and Fifth or Sixth West where such a notice is posted on a telegraph or electric light pole in the middle of the street while just across the street to the west, and in the street, is a great steaming, stinking, disease-breeding heap of manure. And it is not an old one, either.

## THE AGE OF HAPPINESS.

London Telegraph.

What is the age of happiness? A great man of science has lately declared his belief that pessimism, like measles, is a complaint of youth and a calm joy the characteristic of age. The Women Workers have just been told by Mrs. Creighton that middle age is happier than the springtime of life.

## TOO COMPREHENSIVE A WORD.

Indianapolis News.

The meaning of the word graft was obvious and the element of humor floated it. At first it was "slang," now it is "colloquial," and pretty soon the English dictionaries will recognize it as an "Americanism." The word has probably come to stay, but how about its moral tendency? It is essentially a euphemism—a sugar-coated phrase to designate almost any dishonest act. It is a mild expression to soften down penitentiary offenses and make felonies look genteel. Does a grocery clerk or a butcher boy pilfer from his employer's money drawer? It is a graft. Does a bank president or cashier rob a bank, or do the directors wreck it? It is graft. If a state officer embezzles public funds or speculates with public money and loses, it is graft. If a contractor and municipal employes conspire to rob a city, thereby committing a crime against every citizen and taxpayer, it is simply graft. If high city officials put unfit and dishonest men in places where they can and do use their offices for private gain at the expense of the people, it is only graft. The word is growing to cover too large a multitude of sins for the designation of which there are other good, old-fashioned words of well-established meaning.

## A DRESS OF STAMPS.

Chicago News.

At a ball in Bermuda a wonderful dress was worn and in the making of it over 30,000 stamps were used. Years were spent in collecting the stamps and three weeks in the making of the dress, which was of the finest muslin. The woman called upon her friends to help her and the dress covered with the stamps of all nations. They were not put on any way, but in an elaborate design. On the front of the bodice was an eagle made entirely of brown Columbian stamps. Suspended from the bird's talons was a globe made of very old blue revenue stamps. On each side of the globe was an American flag, having stripes of red and blue stamps. On the back of the bodice was a collection of foreign stamps in the form of a shield, in the center of which was a portrait of Sir George Summers, cut from old revenue stamps. A picture hat, covered with red and blue stamps was worn with this remarkable dress.

## JUST FOR FUN.

Church—They tell me they will not allow intoxicated men to ride on the cars in New York.

Gotham—That's right. You see, if a man's not in condition to stand up there's no place for him in a New York car.—Yonkers Statesman.

"I can't understand," said the doctor, after the operation had been performed and the patient had been prepared for burial, "how your husband was able to live, with such an affliction as he had."

"Well, you see," replied the sorrowing widow, "it was years and years before we could persuade him to go on the operating table."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Landlord—Ope you won't 'ave any objection, sir, to my putting a subscription list up in the bar for the benefit o' the widow of Giles the waggoner, as died last Saturday?

Hector—Certainly. If you wish to.

Landlord—Thankye, sir. 'E was a man as ought to be encouraged. Considerate to his 'osses; 'e always stopped 'ere to rest 'em on 'is way up the 'ill.—Punch.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A very attractive and unique cover design on the news-stands for November is Recreation's three jolly hunters. Not less remarkable is the frontispiece, a "cow-girl" riding her pony at a gallop and swinging low to pick up a handkerchief on the ground. Especially good articles are: "Frontier Days," by Sol Metzger, a vivid pen picture of Cheyenne's (Wyo.) last bronco-busting, steer-roping cow-boy festival; "Motoring Along the Dykes of Holland," by H. Wellington Wack, and "Observations of a Professional Aeronaut," by William A. Baldwin, telling what has been done to perfect the airship, its basic idea and its operation. "How to Understand Football," by George H. Brooke, gives an elementary explanation of the gridiron game, so that it can be easily understood and followed by an inexperienced spectator. "Fly-Casting, the Poetry of Angling," by Edward Cave, tells, in detail, how to select a good rod, and the rest of the outfit, for fly-casting for trout and bass, and also tells how to learn to cast properly. The photographs illustrating the cast from start to finish are said to be the first of the kind ever published.—4 West 22nd St., New York, N. Y.

An article upon "Humorous College Journalism" in the November Bohemian, in which an extended and amusing summary is given of "The Harzard Lampoon," will attract the attention alike of the college and non-college public. The article is illustrated with humorous cuts. Perriton Maxwell's article, entitled "The Dominance of American Beauty," entertainingly compares the American woman with beauty to beautiful women of other countries, of history and of sculpture and painting. Robert Edeson, who has won a secure place among American actors by his interpretation of "Strongheart," the Indian, contributes a little autobiographical sketch, entitled, "My Yesterdays." There are 10 short stories. Among them is "The Bird Imitator," by Zoe Anderson Norris; "Cupid a la Carte," by W. Carey Wonderley, and "Two Guides," by Catherine Carr.—34 South Clark street, Chicago.


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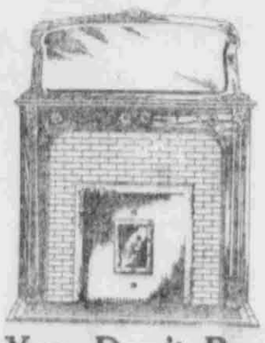

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