

IN SEARCH OF HEALTH UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

A correspondent of an English paper writes from Aix-les-Bains, Savoy:

Let me describe the health-seeking proceedings of a patient at Aix for one day. I will take a lady. (By the way you go there for rheumatism and gout, diseases of the skin, throat, indigestion—every description of malady, as far as I can make out by the "Indicateur.") Well, at five o'clock in the morning a servant knocks at the door; the lady is already supposed to be in her morning robes. Two men put the patient into a sort of sedan chair, which is a seat surmounted by a canvas roof and screening curtains. The lady finds herself suddenly shrouded in this yellow and red striped drapery, like an Eastern princess on her travels. You are taken off by an official porter down stairs until you get to the watering establishment, a large building, most elaborately constructed for every conceivable description of bath, *douche* and vapor application. Screened and hidden from the world in your palanquin, the careful porters place you in a chamber, where appear two female bath attendants, with all the other parts of the form and looking red and brown from the continual action of the water.

The patient enters a second vaulted chamber, introduced by the *douche* women referred to, precisely in the condition, as regards toilette, as your first female parent took her bath. Here the lady is placed in a chair; above and about are mysterious pipes and receptacles for water, and ropes, and india-rubber tubes with metal-pieced mouth; syringes, queer-looking pumps, and a shelf holding some bottles containing restoratives. All these media for squirting keep up a peculiar conversation of their own—hissing, faint whistling, dribbling sounds, originating in an intense anxiety on the part of the water to be let off. The bathing women, according to the orders of the medical man, manipulate the effete limb or toe, while the *douche* is simultaneously applied, hot or cold, or both. After about fifteen minutes of the furious rain and kneading, the patient is wrapped up in blankets without dressing and again put into the sedan chair, well screened, then carried to the hotel, and by the porters in this state is put to bed.

The half-muffled respiratory organs and enveloped body soon cause the patient to perspire, and this is certainly a proved remedy for rheumatic affections such as originate in accident and are not constitutional. The maid ere long unrobes her mistress mummy, dresses her in a very fashionable costume, may be, and she goes down to a breakfast of fish, fowl, and fruits at ten o'clock, meeting a hundred other fashionable bathers, who have all that morning been bathing or steaming, or undergoing the pleasing sensation of fierce injections from snaky tubes.

UNDER THE SEA.

The greatest depth to which a diver can descend with the present appliances in safety, is about 100 feet, and for this a burden of one hundred weight must be disposed of by the person. The average depth at which he can work comfortably is about 90 feet, which was near the depth at which the operations upon the *Royal George* were conducted. In water from sixty to seventy feet deep, the men can work for two hours at a time, coming up for ten minutes' rest, and doing a day's work of six or seven hours.

An English diver, encased in one of Siebe's dresses, went down in the Mediterranean to a depth of 165 feet, and stayed there for 25 minutes; and we have heard that Green, the American diver, inspected a wreck in the Canadian lakes at a depth of 170 feet; but his experience was enough to convince him that he could not work on it without danger to life.

HARD LOT OF SWISS WOMEN.

In "Peabody's Reminiscences of European Travel" we find the following:

The Swiss are not neat. They are not offensively uncleanly in their persons. On Sundays and holidays their gala attire—varying in the different cantons—though sometimes grotesque, indicates great regard for personal appearance, and in some quarters, is even beautiful. On working days the men are decently clad, and nothing can be more charmingly picturesque than the costume at hay-making—broad straw hats with bright ribbons, white sleeves and dark bodies. But they love to heap all the litter they can in and about their houses. I have been in cottages built with exquisite taste, and presenting at a distance a most inviting aspect, which were not nearly so clean as a well kept stable. Indeed, the cellar of a farm house is generally used as a stable, and the smaller live stock have the unchecked liberty of the whole house.

The women are subjected to a very great amount of out-of-door toil. In the cities the street-sweepers are all women. All over the country, besides performing most of the agricultural labor, the women carry heavy burdens on frames or in baskets fitted to their backs, and the girls are inured to this task from infancy. They thus acquire a uniform stooping gait, as if born under the curse written in one of the imprecation psalms: "Bow down to their backs always." Yet the severity of their lot is due, not as in Saxony and Austria, to the comparative degradation of women in the social scale, but rather to the brevity of the working season, which compels all the members of a family to the maximum of effort, to provide for the long period of inaction.

Over hills which no wheeled carriage can surmount, and at times when all attainable means are required for the use of travelers, the human back is

the only means of transport, and if the women bear heavy burdens the men bear still heavier. Many of them are employed as porters, carrying enormous articles of baggage, and frequently their feeble or indolent owners, to the summits of the highest mountains. Others take care of the horses pastured far up among the clouds, and bring down the products of these arid dairies to the level of terrestrial markets. For all of them, too, the eating and transportation of fire-wood alone make a severe demand upon the strength.

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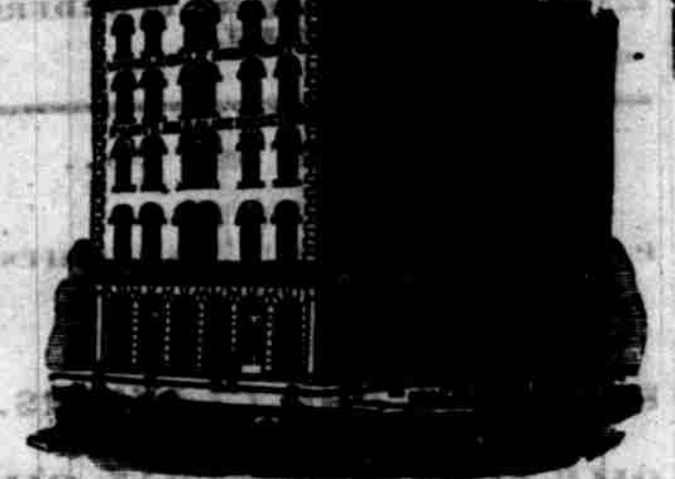
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