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ZION'S

EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday . . January 20, 1874

Tests of the Spontaneous Generation Theory.

In a lecture by Professor Tyndall before the London Institution, 11th inst., he gave some detail of his own studies on the subject of spontaneous generation since 1860, and more in detail to his experiments made the past summer on the Bel-Alp above the Rhone Valley, the spot, 7,000 feet above the sea, being selected for the sake of the purity of the air and its freedom from organisms. In describing an actual experiment he would assume he was accompanied by some eminent and fair-minded member of the medical profession, who entertained views adverse to his, because it was obvious that to an important portion of the medical press of London he had not as yet succeeded in rendering this question clear. Sixty flasks would be filled in the manner described in the lecture with an infusion of beef, mutton, turnip and cucumber, sterilized by boiling, and hermetically sealed. They are transported to the Alps. It is the month of July, and the weather is favorable to putrefaction. At the Bel-Alp 54 flasks are counted out, with their liquids as clear as filtered drinking water. In six flasks, however, the infusion is found muddy. On examination it is discovered that every one of these has had its fragile end broken off in the transit from London. Air has entered the flasks and muddiness is the result. Examined with a pocket lens, or even with a microscope of insufficient power, nothing is seen in the muddy liquid; but regarded with a magnifying power of a thousand diameters, what an astonishing appearance does it present! Leeuwenhoek estimated the population of a single drop of stagnant water at 500,000,000; probably the population of a drop of our turbid infusion would be this ten times multiplied. The field of the microscope is crowded with organisms, some "wobbling" slowly, others shooting rapidly across the microscopic field. They dart hither and thither like a rain of minute projectiles; they pirouette and spin so quickly round that the retention of the retinal impression transforms the little living rod into a twirling reel. And yet the most celebrated naturalists tell us that they are vegetables. Has this multitudinous life been spontaneously generated in these six flasks, or is it the progeny of living germinal matter carried into the flask by the entering air? If the infusions have a self-generative power, how are the sterility and consequent clearness of the 54 uninjured flasks to be accounted for? It has been affirmed in support of the theory of heterogeny that the vacuum above the infusion is favorable to the production of organisms, and their absence from tins of preserved meat, fruit and vegetables is accounted for by the hypothesis that fermentation has begun in such tins that gases have been generated, the pressure of which has stifled the incipient life and stopped its further development. But, in well preserved tins Dr. Tyndall has invariably found, not an outrush of gas, but an inrush of water, if they were perforated under water. He has noticed this in modern tins, and in tins which have been perfectly good for 63 years. On the other hand, he has exposed the organisms to pressure of gas without killing them. The 54 pellucid flasks declare against the heterogenist. The flasks are next exposed to a warm Alpine sun by day, and at night suspended in a warm kitchen. Four of them have been accidentally broken, but at the end of a month the 50 remaining flasks are found as clear as at the commencement. There is no sign of putrefaction or of life in any of them. These flasks are divided into two groups of 23 and 27 respectively. The question now is whether the admission of air can liberate any generative energy in the infusions. The flasks are carried to a hayloft, and the ends snipped off from the group of 23. The 27 flasks are borne to a ledge 200 feet higher, from which the mountain falls away precipitously to the north-east for about 1,000 feet. A gentle wind blows toward it from the north-east, across the crests and snow fields of the Bernese Oberland. The spot is, therefore, bathed in air which must have been for a good while out of contact with either animal or vegetable life. Standing carefully to the leeward of the flasks, for no dust or particle from their clothes or bodies must be blown to the flasks, the operators first singe the pipes in a spirit lamp to destroy all attached germs or organisms, and then nip off the sealed end of the flask. In this way the 27 flasks are charged with clean vivifying mountain air. The 50 flasks are placed with their necks open over a kitchen stove in a temperature varying from 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and in three days 21 out of the 23 flasks opened on the hayloft are found to be invaded by organisms. After three weeks' exposure to precisely the same conditions, not one of the 27 flasks opened in free air had given way. No germ from the kitchen air had ascended the narrow necks, the flasks being shifted to produce this result. They are still in the Alps as clear (the speaker doubted not) and as free from life as they were when sent off from London. Is not the conclusion, he asked, imperative that it was not the air but something in the air which produced the effects observed in the flasks placed in the hayloft? What is this something? A sunbeam glinting through a chink in the roof or wall and traversing the air of the loft, which was in free communication by an open doorway with the outer air, would show this air to be laden, with suspended dust particles. Can they have been the origin of the observed life? If so we are not bound by all antecedent experience to regard these fruitful particles as the germs of the life observed?

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WEBER STAKE

Weber County.

BISHOPS.

F A Hammond, 1st ward, Ogden City
Robert McQuarrie, 2d ward, "
William Farry 3d ward, "
H C Wyman, 4th Ward, "
Amos Maycock, North Ogden
J A Lewis, Huntsville
Joseph M Parker, Eden
F G Mathews, Farr's
John Kay, Uintah
James Sidwell, Marriott
David Knowlton, Kent
D F Thomas, Lynn
John I Hart, West Weber
Gilbert Hunter, Peterson
Jesse Thompson, Morgan
Ira N Spaulding, Probate, Eastern District

D. H. PERRY,
President of Stake.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

Rates of Domestic Postage.

LETTERS.—The standard single rate weight is ½ oz. avoirdupois.
Single rate letter throughout the United States.....3 cent
For each additional ½ oz. or fraction.....3 "
Drop Letters, single rate.....2 "

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.—The postage on newspapers has to be paid at the office of publication.

Newspapers are not charged postage when sent from the publication office to subscribers in the county where the paper is published.

Single Newspapers, not exceeding ounces in weight, 1 cent to any part of the United States, prepaid.

PACKAGES.—Parcels, unsealed, 1 cent per ounce.

The maximum weight of any package of printed or miscellaneous matter is 4 lbs. avoirdupois.

Registered Letters and Money Orders.

REGISTRATION.—Letters may be registered on payment of a fee of ten cents, in addition to the regular postage, but the government takes no responsibility for safe carriage or compensation in case of loss.

Rates of commission, in United States currency, charged for issuing International Money Orders, to be transmitted by the Postmaster at New York to Switzerland:

On orders not exceeding $20.....10 cents.
Over $20 and not exceeding $40, 20 "
Over $40 and not exceeding $60, 30 "
Over $60 and not exceeding $80, 40 "

Rates of Foreign Postage.

	Letters.	Newspapers.
Greece, closed mail, via England	5 cts.	2 cts
Hong Kong, American packet, via San Francisco	10 cts.	2 cts
Italy, direct closed mail via England	*5 cts.	2 cts
Italy, via North German Union, direct	5 cts.	2 cts
Japan, American packet, via San Francisco	10 cts	2 cts
Mexico	10 cts	2 cts
New Zealand, via Southampton	12 cts	2 cts
Norway, via North German Union direct	5 cts.	2 cts.
Norway, closed mail via England	5 cts.	2 cts
Portugal, via England	*5 cts.	2 cts
Russia, via North German Union, direct	*5 cts.	2 cts
Russia, closed mail via England	*5 cts.	2 cts.
Sandwich Islands, by mail from San Francisco	6 cts.	1 ct.

MONEY ORDERS.—All principal post offices now receive small sums of money and issue drafts for the same upon other post-offices, subject to the following charges and regulations:

On orders not exceeding $15.....10 cents
On orders not exceeding $30.....15 "
Over $30 and not exceeding $40.20 "
Over $40 and not exceeding $50..25 "

INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS on Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland, may be obtained upon the payment of the following fees, viz:

GREAT BRITAIN.

On orders not exceeding $15.....25 cts
Over $15 and not exceeding $30 50 "
Over $30 and not exceeding $50, 75 "
Over $50 and not exceeding $40, $1.00 "
Over $40 and not exceeding $50, 1.25 "

GERMANY.

Fees same as Great Britain.

SWITZERLAND.

South American States, Atlantic Coast, via England,	27 cts.	4 cts.
Brazil alone, from New York,	15 cts.	2 cts
Argentine Republic and Uruguay, via American packet from New York,	22 cts.	10 cts.
Pacific Coast, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Chili,	17 cts.	4 cts
Spain, via New Orleans,	5 cts.	2 cts
Sweden, via North German Union direct,	*5 cts.	2 cts.
Sweden, closed mail via England,	*5 cts.	2 cts.
Switzerland, direct, closed mail via England,	*5 cts.	2 cts.
Switzerland, by North German Union direct,	*5 cts.	2 cts
West Indies, (British and Danish,) American packet from New York,	5 cts.	2 cts.
West Indies, (British), British mail via St. Thomas,	15 cts	4 cts
West Indies, (not British),	5 cts.	2 cts

The standard single rate to Great Britain is half an ounce avoirdupois; to France and the Continent (by French mails) it is 15 grammes, or one-quarter ounce avoirdupois. The asterisk (*) indicates that prepayment is optional.

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