

HEALTH OF HAVANA.

Statement Showing How Conditions Improved Under Americans.

Yellow Fever Practically Stamped Out by the Destruction of Mosquitoes and Deaths from Other Diseases Greatly Reduced.

An interesting statement concerning the improvement in health conditions in Havana since the American occupation of Cuba, with special reference to the vital statistics for the calendar year 1901, has been made public by the health division of the war department. Particular attention is given to the purging of the city from yellow fever during the past year by the destruction of infected mosquitoes. It is of vast importance, the statement says, that these facts should be made known to the world extensively and as rapidly as possible. During the past 45 years, with scarcely an exception, some deaths have occurred from yellow fever in every month of the year; the maximum, 2,058 deaths, taking place in 1866, with the average of 751. The number of other infectious and contagious diseases has been small during the calendar year 1901. There has been very little diphtheria and typhoid fever, and the tuberculosis rate is about that of most cities of civilized countries. A rapid decrease has taken place since American occupation. A marked decrease in malaria also has occurred since the mosquito work began. The statement concludes as follows:

"The army took charge of the health department of Havana when deaths were occurring at the rate of 21,252 per year. It gives it up with deaths occurring at the rate of 5,720 per year. It took charge with smallpox epidemics for years. It gives it up with not a single case having occurred in the city for over 18 months. It took charge with yellow fever epidemic for two centuries. It found Havana feared as a thing unclean by all her neighbors of the United States, and quarantined against as too dangerous to touch, or even to come near anything that she had touched, to the untold financial loss of both Havana and the United States. It has established the fact that yellow fever is only transmitted by a certain species of mosquito, a discovery that in its power for saving human life, is only excelled by Jenner's great discovery, and as time goes on it will stand in the same class as that great boon to mankind. "The army has stamped out this disease in its greatest stronghold—there having been only five deaths in the last nine months of the past year, and no deaths and no cases during the last three months of the same year; and it has demonstrated a system by which yellow fever can be certainly controlled without the interference to commerce."

ROCKEFELLER GROWS BALD.

The Noted Millionaire Said to Be Afflicted with a Rather Unique Malady.

John D. Rockefeller, the standard Oil magnate, who is spending the winter at Lakewood, N. J., has been stricken with a peculiar malady. Physicians and specialists have been brought from New York, but have failed to ascertain the cause or check the malady that has made Mr. Rockefeller almost completely bald. About two weeks ago Mr. Rockefeller noticed that his hair was falling out in alarming quantities. Since that time Mr. Rockefeller has steadily grown bald until now he has little hair on his head, and has lost mustache, eyebrows and eyelashes. He has for years suffered acute nervous dyspepsia and himself cannot tell what is the cause, for he says he is in good health.

Mr. Rockefeller takes the matter not only philosophically but god humorously. He is, in fact, not above jesting over his loss. Shortly after reading his mail at breakfast a day or two ago he said to his family:

"Ah, here's hope. One doctor reports that with the aid of a powerful magnifying glass he has discovered three hairs on the top of my poor head and another claims to have found ten."

CURIOS FROM SIBERIA.

Large Consignment Reaches American Museum of Natural History at New York City.

One hundred and thirty-six boxes of relics, toys, musical instruments, models of houses, and facial masks have arrived at the American museum of natural history, of New York, from Siberia. They were collected by three members of the Jesup expedition. The specimens are for the anthropological department of the museum, and are expected to serve as object lessons of the life of the peculiar races living in the northeastern part of Asia.

The pottery which has now been found in Siberia is remarkably similar to that discovered in Alaska, and the great question the Jesup expedition is studying is that of the supposed primitive migration of man from Asia to America.

Record of One Messenger Boy.

The new president of the Western Union Telegraph company started as a messenger boy, and the Chicago Record-Herald says his case seems to upset the theory that a messenger boy never gets there.

A Thought for the Cooks.

Prince Henry says he never worked so hard in his life as while he was in America. If it was hard work for him, explains the Chicago Record-Herald, what does he think of the poor cooks?

MEMORIAL TO LINCOLN.

Senator Cullom of Illinois, Seeks to Secure Provision for a Million Dollar Monument.

Senator Cullom is making a determined effort to secure authority for the construction of a monument in Washington which shall be of a character worthy of the name of Abraham Lincoln. He arranged for a conference which was held at the state department the other day, at which he was met by the secretary of state, the secretary of war, Senator Wetmore, chairman of the joint committee of the library, which by common consent passes upon such topics; Senator McMillan, of Michigan, chairman of the committee on the District of Columbia; Mr. McKim, of a New York architectural firm, and St. Gaudens, the sculptor.

The object of the conference was to decide in a general sort of way on the character of the bill to be introduced, the comparative availability of different sites, the general character of the monument to be erected, and the limit of cost.

In this latter regard the intention is either to secure an appropriation for a monument of an imposing character or not to make the attempt at all.

"I believe," said Senator Cullom, "that the time has come for us to build a monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln of a character which will be worthy to some extent of the man and his position in American history. The question of cost should not enter, because undoubtedly the people desire a dignified memorial. Lincoln perhaps more than any other American earned his monument, because he died for the cause he represented. I believe we should spend at least \$1,000,000 on this project, and more, if it should be necessary."

VALUABLE JADE TABLETS.

Taken from Soldier Returned from China and Held for Restitution to Emperor of China.

Ten jade tablets on which, almost 200 years ago, the cunning hand of a Chinese workman engraved, by order of his imperial master, an acknowledgment of the wisdom, power and goodness of Shun Cha, the founder of the Tartar dynasty in China, are locked in the safe of the customs appraiser, John T. Dare, at San Francisco, awaiting authority from Washington to return them to the emperor of China or his representative. The stones are one foot in length, six inches wide and nearly an inch thick.

Through holes drilled across their width cords are passed to hold them together, and when taken by the customs inspector from a private soldier returning from service in China they were wrapped in elaborately embroidered yellow silk. It is believed that they were taken as loot from the imperial apartments in the Forbidden City. Recognizing their value to the Chinese ruler as a descendant of the emperor whose deeds they commemorate, the customs authorities here notified the secretary of the treasury and awaits notification as to the arrangements he may have made with the department of state for the return of the tablets.

RUSSIA TO BUILD OWN SHIPS.

Naval Official Says His Country Is Ready to Provide Her Own Warships.

According to Col. P. P. Tchernogovskiy, of the Russian navy, who has just sailed, with his wife and daughter, for home on the steamer St. Louis, Russia is not likely to order any more war vessels from foreign shipbuilders. He has been in this country superintending the construction at the Cramp yards of the Variag and Retzivan for the Russian navy. These vessels having been completed, he is now on his way home.

"Russian yards," he said, "have a capacity for building eight ships, simultaneously. I have prepared a report on American methods, which will have the effect, I think, of doubling their capacity. If at any time Russia should need any more warships from a foreign country, America will get the order. The United States is far ahead of any of the European countries in the building of battleships, and its ideas are more advanced."

Danger in Use of Lyddite has been revealed by the statement that during recent experiments with the bulk of the old battleship Belle Isle shells containing that explosive refracted fragments upon the attacking vessels, which were 300 yards distant. Other fragments dropped close to a gunboat situated 2,000 yards ahead of the line of fire. The deduction drawn is that when lyddite is used there is danger for a friendly vessel at least 2,000 yards away. The Outlook compares lyddite with a boomerang, and points out that to be of any service it must be dropped right on board a hostile vessel, as, "if the projectile does not hit the right place it will fly back and slay the slayer."

Swiss Teachers Well Treated, the public schools of Switzerland are operated by the government, and civil service rules are strictly applied. The teachers, who are mostly women, are very well paid and never discharged except for cause. When they get so old they can't teach any more they are pensioned liberally. The result is that the country has an excellent corps of educators in the schools.

Spanish Veterans' Association. Spanish soldiers who served in the war with the United States have formed a Veterans' association.

AUTHORS AS READERS.

But Few of the Famous Writers of By-Gone Days Were Entertaining in This Respect.

Some authors are quite ready to read their own works; but curiously enough they do not always read them well, says London M. A. P. Dickens was a great exception to this rule; for he died a rich man mainly through the vast sums he received for his wonderful readings. Tennyson would never have made a living on the platform. He was one of the most indefatigable of readers—indeed a visit to his house by anybody at all likely to sympathize with him was certain to bring the splendid entertainment of hearing the mighty poet read some of his favorite passages. But the delivery was not good. Not that the voice was not fine—the great broad chest of Tennyson could scarcely have coexisted with a weak organ—but the poet had a certain sing-song delivery which took away somewhat from his power, and sometimes even made his readings monotonous.

Browning—though he did not speak much about his poetry in public—also was ready occasionally to gratify his admirers by reading his poems. There is a striking description of such an occasion by the late Mrs. Bronson in her "Browning in Venice." Mrs. Bronson was a dweller in the mystic city of the Adriatic herself for 20 years, and, of course, was brought much in contact with Browning there. Here is how she describes an evening with the poet when the reading mood was upon him:

"His reading of his own poems was a never-to-be forgotten delight—simple, direct and veridical, as was the nature of the man. The graver portions he read in a quiet, almost introspective way, as if he were thinking it all out again. I remember once that in finishing the grand profession of faith at the end of 'Saul' his voice failed him a little, and when it was ended he turned his back to us, who were gathered about him in reverent silence, and, laying the book quietly on the table, stood so for a moment."

I have heard a very interesting description of Mr. Swinburne from one of his admirers who has been privileged occasionally to visit the poet's retreat at Putney Hill. But not all visitors—not even all of those who are invited to lunch—are regaled with the literary feast that sometimes follows. Mr. Swinburne takes soundings, and if he finds his visitor tongue-tied—as he may often be from shyness in the presence of so illustrious a man—or if in any other way there is a want of mental harmony, the poet gets up from the table, gives a somewhat curious and stiff old-world bow, disappears into his study, and is not seen again. Mr. Watts-Dunton performing the duties of host over the coffee and the cigarettes.

When, however, the poet is pleased with his visitor, Mr. Watts-Dunton says that Mr. Swinburne would be glad to see the stranger in his study upstairs; and there, into this sacred sanctum, the admirer is shown, when coffee and cigarettes are over. Then the poet takes down some volumes—generally an old-world and perhaps half-forgotten Elizabethan author, of whose work he happens to be full at the moment—and, first giving a little biography of the writer and a vivid sketch of his works, proceeds to read the passages which have most affected him. The poet's manner of reading is somewhat peculiar. It is rather a chant than a reading; somewhat after the fashion of the written sermons of some strong-voiced, impassioned preacher of the olden school. You feel as if you were listening to a rhapsodist of mediæval rather than to a reader of modern times. And what adds to this feeling is that while the right hand of the poet holds the book, the left beats a sort of regular time to the rhythm of the verse. It is an experience at once singular and delightful.

Ozone is oxygen in a highly active condition, and it occurs in small quantities in the air of the sea and the mountains. Near Berlin an establishment has been erected for the purpose of experimenting on the effects of ozone in ridding water of the microbes it contains. Ozonized air, containing from two to three grams per cubic meter (a cubic meter equals 220.09 gallons, and a gram is about 15 grains English) is passed upward into a tower which is filled with slints, and in its passage meets the water coming down, and thus acts upon it. It has been shown that, as regards water from the Spre, the number of microbes was decreased from 600,000 per cubic centimeter (0.061 of a cubic inch) to 10, which is practically nil. British medical journals of high authority insist that ozone can be artificially purified at reasonable expense to purify the air in tunnels, sewers and other places in London.—Science.

Mummies in America. Comparatively few Americans realize that right here in their new-old land are to be found counterparts of Egypt's great wonder—veritable catcombs of mummies, as genuine as any that exist in the land of the Nile. It is now a generally received fact that the so-called "cliff dwellers" are not an unknown race at all, but our own peace-loving Pueblo Indians, who in the old days built their great stone houses much as we now build our forts, for purposes of defence. These wonderful stone houses, far up the steep cliffs of Arizona and New Mexico, abound in relics of prehistoric days, not least among them being the mummified bodies of their former occupants. In Peru also, at the time of its discovery by the Spaniards, the natives were very skillful in the art of mummy making.—N. Y. Herald.

AMERICAN SPONGE CULTURE.

Interesting Account of the Labors of the United States Fish Commission in That Direction.

During the past winter the United States fish commission continued in Florida waters certain experiments which were begun last year in the propagation of sponges. Though it is as yet too early to be confident of results, the success thus far obtained has been very gratifying. That sponges of commercial varieties can be planted and grown by artificial means seems to be proved, and it only remains to ascertain whether the work can be made profitable on a large scale.

Reckless fishing has seriously diminished the supply of sponges along the shores of Florida, and it is of urgent importance that something be done to increase the crop, says the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. The process of artificial culture is simple enough, pieces about the size of one's thumb being cut from living sponges and attached with wires to boards, poles or pieces of rock in water only a few feet deep. The cutting is done on a wet board with a knife or a fine saw, care being taken to retain the outer skin as far as possible and to avoid injury to the animal. So rapidly do the cuttings grow that within from two to five years they are large enough for market.

The fish commission steamer Fish Hawk has been ordered south to continue the experiments which are being conducted in Biscayne bay and on the shores of Sugarloaf Key. Ordinarily the cuttings are made from deformed sponges that have little market value, but they assume symmetrical shape during growth. Quiet water, a firm bottom, and the absence of muddy sediment are essential conditions. Enemies there are few to guard against, though some hermit crabs are said to eat sponges.

Of course, the sponge commerce is in reality only the skeleton of the sponge animal. The living creature is covered by a thin, slimy skin, perforated by numerous canals which run through it. Through these canals currents of water are constantly kept flowing which line them, and in this way the minute organisms on which the sponge feeds are supplied. A sponge combines both sexes, and the young are simply thrown out into the water. They swim about for awhile, and after a few hours settle down, attaching themselves to some suitable surface and beginning to grow.

It is a notable fact that the fishery for sponges is confined to a single state of the union, Florida, though the product is more generally employed and has a wider range of usefulness than any other commercial article yielded by American waters. There is scarcely a civilized habitation in the country in which the sponge is not in daily use.

It is a curious fact that the three most important American species—"sheepwool," "yellow" and "olive"—seem to be pretty much the same as the leading Mediterranean sponges, which go under the names of "horse," "bath" and "zimooca." Though for general purposes there is no better sponge than the Florida sheepwool, some of the foreign sponges, such as those used in surgical practice, are more delicate and bring much higher prices—occasionally as much as \$50 a pound.

The possibility of transplanting to our own waters some of the best of the foreign sponges has been seriously suggested. It is thought that a small colony of them, properly cared for and used for propagation, might form a beginning from which a valuable industry could be developed. One difficulty in the way of this kind of submarine agriculture, if such a term may be applied to the planting and reaping of an animal crop, is that the sponge fishermen in Florida are much opposed to it. They fear the absorption of the business by capitalists.

Meanwhile, the Florida sponge fishery is being rapidly destroyed by overfishing and lack of protection. An incidental cause of trouble is the so-called "black water," which comes about once in a decade and destroys the sponges, causing immense numbers of them to float up to the surface of the sea. Some think that this poisonous water is due to submarine volcanic disturbance, but the question is in dispute. In 1875 there was a plague of this kind so disastrous that all the sponging grounds from Cedar Keys southward to 40 miles north of Key West were ruined.

The Florida sponge fishery yields about 200,000 pounds of sponges every year. More than seven-eighths of the business is carried on at Key West, where the sponges are prepared for market by permitting them to rot in the sun; then, after being washed clean, they are sold at auction. The sheepwool sponge, for most purposes, has no superior anywhere, being more durable than the best Mediterranean sponges, though somewhat coarser. It grows to good commercial size in one year.

White Mice for Submarines. Gasoline, it appears, the fuel most suitable for submarines; but human sensations give no more warning when its collected fumes are becoming dangerous. White mice, however, are said to be extremely sensitive to this poison, and perish incontinently before human beings begin to suffer the slightest ill effects. So in all submarines of the future cages full of white mice are to be kept on the floor, whence the heavy emanations gradually rise, and it will always be some one's duty to go around and see how the mice are getting on.—Country Life.

Folly. It is folly to kick against the inevitable.—Chicago Daily News.

DIAMONDS IN GUIANA.

The New Industry That Is Creating Much Excitement in the British Colony.

A year or so ago diamonds were found in the interior of British Guiana, near some of the gold diggings in that region. The discovery was made among the mountains on the Mazaruni river, a tributary of the Essequibo. The mines are not easily accessible. It is costing thus far \$1,000 to get eight men up to the diggings with implements, subsistence and pay for three months, says the New York Sun.

Some of these prospects are owned by New York men. Ten miners in the employ of New Yorkers who located diamond claims on the Mazaruni a few months ago have recently collected in six weeks 8,227 small diamonds, valued at \$9,500, which were shipped to New York. The excitement at Georgetown and in fact all over British Guiana is intense, and the discoveries have attracted the attention of the diamond interests of Europe and America.

As yet, however, there are not very many miners in the district on account of the large expense of outfitting and transporting an expedition. The route up the Essequibo and Mazaruni rivers is traversed in small boats, the average time of the journey from the mouth of the Mazaruni to the diggings being 14 days. The navigation of this river is difficult and dangerous on account of many cataracts and rapids.

If the hopes now entertained in British Guiana that these diamond fields will prove to be of first-class importance are realized the capitalists who own the great Kimberley mines will have some serious food for thought. It is not that any mines are likely to be found which will equal the wonderful diggings of Kimberley, but that any considerable output from other fields will have a tendency to unsettle values.

The Kimberley interests have practically controlled the diamond output of the world. The men engaged in mining there, headed by Cecil Rhodes, who fused the rival interests into one great corporation, have fixed the price of diamonds. They limited the amount of the output to such quantity as they knew might be marketed every year at a good profit. They sell diamonds only once a year, in March, when every dealer in the world is able to learn the quantity of stones that will be placed on the market for a whole year and the average price paid for them.

Stability has thus been given to the diamond trade. The market was not seriously disturbed even by the Boer war, for when that struggle began all the rough stones that would be placed in foreign markets for months ahead had been taken to Europe; and before the diamond trade had been embarrassed to any extent the siege of Kimberley was raised and diamond mining was resumed.

But if an important competition comes from any other quarter of the world the monopoly of the Kimberley region will be disturbed and it will not be so easy as it has been for years past to keep up the price of diamonds.

WARNED THE CREATOR.

Central Americans Threatened Dire Things If the Lord Did Not Send Down Rain.

A traveler from Central America brings back the following story, says the New York Tribune. In the department of Castanas, Salvador, there has been no rain for nearly a year; people were actually dying from thirst, the crops were destroyed and all agricultural industries crippled. The alcalde, in desperation, finally issued a proclamation, which read: "Considering that the Supreme Creator has not behaved well in this province, as in the whole of last year only one shower of rain fell; that in this summer, despite all the processions, prayers and prayers, it has not rained, and consequently the crops of Castanas, on which depend the prosperity of the whole department, are entirely ruined, it is decreed:

"Article I. If within a period of eight days from the date of this decree rain does not fall abundantly, no one will go to mass or offer up prayers.

"Article II. If the drought continues eight days longer than that time, the chapels and churches shall be burned, and missals, rosaries and other objects of devotion be destroyed.

"Article III. If, finally, in a third period of eight days it shall not rain, all the priests, friars, nuns, saints, male and female, will be beheaded, and for the present permission is given for the commission of all sorts of sins, in order that the Supreme Creator may understand with whom he has to deal."

The most remarkable feature of the whole affair, according to the teller of the story, was the fact that four days after the proclamation was made public the heaviest rain known in years fell upon the burning community.

A Source of Joy.

"I suppose, of course, you disapprove of the way women are copying men's fashions."

"Disapprove of it? Great Scott, no! I wouldn't have it different for the world. Why, it was as good as a circus this morning to watch and listen to my wife when her collar button rolled under the dresser."—Chicago Post.

Not a Gift.

The man who wakes in the morning and finds the world shouting his praise, you may depend upon it, did a long, hard day's work before he lay down to undisturbed slumber the night before.—Success.

SKYSCRAPERS MAY FALL.

Chicago Real Estate Board Is Startled by Statements of Gen. W. S. Smith.

"The steel framework in many of the big buildings in the business district of Chicago is corroding, making them very dangerous. It is only a question of a few years when these buildings will fall to the ground."

This statement was made by Gen. William S. Smith at the thirty-fifth annual dinner of the Chicago real estate board. He added: "The steel framework of some of the skyscrapers is in the condition stated and is nothing short of a public outrage."

The speaker explained that his statements were based on personal observations and investigations.

"Steel framework imbedded in concrete will last 2,000 years," he said. "But the steel framework in many of the big buildings is left free to the action of the air and gases which circulate through the tile and space about the steel."

"The owners of these structures have the steel painted with oil. This oil will withstand the corroding process about three years. Then begins the corroding of the steel and within a few years your skyscraper will fall."

The speaker said that the elevated road structures would not withstand the corrosion. He asserted that within ten years they would be dangerous and within 20 years out of service. The corrosion of one-fifth of the thickness of the steel framework of the structures, he said, would render them incapable of bearing their own weight.

SEX REVEALED BY DEATH.

Secret of "George Green," Married for Thirty-Five Years, Is Learned at Last.

The death at Petersburg, Va., the other day of George Green discloses a secret of sex which had been kept for many years. The discovery caused a sensation.

George Green was married 35 years ago in Erie, Pa., to a widow, Mrs. John Biddles, who has children by her first marriage now living in this city. The couple drifted about until finally they bought and cultivated a cotton plantation near Raleigh, N. C. A few months ago the couple moved here to live with relatives, and Green obtained work in a cotton factory.

Green was taken ill and died. In the preparation of the body for burial the discovery was made that Green was a woman. "Green" was 74 years old and was one of triplets. As far as known "Green" always wore male attire. Though somewhat feminine in appearance, there was never any suspicion as to sex.

The "widow" positively refused to be interviewed, but an intimate friend said she had never told any one of her "husband's" sex until after the death.

During all the years of their companionship they lived, to all outward view, happy and contented together. No one, in the absence of any statement from Mrs. Green, seems able to give any satisfactory story about the secret so long concealed or the reason why "Green" adopted the garb of man.

BRIDGE FOR TURNABLE.

Whim of Paderewski Puts Ingenious Railroad Men to a Test in Iowa Town.

Paderewski caused a lot of commotion among the yardmen of the Rock Island road at Davenport, Ia., the other day. He came from Chicago to Davenport to give a concert, traveling in his private car. He insisted that the car be turned around for the return trip as he could or would not sleep except with his head toward the engine. It was soon found that there was no turntable in the vicinity big enough for his 70-foot Pullman. After every scheme available in the railway yards had been tried the railway men had about determined to run the car to Colona, Ill., and around the Y formed when the Burlington tracks there, when some one suggested that the car be turned on the draw of the government bridge that crosses the Mississippi there. This draw swings both ways, and is the biggest turntable in America, but was never used for that purpose before. With the car centered over it, the draw was swung around a half circle, and the car was ready for the pianist.

A Comparison by Rockefeller, Jr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in talking to the members of his Bible class in the Fifth Avenue Baptist church on "Why Should We Join the Church?" spoke of the methods of trusts, likening their benefits to those of the Christian in allying himself with the church. "To fight the battle alone," said Mr. Rockefeller, "is to be lost. Association with others is an absolute necessity if we would be successful. In union there is strength and success. We can see this illustrated every day in the business world."

Edward's "At Home" Year. King Edward has decided to remain at home this year. In this respect, however, says the Chicago Record-Herald, he isn't likely to set the fashion for American society.

Pearl in an Egg. A country laborer at Brescia, Italy, while cleaning an egg discovered in its stomach a large black pearl, which has been purchased by a Milan jeweler at \$1,500.

Those Prestering Newspapers. Mrs. Astor refuses to grant any more interviews, and the Chicago Record-Herald remarks that the lady evidently knows when he has had enough.