

FIRST AID ADOPTED.

Pennsylvania System Inaugurates Plan of Rendering Prompt Relief to Victims of Accidents.

The Pennsylvania company has adopted and will first establish on its lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie a system for providing "first aid" in case of accident to employes or others on the railroad.

The plan adopted includes the equipment of all baggage, mail, express, work and wrecking cars with stretchers, while on all engines, at division terminals, freight yard offices, shops and the most important stations will be kept "first aid" boxes.

These boxes will be nine inches long, six inches wide and four inches deep and will contain a large triangular bandage, one ordinary roller bandage, two compresses and two safety pins. No drugs or liquids are provided. To make certain that the packets containing the bandages are free from germs, inspectors are required to discard any box having its seal broken and replace it immediately with a sealed box. The boxes containing the bandages, etc., are of tin and they fit into a solid wooden box.

Surgeons of the company will give instructions to employes as to the first aid to be rendered to persons injured. Engineers, firemen, switchmen, trainmen and shophmen will be taught how to place injured persons properly on stretchers and how to transport them and how to deal with wounds, fractures and burns until competent medical aid can be secured. The men will further be instructed regarding the emergency treatment of pain, unconsciousness, convulsions and heat prostration.

To supplement the work of caring promptly and properly for the injured the company is having plans made for a hospital car, in which, if necessary, operations may be performed by the surgeon in charge. Ordinarily it is expected that the cars will be used to safely transport persons injured to permanent hospitals.

DEATH RATE ON ISTHMUS.

Is Extremely High at Present—Large Task of Commissioners to Remedy the Conditions.

A high death rate prevails at present on the Isthmus of Panama, and in the opinion of the Marine hospital service, whose surgeons are stationed at Colon and Panama, the medical officers connected with the Isthmian canal commission have a large task before them. It will be necessary to devise the most stringent measures of sanitation and to enforce them strictly if the lives of the officers and men concerned in the construction of the great waterway are to be protected.

Official reports from both sides of the isthmus shows that there were many cases of death from several causes during the week ending March 13. In Panama, where there is a population of about 18,000, there were 31 deaths during the week. This is equivalent to an annual death rate of about 90 per 1,000 of population. The least healthful of the cities of the United States has a death rate of only about 21. During the same week in the city of Colon, where there is a population of 8,000, there were eight cases of death. This figures out an annual death rate of 52.

No one died, so far as was reported, of yellow fever, but there was a high mortality from other fevers and from tuberculosis. This is the dry season on the Isthmus, but there have recently been two or three heavy rains.

GIBRALTAR DECLARED WEAK

Impotency of Fortress at Port Arthur Causes Inquiry as to Strength of Famous Rock.

Inquiries of an exhaustive character are being made by British officials as to the safety of Gibraltar.

The impotency of the fortress at Port Arthur has reopened the question of the rock's invulnerability, and the recent maneuvers in Gibraltar bay, although officially declared to have ended in favor of the fortress, have revealed great weaknesses.

Gibson Bowles, one of the special commissioners who visited the rock and reported adversely on the position of the new docks, said:

"In any peace maneuvers a fortress will always win against a fleet. So much is allowed for the assumed strength of a fortress that the fleet usually comes off second best in tests."

Mr. Bowles does not pose as a naval expert, but he attaches little importance to the decisions of umpires.

On the return of Maj. Gen. F. G. Slade, who has watched the maneuvers on behalf of the war office, he will present some valuable evidence to the army council; but without waiting for this testimony the authorities seem anxious to strengthen the defenses of the rock, especially as regards the heavy guns, for which £24,000 has been voted.

A Young Mayor.

The little city of Solon, Ia., has made itself conspicuous by electing to office by the narrow margin of 23 votes the youngest mayor in the state. This man is Joseph Bittner, 25 years old, who has already served one term of two years. The narrow margin of his victory does not look so small, when it is considered that there were only 116 votes cast for both candidates.

A Worse Germ at Large.

Now that the mumps germ has been definitely isolated, the Philadelphia North American asks, won't somebody please run for the microbes which causes that swelling a little higher up?

DREAM OF PHARAOH.

NEW VERSION OF THE FAMINE IN EGYPT.

Sir William Willcocks Tells How Joseph Knew That the Drought Was Caused by War.

A new theory of the Biblical story of Pharaoh's dream is advanced by Sir William Willcocks, who is the greatest living expert on the subject of irrigation and whose lecture at Cairo, Egypt, recently on the subject of the Assuan dam lifted his hearers out of the world of wonders into one of possible realities. It commented with the weight and authority of vast experience on the topic of irrigation, as it manifests itself to-day, and as it molded the fate of Egypt in the remote dim past.

The lecture teems with valuable material, but the attention of the curious will be attracted by the new reading of the supplies of Joseph's forecast of the famine in Egypt, and of how, as a wise, God-fearing man, he is conjectured to have anticipated the seven years of dearth that overtook the land.

In ancient days there was a huge lake in Egypt, Lake Moeris, whose waters were held in thrall by a great dike and were allowed to flood upper and lower Egypt in due season and to impregnate the earth with richness and plenty. At the head of this dike, Sir William writes, was Haur, a fortified island, and Haur was thus the true key of lower Egypt, for it could command the floods, that were as liquid gold to the land.

"History tells us," says Sir William, "that Joseph arrived in Egypt late in the time of Hyksoos, who ruled lower Egypt, while the Theban dynasties ruled upper Egypt. As the years rolled on the fortunes of war went gradually against lower Egypt, and the upper Egyptian kings won their way down the Nile valley, and about the time that Joseph arrived they might have been near Haur, the regulator of Lake Moeris, and the true southern frontier of lower Egypt."

"Joseph, while living in prison, would have learned from his fellow prisoners that the aim of the Theban kings was the construction of a fleet and the capture of Haur."

"He took in the situation, and when he stood before Pharaoh boldly told the king to put away his flattering advisers and realize the fact that upper Egypt was preparing a strong fleet, and that when it was ready Haur might fall."

"The collection of corn was set on foot on a gigantic scale. Haur fell into the hands of the Theban kings, the Nile failed to overflow its banks in lower Egypt, and the predicted famine came."

"Making a final effort, the Hyksoos king retook Haur and closed the dike. The Nile flood rose to its ordinary level, and the land which had long lain fallow brought forth handfuls."

"To my mind," Sir William adds, "there is no doubt that Haur is Hawara, and that Patozku, the lake on which Hawara stood, was the ancient Lake Moeris. The name Moeris was given the lake by the Greeks thousands of years afterward."

KNIFE BLADE IN BRAIN.

Bit of Steel in Skull of Negro Is Discovered After Being Lodged There Twenty Years.

Sunken half an inch in the brain of Christopher Osborn, half a knife blade was the other day removed from its resting place of 20 years in the most remarkable surgical operation ever performed at Grace hospital, New Haven, Conn.

Osborn in 1884 fought with another colored man, whose knife was broken off in the former's skull. Instead of being sent to the hospital Osborn was packed off to jail. The wound healed rapidly, the presence of the knife blade in his head was not suspected.

The other day he was seized with convulsions and suffered a stroke of paralysis. Dr. Adams found the cause in the broken blade imbedded in the skull. He cut away two inches of skull, the blade clinging to it. Dr. Adams said:

"Indications are that Osborn will recover. It is difficult to explain how he has lived the last 20 years. The blade had formed a cyst inside the skull. The rust, however, finally caused paralysis of Osborn's body by penetrating the brain. The blade lay half an inch deep in the brain."

Surgical specialists are flocking here to investigate the remarkable case, special reports of which will be made for the scientific journals.

A Foreign Danger.

The experts of the bureau of chemistry, department of agriculture, have found plentiful evidence that the basic aluminum acetate is the secret of the preservation of the imported sausage. As this aluminum salt is indigestible and harmful, even in small quantities, says the New York Tribune, the line will be drawn with increased firmness against the embalmed sausage.

A Plain Warning.

A young man in Emporia, Kan., had an open account with a local druggist for two years. The other day he called for his bill. The first item on it was a box of chocolates and the last was a nursing bottle. This ought to be a lesson to young men, remarks the Brooklyn Eagle, not to let accounts stand open so long.

Old Injunction Obeyed.

A surgeon in Savannah cured a disease by an operation on himself. This is one of the few instances on record, says the Chicago Daily News, in which the injunction: "Physician, heal thyself," has been obeyed.

STUDYING THE MARTIANS.

London Scientist Makes Curious Observations Regarding Irrigation Canals on Planet Mars.

Perceval Lowell, the well-known Englishman, who has long been a student of the planet Mars, has lately made some curious observations throwing a new light on the probable inhabitants.

In studying the canals, which have been known for 30 years as intersecting the Martian continent in all directions, he has discovered an interesting feature of their use. There are two canals called by astronomers Thoth and Amnethes, which come alternately into the telescope's field of view. Mr. Lowell maintains that it is evident they are dependent on a single water supply, which is admitted to each in turn. This is further proof that the canals are not accidental markings of the planet's surface, but artificial channels of irrigation regulated by the Martians, as the systems fed by the Nile and Ganges are regulated by Egypt and India.

An objection to the theory is the huge size of the canals. Many are calculated to be at least 60 miles wide, making it difficult to imagine any kind of sentient creature able to deal with such gigantic works. On the other hand, the so-called canals are perhaps not actual water channels themselves, but broad tracts of cultivated land, which are only distinguishable from the surrounding desert when the crops ripen.

Mr. Lowell concludes that the alternation of the visibility of Thoth and Amnethes proves that the Martians are obliged to economize their scanty supply of water for irrigating cultivable land in the vast sections so as to combat a perennial water famine.

DEATHS FOLLOW DOG'S HOWL

Tom Sawyer's Theory Vindicated by Strange Occurrences in Bangor, Me.

A black dog whose owner was unknown was howling for two weeks around Elm street, Bangor. He sat in front of a house with his head turned skyward and kept up a continual unearthly howl, which could be heard within a radius of a quarter of a mile.

There have been an unusual number of deaths in that neighborhood recently, and it is claimed that this dog has howled in advance in front of every house in which a death has occurred. The superstition has held good in six instances, and Saturday the dog was dividing his time between two houses in which there is sickness, howling for awhile before one of them and then taking his station before the other. Some people in the neighborhood are a good deal worked up about it.

Nobody was able to get near enough to the dog to get a shot at him, and when driven off he soon returned. The superstition is as old as the hills. It is claimed that within a radius of 200 yards from a central point in that neighborhood 12 deaths have occurred within less than that number of months.

WILL TRANSPLANT HEART.

Rare Operation to Be Performed on Boy in New York City by Dr. Grausman.

One of the rarest operations known to medical science will be performed at New York city in a few days on six-year-old Van Norden Faunt, who is to have his heart transplanted from the right side of his body to the usual working sphere of every well-organized heart.

All his life the little fellow has been laboring with a heart that has been swinging from the right side of his breast to the left, like the pendulum of a clock. He is of ordinary height, well developed and healthy, but his mother declares he is the most excitable youngster in the world.

The least sudden noise will cause the boy's heart to beat with almost incredible rapidity. For some time past Dr. E. P. Grausman has been studying the case.

"Van Norden's case," said Dr. Grausman, "is one of the most peculiar I have ever had to deal with. I cannot make any statement until I have performed the operation."

MOUNTAIN IS NOW A LAKE.

Supposed Earthquake in New England Thought to Have Been Fall of Volcanic Cone.

A muddy lake marks the spot in Maine where a big hill known as Bald mountain had stood out in bold relief for centuries and is taken as proof that the recent New England earthquake had its origin in northern Maine. A guide reports the transformation complete. Bald mountain was situated in Tibique valley, a few miles from the New Brunswick line. Natives who live near say they always thought the hill queer, because at the base were boiling springs so warm that one could not put his hand in them even in winter. Near by is a hill called Plaster rock, which furnishes plaster. This was recently analyzed and found to consist of merely melted rock and earth, and all this leads to the belief now that Bald mountain was the cone of a volcano, and when it sank caused what was then thought an earthquake.

Up and Down.

With steel structures burning up in Baltimore and falling down in New York, the plain thinking, average man, remarks the New York News, will be disposed to doubt whether some of our modern improvements in building are what the experts crack them up to be.

HAS ARTIFICIAL FEET

PENNSYLVANIA DOCTOR LEARNING TO WALK AGAIN.

Was Victim of a Railroad Accident at Ardmore Last December—Romance in Connection with Case Is Spoiled.

Crippled, but cheerful, and using two artificial feet as a means of locomotion, Dr. George I. MacLeod, athlete and surgeon, who was the victim of a railroad accident at his home, Ardmore, Pa., nine miles from Philadelphia, walked on the street with the aid of a cane the other day and received the congratulations of his friends.

It was found necessary to amputate both feet, and when the limbs healed artificial members were fitted, and with these and two crutches the doctor began to learn to walk all over again.

The accident occurred on the platform of the Ardmore station, on December 16 last. The doctor was knocked down by a Pennsylvania railroad train and his feet crushed. On the platform of a drawing-room car stood Miss Nancy Allen, the daughter of Rev. George P. Allen, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal church, at Ardmore. Instead of fainting at the horrifying sight, Miss Allen went promptly to the aid of the injured man and tore off the greater portion of a white skirt, which she fashioned into bandages for the wounds until medical assistance came.

At the time of the accident, when the young woman's attention to the injured man attracted much notice, rumor had it that the couple were engaged. This report has been revived within the last few days, but it was denied emphatically by Rev. Dr. Allen and Mrs. Allen.

Dr. MacLeod has aided his physicians and nurses in every way during the progress of his convalescence, and has proved a model patient. The artificial feet, which he uses with great skill now, were fashioned with the greatest care, and Dr. MacLeod has only a slight limp when walking with a cane. He discarded his crutches several weeks ago.

While he was still confined to the house the doctor diligently practiced all the forms of indoor exercise which were possible to him in his condition, and he has kept himself in the finest physical condition.

TO MAKE DESERT BLOOM.

Project of Government to Irrigate Barren Lands of California—Will Affect 1,200,000 Acres.

The senate committee on irrigation the other day gave a hearing to A. H. Heber, president of the California Development company, which is taking water from the Colorado river for the irrigation of land in the California desert. He advocated a bill pending before congress, declaring the use of the river for irrigation to be more important and valuable than its use for navigation. The Gadsden treaty with Mexico provides that the navigability of the river shall be unimpaired, and it is now feared that the colonization of the desert will be impeded through the probable protest of Mexico against the diversion of water for irrigation.

The government reclamation service contemplates the construction of an immense irrigation system in the Colorado desert in California, including the lands now supplied by the California Development company. The interior department, therefore, is opposed to the Heber bill and advocates the acquisition by purchase or condemnation of his system as the nucleus of the larger government project. It is estimated that the government system will irrigate 1,200,000 acres of land. The Heber system proposes to irrigate 600,000 acres. About 100,000 acres are now irrigated, and a colony of 10,000 people has sprung up.

GERMAN YOUTHS SICKLY.

Startling Increase of Heart Disease Reported by Doctors of the Empire.

The "flower of the German kingdom," as depicted by the Kaiser, apparently has ceased to bloom. The army doctors note a startling increase of heart disease among German youths. During the years 1881 to 1886 15 of 1,000 of the young men presenting themselves for military service were found to be suffering from heart disease, whereas in 1898 the proportion had risen to 14 out of 1,000.

As a result of an exhaustive investigation of the subject, the authorities have come to the conclusion that, while the enormous increase is due partly to the prevalence of influenza epidemics, it is chiefly a symptom of the degeneration of the youth of the present day.

A Pharmaceutical Jest.

Farmers' bulletin No. 188, issued by the United States department of agriculture, concerns the weeds used in medicine. By a singular oversight, the weeds (noff) are omitted, remarks the American Druggist, although their powerful intoxicant influence and effect as a cardiac stimulant have long been recognized.

The Only Explanation.

Until 1895 novel-writing was not regarded as a respectable profession in Japan, but authors of fiction now command respect in that country, and are on the high road to prosperity. Perhaps, remarks the Chicago Chronicle, the historical novel has not yet reached the land of the mikado.

CRAZED BY DESERT TRIP.

Tradesman Who Undertook Task of Walking from Frisco to Los Angeles Becomes Mental Wreck.

Should Louis Knittle, at present of Los Angeles, Cal., ever decide to return to San Francisco it will no doubt be on a railroad train and not on foot. His experiences in trying to get to Los Angeles from the north by the latter mode result d in his being brought before Judge Ewing and the mental board on the charge of being an insane person.

Knittle is a tailor by trade. He wanted to come to Los Angeles, but did not have the railroad fare. He therefore decided to walk. He had little trouble in getting as far as Visalia, where he obtained work and recuperated.

Then he started out to cross the desert. He told the court that his mind is more or less a blank regarding that portion of his journey. He took a little food with him when he started out and he managed to get a little water here and there, but he had simply staggered on as one in a dreadful dream. In this condition he finally reached Lancaster, the principal town in the Antelope valley. Then he knew no more until he found himself in the county jail in Los Angeles.

He was brought here by the constable of Lancaster in a demented condition, but rest and good care gradually restored his reason. After hearing his story the medical board decided that there was no ground for his further detention and he was discharged.

IS BOUND TO DIE POOR.

Aged New Bedford, Mass., Miser Gives Away Property—Many Willing to Receive It.

Clark Ridley, of New Bedford, Mass., who describes himself as "a miser," has announced to his friends that he will give away all of his property before his death. Like Andrew Carnegie he has reached the conclusion that it is a disgrace to die rich.

Ridley owns six or seven houses and is reputed to be worth \$100,000. He is 85 years old. He has worked hard all his life and until this winter lived in a little cabin partly underground and hoarded his money.

Thus far Ridley has given away three houses and lots. The first, comprising a house and lot in Campello street, was given to Catherine M. Ashley; the second, a house and lot in Shawmut avenue, went to Mrs. Laura Tripp, and a house and lot in Robeson street was given to Charles G. Allen.

News of his action in giving away his property spread and there was such a throng of people surrounding his home, waiting to put in an application for a share of the property that a policeman was required to keep the crowd away. Agents of local charitable societies were on hand with the rest.

The aged giver of buildings is not related to his beneficiaries, and has no relatives in New Bedford. He has two sisters living in Maine and one in Sacramento, Cal.

GETS VALUABLE PATENT.

Johns Hopkins Professor Secures Color Picture Rights After Long Investigation by Government.

Dr. Robert W. Wood, professor of experimental physics at Johns Hopkins university, announces that he has been granted a patent covering all rights to the fundamental invention of the process of color photography by means of Rowland's spectroscopic diffraction grating. The patent office has been five years investigating his claims to ascertain the rights of the process to an exclusive patent and protection which this affords all processes based upon it. The patent will protect his rights upon the derivative inventions.

The process at present is valuable from an academic standpoint. The photographs are made on paper, but only upon glass slides, and a special viewing apparatus or electric lantern upon a screen must be used to get the optical results. By employing the diffraction grating the colored screens and pigments necessary in all other processes can be eliminated from the finished picture and duplicates can be made as easily as blue prints are struck off from an ordinary negative.

CORSET CAUSE OF CANCER.

Friction on Chest Muscles Held Responsible for Disease in Three Cases.

Writing to the London Lancet, Dr. R. C. Lucas adds a new count to the indictment against the corset, namely, that under certain circumstances it may be responsible for cancer.

Three cases have come under the doctor's notice in which cancer in women started at a point where the edge of the corset crossed the edge of the big muscle of the chest. In describing two of them he says:

"It occurred on the right side in each case and in women whose occupation led them to undue use of the right arm, and, in consequence, to excessive friction of the upper edges of the corset. Friction of the corset at this spot is, therefore, the cause of the cancerous process developing in this situation, and, to express the fact, I have given it the name of corset cancer."

Tariff on Wireless Telegraphs.

A royal decree just signed by the Italian king approves the new tariff for Marconi wireless telegrams. The cost from Italy to America is fixed at 12 1/2 cents a word.

FOR BRAIN TROUBLE

USES TO WHICH NEW N-RAYS CAN BE PUT.

Edinburgh Doctor Investigating Discovery of M. Blondelot—Rays Emitted from Various Parts of the Body.

Since M. Blondelot's discovery N-rays the scientific papers of England and France have teemed with discussion. It has even been asserted a result of repeated and careful experiments that the rays do not exist. M. Blondelot and Charpentier's means which have steadily accumulated facts which have placed beyond question the fact that the discovery is a valuable contribution to science.

The rays are now proved to be nothing more nor less than part of the visible spectrum of sunlight, a little more ultra than ultra-violet rays. They are somewhere between heat and electric rays, slower than rays of radio heat, and faster than Röntgen rays. They can pass through aluminum, sunlight through a glass, and can be focused by an aluminum lens. The rays traverse lead, tin, iron, platinum a copper without difficulty, and do not require complicated apparatus as Röntgen rays.

They stream from an ordinary cadenced gas lamp. More remarkable still, they can be spontaneously produced from a number of substances as wood or glass when twisted or subjected to pressure. Intempered steel does not produce the rays, but temper steel continually emits them. Time has no effect. Knives tempered over 15 years emitting as freely as steel to permit tempering. When thrown away and solely upon the eye, they are able to see in a darkened room objects which had previously been invisible.

Prof. Charpentier discovered that human body emits the rays in quantities proportionate to the activity of different parts of the body when they come from the speech-centers of the brain whenever a person speaks. When a speaker emits rays they vary according to the pitch of the note.

Dr. Bruce, of Edinburgh, has taken up the subject. He expects that when it is known exactly what rays come from various parts of the brain in normal conditions it will be possible to use variations of quantity and quality as a means of detecting the injury or disease of different parts of the brain. The Röntgen rays are not used so much for their troubles, because they do not cast pretable shadows except of the bones.

M. Blondelot has more recently covered more rays, not unlike the which increased the power of vision smelling and hearing. The new rays diminish the activity of the senses.

DISCOVERS A LOST ART

Young Genius of Buffalo Attracts Attention of Noted Scientists by Finding Method of Tempering Copper

Buffalo has a struggling young genius who expects some day to be mentioned among the men of wealth and prominence of the country. He is Fred McCoy, who, though barely of age, has been able to exercise his inventive skill to such an extent that he has already attracted the attention of some of the noted scientists connected with the government at Washington.

Young McCoy bases his hopes upon finding a better method of tempering copper. He has already given practical demonstration of his discovery, and those who have witnessed the tests have pronounced them nothing short of marvelous.

McCoy came to this city from H. Stead, Pa. Soon after he had made his discovery Representative Dubois, of Great Bend, Pa., became interested in the young genius and sent him to Washington, where he gave experiments at the navy department. They were all successful. The young genius received offers at the time from sons who wanted to buy his secret, he decided to wait until he was 21. He was 21 years old a few months ago.

NO DUTY ON PULP WOOD

Appraisers Make Important Decision as to Paper Stock—Bulling Result of Protest.

Another pulp decision of interest to paper manufacturers has been handed down by the board of United States appraisers, which declares a crossed pulp wood is free of duty as per stock. This case has involved no labor than any other that has come before the board for a long time, on account of the bitter fight made by the paper manufacturing companies, who have raising plants in the United States to keep out the Canadian crossed wood. Crossed pulp wood is spruce or pine cut into logs about two feet long, with the bark and roughness removed by a mechanical process called cross-cutting. This is done in Canada for economical transportation, and the logs in this situation are ready to go direct into grinders.

Acting under the direction of the rotary of the treasury, the customs claims have been until the present classifying the wood as "blocks, sticks, rough hewn," at 20 per cent. new ruling was secured upon a protest from a Vermont manufacturer.

Other Alphabetical Rays.

With the X-rays and N-rays discovered, says the Chicago Daily News, scientists can proceed at their leisure to fill in the other rays from A