LA GRIPPE.

It Has Become an Epidemic Throughout the State.

Low Pneumonia and Scarlet Fever are Contracted—The Spread of Diphtheria.

Influenza or la grippe has, since the last report, developed into a widespread epidemic, equaling, if not exceeding, that which prevailed during the winter of 1889-90. That it spreads by atmospheric influence may be inferred from its rapid diffusion from place to place without any known intermediate intervention of contagion by external media.

The present epidemic, according to the State Board of Health's report, may be characterized by its sudden onset. The intensity of its initiatory symptoms, the premonitory chill, the fever, headache, backache, pains in the bones and muscles that more nearly resemble *Dengue*, or backbone fever, than any other disease we can remember. Another feature peculiar to the present epidemic is the frequency with which cases occur in which the cough is almost entirely absent, and others in which pneumonia of a low type is almost certain to be developed. The debility accompanying the disease is invariably present and must be treated by stimulants liberally given. The origin of the disease being unknown, the power of the sanitarian over it is exceedingly limited, and consists chiefly in advising the avoidance of all depressing influences that might deteriorate the healthy constitution or impair its strength.

GOOD ADVICE TO HEED.

Diphtheria and croup were reported as present during last month in almost every portion of the State. The spread of this disease might be materially lessened if the public could be taught to look upon it as it does upon smallpox, and take the same precautions in isolating its victims as it does those of the more loathsome disease, which, while disagreeable to wait upon, is not half so deadly in its results as the diphtheritic poison. Another point upon which it might be well to inform the public is, that where an infectious or contagious disease occurs in a home, and the washing of the patient's bedding or clothing is sent away to be washed without first having them thoroughly disinfected, and the washerwoman or any of her family thereby become infected, they can recover damages in a court of law, if not previously notified or warned that the clothing is infected. A few successful suits of this kind would engender caution and a realization of the fact that public protection must be afforded against infectious disease.

HOW SCARLET FEVER IS CONTRACTED.

In this disease, as in small-pox, the poison is given off from the bodies of the sick, and as there is no mode of protection corresponding with vaccination, the obvious means, therefore, of avoiding contagion is to keep out of reach of the infection by the sick, or of articles infected by them. The difficulty of doing this can be estimated when we learn of the persistence of the vitality of the poison. It is communicable during the whole of the illness and convalescence of the patient. Infected clothing that has been packed away for months may communicate the disease, and the instances are numerous where the infection has been carried long distances from the sick by healthy persons who have recently come in contact with scarlet fever. All these facts point to the most rigid exclusion of susceptible children from every possible source of infection.

THE DREAD DISEASE, PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia prevailed everywhere in the State, and in many places it partook of an epidemic character. An instance was reported where the father, mother, brother and two sisters of a family took the disease, one after the other, and both parents died. This disease alone caused one hundred and sixty deaths during February.

Bronchitis was prevalent to an alarming extent, but the type was not of a serious character.

In Stockton, measles was epidemic, and Doctor Ruggles notes that he does not even remember of hearing of so large a mortality in February.

Typhoid fever had the remarkable small mortality of seven attributed to it. Six of these deaths were in San Francisco and one in Napa. The State Board of Health thinks that the limited death rate from this disease may perhaps be attributed to the cleansing of foul sewers and filthy places by the copious rains which visited the State during the month.

THE PUBLIC WELFARE.

What a Grand Levee Would Do for Sacramento.

EDS. RECORD-UNION: I was asked today what measure would be the most important for the present and future welfare of this city, and I replied without hesitation, a good levee system, so firm and secure that it would last for all time to come. This question is the most important that ever has, or ever will come before this people; all others sink into insignificance compared to it. The rivers have been the great bugbears from the city's birth, and ever will be while the half measures of the past are continued. What we want is a perfect, safe and secure levee—one that will withstand the elements for centuries to come. This can be done by commencing, say at the City Cemetery, on the cross levee. Let it be raised four feet; let the base be two hundred feet wide, and the top, say eighty feet wide, from the cemetery to Front and Y street; from there to Front street raise the levee six feet, and let the base be two hundred feet and the top ninety feet wide; from there to the bridge raise the levee four feet—it is wide enough now; from the bridge to the Tivoli raise the levee four feet, with a base two hundred feet, and eighty to one hundred feet on top; from the Tivoli to Brighton Junction make the base two hundred feet and top eighty feet—it is high enough. Now, if needs be, and I should do it, rip-rap the whole distance with Folsom granite.

You then have a perfect levee system for the next century. Let it rain and pour, you go to your homes with perfect security. Property values will increase threefold. Every paper in the State will make note that Sacramento has made herself absolutely free from this danger. Strangers will then pour in upon us as never before. Why should they not? Haven't we a climate that will compare with the best in the world? Are we not the railroad center of this great State with fifty-six trains arriving and leaving daily from all points of the compass? Are we not surrounded for hundreds of miles with the most fertile lands that the sun ever shown upon? Have we not orchards and vineyards enough within fifty miles about us to supply with the most luscious fruit every State in this Union? Doesn't the records of the State Medical Society show Sacramento city to be the healthiest on the Pacific slope?

This is not all we can offer to the new comer. Look at the immense water power system that is about completed at Folsom. There is nothing like it in America, and when completed it will make this city the shipping point for the hundreds of manufactories which will be in operation there.

But the first question will be asked what it will it cost to build such a levee as above described, and how will the money be raised? To the first question I will say that it matters not how much it will cost; the money will all be spent here, and the merchants who pay the most taxes will get the most of it back again. To the second question, it should be raised by bonds, in the same way money was raised during the past year for street purposes. These bonds should run for twenty years, say at 4 per cent., and my word for it every dollar of these bonds could be disposed of in the East in less than a month. What have we then? An absolutely secure levee for all time. Upon such a levee as I have described an electric railroad could be built that would be as good as a mint to its owners, for who could resist a ride of ten miles around our beautiful city for the small sum of ten or fifteen cents. But this is an after consideration.

This levee system must be considered sooner or later, and the sooner the better. Look for one moment at the last official census. This city has increased in the past ten years, in round numbers, some 1,900 souls, when it should have increassd 19,000. What is the cause of this meager increase? I can answer: It is because capital is timid. Everywhere you go the cry is, especially in the fall and winter, "Oh, Sacramento is in danger; the water is up to the top of her levees." This is the cause, and it should be removed at once. When this work is begun employment will be given to all who will work, and our merchants will be kept busy and this city will assume her proper place, as second to none on this coast.

J. G. MARTINE.

SEPARATE DISTRICT.

A Number of Yolo Farmers Decide to Levee Their Ranches.

A number of the land owners on the Yolo side of the river, south of Washington, are about to join hands and form a separate levee district, so as to protect themselves from breaks in the levee occurring near the town or below Clarksburg. The proposition is to build a levee, commencing at a point on the river bank about three miles below Washington, extending it back into the lowland about a mile and a half; then running it along the back slough for three miles and joining the river again about two miles below Buckman & Carragher's ranch. In all, nine ranches will be inclosed by the levee.

The land owners will meet in a day or so to discuss matters and make necessary arrangements for the work.

The levees, it is understood, will be six feet wide on top, and high enough to stand thirty feet of water.

NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

A Thorough Description Comes in Handy Sometimes.

A country Constable dropped into town a few evenings ago, and began a search for Justice of the Peace Henry, who was to attend to some legal business for him.

The Judge was not at his office, so the Constable went to his residence. He was not there either, but Mrs. Henry told the visitor that he would probably find the Judge sauntering along J street, somewhere.

"But I don't know him," replied the Constable. "What does he look like?"

"Well," answered the estimable little lady, "I think I can describe him so you will know him. He is a large, stout man, with long gray whiskers, wears an ancient stove-pipe hat, way off on the side of his head, and he walks along as if he owned the town."

It was plain sailing for the Constable after that.

THE WEATHER.

The Signal Service Officers Spy Another Storm Off Vancouver.

The Signal Service temperature at 5 A. M. and 5 P. M. yesterday was 52° and 61°, while the highest and lowest temperature was 63° and 52°, with light southerly winds and clouded sky.

The barometrical readings at 5 A. M. and 5 P. M. were 30.05 and 30.10 inches, showing the instrument to be rising. The precipitation last evening was inappreciable.

The highest and lowest temperature one year ago yesterday was 60° and 40°, and one year ago to-day 63° and 42°, with no precipitation on either day.

Lieutenant Finley report another storm off Vancouver Island, which appears to be the great depot or port of entrance for all storms that give us cloudy weather and precipitation.

Newly Incorporated.

The following articles of incorporation were filed in the Secretary of State's office yesterday:

S. S. Construction Company, of San Francisco. Capital stock, $1,000,000. Directors—Behrend Joost, Fabian Joost, J. H. Gilmore, J. M. Hartzell and J. T. McCrosson.

San Francisco Bacteriological Society. Directors—H. O. Perley, P. C. Kalloch and S. M. Mouser.

San Luis Obispo Maennerchor. Directors—George Kluver, H. Mehlmann and Henry Klancke.

Charitable Voters.

The precinct at Sixth and I streets carried off the honors Tuesday for taking in the largest amount of contributions for the Howards. The precincts yielded up as follows: Sixth and I streets, $14 70; Twentieth and G, $3 20; Fifteenth and N, $6 90; Twentieth and O, $1 70; Tenth and I, $2 35; Ninth and K, $1 70; Third and J, $1 60; Second and K, $3; Sixteenth and J, $4 65; Sixth and L, $5 35; Sixth and O, $2 05; Eighteenth and P, $7 40; Ninth and I, $3 40; Seventeenth and I, $3 40; Fourth and K, $4 05—making a total of $65 45.

McCloskey's Views.

Manager McCloskey of the Sacramentos thinks the dispatches received from Washington from the National League headquartes, announcing Secretary Young's orders in the matter of the controversy over the reserved players, are not to be credited. He intimates, however, that if they are true, the California League had better withdraw from the National League agreement and join the Association. Further particulars will be awaited with interest.

Heavy Fine for Contempt.

William Clifford, the young man who shouted "Dismiss the case" in the Police Court Wednesday morning, during the examination of Frank Dolan for seduction, was before Judge Cravens yesterday for contempt of court. Clifford could not deny having made the remark, and the court could see no reason why leniency should be exercised towards him. Clifford was fined $100.

Concussion of the Brain.

A. C. Varney, an employe of the Southern Pacific Company, died at the Railroad Hospital yesterday. Varney was employed on the Goshen branch, and on Thursday last he fell from a moving train and was badly injured about the head. He received every attention possible at the hospital, but succumbed yesterday to concussion of the brain, caused by the fall.

Brigadier-Generals.

Governor Markham on yesterday appointed the following Brigadier-Generals:

First Brigade—Edward P. Johnson, of Los Angeles.

Fourth Brigade—T. W. Sheehan, of Sacramento.

Fifth Brigade—John W. B. Montgomery, of Butte County.

Sixth Brigade—J. F. Freese, of Humboldt County.

Pennsylvania Excursionists.

A special train of excursionists from Pennsylvania arrived here early yesterday morning from San Francisco on their way home. They stopped in Sacramento several hours and were driven about the city in carriages. The excursion was under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Police Officers' Money.

At a special meeting of the Board of City Trustees yesterday a tax levy of twelve mills on every dollar of assessed valuation of property was made, to pay the back salaries of the ten extra police officers.

HENRY M. STANLEY lectures next Tuesday at Metropolitan Theater. Seats engaged today will entitle the holder to reserve on Saturday at C. S. Houghton's without extra charge. A very large number have already been secured. *

LOST HER REASON.

Mrs. McLain Ferociously Assaults a County Hospital Nurse.

She Imagined that People Wanted to Murder Her and Her Baby—Her Examination.

Several weeks ago Mrs. Ann McLain, a young woman who lived in the alley running between Third and Fourth, J and K streets, was taken to the County Hospital. She was in a delicate condition at the time, but otherwise appeared to be in good health.

Two or three days after her arrival at the hospital she gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. She did recover as readily as the physicians had expected, and it was noticed that her mind was giving way. Dr. White and his assistants did all in their power to aid the unfortunate woman, but in vain.

She soon became a raving maniac.

IMAGINARY MURDERERS.

She imagined that every one who entered her apartment was trying to murder her and her baby, and kept a club concealed in her bed constantly with which to defend herself against her imaginary assailants.

On Wednesday one of the nurses entered the room and immediately Mrs. McLain set upon her with her club and belabored her over the head with it until others, who heard the nurse's screams, rushed to her assistance. The patient fought the reinforcements off like an enraged tigress, and it was some time before she could be secured and placed where could do no further harm.

On yesterday the unfortunate woman was brought to the County Jail, but in the afternoon, Judge Catlin and Drs. Simmons and White, sitting as a Board of Insane Commissioners, examined her.

HURTING HER BABY.

When asked why she had assaulted the nurse, Mrs. McLain stated she caught the nurse jabbing holes in her baby's face with a knife, and tried to drive her off. She said that everybody at the hospital was trying to steal the baby, and she knew they would do it eventually even if they had to murder her (the mother).

"Have you any other children besides this baby?" asked Dr. Simmons.

"Oh, bless you, yes," she replied sadly, "but they have all been stolen from me. I see them every once in a while, though, when I go out into the country any place. A Major in the army stole them from me, but I will get them all back some day.

Dr. White and one of his assistants told of the woman's actions at the hospital, and she was then committed to the asylum at Stockton.

It is not believed that the child will live.

WALTZING ATHLETES.

The Undine Boat Club Gives a Highly Successful Ball.

Turner Hall presented a pretty sight last evening, the occasion being the Undine Boat Club's ball. The decorations were neat and unique. On the walls were crossed the polished oars used in the racing boats, and flags and flowers were tastefully bunched about them. On the stage one of the long racing shells nestled, amid a profusion of plants and club's colors. Another decorated shell hung suspended from the gallery over the entrance to the hall. The glare of the electric lights was softened by the colored globes, and altogether the effect was charming.

The boatmen and their many friends were there in force—to such an extent that dancers had none too much room. Old-time Undines who happened to drop in, declared that the affair reminded them of the "swell" balls the club used to give in the days of yore.

The grand march was led by President Harry Bernard, Vice-President W. E. Lovdal, Secretary Thomas W. Humphrey and the other officers of the club and their ladies.

The Committee of Arrangements, which brought the ball off so successfully, comprised the following-named gentlemen: Reuben B. Hale, August Rose, George A. Knoblaugh, John C. Catlin, H. Nottingham, Harry R. Bernard, W. E. Lovdal, T. W. Humphrey and F. E. Foote.

The Reception Committee consisted of Colonel Robert Murray, A. J. Johnston, Howard Kimbrough and Dr. F. H. Metcalf.

Harry Bernard acted as Floor Manager, and his assistants were L. S. Upson, W. E. Lovdal, H. Nottingham, John Catlin and Joseph H. Gray, Jr.

JOHN EITEL'S ESTATE.

A Peculiar Will Filed in the Superior Court for Probate.

The will of John Eitel, the dead chemist and scientist, has been filed in the Superior Court for probate.

The document is a most peculiarly gotten-up affair. It is in the handwriting of the deceased. One portion of it was written in July, 1878, just prior to Mr. Eitel's departure on a trip to Europe. He bequeathed his estate equally to three brothers and three sisters, and asked that in the event of his death he be buried in the Odd Fellows' plat, in an inexpensive coffin, and with as little show as possible. In the event of a monument being erected over his grave, he asked that there should be inscribed thereon merely a record of the dates of his birth and death.

But in 1886 a clause was added to the document, which in effect annulled all the provisions that preceded it except that portion relating to the funeral. It appeared that Eitel in the meantime had married again, and as a result of the union a second child was presented to him. In the will he explains to his brothers and sisters that they should recognize the claims of the nearer relatives.

The widow has petitioned to be appointed administratrix. The estate is valued at about $12,000.

SUTTER FORT TRUSTEES.

The Governor Appoints From the Native Sons.

Governor Markham yesterday appointed as members of the Board of Trustees to look after the preservation of Sutter Fort, the following gentlemen: Eugene J. Gregory, Frank D. Ryan, C. E. Hollister, of Sacramento; E. E. Gaddis of Yolo and C. E. Grunsky of San Francisco. These gentlemen composed the committee of the Grand Parlor, Native Sons of the Golden West, who turned over the property to the State under the Act recently passed by the Legislature.

The Governor intimated a few days ago that he was inclined to appoint on the board General J. G. Martine, in recognition of that gentleman's earnest work in raising subscriptions to the Sutter Fort fund and in securing the deed to the property, but Mr. Martine did not desire the appointment. The Native Sons were desirous of the appointment of the gentlemen composing their committee and he was willing they should have the honor, as the end for which he had worked had been accomplished and that was all he desired.

A PREACHER RESIGNS.

Rev. John F. von Herrlich Leaves the the Pulpit of St. Paul's.

The Rev. John F. von Herrlich, for the past three years rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in this city, has resigned his position.

His resignation will take effect May 1st. On that date Mr. von Herrlich will depart for a trip through Europe. He will spend a year in traveling.

The rectorship of Mr. von Herrlich has been a very successful one for St. Paul's, and it is with much regret that the congregation loses their faithful pastor.

BRIEF NOTES.

The little steamer Nereida runs to second break Sunday.

At midnight last night, the river marked twenty-one feet five inches.

An orange special, consisting of twenty-five cars, went east at noon yesterday. The oranges were from Riverside.

The Street Improvement Company will hold a meeting at Denson & Oatman's office, 420 J street, this evening at 7:30 o'clock.

The semi-annual convention of the Pacific Coast Women's Press Association begins on the 16th inst., at Union Square Hall, San Francisco. It will continue three days.

Complaint was made at the Police Station yesterday that a gang of hoodlums were annoying residents in the nighborhood of Eighth and R streets. An officer was detailed to look into the matter.

Jailor Newbert discovered a hole in the ceiling of the woodshed connecting with the County Jail Wednesday, and reported the matter to the Sheriff. As nobody had attempted to escape through the aperture the officers are at a loss to account for its presence.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

John Bowman left for the south yesterday.

George Ohleyer, of Yuba City, is registered at the Capital Hotel.

Mrs. E. H. McKee gave a tea to a number of her lady friends the other afternoon.

Arrivals at the Capital Hotel yesterday: Mrs. W. A. Brown, W. H. Brown, San Francisco; George Ohleyer, Sutter County; Miss Mehoover, city; Walter E. Gannon, Courtland; T. Car. Spelling, San Francisco; George B. Greene, Courtland; T. M. Stephenson, J. M. Hamilton, G. M. Francis, Napa; W. K. Rogers, Sonoma; George S. McKenzie, Napa; E. Biepang, Oakland.

Mabel and Her Baby.

Mrs. Brown, the mother of Mabel Brown, the erratic little red-headed miss whom residents of the lower portion of town have frequently seen on the streets, came to the Police Station yesterday, with a six-weeks old baby in her arms. It was the child that Mabel, who is but fifteen years of age, gave birth to, and Mrs. Brown came to tell Captain Lee that her daughter had left home and could not be found in this city. The mother said she thought the girl had run away with a truckman named Brown, but Captain Lee states that he saw Brown at work on Wednesday.

Visiting Knights Templar.

Sacramento Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, last night received and entertained Sir Samuel C. Wagner, Grand Commander, and Sir Jacob C. Neff, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of California. At the banquet table were many distinguished visiting Knights, including several Senators and Assemblymen. Sir N. Greene Curtis acted as Master of Ceremonies, and the speeches were unusually eloquent and entertaining. The attendance of members of Sacramento Commandery was large, and Eminent Commander John T. Pike had reason to be proud of his command.

Mrs. Stanford's Gift.

A press dispatch from Washington last night stated that, in a letter to Senator Stanford, O. L. Spalding, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, states that the Collector of Customs at New York has been instructed to admit free of duty the case of paintings presented by Mrs. Stanford to the Cathedral in this city, and which have been accepted by the Bishop. This favor is granted under provisions of paragraph 757, Act of October 1, 1890. The paintings came from Germany.

Mulholland and Morrissey.

A number of sporting men met last evening and drew up articles of agreement for a finish glove contest to take place next week between James Morrissey of this city and George Mulholland of Australia. It has not been decided yet where the contest will take place. It will be for a purse of $500 and gate receipts, and both men put up their forfeits last night. Both men are clever lightweights and should make a good contest.

Amateur Athletics.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Athletic Club last evening at the gymnasium, it was decided to organize a baseball team composed entirely of club members, and which will be ready to play any and all amateur teams during the season. Football and tennis teams are also to be organized, so that there will be no lack of sport for the athletes during the summer.

Another Tan Dealer Arrested.

Officer Wilson made a dash into a room in Chinatown last night where a tan game was in operation, and succeeded in arresting the dealer and his entire outfit. The room was packed with Chinamen but they all escaped except the dealer, who gave the name of Fong Lee.

El Dorado Apples.

Mr. James A. Scott exhibited at this office yesterday some specimens of Newtown Pippins, grown in the orchard of J. M. Dunn at Fair Plain, El Dorado County. The fruit was very fine, and Mr. Scott says the grower realized $80 per ton for his crop.

Senator Hearst's Remains.

The special train bearing the remains of the late Senator Hearst, and also the Congressional Committee from Washington, passed through this city yesterday morning at 8 o'clock. Among those on the train was Hon. Thomas J. Clunie.

Sacks Thought to be Stolen.

Officer Snook has arrested Tom Woods and "Windy" Smith, two morphine fiends whom he caught trying to dispose of one hundred new sacks, to a dealer on on J street. The property is at the station house and awaits the owner.

Ten Years at Folsom.

Deputy Sheriff McKenzie of Napa County arrived here last night, having in his charge J. W. Scott, a prisoner who has been sentenced to serve ten years in Folsom prison for assault with intent to commit murder.

EXCURSION Sunday next, steamer Thomas Dwyer, to Fremont and return. Round trip. $1. Lunch served, 25 cents. *

BORN.

LAGES—In this city, February 27th, to the wife of N. Lages, a daughter. *

DIED.

BURNS—In this city, March 11th, Joseph Burns, beloved husband of Sarah Burns and father of Mrs. George Woodall, Mrs. T. Trainor, Joseph, Thomas, George and Katie Burns, a native of Kildare, Ireland, aged 63 years.

☞ Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from his late residence, 2222 M street, this afternoon at 2 o'clock; thence to the Cathedral, where funeral services will be held. *

KENNEY—In this city, March 12th, Maggie, eldest daughter of Patrick Kenney, a native of Illinois, aged 17 years, 7 months and 23 days.

☞ Funeral notice hereafter. *

TURTON—In this city, March 12th, Harry Edwin, youngest son of H. S. and Annie Turton, a native of California, aged 3 years, 2 months and 9 days.

☞ Funeral private.

ROBERTS—In San Francisco, March 11th, Margaret, wife of Chas. Roberts and sister of Maurice O'Connor of Sacramento, a native of Ireland, aged 54 years. *

CAUTION AGAINST FRAUD.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Thomas Harrigan, deceased, now pending in the Probate Court, no final account has ever been made nor no final settlement as yet. MARGRET HARRIGAN, executrix and administratrix. ja8-tf