

OUR FARK

Has many strings, but this week we shall play on only THREE of them. But it will be music you will be pleased to hear and give a cheerful jingle to the dollars we shall save to your pockets.

- 1. The finest makes of HOCKANUM WORSTEDS, PALL MALLS, CHEVIOTS (black and in colors), CASSIMERES, etc. These are LIGHT-WEIGHT SUITS FOR MEN, and worth every cent of \$18, \$20, \$22 and \$24. We propose to sell any and all at

\$14.90--FOURTEEN-NINETY--\$14.90

OUR REASON for making this sacrifice is that next month our Fall stock will begin to come in, and we need the room.

- 2. CHILDREN'S \$5 and \$6 SUITS reduced to \$3.90--THREE-NINETY--\$3.90

For like reason.

- 3. ALL-WOOL JERSEY SUITS reduced to \$2.19, to close them out. HATS for all mankind at the lowest prices offered in this market.

ORIGINAL LEAGUE,

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DOCTORS AND THE PATIENTS

Are We to Be Allowed to Know Anything Definite Concerning Our Bodies?

Ten-Dollar-a-Visit Doctors and Sanitariums and Nurses—Fallacies About Surgery and Woman's Diseases—Working Doctors.

Written for the Sunday Journal.

Who falls out of the hands of God, says the Talmud, shall fall into the hands of the physicians. Having occasion lately to realize this proverb, being in the hands of six doctors in as many weeks, others are welcome to profit by my experience. I am no foe to doctors or medicine. Sharply as our genial ancestor has spoken against drugs I doubt if his theory that they had better be thrown into the sea would keep him from taking soda mint or Carlsbad salts after an alumni dinner or opium to allay the pangs of incomplete digestion. Drugs are our vicarious redemption from suffering, and whether to fall into the hands of doctors is the first step from grace or the last depends wholly on the doctor. It never recommends a neighborhood to be very far from medical aid, but a family paper of high repute lately expresses itself in terms which we have all heard too often: "It is not too much to say that more than half the physical ills which people are believed to suffer are the result of an over-vivid imagination. Nothing is more absurd than to read of symptoms of disease in medical books and brood over them. It is a wise and safe rule to leave medical matters to medical men, being sure to employ a man in whom one can have thorough trust, and then rely implicitly upon his judgment."

You have all heard it before, and very likely quoted it in exhortation to some weaker brother or sister. The belief of hundreds of people constituting themselves intelligent is, first, that they are suffering from some disease—other folks' diseases—are sheer imagination; second, you don't want to learn or read anything about them so as to know whether they are imaginary or not; and lastly, if you are sick put yourself in the hands of a doctor and leave health, life and death to him. That is the theory of hygiene by which most people live. It is a theory which popular ideas of medicine, law and drapery lay out on the same level. You are to leave your life and your property, which make life worth living, and your health, which concern both health and property, to some professor of the arts concerning them, and you are supposed to be as incapable of knowing anything about the first two as you are about taking levels through walls, banks and angles. That is to say, you are born into the world a dummy and a fool, unequal to protecting your dearest interests, and on your peril you seek to dissipate your native ignorance.

A PRACTICAL LESSON.

I have just been through the trial of having drains laid, and if there is anything of which I considered myself hopelessly and incurably ignorant it was the science of drain-digging. The rich and ancient borough of Dehnam is in the hands of local officers, who devote their energies to laying a town-tax much higher than that of London or New York, and in consequence are unequal to laying of town drains. Nearly all the tax rate living, and a few drains, which were too weak to run down hill, must be added that of Dehnam water, which was expected to be able to run up hill. My unassisted reason proved equal to grasping the situation without tottering on its throne. Step by step the interest grew in side drains, dry wells, surface water and hard-

pan. Unaided I discovered the difference between a day's work in fact and a day's work so-called, and between a few pointed words and some well-disposed workmen have the pleasure of seeing work finished this afternoon which this morning I was assured would take two days.

Laid down there was before my window a five-foot drain filled part of its length with rubblestone to a foot of the surface, that being the fashion of contract drain filling for people who don't know better. But from reading up about drain building and a word or two from better informed people the heaped rubble was disposed fifteen inches deeper the bottoms of that fifty-foot drain and the rest filled with gravel, soda and sand, as it should be, saving some days' work with men and teams and some dollars to my pocket.

It was rather funny to see a small woman and a Max kitten superintend that drain digging, I suppose, but it is done for a generation to come, and what want to make apparent is that the average disorders of our systems can no more surpass our understanding than the laying of cellar drains. If it were impossible to make drains for men and women to comprehend the needs of their own bodies and lives it would be a reason against the wisdom of Him who made us.

INTELLIGENCE IS SAFETY.

It is true we cannot, without more time and study than most of us can devote, learn the intricacies of chronic disease and the skill of surgery. But we can understand quite enough to prevent the horrors of cancer, tumor, abscess, tubercle and their train. We can learn the pulse, the heart beat, the sympathy between digestion, nerves and muscular exhaustion; between gonorrhea and inflammation; and the prompt treatment of their initial disorders.

In knowledge of our joints, nerves and organs to lend us to sick fancies about them or to ignorant ignorances, other folks' diseases—other folks' diseases—are sheer imagination; second, you don't want to learn or read anything about them so as to know whether they are imaginary or not; and lastly, if you are sick put yourself in the hands of a doctor and leave health, life and death to him. That is the theory of hygiene by which most people live. It is a theory which popular ideas of medicine, law and drapery lay out on the same level. You are to leave your life and your property, which make life worth living, and your health, which concern both health and property, to some professor of the arts concerning them, and you are supposed to be as incapable of knowing anything about the first two as you are about taking levels through walls, banks and angles. That is to say, you are born into the world a dummy and a fool, unequal to protecting your dearest interests, and on your peril you seek to dissipate your native ignorance.

So I sent for a man of means, well recommended, and placed affairs in his hands with that child-like confidence which medical men inspire in their patients. The first discovery was that the drain, supposed to keep the cellar dry, sloped three inches up to the town gutter, and to the old colony of Tanton water, which was too weak to run down hill, must be added that of Dehnam water, which was expected to be able to run up hill. My unassisted reason proved equal to grasping the situation without tottering on its throne. Step by step the interest grew in side drains, dry wells, surface water and hard-

A HINT FOR PHYSICIANS.

These men have never been afraid to let people know how to take care of themselves, nor have they lost medical prestige

by so doing. It is probable that with growing intelligence the doctors' work will glide into that of teaching people how not to be sick, and it will be a far less burden and more profitable routine than their present one. The winter's lectures on hygiene will be as largely attended as any star course devised. Gentlemen of the profession, the people are trading close upon your heels in the matter of interest in medical subjects which concern their households and their fancies. It is little humbug as possible will serve you best.

But you people cultivate humbug in your doctors and ministers, bow down to it and pay it high fees. Town people are specially unfortunate on this point. They pass the modest, conscientious doctors who would gladly attend for the regular fee of \$2 a visit, and give their best thought and latest reading to cross the palm of a fashionable doctor, who keeps page and liveried coachman and has his receptions in the matter of the society papers, and pays for these things out of your \$10 a visit.

Don't grudge a man who has worked his way up in hospital and battle-field, in epidemic and through the slums his \$10 or \$100 a visit, but when doctors begin by keeping up appearances, leave them to society and its fancies. Will your ten-dollar-a-visit doctor allow himself to be called up in the night to some patient writhing in sudden agonies? It will interfere with his brilliant after-noon receptions, and a man who has \$10 for every fifteen minutes of working time doesn't need to break his downy slumbers for any body.

Let me tell you one more point. Don't call a doctor a second time who keeps a night waiting in the middle of the night. I shall never forget the appearance of one doctor only sent for when I found myself going up in pain while he makes an evening messenger cooling his heels on the sidewalk for the better part of an hour, and appeared at my bedside in toilet fit for a ball at 3 in the morning, sick as I was, the immaculate elegance of his cuffs and studs and the miraculous parting of his hair made an impression that will never be lost upon me.

Do doctors keep ready-made partings for instant use? For if not that straight moon-beam must have cost a good five minutes' wait for the doctor who was to do anything such treatment as was to be expected from such an Adonis-morphine disguised in bromide of potassium, when protected and never was sent for after. I learned from the pain worse another night, and by an anxious, pressing invitation to end my life should the non-life of the doctor, which would have broken my strength for weeks and cost at least \$100.

You do not wonder that superior doctors are protected from their ignorant waiting five times as much for a half-hour's operation as for an ordinary visit, with a steady run of attendance till you get well after it. Beware of the doctor who wants to dieh his knife in you. I was awfully polite to this one, and pressed his double fee upon him before he left, for I never meant to see his face again. Number two came next night, a little rough in appearance, but prompt, and knowing how to relieve, but he, too, pressed the surgical treatment, and never was sent for after. I learned from him, however, the value of his fee, which was only half that of the man with the seraph part in his hair, in the instruction that hot water, hot as can be borne, is the great panacea for internal pain—kept scalding hot and applied for at least half an hour.

Numbers three and four said unhesitatingly there was no need of surgery, and made their words good by ending the trouble in three weeks without it. They were good doctors, skillful ones, but I parted with them for what reason?

TWO OLD DRAWBACKS.

Nothing in themselves, but they had the drawbacks with which too many physicians weight themselves nowadays. These are the trained nurse; the other is the sanitarium. A lot of gush is written about trained nurses, which is only to be accepted on the ground that patients and their friends are all fools, unfit for the slightest care or control of themselves. In severe cases, in critical surgery or maternity cases, and in hospitals, the trained nurse is indispensable, but I have heard most well-to-do and intelligent folk who had tried them say that they never would have one in the house again.

The choice of nurses is like that of wives. The right sort is invaluable, but there are a hundred women you would not have to one you want. Leave your next neighbor to tell you the reasons, for there isn't room in his paper.

retain their own special nurses, whom it is for their interest to keep in employment, and the nurse is apt to be pressed upon you for the best care you can get. The doctor and the sanitarium, which physicians keep as other men do yachts, and if it is absolutely impossible for patients to obtain tolerable care and diet at home it may be worth while to pay the price of a fashionable hotel for very ordinary surroundings and baked apples to eat.

Sanitarium is more absolute than the doctor, and if you cannot get out, except to the convenience of all concerned, on penalty of a fuss with the doctor and the matron's tongue. The doctor may be candid and mean well, and his system be admirable, but the matron can undo all the good of the doctor, and this matter is left to the amplification of those who have had more experience of sanitariums than I. Only the little I do know of them makes me feel shy of doctors with nurse or a sanitarium to recommend, doing all justice to the good intentions of the doctors. For one thing it is cheaper for one of them that rotates in the system to spend any length of time at a sanitarium, and saves you the gossip, the trained nurse will want the highest earth, and your house made over for her benefit anyway.

No, my dear "brethren and sisters," let us be wise in our own interests and leave all we can about physiology, hygiene and medicine. Some of it is highly interesting study, and what isn't interesting is invaluable. The more you know the better you will appreciate the worth of a really good doctor in those points requiring more skill than the lady can attain, or will learn from the lay and hospital school of Academies, the beloved Greek physician, who held that cures should be by speedy, safe and pleasant means, on which the highest faculty are coming to agree. They are wise enough to find that the surgery of women, as practiced for twenty-five years, is barbarous and unnecessary for diseases which can be cured by diet and electricity.

As my last and present doctor said—he was one of the working doctors who never were out of the house in the winter for years ago, and never had time for another since—"All organs are treated by interference except the liver and heart, which we cannot get at and must treat conservatively, and we are finding that it is just as practicable to treat the rest so by cautery and section." If one physician can do the normal condition, the actual condition, and general hygiene it is enough to encourage all to hope for similar help.

The same goes for the cure of the whole class of disorders, rectal and intestinal diseases, whose early symptoms are apt to be set down as purely imaginary and later ones by vivisection. We who suffer must learn to be wise for ourselves, and the good doctor will not say: "Trust me implicitly," but "test me, try me, understand all you can about yourself and my work."

SHIRLEY DARE.

About Bathing the Feet.

While a nightly bath is excellent, the feet should not be soaked oftener than once a week—unless, indeed, they are sore from walking or standing. In that case dissolve a bit of washing soda in the water, and rub thumb's end in a basin of water as hot as can be borne. Soak the feet in this ten minutes in clear hot water, wipe dry and rub and knead with the bare hands for five minutes. For perspiration—especially offensive perspiration—never let hot water touch your feet. Bathe nightly in cold water, with a little chloride of lime in it. For tender or burning feet nothing is better than a strong sea-salt bath, either hot or cold.

Clean Hands.

Borax water will instantly remove all soils and stains from the hands and heal all scratches and chafes. To make it, put crude borax into a bottle and fill it with hot water. When the borax is dissolved add more to the water, until at least the water can absorb no more and a residuum remains at the bottom of the bottle. To the water in which the hands are to be washed pour from this bottle to make it very soft. It is very cleansing, and by its use the hands will be kept in excellent condition.

THE SPECULATOR'S TERROR

The Monthly Government Crop Report and Its Influence on the Market.

The Periodical Rumor that It Has Been Stolen—Beating Competitors Ten Minutes on the News—Work of the Correspondents.

Special Correspondence of the Sunday Journal.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—At intervals of a year or two a story is put in circulation that some one has stolen the crop bulletin of the Agricultural Department and has sold it to speculators in grain or cotton. The crop bulletin frequently influences the speculative market if it indicates a marked and unexpected change in the condition or prospects of the growing crop. Its value in the field of speculation is not so great as it was a few years ago, because there are now State crop reports and reports gathered by enterprising newspapers which usually anticipate any decided change in crop conditions. Still, the monthly report is closely watched by speculators, and the announcement of the new average made on the floor of the exchanges frequently results in an inflation or depression of the market.

When any marked change is noted by the crop bulletin the speculator who could know it even half an hour in advance of its publication could make enormous profits by buying or selling futures at the produce exchanges of the country. When I was in the West, recently, a speculator approached me and said: "I understand there are ways of getting at this crop report. It gets out every once in a while, and if you can get hold of it we can make a lot of money together." I assured him that I would be very willing to join him in making "a lot of money" by the use of the information. He turned to Washington and the statistician of the Agricultural Department to learn, not how to get advance information of the bulletin, but how the department succeeds in keeping its contents secret up to the moment when it is given to the press associations and telegraph companies for distribution through the wires. The only time that a special charge was brought against the Statistical Bureau was four years ago, when figures appearing in the average for the month were circulated among speculators some time before the average was given out by the department. A Western Price Current put out a notice in its columns that information came from the Statistical office, but when Mr. Dodge demanded the evidence it was not produced. This is the only time in the history of the department that anything even approximating the figures of the monthly bulletin has been announced in advance, and the only exception of this which the Statistical office could find was that the figures of the preceding month that a clever speculator had obtained from day through the dispatches by dealers and speculators and by newspapers, could form a fairly accurate estimate of the results of the month. This is the only time when anything like a specific charge has been made against the statistician. At the beginning of this administration the Secretary of Agriculture received a letter from a discharged employe of Mr. Dodge, charging that, in collusion with the private secretary of the department, he had sold advance information of the crop report; but, like a great many other communications received by the heads of the department, it was thrown from the files and did not have weight enough even to warrant an investigation.

THE MATERIAL IS GATHERED.

The material for the monthly crop bulletin is gathered, for the department by an active corps of more than ten thousand unpaid agents. In every producing county in the United States is a correspondent of the Agricultural Department, and each of these correspondents has three assistants. There are now about 2,350 of these correspondents. They and their assistants receive no compensation, but they get a full supply of departmental publications and of seeds, and the stationery needed for their work is furnished them. These agents of the department are almost exclusively farmers, but occasionally a country physician is on the list. His opportunities for observation are quite as good as those of the farmer, and these men, who are not paid, obtain that could be had if any salary were attached to the position, because a salaried position would be sought by incompetent men purely for the money, while the farmer gives his services to the department in protection of his own interests. In addition to this enormous force of unpaid correspondents the department now has, in nearly all of the States, salaried agents who have organized a parallel system of reports through correspondents in the States. In December, 1889, the department was organized, and the introduction of the employe of State statisticians everywhere, and the force will soon be extended to cover the entire country.

The statisticians send each month, to the correspondents of the department, a circular containing certain questions. In February these questions concern only live stock. In March the questions practically wind up the crop year's record; the questions are about the commercial distribution of cereals. At the beginning of April the questions concern the condition of the growing crops, the acreage under cultivation, etc. In October and November the department inquires about the probable yield per acre. In December it inquires for a final estimate of the product of the year. These questions require, usually, mathematical answers. Taking 100 per cent as the normal condition, the correspondents are asked to indicate the condition of the crops in their vicinity by figures based on the normal condition. The actual average is not taken, because this would be misleading, as some counties produce twenty times as much as others, and the high average of the entire country would be raised to a large one unwarrantably. The average of each county is multiplied by the proportion of the crop grown in that county, and thus an "extended average" is obtained, which gives approximately a "correct idea of the product."

With such an enormous corps of correspondents it would be impossible for any collusion to exist which would affect or control the market by making a false report to the statisticians' office. Besides, the statisticians have, in the reports of State agents, the reports of agricultural boards organized under State supervision, and through many other sources, a constant check upon the department's correspondents. In fact, the figures sent in by the correspondents to the department are not necessarily final. The statisticians may alter them in making up his report; and here is one of the safeguards of the monthly bulletin. Not even the statisticians themselves know what the monthly average will be more than an hour or two before its publication. Each of the 2,350 county correspondents is asked to send his report to the statisticians' office by the 10th of each month. He does not confine himself necessarily to the facts and figures received from his assistants. He may exercise his own judgment in modifying those figures. He is expected to watch the newspapers, and in every other possible way, all indications which may be of value, and to make up his average from all the information in his possession. The correspondents on the Pacific coast are under instructions to mail their letters to the department about the 25th of each month, east of the Rocky mountains the instruc-

tions of the correspondent are to mail his report on the 1st of the month. These reports begin to come in on the 25th, and every mail is heavily laden with them for more than a week. The earliest reports are on the 2d, 4th and 5th of the month. As fast as they are received these reports are accepted. On the evening of the 7th they are distributed to the statisticians, who occupy desks in three rooms of the department annex, and these clerks figure from these county reports the State averages of the different crops. All the calculation is done in one room, but the work of footing up the averages is distributed through three rooms, and so distributed that each of the clerks has only a knowledge of the small part of the work which he has done. Across the hall another force of clerks verifies these averages. As soon as the work is completed it is taken from the hands of the clerks and delivered into the hands of the statistician, where all of the cards are placed and the figures made up. On the morning of the 8th the statistician takes hold of these reports and goes over them. The reports of the unimportant crops are sent into another office, where the average is worked out. No interests could be affected by the publication of this information, and so the same care is not exercised in guarding it. The reports of the wheat, cotton and oats crops remain in the hands of the statistician and his assistant, Mr. Snow. The reports of the State agents are in Mr. Dodge's hands for comparison with the averages made up from the reports of the county agents. The accuracy of these reports is guaranteed by the exact agreement of the figures of the State agent with the figures made up in the department from the reports of the county correspondents.

RECONCILING DIFFERENCES.

Where there is a difference, the statistician tries to reconcile it. Sometimes, however, there will be a material difference. The correspondents sometimes make over-exuberant and send in absurd estimates; sometimes they go to the other extreme and allow personal dependency to affect their judgment. Wherever a very striking difference appears the statistician looks over the details of the reports, and, making a comparison, changes the averages according to his own judgment. Sometimes the telegraph is brought into requisition to correct some error or make some correction. About 10 per cent of the reports reach the office too late for use, and if a number of these should be from one section that absence would create a gap, which would have to be filled in some other way. As Mr. Dodge goes over the reports from one end to another he changes the averages, and the changes are handed to Mr. Snow, who, with the assistance of the expert calculator, makes up a new set of averages in accordance with these changes. This work is done on the 9th and 10th of the month. On the morning of the 10th this work is completed, but not until the morning of the 10th are the final figures made up. The cotton report is given out at noon on the 10th; the grain report at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day. Usually, Mr. Dodge knows the exact time when the cotton crop more than an hour before the time when the report is written. In making up the last report he was not able to fill in the final figures, the most of the report had been written. There are about three hundred words in the report as given out at noon. As Mr. Dodge writes it, the expert calculator puts it on the cyclostyle, and within five minutes after the last word is written, printed copies are being run off from the cyclostyle machine. These are placed in envelopes, sealed and addressed. This work is completed a few minutes before noon. Mr. Snow takes the envelopes and goes over to the office of the Secretary. In the adjoining room the telegraph operator is sitting at his instrument. He is in direct communication with the statisticians, and the reports of the Press Associations and with the cotton and produce exchanges. A number of messengers are waiting in the same room to take copies of the report to the newspaper offices and the offices of certain brokers. Anyone can obtain a copy of the bulletin who will make an application to and send a messenger to the department. A copy of the report is taken to the Secretary of Agriculture. He reads it and authorizes the statisticians to give it out, most exactly upon Mr. Snow steps from the Secretary's office to the adjoining room and hands the sealed envelopes containing the report to the telegraph operator. The telegraph operator receives a copy, tears it open, and one minute after the Secretary has put his seal of approval upon the report, the telegraph instrument is set going off in the offices of the cotton and produce exchanges all over the country, and it is being copied in several hundred newspapers for use in early editions of afternoon papers.

This system of distribution makes it impossible for any one to have the advantage of any one else in the knowledge of news after it is given out officially from the department. A few years ago there were many speculators who had a copy of the report, and there was always a scramble among the messengers and others interested to see who would first deliver the report at the telegraph office. The most important information in the report was in the summing up, near the end. A great many brokers had agents in Washington who sent messages by messenger mounted on horses or bicycles, and there was always a race for the telegraph office. A broker with a private wire participated in the race, and by slipping the summary at the end and sending that first, it took some minutes for the operators of the Press Associations to get through the introduction of the report and down to this important summary. These few minutes were of value to the broker or speculator, as they gave him an opportunity to make a few deals in anticipation of the official report. Now, as the summary is put in the first edition of the report, the introduction is no longer an introduction.

A SYNDICATE'S SECRET.

About ten years ago a syndicate of brokers puzzled the department and the country by anticipating the report some ten minutes, in various parts of the country. The messenger who came from the office of the agent of this syndicate was watched and followed, but he seemed to have no advantage over any one else, as he had to go just as far up town with the report before delivering it. The syndicate consisted of some six months a telegraph operator betrayed the syndicate's secret. There was a wire stretched from their office in Washington to the office of the syndicate, not far from the Agricultural Department. The agent of the syndicate sent two messengers to the department on the morning of the 10th. The first messenger was hurrying to the agent's office with the report, while the other quietly slipped into the office of the lumber company, where the operator was waiting to send the report out through the country. While a dozen messengers were racing across town to reach the telegraph office, the bulletin was going out over the private wire of the syndicate fully five minutes in advance of its delivery at the main telegraph office. Now that there is a telegraph office in the department the competition to obtain possession of the bulletin no longer exists. It would be impossible to obtain any advantage by distributing the news after it has been given out officially. The only hope the speculator could have to profit by the report would be to obtain information of its contents in advance of its official publication. To know anything of the result of the reports of the county agents would require collusion on the part of at least half a dozen of the trusted employes of the department. Statistician Dodge and his assistant, Mr. Snow, are above suspicion, or they would not have been in the Department of Agriculture for so many years. The office of the statistician might be burglarized, but even that would be productive of very unimportant results, for the figures that are looked up by Mr. Dodge on the evening of the 9th may be altered very materially on the morning of the 10th. So it is that the syndicate that the rumors of "what the crop report will show" which fly about the produce exchanges on the morning of the 10th of each month, in every other possible way, are strictly for the benefit of speculators. A great many efforts are made to influence the judgment of the statistician in making his report. Letters and telegrams come to him almost every month, most of them anonymous, intended to influence him. On the morning of June 10 Mr.