WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

The Week's Doings at the National Capital.

THE NEW NAVY CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

Commander William M. Folger, U. S. Navy, is now, and will be for four years to come, a Commodore, unless death or the President of the United States interposes. Last week he was confirmed as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance in the Navy and took charge as soon as his new commission was signed, succeeding Capt. Montgomery Sicard.

This is the most important bureau appointment in the Navy made by the present Administration, for the new Commodore will have charge of the work that Commodore Sicard so ably began, of building the new high-power guns for the new Navy, and is regarded by all who know the ins and outs of Ordnance matters in the Navy, as being a remarkably good appointment.

Commodore Folger has for years devoted himself to a critical study of modern artillery, and was for a long time the assistant of his predecessor; and when the great gun factory was established at the old Washington Navy-Yard, he was selected as the Inspector there, which meant that he was in full charge of building the huge weapons that now arm all of the new cruisers. His studies included not only guns, but explosives, and for many months before being placed in charge of the gun-building, he was especially engaged in testing various high-power powders and determining their relative values.

He was born in and appointed from Ohio, entering the service in September, 1861, in a huge class that contained some members that have specially distinguished themselves. One classmate was the lamented De Long of Arctic fame. Another is Commander George A. Converse, an authority all over the world on the subject of marine torpedoes; and so is Commander Royal B. Bradford, now on duty at the Navy Department, who knows so much about electric lighting and dynamos, that his opinions are quoted by professional electricians.

As usual, this chat about his classmates reminds me of a story, and it is in point just at this time when Republican France is half scared to death because a young prince of the old royal line wanted to serve his prescribed tour of duty in the ranks of the French Army.

At the outbreak of the rebellion a number of the Bourbon princes came here, and one of them had a long-legged, angular and awkward son of about seventeen years, for whom he obtained special permission from the Government to enter the Naval Academy, then at Newport.

He entered; he was by title the Duc d'Penthievre, but he was entered upon the rolls of the Academy by his baptismal name of Pierre d'Orleans; there were half a dozen or more other names secreted about him, but these were omitted from the roll-call. There was an awful larky set of youngsters in that class, and one of the larkiest of all was Stephen Decatur Adams, and one of the smallest in size of them all. I don't believe that youngster could even keep still when he was asleep, and I do believe that when he was asleep he went on dreaming out new and surprising pranks.

M. le Duc was intensely dignified, and had a very much better opinion of his exalted birth and rank than did the young American sovereigns about him, and he seemed in a constant state of surprise when his fellow Midshipmen would address him without the formality of requesting permission to do so.

Thus it was when one day Acting-Midshipman Pierre d'Orleans was on monitor duty on the gun-deck of the old frigate Constitution, that during a recess from study Acting-Midshipman Stephen Decatur Adams approached him with the remark—

"Well, Pete of New Orleans, how do you like being on duty with a sword-belt on?"

"Pete" almost fainted, but gasped out, "Ma nom ces not Pete New Orleans, but Pierre d'Orleans."

"Well, I don't know very much about the French language yet, but as far as I've got Pierre means Peter, and d'Orleans, of Orleans, and we always say Pete for short, while all the Orleans we know about is New Orleans."

The poor duke was still more horrified at the burst of laughter that followed from the crowd that by that time surrounded them, and fled to the cabin of the officer in charge to formally report the affair. Adams was duly hauled up before Commander Rodgers (now Rear-Admiral) and lectured mildly, but I happen to know that the officers had as hearty a laugh over the affair as the Midshipmen did.

The young duke graduated, and was at once made a Captain in the Brazilian Navy by the Emperor Dom Pedro, who was his uncle, and became an Admiral long before his death, which occurred half a dozen years ago. Adams's larks brought him to grief at the Academy, and after resigning as Acting-Midshipman, he went into the Army, where he became Captain of Volunteers, and died about four years ago at his home, in Brooklyn.

COMMODORE WHITE DEAD.

Commodore George B. White, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, died at his residence in Washington Thursday morning at 11 o'clock from an attack of apoplexy, with which he was stricken about 7 o'clock in the morning. He had been suffering for some time with a severe cold, but seemed to be almost restored to health. He was at the office as usual Wednesday, and it was not then known that anything at all was the matter with him. The news of his death was a great shock to his associates at the Navy Department.

Commodore White was formerly a member of the Philadelphia Harbor Commission, and had held his commission as Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks only since April last. He was regarded as one of the best officers in the service. He was appointed Midshipman from Pennsylvania in 1854; promoted to be Master and Lieutenant in 1861; Lieutenant Commander in 1865; Commander in 1872, and Captain in 1884. His total sea service covered a period of 13 years and five months, and his shore duty 19 years and two months.

Commodore White was one the most popular and efficient officers in the Navy, and had not an enemy in the service. His untimely death has cast a gloom over the Navy people at the National Capital. It will be many years before his like will be seen again.

BAD DISCIPLINE IN THE NAVY.

The Gossip column told two weeks ago of the rumors that had reached here of troubles in the fancy squadron of our new vessels now in European waters, and also, as a coincidence, of serious troubles on board the corvet Enterprise, that had just left England for home, with the body of ex-U. S. Minister Pendleton on board.

News came a few days ago that Acting Rear-Admiral Walker had placed Capt. John A. Howell, commanding the cruiser Atlanta, under suspension, and a subordinate in command of the vessel, and that a Chief Engineer and two other officers are being tried by court-martial. The reticence on the part of officials at the Navy Department, military and civil, on this subject, is remarkable and all hands seem to be afraid to whisper what they know or may have heard.

The Gossiper knows, however, that Capt. Howell was suspended because his ship was not ready to leave port when the sailing signal was hoisted; and further, that as he had received no preliminary orders for sailing, the fires had not been started under the boilers, and the rest of the fleet had to steam back until the ship was ready. The Chief Engineer under trial is Chief Engineer Henry D. McEwan, of the Boston, who is reported as having already been tried once before since the arrival of the squadron in the Mediterranean. As he has behind him a splendid record for ability and efficiency, officers here have no fears of the result.

In that same number of the Gossip something was said of the troubles on the Enterprise, but her arrival developes a much worse state of affairs on board than even the writer feared. A poor devil of a sailor man, when ashore on "liberty lies," got full, as seafaring men will do at times, and coming on board in that condition, was clapped into irons in "the brig." He was ordered on deck, while still enjoying his drunk, and admitting the fact, said he was glad of it. The Captain ordered the officer of the deck to cut him down, and then, when the order was disobeyed, armed himself and cut the man to the deck, wounding him dreadfully. The Captain coolly admits the cutting down, but justifies it for the alleged "insubordinate" ness to a commanding officer." At least, that is what the New York papers state from reportorial interviews.

At the time of the Panama Canal troubles, several years ago, when a considerable force of blue-jackets and marines was sent to the Isthmus, Commander McCalla was sent there in general command, and while he did efficient service there were strange stories whispered about in the service, and there were a number of ensuing courts-martial.

What with these occurences and the recent affair in the 8th U. S. Cav., where Lieut. Steele abused an enlisted man, there seems to be an epidemic of maltreatment in the whole service.

MAIMED SOLDIERS' LEAGUE.

The following comrades composing the committee of the Maimed Soldiers' League were in the city last week to appear before the Pension Committees of both Houses, and argue in favor of the passage of the bills which are recommended by their organization: I. R. Martindell, 150th Pa.; Benj. F. Widdicombe, 82d Pa.; James M. McGee, 119th Pa.; A. G. Rapp, 138th Pa.; Hon. Francis A. Osbourn, 20th Ind.; Gen. H. S. Huidekoper, 150th Pa., and J. H. R. Storey, 109th Pa. The bills to be urged by the comrades give a pension of $100 a month to any person who, while in the line of duty, may have lost both hands or both feet, or both a hand and a foot, the sight of both eyes, or the sight of one eye. It also provides that any person who shall have incurred or contracted two or more disabilities shall be entitled to a sum per month equal to the total of the rates for all of said disabilities, said sum to be determined by adding together the rates provided by law for each of said disabilities separately, provided that the total pension per month hereby granted shall not in any case exceed that for the loss of two limbs.

WHY HE DID NOT WANT TO GO.

Speaker Reed has sent to Representative A. G. Caruth, of Kentucky, the following declination of an invitation to be the guest of the Blue Grass Club:

OFFICE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 28.

DEAR MR. CARUTH: I shall not accept the invitation tendered me by the Blue Grass Club. The reason is very simple. I notice that Jay F. Durham is President. Now J. F. Durham assured me during the late "disturbances" that "if they had me in Kentucky they would kill me." Knowing the said Durham to be a journalist, his declarations to me impart absolute verity. I do not wish to be killed, especially in Kentucky, where such an event is too common to attract attention. For a good man to die anywhere is, of course, gain, but I think I can make more by dying later and elsewhere.

Very truly, (Signed) T. B. REED.

ARMY AND NAVY.

The Secretary of War has granted six months fourlough to Private James Robinson, Hospital Corps, from Oklahoma, Ind. Ter., and to Private Peter Bale, Co. D, 6th Inf., from March 10, to go abroad. Maj.-Gen. Crook, commanding Division of the Missouri, has granted four months furlough each to the following men, under authority of the General-in-Chief: Private Wm. Stone, Troop C, 5th Cav.; Serg't Benj. Itzkovetch, Troop L, 8th Cav., from April 1, and to Musician Wm. Belton, Co. D, 16th Inf. None of these are on account of re-enlistments, and they go to show that there is another side to the talk that enlisted men have no favors shown them. Division Commanders can grant two months, the Commanding General four months, and the Secretary of War authorizes all above that to one year.

Capt. William A. Miller, 18th Inf., has been ordered to examination for retirement.

By direction of the Secretary of War a Board of Medical Officers to consist of Maj. Charles Smart, Surgeon; Capt. Valery Havard, Assistant Surgeon, and Capt. Louis Brechemin, Assistant Surgeon, has been appointed to meet at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on March 15, for the purpose of preparing a manual of drill and instruction for the members of the Hospital Corps, and to examine the equipment of the corps with a view to its improvement.

Secretary Proctor has referred the proposed proclamation granting amnesty to deserters from the United States Army now at large to the accounting officers of the Treasury, in order to obtain their opinion as to whether or not there is anything in it that might afford an opportunity to these men to make valid claims on the United States for back pay or allowance.

THE POSTAL EXHIBIT AT BERLIN.

Postmaster-General Wanamaker proposes to make the U. S. postal exhibit at Berlin, Germany, worthy of our extensive and excellent postal system. Chief Clerk Cooley recently received a catalog of the exhibit, and to the surprise of all concerned it seems that only about 20 articles in all are in the United States collection. Requests had already been received from the German Government that the collection be made more perfect, and the Postmaster-General has ordered that the collection be made as complete as possible, and the Chief Clerk is now engaged in carrying out these instructions. This will include a complete outfit, representing every branch of the service, collecting, receiving, transporting and delivering, including the mail railway and steamboat service.

NEW APPOINTEES.

The following nominations were sent to the Senate by the President during the past week:

William Gregg, to be Surveyor-General of Louisiana.

Receivers of public moneys—Albert L. Towle, at O'Neill, Neb.; Mark M. Neeves, at Sidney, Neb.; Wm. Henry Clark, at Lincoln, Neb.

Registers of land offices—Edward C. Ross, at Walla Walla, Wash.; James E. Russell, Cœur d'Alene, Idaho; Theodore F. Wilsey, Agent for the Indians of the Round Valley Agency, Cal.

Supervisors of Census: Virginia—George A. Rivercomb, Fourth District.

Louisiana—James C. Weeks, Third District; Boardman H. Peterson, Fourth District.

Mississippi—Garfield S. McMillian, Fourth District.

Iowa—Bradbury W. Hight, Third District; John W. Near, Fourth District.

Illinois—John W. Bailey, Third District.

Colorado—George L. Sopris, First District; Willard B. Felton, Second District.

Kentucky—Alfred Allen, Second District; William H. Spencer, Third; John Floodhead, Fourth; Edward C. Grear, Fifth; Richard L. Ewell, Sixth.

Henry C. Caldwell, of Arkansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the eighth circuit, vice David J. Brewer, resigned.

Supervisor of Census, Peyton C. Smithson, Third District Tennessee.

First Lieut. Thomas S. Smyth, of New York, to be Captain in the revenue service.

VETERANS IN THE CITY.

Maj. Jesse A. P. Hampson, 12th U. S. Inf. Maj. Hampson enlisted as a private in Co. M, 4th Iowa Cav., early in 1861; was promoted Second Lieutenant, 10th U. S. Inf., in February, 1862, and became Major of the 12th Inf. in 1888. He has a gallant record.

Gen. J. Warren Keifer, Springfield, O. Gen. Keifer entered the three months' service as Major of the 3d Ohio; was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 3d Ohio, three years' regiment; resigned and was made Colonel of the 110th Ohio in 1862, and commanded a brigade in the Sixth Corps from the Wilderness to the close of the war. He was brevetted Brigadier-General for gallantry. At the battle of Cedar Creek, after Gen. Ricketts was wounded, he assumed command of the Third Division, Sixth Corps, and fought the division through that battle. He was several times elected to Congress from the Springfield district, and was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Capt. A. H. Reed, Glencoe, Minn. Capt. Reed is a one-armed Union veteran, who is in Washington trying to convince the United States Senate that he is the proper person to fill the position now held by Sergeant-at-Arms Canaday. Capt. Reed left his arm at Missionary Ridge, and was also mentioned by Gen. Thomas in orders for meritorious conduct at Chickamauga. He is President of the Glencoe National Bank, and has been a member of the State Legislature of Minnesota and Sergeant-at-Arms of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Frederick W. Fout, First Lieutenant, 15th Ind. battery. Comrade Fout is in the city on business connected with Congress.

John G. Burchfield, 13th Tenn. Cav., Emporia, Kan. Comrade Burchfield has recently been appointed upon the Capitol police force.

Gen. James C. Lynch, Philadelphia, Pa. Gen. Lynch after service in subordinate positions in other regiments, was promoted to Colonel of the 183d Pa., and shortly commissioned as Brigadier-General and placed in command of the First Brigade, First Division, Second Corps.

Harrison P. Hood, Co. D, 26th Mass., Indianapolis, Ind. Comrade Hood is Adjutant of George H. Thomas Post, No. 17.

George H. Pettis, Arnold Post, No. 4, Providence, R. I. Comrade Pettis was entertained by Senator Aldrich on Thursday evening, and was an invited guest at the banquet of the Mexican War Veterans at Edel's Hall on the evening of the 22d ult. He was an officer in the 1st Cal., and was Adjutant of the 1st N. M.

William Murrell, Co. D, 54th Mass. Col. Murrell has been appointed a delegate to the National Encampment at Boston.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

CONGRESS.

An Abstract of the More Important Proceedings of Both Houses.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26.

In the Senate, Mr. Chandler (N. H.) presented a number of petitions from people of Arkansas complaining of the systematic reign of terror in Union County, that State, and asking for the protection guaranteed by the Constitution. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Evarts (N. Y.) called up the resolution declaring it competent for the Senate to elect a President pro tem to hold the office during the pleasure of that body, and until another is elected, and execute the duties when the Vice-President is absent. Mr. George (Miss.), objecting to the consideration of the resolution, it went over until Thursday without prejudice.

The business on the calendar was taken up, and 26 pension and private bills were passed.

The Blair Educational bill was then taken up, and consumed the entire day's session, speeches being made in opposition to the measure by Mr. Reagan (Tex.), and Mr. Wilson (Md.), while Mr. Blair (N. H.) supported the measure. The Senate adjourned at 4:40 p. m.

In the House, the contested election case of Atkinson vs. Pendleton, First West Virginia District, was taken up. It was agreed that six hours' debate should be allowed, after which the previous question should be considered as ordered. The case was argued at length, but went over without final action until Thursday.

Mr. Clunie (Cal.) introduced a bill reviving the rank of Lieutenant-General of the Army; also, for four additional Inspectors-General, with the rank of Major.

Mr. Peters (Kan.) introduced a bill providing for the appointment of nine Irrigation Commissioners, who are to be charged with the preparation for and execution of general plans for the irrigation of arid areas of the country.

The House, after passing a large number of private measures, most of which were pension bills, at 5:10 p. m. adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27.

In the Senate, after the presentation of a large number of petitions and memorials, the bill reinstating Commander John N. Quackenbush, who had been dismissed from the United States Navy for drunkenness, was taken up, but was laid over without prejudice. The bill reinstates Commander Quackenbush, and authorizes his retirement.

Mr. Morrill (Vt.) introduced a bill appropriating $75,000 for the building of a monument to Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America, which is to be placed at the west front of the Capitol Building, on the site now occupied by the Peace Monument. The bill passed.

The Blair Educational bill was taken upand discussed at considerable length, but went over as unfinished business. The bill declaring trusts and combinations illegal also occupied considerable of the Senate's attention. After a short Executive session, the Senate adjourned at 5 p. m.

In the House, the contested election case of Atkinson vs. Pendleton, of West Virginia, was taken up. The minority report, declaring Pendleton entitled to his seat, was defeated by yeas 142, nays 159—a strict party vote, and the majority report adopted—yeas 162, nays none, the Speaker counting a quorum. Mr. Atkinson was then sworn in.

The Committee on Labor reported a bill requiring United States laborers, workmen and mechanics, employed since June 25, 1868, to be paid on the basis of eight hours for each day's work.

The Committee on Census reported a bill to allow a per diem compensation of $3 per day in addition to traveling expenses to Special Agents of the Census Bureau.

The House proceeded, in Committee of the Whole, to the consideration of the urgent deficiency bill, and after some discussion adjourned without action at 5 p. m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28.

In the Senate, a resolution was passed making Mr. Ingalls (Kan.) President pro tempore during the absence of the Vice-President. Mr. Davis (Minn.) addressed the Senate in explanation of the dependent pension bill. It was, he said, the same bill verbatim as had passed the Senate in the last Congress, and had failed of action in the House. It provided pensions of $12 a month for all persons who had served three months or more in the war of the rebellion, who had been honorably discharged and who were suffering from mental or physical disability that incapacitated them from the performance of labor in such a manner as to render them unable to earn support, and who were dependent upon their labor.

There had been three estimates made, Mr. Davis said, as to the number of survivors of the war. One placed the number at 1,200,000 men, one at 1,288,000 men, and one at 1,350,000 men. He would take the number at 1,200,000 men. Of the number there were on the pension rolls June 30 last 351,484 men. He would assume that there were 800,000 survivors who were not pensioned. Of that number 167,000 had claims pending under existing law, and 80 per cent. of those claims were likely to be allowed and 33,400 of them rejected. Of that 33,406, some 25,000 could claim under the pending bill. That left 630,000 men unpensioned out of the 800,000. It was thought that of that number at least 200,000 would apply for pensions under existing law and that 50 per cent. of that number would receive pensions. That, at the rate of $144 a year, would amount to $14,400,000 as the annual expense for invalid pensions under the pending bill. In like manner, Mr. Davis made estimates as to the pensions of widows, children and dependent parents—the general result being as follows:

For invalid pensions, $14,400,000; for increase of existing pensions, $5,908,000; for widows of unpensioned soldiers dying annually, $1,728,000; for widows of pensioners dying annually, $864,000; for widows whose claims are now pending or have been rejected, $10,800,000; for children of widows, $1,632,000; for children under pending bill, $576,000; total, $35,908,000. In answer to a question Mr. Davis said the report of the Committee on Pensions had been unanimous.

Mr. Plumb (Kan.) offered a substitute for the second section of the bill, and argued in support of it. Under this substitute no pensioner would receive less than $6 a month. He claimed that his amendment was definite and sure; that under it every Union soldier would know exactly by the mere fact of his medical examination what pension he was entitled to, and would not be subject to the mercy of a friendly or unfriendly administration of the law at headquarters.

Remarks in favor of the original bill were made by Mr. Moody (S. D.), Mr. Vest (Mo.) and Mr. McPherson (N. J.) speaking against it. The bill went over without action.

In the House, the deficiency appropriation bill was taken up, and after over three hours of discussion the bill was passed. The bill appropriates $23,650,000, the largest item being $21,600,000 for the payment of pensioners of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the consideration of the private calendar, and the House at 5 p. m. took a recess. The evening session was devoted to the consideration of private pension bills, the adjournment taking place at 10:20 p. m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

In the House several private pension bills were passed, placing men on the rolls at $100 per month in place of the $72 now being received. These pensions were for the loss of both hands, or its equivalent disability. One of the men had a piece of the thumb on one hand remaining, which, under existing law, necessitated the private bill, and another, who had been experimented upon by army Surgeons, although having both hands, it was proved that they were utterly useless, and that it would have been much better for them to have been amputated at the time he was wounded.

The contested election case of Featherston vs. Cate, First Congressional District of Arkansas, was taken up, and consumed the entire day's session. The House adjourned at 4 p. m.

MONDAY, MARCH 3.

In the Senate, Mr. Voorhees (Ind.) offered a preamble and concurrent resolution reciting that in the recent lease of the fur seal islands of Alaska to the North American Commercial Company certain provisions of law were not complied with, and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish to the Senate complete copies of all the bids for the lease, with all accompanying papers; and that the Secretary refrain from executing or delivering the lease until the subject be inquired into by the Senate; referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Mitchell (Ore.) offered a resolution which was agreed to, instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations to consider the advisability of advancing the Turkish Mission to a mission of the second class, with a salary to the United States Minister of $12,000.

The bill fixing the salaries of the several Judges of the United States District Courts at $5,000 per annum was passed—yeas 38, nays 13.

The Blair Educational bill was taken up, and Mr. Spooner (Wis.) addressed the Senate in opposition to it. He claimed that since the bill was introduced, in 1880, a great change had come over the country, North and South, in regard to its expediency. One strong evidence of that was the attitude of the newspaper press of the country during the discussion. It was idle for the Senator from New Hampshire, or for any man, to contend that the great newspaper press of the country had entered into a conspiracy in favor of ignorance. Its interest was the other way. The newspaper press could have no interest against the general interest of the people. It could not have an interest against universal knowledge.

After a brief Executive session the Senate at 6 p. m. adjourned.

In the House, Mr. O'Donnell (Mich.) at the request of the Seventh Day Adventists of the United States, presented a petition bearing 233,000 names, protesting against the passage of any bill in regard to the observance of the Sabbath. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Banks (Mass.), the rules were suspended, and a joint resolution was passed—yeas 117, nays 77—authorizing the appointment of 30 Medical Examiners for the Pension Bureau.

A motion to suspend the rules and on its passage the Senate bill for the organization of Oklahoma was lost—yeas 156, nays 96—not the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative.

Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Owen (Ind.) appropriating $35,000 for a monument to the division of regulars on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Mr. Houk (Tenn.) called up the contested election case of Featherston vs. Cate, and, pending debate on it, the House adjourned at 5:15 p. m.

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"My little sister, four years of age, was so ill from bronchitis that we had almost given up hope of her recovery. Our family physician, a skilful man and of large experience, pronounced it useless to give her any more medicine; saying that he had done all it was possible to do, and we must prepare for the worst. As a last resort, we determined to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and I can truly say, with the most happy results. After taking a few doses she seemed to breathe easier, and, within a week, was out of danger. We continued giving the Pectoral until satisfied she was entirely well. This has given me unbounded faith in the preparation, and I recommend it confidently to my customers."—C. O. Lepper, Druggist, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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HEALTH HINTS

For Old and Young.

BY FELIX L. OSWALD, M. D., Author of "Physical Education"; "Household Remedies"; "The Bible of Nature," etc.

CHAPTER LVII.

DISEASES OF INFANCY—(continued).

During the English campaign in Burmah a cavalry officer was quartered near the residence of a native Prince, and one hot afternoon had just entered his hammock for a little nap when he was aroused by a loud cheering from an adjoining court-house, where a lot of natives had been on trial for vagrancy.

"What's the matter with those fellows?" he asked his interpreter, when the cheering was repeated again and again.

"Oh, its those tramp prisoners," said the dragoman; "they have just been informed that they will get their heads shaved and their ears cut off."

"What! and that makes them hurrah like bounty-jumpers?"

"Yes, sir; you see, they expected to be crucified, and they are glad to get off so cheap."

A similar explanation might account for the ancient belief that it was a lucky thing for a child to have the "King's Evil" (scrofula) in early infancy. Three hundred years ago the prevailing system of diet and ventilation was so outrageously bad that not one child in ten could hope to escape the "Evil" altogether, and the only question was whether the virus would attack the skin or the vital organs—the liver and the lungs. But there is no doubt that with ordinary precautions the trouble can be avoided altogether, unless a taint of scrofula should have become hereditary.

SCROFULA.

There is a suggestive significance in the original meaning of the names applied to many diseases of the human race. "Fever" is derived from the Latin word *fevere*, to boil or seethe, and an excess of heat is actually the chief cause of most febrile disorders. The word scrofula is derived from *sus scrofa*, the common hog, on account of the frequency of specimens of the genus pig being affected with enlargement of the lymphatic glands, and other symptoms of what physicians call a "cachectic diathesis," i. e., a taint of blood corruption. That corruption is due to the unclean food of the dirt-grubbing grunter, and in many cases is no doubt directly transmitted from diseased pigs to the organism of pork-eating men. Still more frequently, however, a similarity of results is due to a similarity of causes, and the "King's Evil" was apt to attack persons addicted to the use of any kind of unwholesome food—decayed or indigestible vegetables, alcohol, sour bread, and the horrid salt-beef diet of our mediæval ancestors.

In certain families scrofula, however, continues to appear in early childhood, despite of considerable reform in the habits of domestic life, and in such cases must be attributed chiefly to the influence of a hereditary taint which, like hereditary consumption, afflicts children for the sins of their fathers. There seems, indeed, to be a casual connection between the "King's Evil" and pulmonary consumption, which has justly been called "pulmonary scrofula." Eruptions on the skin, especially about the neck and head, are the first symptoms, soon followed by a chronic nasal catarrh ("cold in the head"), an irritated condition of the mucus membrane, characterized by a profuse discharge, continual sniffing, and often an ugly hacking cough. The upper lip becomes sore and much enlarged, the nostrils swollen, there are occasional discharges from the eyes and even from the ears. Inflammations of the bones and joints mark a more advanced, and less curable, stage of the disease; but in a plurality of cases the symptoms are limited to skin eruptions and a malignant catarrh—both apt to disappear as soon as the child is transferred from an ill-ventilated nursery to a sunny playground.

Outdoor exercise is, indeed, the most effective remedy of a scrofulous disposition, and had, no doubt, an unsuspected good deal to do with the recovery of "King's-Evil" patients who often undertook long journeys *afoot* to try the efficacy of the King's touch. A tramp from West Scotland to Westminster, some 300 miles, through wind and weather and back again was, in most cases, sufficient to counteract the consequences of indoor life, and many clear-sighted physicians of King Charles's times may have had reasons of their own for encouraging the useful superstition. It has also often been observed that the Jews, though scrupulously fastidious in the selection of their diet, were specially subject to scrofulous affection at a time when people of their creed were confined in narrow, ill-ventilated slum-alleys, perfect disease nurseries, like the almost sunless *Juden Gasse* of Frankfort-on-the-Main.

The diet of scrofulous children should be as *frugal* as possible; fruit, berries and wholesome bread instead of meat and coffee, no artificially-preserved vegetables (sauerkraut, etc.) no cheese, not a drop of alcoholic liquids, but in October an abundance of ripe grapes—a "grape cure" being in Switzerland and eastern France the most popular and effective prescriptions for the cure of all sorts of skin diseases.

NETTLE-RASH.

The intimate connection between skin disorders and dietetic mistakes is demonstrated by the phenomena of the curious complaint known as *urticaria*, or nettle-rash. Half an hour—often only a few minutes—after eating certain kinds of meats or condiments, the skin of the patient becomes covered with welts almost exactly resembling the swellings caused by the sting of the common horse-nettle; an intolerable itching tempts the patient to increase the trouble by scratching, though almost immediate relief might be obtained by the application of such ointments as glycerine or a little fresh butter, with or without salt—saleratus or soda dissolved in warm water having been found to effect often an equally prompt cure. If let alone the swellings may disappear in the course of a few hours, though in young children, who are pretty sure to try the remedial efficacy of their 10 fingers, the trouble may continue for two or three days. Canned meats are said to be specially apt to cause the problematic disorder, and I have known persons who could not taste a slice of certain kinds of rank cheese without paying the penalty in an immediate attack of nettle-rash.

RED GUM.

A very frequent complaint of young children is the eruption known as *strophulus*, or red gum, the sudden appearance of countless little red pimples about the face and arms. A variety of the disorder is known as "white gum," or "white rash," a multitude of whitish elevations about the size of a pin-head. In both cases the chief cause of the trouble is indigestion, and the best remedy the removal of that cause by dietetic restrictions—a fast-day or a change from indigestible to more wholesome articles of food. The burning pain can, in the meantime, be relieved by a solution of soda (about a teaspoonful) in a pint of warm water.

(*To be continued.*)

"Guide to Horticulture."

The J. T. Lovett Co., Little Silver, N. J., have gotten out a handsome little brochure, entitled "A Guide to Horticulture," which, besides containing a great deal of new and valuable information, is handsomely illustrated with colored lithographs of small-fruits, etc.

A Hopeless Case.

[*Medical Times.*]

Galligan—Doctor, haven't you been attending on old man Gilfullaw?

Doctor—Yes.

"How is he to day?"

"He is beyond the reach of medical assistance, I fear."

"What! Is he dying?"

"Oh, no. He's broke."

A Matter of Expediency.

[*Chicago Tribune.*]

"Wait a moment outside, Maria. I've got to step in here."

"You ought to have more regard for appearances, John, than to a stop at a drug store on the way to church."

(Fiercely)—It isn't a question of appearances, Maria. It's a question of economy. I've got to buy a cigar or two and get some small change, or else throw this twenty-five cent piece in the contribution box. Do you think I'm a Jay Gould?

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