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# Russia and the Cholera

## Close Guard on the Plague Peculiar Part of Minister Plenipotentiary's Duties . . .

By Andrew D. White . . . . . .

A PECULIAR duty during my last day in St. Petersburg was to watch the approach of cholera, especially on the Persian frontier. Admirable precautions had been taken for securing telegraphic information, and every day I received notices from the foreign office as to the result, which I communicated to Washington. For ages Russia had relied on fetishisms of various kinds to preserve her from epidemics, but at last her leading officials had come to realize the necessity of applying modern science to the problem, and they did this well. In the city "sanitary columns" were established, made up of small squads of officials representing the medical and engineering professions and the police. These visited every nook and corner of the city, and, having extraordinary powers for the emergency, compelled even the most dirty of the population to keep their premises clean. Excellent hospitals and laboratories were established, and of these I learned much from a former Cornell student who held an important position in one of them. Coming to town three or four times a week from my summer cottage in Finland, I was struck by the precautions on the Finnish and other railways; notices of what was to be done to prevent cholera and to meet it in case it appeared were posted everywhere in six different languages; disinfectants were made accessible everywhere; the seats and hangings in the railway cars were covered with leather cloth frequently washed with disinfectants; and to the main trains a hospital car was attached, while a temporary hospital, well equipped, was established at each main station. In spite of this the number in the cholera hospitals at St. Petersburg in the middle of July rose to a very high figure, and the number of deaths each day from cholera was about one hundred

Of these victims the most eminent was Tschaikovsy, the composer, a man of genius and a most charming character, to whom Mr. Andrew Carnegie had introduced me at New York. One evening, at a dinner party, he poured out a goblet of water from a decanter on the table, drank it down, and the next day he was dead. But with this exception the patients were, so far as I learned, almost entirely from the peasant class. Although boiled water was supplied for drinking purposes, and some public-spirited individuals went so far as to set out samovars and the means of supplying hot tea to peasant workmen, the answer of one of the muzhiks when told that he ought to drink boiled water indicated the peasant view: "If God had wished us to drink hot water he would have heated the ..eva."—The Century.

# . . The . .
# Modern .·. Alchemy

## Money Made Nowadays by Care Being Taken That Nothing Be Allowed to Go to Waste.

By William Conger Morgan.

THE chemist examines and scrutinizes every kind of waste the factory puts out, in search for something that can be made of use. Three-fourths of the prepared paints on the market today owe their existence wholly or in part to the by-products of the petroleum industry. Carload after carload of dynamite comes from the glycerine recovered from the "sweet waters" of the candle-manufacturer and the waste of the soap maker. The myriads of buttons used speak of their rise from the hoofs and horns of slaughter-house floors.

The by-products, having been thus called to the aid of the industries, have grown to such proportions as to outrank some of the older interests, and what was formerly waste is today the staple article produced, the former manufactured product having become the by-product. Some are doubtless familiar with the old method of "burning charcoal," in which the wood was piled in heaps, covered with turf, and set on fire. The smoke rose lazily week after week, while the pile was watched day and night lest the fire should break out and consume as well as char. Finally the mound was torn apart and the coal obtained. By this method three-quarters of the weight of the wood disappeared. An investigation proved that an amount of fuel gas equal in weight to the charcoal produced was lost, besides about 1 percent of wood alcohol and acetic acid. One percent seems a small fraction, but in this instance these products are of prime importance. Today the process is entirely changed. The wood is piled on steel cars and run into huge masonry chambers heated by furnaces. Here a few hours accomplish the work of the same number of weeks in the older process. The charcoal stays on the cars while the volatile portions pass off. Lime takes the acid out of the mixture, the alcohol condenses, and the gas is piped around to the furnaces and burned. Should this gas furnish insufficient fuel, the charcoal is burned also, and thus one cord of wood furnishes the means of heating the next.

The process then becomes, not one for the production of charcoal, but for the manufacture of wood-alcohol and acetic acid. This 1 percent of wood-alcohol made in the United States alone in one year is worth $4,000,000, the acetic acid another million, while the whole amount of charcoal produced would sell for less than this last figure.—Harper's Magazine.

# Do Blondes Lack Depth?

By Pauline Lorrington.

SOME one has said that "the best part of beauty is that which no artist can paint." In other words, the mere regular outlines of a beautiful woman's face can be reproduced upon canvas, but the nobility and character underneath can only be suggested. To my mind, any woman can have a sort of doll-baby beauty, particularly in these days of artistic "make-ups," but the really beautiful person is the one whose face is stamped with that indefinable something that holds one's admiration after one has picked to pieces any flaws her features alone may contain.

That is why blondes have never appealed to me, for there is only one blonde in a thousand whose face has any strength whatever, and when a face lacks depth and expression it simply reverts to an inane prettiness, noticeable particularly in milliners' dolls in shop windows. In that respect the tall, dignified, stately brunette, with her imposing air, deer, midnight eyes and manners of an empress, goes far ahead of the little blonde, with her shallow face, whose scope of existence is rarely more than that of a woodland butterfly, while her far more brilliant sister is holding the reins of the world.

A blonde seldom wears. See her once and you've seen her as she always is; but in the face of a brunette one is always discovering some new depth and change as one can watch the varying colors of the chameleon. A blonde is like a water-color; the handsome brunette resembles rather an oil painting of one of the old masters.

The woman whose soul shines through her face—the really great woman—is the brunette. No beauty can rival hers, for no beauty is so lasting.—New York American.

# How to Read

By H. M. Alden, Editor of Harper's Magazine.

READING is not a lost art to the same degree that conversation is, but it has in most cases an arrested development through so much reading that makes no demand upon aesthetic sensibility, so that one is apt to bring to a fine story full of delicate shades of thought and feeling, the same mind which he yields to a newspaper, putting a blunt interrogation as to its meaning as conveyed in the terms of a rational proposition, and the writer's charm is wholly lost upon him.

While the reader's surrender to the author must be complete, his attitude should not be passive, but that of active responsiveness and partnership. This reception involves that quick selection we spoke of a while ago as contrasted with the slow and contractile prehension of the plodding reader. We had in view a vital selection, a kind of divination, not a selection implying inattention or neglect as in cursory reading. Kant is said to have read books by a scrutiny of their table of contents, but this analytical selection would hardly be applicable to real literature.

### Pennsylvania Thanksgiving.

There is something wrong with the custom which ordains that Thanksgiving day shall be observed in November. In Pennsylvania, at least, the day after the adjournment of the legislature would be more appropriate.—Philadelphia Record.

Jewels worth £6000 were found hidden in an old clock which a Hungarian student bought from a banker, at Fiume, Austria, for two shillings.

### Americans at Oxford.

The American is so accustomed to different kinds of men and is withal so democratic that when he goes to Oxford he amiably adopts all the high-bred conventions of the place exactly as he would adopt all the less conventional conventions of Deadwood.

In England last year out of 11,000 criminals who felt the law's severity, only nine were sentenced to be whipped.

# FARM AND GARDEN

### THE FARM HOT-BEDS.

A hot-bed consists of a rectangular frame made of boards ten inches wide in front and fourteen in back, placed on their edges and nailed together, the end pieces being bevelled off and the whole covered with sash, such as old windows.

The beds are made in a convenient location facing the south, as on a hillside. If sheltered at the north by a hedge or fence much more heat will be available.

A sufficient quantity of fresh horse droppings containing the long straw or leaves is piled up under cover, wet down occasionally if necessary, and turned every day for ten days or two weeks. Then it will be ready for the beds if the odor is sweet and agreeable. This material is to furnish the heat, through decay, for three or four months.

The frame-work is set on the ground at the desired place and the enclosed space is dug out to a depth of 3½ to 4 feet. The soil thrown out can be used to advantage in banking around the frame. The manure is then placed in this excavation, layer by layer, until within six inches of the surface of the ground, each layer being packed down till firm and level. A layer of three parts good garden loam to one part of rottened manure follows, deep enough to bring the whole to a level with the ground. The sash is put on and the bed is left until sticks left thrust in, show on being held in the hand, a diminishing temperature.

The bed may be planted at any time after this, doing it on bright, hot days, at the brightest, hottest time. There is a great variety of things that can be grown. Lettuce plants may be started, or those previously started in the house may be put out; radishes sown between, or lettuce seed for a second crop. Strawberries may be forced in them. Dwarf beans, celery, parsley, early peas, herbs, etc., can be started, and even brought to maturity. But for the farm it provides a means of starting cabbage and tomatoes, two very necessary crops.

When these plants are off, the bed will still furnish heat enough to mature a crop of mushrooms, or better, some cucumber or melon seeds planted will give an abundance of fine early fruit.

Careful watering and care to leave a crack of air always on to take off the "sweat" is all the care necessary other than careful ventilating on bright days so that the temperature will not rise so high that it is unfavorable to the crop in them. Wooden shutters and straw mats are a valuable addition for covering the sash on stormy days or cold nights.

If you have never tried a hot-bed make up one this year and see for yourself the help one of these miniature greenhouses is. On many large, private estates the gardeners have no other means for supplying cauliflowers, lettuce, mushrooms, strawberries and other vegetables and fruits out of season, when such things are in demand, to say nothing of growing a succession of flowers.—R. L. Adams in Massachusetts Ploughman.

### SMALL PASTURES MORE DESIRABLE.

A very common practice among old farmers was to make their pastures as large as possible, claiming that there was a great saving in the way of fencing and that there was comparatively little difference in grazing a small or large pasture. This has been found to be quite an erroneous idea and the demand now is for small pastures and frequent changes. All kinds of stock have been found to do better when given a change of pasture every few days. When stock is confined too long on one pasture it becomes scented and they do not seem to relish it as well as they do new, fresh pastures. There is also a great saving in pasture by using small fields, in this way: when frequent changes are made, the grass is not so liable to become so rank in places that they will not eat it, a condition which almost invariably arises when stock is allowed the range of large fields. Especially is frequent change desirable for sheep and when not given them, they do not thrive as they should; turning on fresh pasture even when no better than the one from which they have been changed seems to give them a new start. He who changes his flock frequently during a year will find that his sheep have made much better gains than those of his neighbor who has confined them mostly to one pasture. By having small fields it is possible to have a variety of grasses, which is so desirable in the forming of pastures for any animal. Of all kinds of live stock there is none which is so wasteful a grazer as the hog and he should only be allowed access to as much grass as he will keep well cropped. Allow him the range of one field ten days or two weeks and then change to another and you will find that he seems to like the change very much, as he finds the fresh grass tender and sweet.—T. W. Jones in the Epitomist.

### THE BREEDING STOCK.

If the hens and the males to be used for breeding purposes have been properly wintered there ought to be no trouble in hatching chicks which will thrive; on the other hand, if the males have been kept half starved, or have been so placed that they have spent the winter in fighting each other, they are not in condition for mating. If the hens and pullets have been short on exercise, have been overfed or underfed, have occupied damp, dark houses, they are not in condition to produce eggs which are fit for hatching.

Turn attention to the breeding stock now and first of all see that the feeding and care of the female is what it should be. Have the house comfortable, but also have plenty of ventilation and find some way to force her to take needed exercise; cut off on the corn feed and increase the wheat and other muscle-making grains. As for the males, place them where they too may be well cared for and fed, so as to get up the greatest amount of energy and vitality before they are turned in with the hens. No work in the poultry business is more important than this now, for the future of the flock may depend upon how well the breeding stock is brought up to the highest perfection. —Indianapolis News.

### GINSENG GARDENING.

The culture of ginseng is now carried on successfully in all parts of this country. It is not confined to its native home, the forest, but the prairie now produces "sang" (pronounced sang.) This is not a business for men only but women and children now own and tend the gardens. The size of these gardens depends on the ability of the owner to tend them, ranging from the miniature pots of a few hundred plants to immense nurseries of several hundred thousand plants and whose value runs well up towards the hundred thousand dollar mark. The supply of wild root is nearing extinction and as a result, the owners of ginseng gardens find good money not only in producing the root for market but also in supplying seeds and roots to stock other gardens. An idea can be had of the immense yield of an acre when it is understood that they are planted very close—four to six inches. Seeds appear the second year and roots are of marketable size in four to six years. Dry roots are quoted at $1 to $5 per pound while green roots for nursery stock sell for several times that amount. At the same time the plant is producing each year after the second, seeds which are worth nearly a nickel each.—The Epitomist.

### THE EWES IN SPRING.

During recent years it has been a practice to clip as soon as possible after the lambing season, and we have been well satisfied with the result. The wool presents a much better appearance and is free from weak spots. It is well known that it is difficult to keep a good milking ewe from going down in flesh, and this is sure to weaken the strength of the staple. The ewes must necessarily be stabled much of the time, and the lambs soon begin to tramp over them when lying, which soils and injures the wool. We clip without washing and select a mild spell of weather for doing it, and when they have been clipped for a few days a cold flurry does not seem to affect them; but if out when a rain comes they rapidly gather to the shed, and this is a decided advantage to the lambs, as they will often remain out, if not clipped, until the lamb is very cold. After clipping both the ewes and lambs seem to improve more rapidly.

### GOOD FOR THE HORSES.

Sveral are complaining that indigestion is ailing work horses which have not had much to do the past winter and have had no sufficient or green food. Under such conditions horses that are suffering from indigestion may be given, a good veterinarian says, two pounds of green flax seed, eight ounces of powdered nitre, four ounces of powdered gentian, five ounces of ginger, four ounces of powdered anise seed. Mix together thorough. Dose a heaping tablespoonful once a day in the grain. The tonic may be discontinued after ten days if the horse is given an abundance of light exercise daily. Some green succulent feed is what they need. Some cut carrots, potatos, or beets would be good mixed in a bran mash.—Indiana Farmer.

### GOOD SOWS.

In the selection of sows there are a few points which should be sought for in addition to those mentioned as requisite in the boar. Sows should be docile and have at least twelve teats of equal size, evenly placed, and carried well forward on the belly. Large flat teats are invariably blind, i. e. they possess no milk duct. Young sows should also be of good size and quality. Care should be taken to ascertain if their dams have been good milkers, as this quality is hereditary. A young sow should get plenty of exercise until she is ready for breeding, which is at the age of about eight months.

### His Idea of Good Company.

The late General William Preston, one of the most genial and hospitable of Kentuckians, was noted for his ability to absorb a conversation without attracting attention or giving offense.

Once, having traveled from Louisville to his home in Lexington, he was greeted at the railroad station by several friends, who expressed the hope that his journey had been a pleasant one. "I enjoyed it very much," said General Preston, "for I had the companionship of the most entertaining young man I ever met. I found his society so delightful that I was sorry when I bade him farewell here on the platform."

"Who was he?" was the inquiry.

"I can't recall his name just now, though I am sure he mentioned it; but there he is," said the General, pointing to a youth who by his unerring accuracy in lip-reading was regarded as the most intelligent deaf mute in the State, but who never in his life had been able to hear or to utter a sound.—Sunday Magazine.

The Japanese government is placing large orders for metal and wood-working machinery in this country.

A salmon on which all the spots are in the shape of a shamrock was caught in Ireland the other day.

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