PLAGUE SPOTS IN THE CITY.

WHERE DISEASE IS BRED OR FOSTERED.

THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH SERIOUS NUISANCES EXIST—EFFECTS OF THE OFFAL-RENDERING WORKS OF THE EAST SIDE ON THE HEALTH OF THIS CITY—OPINIONS OF THE HEALTH OFFICERS—WHAT PHYSICIANS SAY ABOUT THESE PLACES.

There are certain neighborhoods in this city which seem to be centres of disease. There are places where epidemics appear first and where they rage with the greatest violence. They seem to be the home of zymotic and contagious diseases. From these districts come the earliest reports of diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever and small-pox, and within these limits occur the greatest numbers of deaths. It would seem as if a baneful shadow hung constantly over these parts of the city. Maps in the Health Department marking the places where different diseases have prevailed show ominous red and blue spots thickly dotting the blocks in these quarters. These indications are so clustered together that a glance shows the centralization of disease. For different diseases, year after year, these maps tell the same story. From them, therefore, the extent of these neighborhoods can be learned.

The quarters where disease runs riot most freely—the plague spots of the city—are three in number. These may be roughly outlined as follows: On the East Side from about Thirty-fifth to Sixtieth-sts., east of Third-ave; on the West Side, between the same streets west of Ninth-ave.; and the crowded tenement-house district lying between Grand-st. and Tompkins Square, east of Third-ave. Sanitary maps show a larger number of cases of zymotic and contagious diseases in these districts than in any others in the city of similar size. The reports of typhoid fever and diphtheria for the last three months confirm this showing. At the present time disease is especially prevalent in the Western district. The diseases bred and fostered within these limits creep out and are disseminated through the city. For the marked unhealthiness of these quarters there must be reasons. These are said to be, in addition to filthy streets and defective sewerage, the slaughter-houses, offal-rendering and fat-trying establishments on the East and West Sides above Thirty-fifth-st., and the overcrowded houses of the poor population between Grand-st. and Tompkins Square.

With the first of the districts this article has to deal.

THE EAST SIDE.

In regard to the offal-rendering works on the East Side, the Sanitary Superintendent said to a TRIBUNE reporter recently: "All these places are carefully watched and thoroughly inspected. Of course, if this were not done the owners and workmen would easily become negligent. A sanitary inspector makes a round once a week, and an inspector is promptly sent whenever complaints reach us."

"Complaints are sometimes sent in about smells, are they not?" he was asked.

"Yes, but it is difficult for people to describe smells and always hard to fix them."

"Do you know whether any depreciation in real estate has been caused by these bad odors?"

"I do not know of any, and it is not a subject with which I have anything to do."

"How many slaughter-houses are there in the city?"

"Forty-five; and they are distributed along both the East and West Side above Thirty-fifth-st. On the East Side most of the slaughter-houses are collected between Forty-third and Forty-seventh-sts., east of First-ave. There are three large melting-shops, each doing the work for several slaughter-houses. They are compelled to do the trying-out very quickly, otherwise the houses would become an intolerable nuisance."

Two long maps of the city were here unrolled upon the table. The cases of diphtheria and typhoid fever reported for October and November were indicated by red and blue spots. The centre of the city seemed comparatively clear, even taking into consideration the lines of business blocks in Broadway and Sixth-ave. Between Thirty-fifth and Sixtieth-sts., east of Third-ave., the dots were sprinkled about thickly, and from Fortieth to Forty-eighth-sts., in the immediate neighborhood of the slaughter-houses and rendering works, these ominous spots appeared in almost every block, sometimes nearly covering it.

"Do you trace any connection between the prevalence of these diseases here and the offal-rendering?" asked the reporter.

"None whatever," replied the Sanitary Superintendent. "I have studied this subject for years, and I believe these places are not causes of disease, as they might appear. Properly watched they have no bad effect."

DIFFERENT OPINIONS.

This assurance is at variance with the views of many of the most prominent physicians of the city. In the recent report made by the Committee on Hygiene to the Medical Society of the County of New-York, offal-rendering shops and factories giving off noxious smoke and smells were strongly condemned as injurious to the public health. A move was made to induce the Board of Health to proceed against such places as public nuisances. The statistics of disease from this eastern quarter of the city appear significant. Between Thirty-fifth and Sixtieth-sts., east of Third-ave., there were reported in September five cases of typhoid fever, in October seven of typhoid fever and thirty-six of diphtheria, and in November five cases of typhoid fever and thirty-seven of diphtheria. By some physicians it is considered that there is immediate danger of an epidemic of diphtheria arising and sweeping through the city.

There are other maps that have been made out at different times in the last eight years, when there have been many cases of disease, like small-pox or scarlet fever, and an epidemic has been feared. Dividing the city into eight or ten parts, these maps show a great number of deaths on the East Side opposite Hunter's Point and further up. This is, of course, taking into account the deduction that should be made for the death rate of Blackwell's Island. In this Eastern district, during the hottest weather of last summer, the mortality was strongly marked. It is not generally known that for the week ending July 3, 1880, the death-rate of New-York, 56.20 to the 1,000 on an estimated population of 1,200,000, was the largest of any city in the world reporting the number of deaths. Further, in the last year the amount of sickness and contagious disease has largely increased over 1879.

A prominent physician has invented the term "civic malaria" to cover malarial, typho-malarial and miasmatic diseases caused by filth, bad drainage and bad smells. Under miasmatic diseases a leading medical authority, Bartholow, includes cholera, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal meningitis. Many physicians, therefore, recognizing the causation of these diseases by various forms of filth, are earnestly opposed to the offal-rendering places as well as emphatic in their condemnation of the condition of many streets.

TALK WITH A WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIAN.

In speaking of the Eastern district before alluded to, a well-known physician said recently to a TRIBUNE reporter: "We physicians, or many of us, believe these offal-rendering works are exercising a deadly influence. It is impossible to carry on such trades without the escape of noxious gases and vapors. And that this is the case is proven by the experience of many persons living on the East Side from Thirtieth-st. up. Sometime ago there was a complaint made of the smells and relief was promised. But that very night occurred the most horrible nuisance we had ever had. People who had opened their windows to admit the air were forced to close them, and keep their houses as nearly hermetically sealed as possible. Invalids were made much worse, and delicate women were turned fairly sick. Now, it is sometimes said that these smells come from Hunter's Point. This is not so in all cases. Many foul odors arise from the works in New-York. Above Thirtieth-st., along the east side of Murray Hill and further up, is high ground. It is, perhaps, the most desirable part of the city for building purposes. There are long lines of fine brick and brownstone houses. But property here has depreciated in value; the neighborhood is not considered particularly desirable. This is on account of the frequent blasts of foul vapors that sweep up from the river banks. The removal of these melting houses and abattoirs would greatly increase the value of property on the high ground west of them.

"Another cause of ill health not confined to the east or west sides of the city is the fact that the subsoil of the city is contaminated by bad drainage, obstructed underground water-courses, the filling of low places with street sweepings, the leakage from sewers, cesspools and gaspipes, and the soakage from filthy streets and gutters. The pavements of streets and cellars are not so close but that exhalations of poisonous gases arise. On the extreme east and west sides, and in the centre of the tenement-house district this is especially true. The vapors from sewer openings, from the soil near wharves and the docks for dumping manure, street sweepings and garbage tend greatly to the increase of disease.

"These offal works on the East Side are not proceeded against because a large amount of property is represented—property which is combined and ready to defend itself. That they are injurious is shown not only by the smells, but by the many disorders in the neighborhood around them, and the great death rate. The same story is repeated in every epidemic that visits the city."

A GLANCE AT THE EAST SIDE.

Walking up First-ave. from Thirty-fifth-st., the space from the avenue to the river is seen for several blocks to be occupied with lumber yards and the places of dealers in hay. Along the west side of the avenue are long blocks of tenement houses. Towering above them are lines of more elegant houses, built on high ground, rising abruptly from the avenue, which overlook the river. The pavement is broken and irregular. In wet weather pools of water cover a part of the mud and straw. At Forty-second-st. there is usually a lake of fetid water. Above this the aspect of the sides of the avenue changes. The tenement houses on the west side give place to shops for the sale of butchers' implements. On the east side the apology for a sidewalk, consisting of broken flagstones and mud, changes to a pavement littered with straw and the refuse from the stables. Low wooden buildings are ranged along the avenue. Porches, in many cases, project in front—built out over the walk. To pass here is something difficult and often impossible. In some of these porches are groves of slaughtered animals. The visitor finds himself among scores of dangling beeves and sheep. Numbers of wagons are constantly drawn up before these buildings, both in the avenue and in the side streets leading down to the river. Men dart across the sidewalks carrying huge masses of quivering flesh upon their shoulders.

Entering these shops, which form the front of the slaughter-houses, a narrow passageway only can be found between the long lines of butchered cattle and sheep which hang artistically dressed from hooks inserted in large beams. Behind these places are compartments where the dressing is carried on. Here brawny men, equipped in rubber trousers and aprons, bare-armed and covered with blood, wield keen glittering knives with a savage dexterity. The place is slippery and steaming with hot blood. Behind this is a court yard, where cattle or sheep (separate slaughtering houses exist for each) await their doom. The pavement is littered with straw and filth, and at one end is red with blood. Though considerable care is exercised by the butchers, absolute cleanliness seems impossible. After the animal is killed the dressers begin their work. The entrails are put in barrels and taken to the melting houses. Here are huge vats filled with an unwholesome sodden mass which is undergoing the process of trying-out. These large rendering works do most of the work for these slaughtering houses. The overseer of one said that he disposed of the offal from 2,000 cattle daily. He was asked by the reporter if he considered the work unhealthy.

"Not at all," he replied. "The work's all right. See those men. They look well, but they've all been working here a long time. It agrees with 'em."

Whether their apparent health was on account of this work or in spite of it, he did not say. Steam was rising from the vats, and the smoke of the trying-out fires was pouring out into the outside air. These places are behind the abattoirs on the very banks of the river. The side streets leading down to the river are strewn with stable refuse despite the efforts made by the butchers to keep them clean. Cattle and sheep yards scattered among these buildings often present an appearance which might well inspire the animals with a desire for speedy death. In the atmosphere rising from all these noxious collections dressed beef and mutton are freely exposed.

Cellars and basements are used in the various details of the work. From Forty-third to Forty-seventh-sts., east of First-ave., every kind of process connected with butchering is carried on both above and below the ground, which is only a little above the level of the river. Here, in addition to the bad effects from the offal-rendering works, there are said to be exhalations from the soakage of defective sewers and gutters. At Forty-sixth-st. are garbage dumps which are regarded as a serious nuisance. After a visit to these scenes of horror and filth it seemed little wonder to the reporter that physicians condemn the neighborhood as causing miasmatic and malarial diseases, and an occasional experience of the odors was convincing proof that the complaints of the inhabitants of the East Side have a real cause for existence.

MURDERED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

FATAL AFFRAY AT ROCKAWAY BEACH.

A LABORING MAN DELIBERATELY SHOT BY A LIQUOR SELLER WITH WHOM HE HAD A SLIGHT QUARREL—APPARENTLY NO PROVOCATION FOR THE MURDER.

Henry L. Griffing is the proprietor of the Grove House, in Remsen-ave., Rockaway Beach. He is one of the few liquor sellers on the beach who keep their places open the year round. Since the building of the mammoth hotel began his house, especially on pay days, has been the scene of many riotings. Most of the other liquor sellers in the neighborhood when pay day arrived, fearing trouble, would close their places, but Griffing always said that he was able to take care of his place and himself too. When under the influence of liquor he is violent and greatly feared. Friday night he was out with a party of friends, and, it is alleged, drank heavily. Yesterday morning, about 10 o'clock, Henry Maher, a laboring man, about twenty-nine years of age, who has been at work on the beach since Monday last for John D. S. O'Brien, in company with three other of O'Brien's workmen, went to Griffing's place to look for O'Brien to get money with which to enjoy the holiday. They found him in the barroom, and he treated them. Maher called for beer, which was given him. Griffing asserts that Maher found fault because the glass was not full. Griffing told him to "stop his chin music," or he would make him.

Griffing alleges that Maher then drew a knife and threatened to cut his heart out, and made several attempts to go behind the bar. Griffing then clinched with him, and in the struggle was cut with a bottle or knife, when he drew his pistol, and as Maher was leaving the house fired four shots at him. Then seeing that Maher was coming back in the room, he took a double-barrelled gun, and going to the door, while Maher was on the stoop, he discharged both barrels at him, the shot striking him in the breast and killing him instantly.

Maher's friends say that when they went into Griffing's place there were several persons there, and when he and Griffing had words about the beer, one "Paul" Close went behind the bar and began to throw bottles and glasses, one of which struck Griffing, who then drew his pistol and shot at Maher as he was going out of the house, and that after Maher had reached the street Griffing went to the door with his gun, and, taking deliberate aim, fired. Not until 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon were the authorities at Jamaica informed of the murder. Coroner William D. Wood and Officer John D. Smith at once drove to the beach. Griffing was found in bed and placed under arrest. An examination of Griffing by Dr. Wood failed to show any knife cuts on his head or body, but he had evidently been drinking hard. A jury was empanelled last evening and the inquest adjourned until Tuesday.

THROWN FROM THE TRACK.

An accident happened yesterday morning to the 6:15 train from Northport, L. I., for Hunter's Point, by which the engineer, fireman and brakeman narrowly escaped instant death. The train consisted of a combined baggage and mail car, a smoking car, one milk car and a drawing-room car, drawn by engine No. 11. The train was in charge of Conductor Losea; George Rich was the engineer and Edward McCarthy the fireman. The train left Northport on time and all went well until Rich blew the whistle for the crossing at Hicksville. Both brakemen at this time were riding in the baggage car, and they at once hurried to their posts on the passenger cars to apply the brakes and cut them off for the Lakeland connection, while the engine and baggage and milk cars ran on out of the way, to follow the Lakeland train an hour later. The brakemen had scarcely reached the car platforms when they were thrown to the ground with such violence as to render them unconscious. They escaped with a few bruises. At the place of the accident the Long Island Railroad and the Northport branch run in different directions, and the Northport train had just got on the curve when the wheels of the forward truck of the engine mounted the rails at the switch with such force as to break the flanges and make a deep cut in the rail. The engine followed the rail for about five feet, and then took the ties, and slowing, went down the embankment, turning completely over and around. It was almost completely demolished. At the time of the accident the train was not running faster than fifteen miles an hour. As soon as possible search was made for the engineer and fireman. Rich and McCarthy were found lying in the cab under the debris, held down by the weight of the driving-wheels and fire-box. The fireman's left leg lay across the engineer's neck. After an hour's hard work the men were extricated. When taken out they showed no signs of life. Dr. Row, who was present, took them in charge, and soon restored them to consciousness. Rich was injured internally. McCarthy's left leg was broken in two places, and will have to be amputated.

"BUSINESS."—Belle (she had tried him on the Royal Academy and "Grosvenor," the decoration of the ball-room, the last novels, music and the drama, operas, etc.—couldn't get an idea out of him. Happy thought!—perhaps he's a politico): "Is there any news in the City this morning?" Beau (brightening up): "Ah! gray shirtings stiffened, export yarns hardened and flax steady at Friday's currencies." (He was purely commercial.)—Punch.

SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL.—(Scene—Office in Dublin Life Insurance.)—Surgeon of the Company: "Heart and liver sound as a bell. Be Gorge, ye've the fomest life I ever saw, sor! What's your business, or profession, now?" Applicant: "I haven't got any." Surgeon: "Fwhat! ye don't mean to say ye've got land?" Applicant: "A few acres." Surgeon: "Faith! thin I'm sorry for ye! Be ye won't do for us!" (Certificate refused.)—[Punch.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE FORGED CHECK TRANSACTIONS.

MORE ARRESTS IN BROOKLYN—HOW MRS. TRAU RECEIVED THE CHECKS.

Mrs. Josephine Trau, the woman from whom C. A. Runkle received the alleged forged checks on the Commercial Bank of Brooklyn, Friday, was arrested yesterday morning at Westbury, L. I., near Jamaica, by Detective Chambers and Officer Burns, of the First Precinct, Brooklyn, and taken to the police station, where she made a long statement to Captain Campbell. She said that a man named Steele, from whom she says she got the checks, drove to her farm at Westbury early in November, in response to a letter from her answering his advertisement, and had some conversation in regard to buying her farm. She asked $10,000 for the property. After making several appointments which he did not keep, Mrs. Trau met Steele at the Brooklyn Post Office, and he, after much discussion, agreed to give her $9,000 for the farm, of which $3,000 was to be in cash. She referred him to her agent, Adolph Bessie, of No. 786 Monroe-st., Brooklyn. Bessie subsequently paid her $50, which he said Steele had paid him, he retaining the papers until she should order them recorded. On the morning of December 22 she saw Steele again. He said that he could not pay her the full amount, but gave her a check for $1,800, promising to give her the remainder at 2:30 p. m. She wished the matter settled, but he pleaded some trouble with his brother-in-law which would prevent his having enough money in bank until that time. His brother-in-law, he said, was a member of one of the best known firms in Brooklyn, and "as good as gold." He gave the name of Baird.

After some time Mrs. Trau found a Mr. Davis, who identified her at the bank, and she drew the money, $1,800. About 4 o'clock she again met Steele, who alleged more trouble with his relatives as the reason for his not having the money promised, and said that he could not carry out his contract unless she gave him $1,000, for which he offered her a new mortgage on the farm for the amount and his note at thirty days. He then gave her a check for $1,150 for the remainder of the purchase money, and she gave him $1,000 in bank notes. Her agent, Bessie, told her that the check was probably all right. When she had trouble in getting it cashed, she telegraphed to Bessie not to record the deed, but found later that he had recorded it already. Besides the $50, which she said she paid to Mr. Bessie, and which he acknowledges receiving, she claimed that she paid Mrs. Bessie $100.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bessie were brought into Captain Campbell's private room yesterday afternoon, and Mrs. Bessie denied receiving any money whatever from Mrs. Trau. Mrs. Trau was in great distress and almost burst into tears. Mr. Bessie said that Mrs. Trau was usually very careful, but he thought that she had been duped through trying to conduct the business herself.

Mrs. Trau describes Steele as a man about 5 feet 10 inches in height, bald at the front of the head, with sandy moustache and side whiskers. He wore when he came to Westbury a diamond pin in his shirt front, a sealskin cap and a brown ulster. He gave his place of residence at a subsequent interview as Sheffield-ave., East New-York.

AN APOCRYPHAL STORY FROM HARLEM.

The story is current in Harlem that an old man living to that part of the city was almost the victim of internal combustion a few days ago. He was suffering from rheumatism, and was told that kerosene oil taken internally would relieve him. He swallowed a wineglassful, and soon feeling better, filled his pipe for a comfortable smoke. As he lighted it he saw a blue flame playing between the match and his lips and felt a stinging sensation within his mouth and throat. Hastily blowing on the match his breath ignited and a ribbon of the flame extended the distance of a yard from his lips, while the burning within increased. He immediately closed his mouth and placed his fingers on his nostrils, thus extinguishing the flame. He believes that but for his presence of mind he would have met a horrible death. Some of his neighbors believe so too; others are sceptical about the occurrence.

PROBABLY HIS LAST CHRISTMAS DINNER.

As one of the keepers in the Richmond County Jail yesterday handed Edward Reinhardt, the wife murderer, who is sentenced to be hanged January 14, his Christmas dinner, the condemned man remarked: "This may and may not be my last Christmas dinner. But I hope not." Reinhardt's appetite keeps good, and he dispatched the meal apparently with much relish. He has hopes of his counsel being able to do something to save him yet. At any rate he does not believe that he will be hanged next month. Although the day set for the execution is less than a month off, Sheriff Connor has not yet made any arrangements for carrying out the sentence. It is generally believed among lawyers that the exceptions filed by Reinhardt's counsel will have no effect, and that the condemned man will have to suffer the death penalty two weeks from next Friday, after having been confined in jail over two years.

QUEENS COUNTY TAXES.

The collectors of taxes in Queens County will begin their sittings in the towns January 3. The county expenses amount to $197,525 70. The total amount to be raised in the county for all purposes is $518,187 13. Of this sum Oyster Bay raises $56,931 63; Hempstead, $57,187 13; North Hempstead, $46,380 03; Jamaica, $62,836 86; Newtown, $103,370 49; Flushing, $111,213 59; Long Island City, $80,796 55. The burden of Long Island City is very heavy, being in the aggregate $261,041 55, twice as much as the expenses of the county and towns combined. The interest on the city debt is $59,620, and the cost of the public schools $35,025. It costs $17,000 to light the streets with kerosene oil. The county this year will pay off the last of the volunteer and substitute loan. On account of the war debt the sum of $15,087 17 of the principal and $13,297 84 of interest will be paid.

MONEY FOR THE HOSPITALS.

To-day is the last day on which charitably inclined people will have the opportunity of contributing to the fund of the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Committee. For the last week boxes have been placed at Elevated Railway stations, in ferry-houses, and in many instances in bar-rooms, thus affording everybody the opportunity of contributing. Liberal additions to the fund are promised by the Stock, Produce and other Exchanges, insurance companies, brewers and others. Lester Wallack is to give a special benefit performance in aid of the work some time next month, the gross receipts of which will be turned into the general fund. About 700 boxes have been distributed, and the contributions are believed to be large. The National Express Company has delivered all the boxes free of charge, and the American Express Company has agreed to collect and return on the same terms.

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The suit of Edwin R. Harwood against the Old Gentlemen's Unsectarian Home at Mott Haven was tried Friday in the Ninth District Civil Court. Mr. Harwood entered the Home in October, paying his board for three months in advance. After the removal of the institution to Mott Haven he became dissatisfied, and, desiring to leave it, he demanded the return of his money beyond the amount for the time he had remained. This was refused, and the suit was brought, the main point of the action being that the contract between the Home and himself was violated by its removal without his consent. At the trial charges were made against the management of the institution, which, however, were rebutted by some of the inmates. Justice McGown reserved his decision.

POLO ON ROLLER SKATES.

A lively game of polo on roller skates took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Rink. Captain F. W. Hume commanded the blues and Captain W. H. Griffen the reds. The game began at 9 o'clock and lasted twenty minutes. After a hot contest the reds captured the first goal; the second fell to their opponents. Brilliant plays on both sides brought out frequent applause from the spectators. The next game will be played Thursday evening.

The rink of the Manhattan Polo Association will be closed for a day or two, in order to flood the ice for a new surface. The proposed illumination by calcium lights to-morrow evening is, of course, postponed.

SUICIDE OF A STREET SWEEPER.

Thomas Rooney, age sixty-two, a street sweeper, cut his throat yesterday, at No. 407 West Thirty-ninth-st., and died. He began the day by getting drunk, smashed the furniture and drove his wife from the house. She sought refuge in her son's house. When she returned in the afternoon, she found her husband dead on the floor. He had stabbed himself two or three times with a pair of large scissors and had finished his work with a razor. Three years ago, he attempted twice, while intoxicated, to poison himself.

WHITE-FISH EGGS FOR GERMANY.

There were 250,000 eggs of the white-fish of the great lakes shipped yesterday by the steamer Donau, of the North German Lloyd Line. They were sent by the Board of United States Commissioners of Fisheries to the German Fisheries Association of Berlin, in exchange for a return shipment from the Berlin Association of different species of eggs of fishes peculiar to Germany, which will be introduced into the waters of this country.

SERIOUS AFFRAY AT FLUSHING.

In an altercation between George Shrader and August Hillof last evening, in the barroom of the latter, at Flushing, L. I., Shrader drew a razor and cut several gashes in Hillof's throat, inflicting injuries which may prove fatal.

SLIGHT DEFICIENCY IN ACCOUNTS.

In regard to a rumor that money belonging to the Government in the Custom House was missing in the cashier's office, Collector Merritt states that deficiencies under $800 have been discovered, which he suggested may arise from clerical errors. An inquiry had been instituted. He thought yesterday that it would be found that some mistake had been made, which, considering the large amount of money received at the Custom House, was almost unavoidable.

HOME NEWS.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Westminster Hotel—Captain Hamilton Perry, of the steamship Britannic.....*Everett House*—The Hon James S. Pike, of Maine.

NEW-YORK CITY.

The City Hall branch of the Elevated Road carried few passengers yesterday.

A card in a Broadway window advertises gloves which "will not rip or tare."

The storm Friday night delayed the arrival of the Sound steamers yesterday morning.

A branch of the Parnell Land League has been established in the annexed district.

On some of the ferry boats it is necessary to light a match to see if the gas is burning.

The keeper of the City Hall turns the gas out in the City Hall clock-tower long before daybreak.

The police in the annexed district go bravely on capturing and impounding vagabond geese.

"Slang Made Easy" is the title of a new book published to express the uncouth phrases used by thieves and college students.

A student of the University of the City of New-York conducts religious services in the Hebrew language every morning before college hours.

FOUND DEAD IN A STABLE.

Martin Bailey, a homeless man, was seen entering a stable at No. 62½ Watt-st., on Christmas Eve. He was drunk at the time. Yesterday his dead body was found in the straw.

ALL FOR ONE CENT.

The one cent extra fare is causing war between the Harlem and Fordham Street Railway and residents in the annexed district. Many walk long distances rather than patronize the road.

SUPPOSED INDICATION OF A MILD WINTER.

A resident of Fort Washington for some years has kept land-tortoises in his yard. He has noticed that when the winters have been severe and prolonged the tortoises have buried themselves deep in the ground. This year they have scarcely covered themselves.

BURGLARS IN A SHOE STORE.

Burglars broke into the shoe store of Joseph Palitil, at No. 394 Water-st., Friday night, and stole shoes valued at $21. Not long after the discovery had been made George McGuinness was found in a hall in Cherry-st., with a pair of the stolen shoes and two pairs of old boots in his possession. He was arrested.

A STORMY VOYAGE.

The German bark Albers, which arrived yesterday from Hamburg, had a stormy passage. From November 12 to 28 the weather was very rough, and on November 25 the sails were split and destroyed by a hurricane. The winds and weather were variable during nearly the whole passage, which occupied fifty-one days.

A RESPECTABLE WOMAN SHOPLIFTING.

Mrs. Emma Denaing, a well-dressed woman, was seen Friday afternoon by James P. Masterson, a clerk for Altman & Co., in Sixth-ave., stealing small articles from the counters in the store. He caused her arrest, and when searched a bottle of eau de cologne and three new pocketbooks were found in her possession. She was arraigned before Justice Wandell, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, and having nothing to say in answer to the charge, was held to answer in $200 bail. Her husband appeared in court, and was deeply affected by the conduct of his wife, which he was unable to explain, as he always supplied her liberally with money. He believed she must have been temporarily deranged at the time.

BROOKLYN.

The Prospect Park lake was open for skating yesterday. This is the first time there has been skating on Christmas Day for many years. The snow had been cleared off and a large crowd visited the lake during the day.

A State camp-fire of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held Tuesday at Everett Hall, in Fulton-st., under the auspices of Rankin Post, No. 10. The State Department Commander, L. Coe Young, with his staff and representatives of the different posts of the State, will be among the guests.

Two children of Alfred Carlson, of No. 212 Stuyvesant-ave., have mysteriously disappeared, and the parents are in great distress over their loss. One, a bright boy, thirteen years old, was sent on an errand October 14, 1879, and has never been traced despite thorough search by his friends and the police. Last Thursday Mrs. Carlson sent her daughter, eleven years old, to take home some work to a house in Franklin-ave., and nothing has since been heard of her. The parents believe that the children have been kidnapped.

STATEN ISLAND.

EDGEWATER.—The laborers employed by the village of Edgewater were made happy, Friday, by being paid the entire amount due them.

RICHMOND.—Dr. Ephraim Clark has been reappointed physician to the Richmond County Jail at an increased salary.

HUDSON RIVER TOWNS.

EAST CHESTER.—Suits have been brought against the sureties of Matthew Horan, the late Receiver of Taxes for the Town of East Chester, to recover about $12,000, the amount of Horan's alleged defalcation.

JERSEY CITY.

Chief of Police Murphy was presented yesterday with a frame containing the pictures of Inspector Lange, Clerk Robinson, Captains Farrier, Edmondson, Glenny and McKeag, and those of the Police Headquarters detectives. The presentation speech was made by Justice Pelouhet.

LONG ISLAND.

EAST JAMAICA.—The district school-house at East Jamaica was broken open Friday night and the library and school books were stolen.

NEWTOWN.—The Episcopal Sunday-school building in the village of Newtown was built in 1735, and is still in a good state of preservation.

BALDWIN'S.—William Crossman, of Baldwin's, was robbed, Friday evening, of $80 by a fellow-workman, who broke open his trunk. The thief left $50 on the top of the trunk.

HEMPSTEAD.—About 5,000 bushels of oysters are shipped weekly from the Town of Hempstead. The average price a bushel is $1 40. The receipts for the year from this industry will be about $130,000.

ISLIP.—In the event of the Suffolk County Supervisors passing the act altering the boundary line between Babylon and Islip, the Supervisor and Town Auditors of Islip, at a public meeting Friday, were authorized to employ counsel and test the legality of the step.

FAR ROCKAWAY.—Far Rockaway is agitated over the question of building a new school-house. An election and meeting was held Thursday afternoon. A resolution was offered that the present school building and grounds be sold, a new site selected and a building erected at a cost of $3,000. Several women were present; they voted and used their influence in favor of a new school. There were forty-four votes for the resolution and forty-five against it. The friends of the resolution claim that it was defeated by fraud.

LONG ISLAND CITY.—Supervisor Claven, of Long Island City, presented a bill to the Aldermen at their meeting Thursday evening. The Supervisor claims that under the city charter he is entitled to $2 a day and mileage from the city when engaged on city business, and $3 a day and mileage when engaged on county business. His bill against the county was audited by the Board of Supervisors for $769 90. He appeared before the Aldermen and requested the insertion of $1,000 in the budget. The presentation of the bill created a butter debate, and almost brought Aldermen Rudolph and Donnelly to blows. The Board refused to put the amount in the budget.

Captain Jones (alluding to acquaintance who had just passed): "seems a nice sort of fellow, that Brown. You say he's the riding-master of the 120th Hussars?" Lieutenant Kruten: "No; the veterinary surgeon." Captain Jones: "Are you sure?" Lieutenant Kruten: "Oh, yes. He's got V. C. after his name, and I know he hasn't got the Victoria Cross!"—[Punch.

A child who had lived all her life in London was one day taken into the country, where she saw for the first time a hen, at which she exclaimed: "Oh, look, mamma, what a large canary!"

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises..... 7:23 | Sun sets..... 4:39 | Clock fast 1m 11sec.
Moon rises..... 1:43 | Meot south. 8:02 | Moon's age, days 21

HIGH WATER TO-DAY—A. M.

Sandy Hook.. 2:11 | Gov. Island.. 2:46 | Hell Gate..... 4:35

HIGH WATER TO-DAY—P. M.

Sandy Hook.. 2:40 | Gov. Island.. 3:11 | Hell Gate..... 5:00

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

FROM LONDON—BY STEAMSHIP AUSTRALIA.

Leslie, R	Rosyn, Dr J	Casper, C L
Horn, the Misses	Moore, Dr P R	Phelps, J R
E J and M A	Anderson, C	Oisendoyer, M
Cuddy, W	Mayer, G	Portcous, Mrs
Wallack, G	Kriebel, M	and family
Kent, W		

FROM HAVRE—BY STEAMSHIP FERDINAND DE LESSEPS.

Bernard, P	Lejeune, Mr	Bassel, Mrs
Berton, C	Mertl, F	Bassel, R
A. ue, Mr	Gianetti, A	Marquis, J
Serrapenana, Mr	Crugeda, D S	Terzi, Mr
Bapcrokas, L	Rothwang, C	Paquet, P
Gerard, A	Drouet, G	

HYDROGRAPHIC REPORT.

HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE, CHART DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1880.

The following is the report of the United States Hydrographic Office for the week ending Saturday, December 25, 1880:

CHARTS CORRECTED DURING THE WEEK.

No. of Chart, 552b. Title, Holyhead to Liverpool, E. Sheet. Correction, Northwest lightvessel and Formby lightvessel; fog horns Liverpool Bay.

No. of Chart, 281. Title, Mediterranean Sea, Sheet 1. Correction, light at Carrouba anchorage, South SE coast.

No. of Chart, 859. Title, Mediterranean Sea, Outline Chart. Same correction.

SHIPPING NEWS.

PORT OF NEW-YORK .....DEC. 25, 1880.

ARRIVED.

Str Britannic (Br), Perry, Liverpool Dec 16 and Queenstown 17, with mdse and passengers to R J Cortlis.

Str City of Montreal (Br), Condron, Liverpool Dec 14 and Queenstown 15, with mdse and passengers to J G Dale.

Str Zeeland (Belg), Meyer, Antwerp Dec 11 to Peter Wright & Sons.

Str Australia (Br), Ward, London Dec 11, with mdse and passengers to Henderson Bros.

Str Muriel (Br), Gillott, Trinidad Dec 10, Barbadoes 11, St Lucia 12, St Pierre, Mart, 13, Dominica 14, and Antigua 15, with mdse and passengers to A E Outerbridge & Co.

Str Ferdinand de Lesseps (Fr), d'Homerive, Havre Dec 11, with mdse and passengers to L de Rebian.

Str City of Columbus, Fisher, Savannah 3 days, to Geo Yonge.

Str Albemarle, Mallet, Lewes, Del, with mdse to Old Dominion SS Co.

Str Raleigh, Bennett, Norfolk, Va, with mdse and passengers to Old Dominion SS Co.

Str Colorado, Boiger, Galveston Dec 17, via Key West 20 with mdse and passengers to C H Mallory & Co.

Str Benefactor, Jones, Wilmington, NC, 3 days, with mdse and passengers to Wm P Clyde & Co.

Str City of Atlanta, Woodall, Charleston 5 days, via Norfolk 3 days, with mdse and passengers to Jas W Quintard & Co.

Str Chesapeake, Williams, Portland, to J F Ames.

Ship Ascend of Yarmouth, NS, Wade, Bordeaux Nov 16, in ballast to Boyd & Hincken.

Bark Emelia (Ger), Schnugel, Hamburg 50 days with salt and empty carrels to order, vessel to Watjen, Toel & Co.

Bark Albers (Ger), Alberts, Hamburg 51 days, with mdse to order, vessel to Watjen, Toel & Co.

Bark Hedwig (Ger), Warnken, Dunkirk Oct 27, in ballast to Watjen, Toel & Co; anchored in Gravesend Bay for orders.

Scar R J Willard, Doughty, Fall River, Ga, 10 days, with lumber to order.

SUNSET—WIND—At Sandy Hook, strong, NE; cloudy and hazy. At City Island, the same.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

FOREIGN PORTS.

LIVERPOOL, Dec 25—Arrived, str Bessel, from New-York.
QUEENSTOWN, Dec 25—Arrived, str Batavia, from New-York for Liverpool.
SOUTHAMPTON, Dec 25—Arrived, str Leipzig, from Baltimore for Boston.

AMERICAN PORTS.

DELAWARE BREAKWATER, Dec 25—Sailed, str Utility.
PHILADELPHIA, Dec 25—Arrived, str Maryland, Baltimore.
Sailed, str Indiana, Virginia, Dunbar, Santee, Norman, Catharine Whiting, Faulks, J W Everman.
PORTLAND, Dec 25—Sailed, str Lake Superior.

For Later Ship News, if any, see Seventh Page.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A BOSTON OPINION ON HOFF'S MALT EXTRACT.

HOFF'S MALT EXTRACT is a new dietetic and healing remedy, highly recommended by leading European physicians for complaints of the chest and stomach, dyspepsia, obstinate coughs, nervousness, &c.; also a relief in consumption, and a most excellent strengthener for women recovering from childbirth. This best of health is also a pleasant table beverage, which many persons prefer to lager beer or ale. Its sale in this country, and especially in this city, steadily increases, and it is a remarkable fact that no one who has used the Malt Extract has ever made a single complaint of it, while all are enthusiastic in its praise. A powerful argument in its favor—one that carries weight everywhere—is that the sole agents for America are Messrs. Tarrant & Co., of New-York, who are for Messrs. Hoff & Co., of London. Tarrant & Co. and Messrs. S. S. Pierce & Co. sell the Malt Extract in this city.—[Boston Saturday Evening Gazette.

For sale by Park & Tilford, Acker, Merrall & Condit, and all first-class Grocers and Druggists in New-York.

A HOLIDAY GREETING.

The annual holiday display of winter outfits for boys from 2 years up is now open at A. RAYNOR & Co., corner Nassau and Fulton-sts.

ARTISTIC FANCY GOODS.

Just arrived, now opening, a choice assortment of fine ENGLISH PORCELAIN FANCY GOODS. Something NEW and HANDSOME. R. M. BRUNDAGE, 850 Broadway.

HOME MADE MINCE MEAT.

now ready for the holidays. Also Pure Old-Fashioned HOME MADE Preserves, Jellies, Jams, Canned Fruits, Pickles, &c., &c., made and for sale by Mrs. SANDS, MORGAN, 293 Degraw-st., Brooklyn. Send for circular containing references and prices.

My wife and daughter were made healthy by the use of Hop Bitters, and I recommend them to my people.—[Methodist clergyman.

THE REASON WHY

The tonic effect of Kidney-Wort is produced by its cleansing and purifying action on the blood. Where there is a scanty deposit in the urine, or milky, ropy urine from disordered kidneys, it always cures.—[Leader.

"THE MACKINNON."

Already the name of this famous pen is becoming