



A SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT BY THE MARINE BAND.
In the rear of the White House.

MOSQUITO AND MALARIA.

THE OLD INDICTMENT RECENTLY REVISED.

SURGEON-MAJOR ROSS EXCULPATES ONE GENUS AND CONFINES HIS CHARGE TO ANOTHER.

The notion that the mosquito is not merely an accompaniment but an agent for the dissemination of malaria is far from having been established to the satisfaction of medical men. But it has just received the degree of recognition which is involved in the organization of an expedition from England to South Africa, mainly for the purpose of investigating the matter.

The vast extent of British possessions in hot climates long ago warranted a special study by English experts of the maladies peculiar to those parts of the globe. But only of late have schools devoted exclusively to tropical diseases been opened on the other side of the Atlantic. It is under the auspices of one of these institutions that the inquiry just referred to is to be made. To be sure, there are other maladies common in hot climates which are more fatal and which would seem to deserve more attention. But it would be hard to name any that is more prevalent or causes more actual distress, short of death, than malaria. It manifests itself, too, in such a variety of ways that it is often a difficult thing to recognize and control.

When the doctrine that mosquitoes were largely responsible for malaria was first advanced it found its chief corroboration in the fact that a parasite that seems to be peculiar to the disorder in question had been discovered residing in mosquitoes. This circumstance alone would not prove anything, for one might imagine that the mosquitoes were merely victims and sufferers and not active means in the further propagation of the pest. Laveran, who found the germ of malaria in the stomach of the mosquito nearly twenty years ago, got so far but no further.

TWO MEANS OF INFECTION.

Long afterward Dr. Patrick Manson suggested that the germs might be conveyed to a human subject in two ways. The infected insect, soon after having laid its eggs in a pond, died, and its body then disintegrated. The surviving parasites would eventually be liberated and scattered in the water. If any of the fluid was drunk by man the germs would be transported to his system. Again, the pond might dry up and the sediment at the bottom might be blown about as dust and inhaled by people

living in the vicinity. Major Donald Ross, an army surgeon in India, declared three years ago that he had experimented with the parasites and had administered to natives water which he had artificially contaminated with "malarialized mosquitoes." The natives developed malaria. Of course, if such experiments were conducted with proper care and in sufficient numbers they would show that the mosquito might perform the mischievous function with which it was credited, although it would still remain a question how far its activity extended and whether other agencies were not much more influential in disseminating the microbes. As yet this point has not been cleared up satisfactorily.

One weak feature of the case was the discovery by sceptics that malaria was often lacking in certain localities where the mosquito was much in evidence. Major Ross met this fact only a few weeks ago in an address before the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. On this occasion he expressed the belief that it was necessary to distinguish carefully between two genera of mosquitoes, *Culex* and *Anopheles*. The former breeds in wells, cisterns, tubs and other artificial reservoirs of water, and hence might be called the domestic mosquito. The latter does not breed in vessels or artificial collections of water. It is a wilder and more rural member of the family.

THE INNOCENT DOMESTIC INSECT.

Major Ross holds the genus *Culex* innocent of any share in distributing malaria, and indicts only the genus *Anopheles*. If he is correct in this view of the matter the distinction serves as an important guide in measures for the extermination of mosquitoes. The domestic variety would still be a source of annoyance, but not of danger. And it would only be to the breeding places of the other kind that intelligent effort would be directed.

The pond or puddle in which the disease bearing mosquito lays its eggs, according to the English surgeon, must be large enough to allow the larvae to mature, and yet not be big enough to foster minnows, which would destroy the larvae before they develop into mosquitoes. Major Ross regards the breeding places of the genus *Anopheles* as comparatively few in number and easily dealt with. He thinks that it would be quite practicable to exterminate malaria by getting rid of these centres of infection. Commenting on these utterances, "Nature" says: "If it can be shown (by the West African expedition or otherwise) that all the malaria in a large town arises from a few puddles which can be obliterated at a small expense, the value of the discovery could not be overestimated."

THE MARINE BAND CONCERTS.

WHERE WASHINGTON GETS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN MIDSUMMER.

Washington, July 29.—The concerts given every Saturday evening during the summer season by the Marine Band on the lawn in the rear of the White House have for years been a feature of Washington life. It is here that the people who are compelled to endure the midsummer temperature of the capital gather weekly for a breath of fresh air while listening to the strains of the band and catching a glimpse of the President and his family, who not infrequently sit on the portico during the concert, watching the animated scene on the lawn below.

The music, as a general rule, is of the "popular" variety. It does not aspire to be educational. Dances, a medley of negro melodies, the inevitable overture to "Poet and Peasant," here and there interspersed by a somewhat ambitious attempt at composition by the leader or perhaps a member of the band, the marches of Sousa—these form the stock in trade, the repertory, of the "orchestra." The Washington public is not musical, as a rule; it asks for little, and gets even less. But it is sweetly enduring. And there is a suspicion abroad that it might resent the shelving of "popular" tunes to make room for something a trifle more artistic.

MODERN SPANISH TORTURE.

From The London Chronicle.

In view of the inquiry which it is understood has been granted by the Spanish Government into the charges of torturing prisoners in the casemates of Monjuich, it may be of interest to set out some of the items in the indictment made against the authorities. It is said, in the first place, that a reward of 10,000 pesetas was offered to any jail official who could extort an avowal of guilt from a prisoner. Acting under this stimulus, the jailers are stated to have forced the wretched creatures under their control to run round their cells day and night for eighty hours at a stretch, heavy whips being used to keep the victims awake. The officials are also said to have deprived them of all food save salt stockfish and ardent spirits, confession being the price of a glass of water. Not a few paid it, slaked their thirst, and, it is contended, were summarily shot.

It is further alleged that wedges were driven under the nails of prisoners with hammers, and allowed to remain until the nails sloughed away. Even more horrible mutilations are stated not to have been uncommon. One of the most cruel devices, borrowed from the Inquisition, was, it is affirmed, a machine like a diver's helmet, fitted with a tube allowing the victim to breathe, while a screw compressed slowly the sides and top, thus producing inconceivable agony. One prisoner, Moras, is stated to have undergone this torture more than once, and to have been driven mad by it.

NEW-YORK NEWSBOYS.

THE KIND OF STUFF THE STRIKERS ARE MADE OF.

THERE ARE SAID TO BE FIFTEEN THOUSAND IN "THE PROFESSION"—ETHICS OF THE CALLING—THE UNION AND ITS OFFICERS.

The New-York newsboy has for many years been an important and a conspicuous figure in metropolitan street scenes, but he came into extraordinary prominence last week on account of the strike, which was managed on the same lines as that of the streetcar employes, but with better judgment and less venom. The grievances of the boys were few, but they were considered serious enough for war, and when that was declared every boy felt himself a soldier, ready to follow the command of the hastily appointed leaders, and the dangers of life and limb and the pecuniary losses were not taken into consideration when there appeared a chance to gain their point. Certain evening papers are sold to them at 60 cents a hundred, and they wanted them for 10 cents less. In order to bring the publishers to terms the boys refused to sell the papers, and, like other strikers, made desperate efforts to prevent others from taking their places. The scale of prices for papers to the newsboys has been fixed so that they can make a fair profit on their sales. They pay two cents for three cent papers, one cent for two cent papers, and most of the one cent papers cost them one-half cent.

The newspaper habit is so well developed in the people of New-York that the newsboy has become a necessity, and there are few places in the city where he can not be found during all hours of the day and until late at night. It requires no city license nor permit from the Health Department to become a vender of papers, and hundreds of little children are sent out with a few cents every morning by needy people to buy and sell papers, and by that means help toward the support of the family. But having the necessary capital is not all that the newsboy requires. He must have a place to sell his papers, and if he intrudes upon the territory of some newsboy who has already worked the ground and established a trade he must be prepared to fight for the place or in some way compromise with the little merchant who is already established there. If the corner or the block is a paying one the original newsboy may take the new one into his employ at