Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Music Master.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:30—Genesee of the Hills.
BELASCO—8:15—The Rose of the Rancho.
BERKELEY LYCEUM—8:30—The Reckoning.
BIJOU—8:15—All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.
BROADWAY—8:15—The Parisian Model.
CASINO—8—The White Hen.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:30—The Tattooed Man.
DALY'S—8:15—The Belle of Mayfair.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8—Captain Jinks.
GARDEN—8:15—The Little Michus.
GARRICK—8:30—Caught in the Rain.
HACKETT—8:30—The Corus Lady.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2:15—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—The Road to Yesterday.
HIPPODROME—2—8—Neptune's Daughter and Pioneer Days.
HUDSON—8:15—The Hypocrites.
IRVING PLACE—8:20—Der Blinde Passagier.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Red Mill.
LIBERTY—8:15—Salomy Jane.
LINCOLN SQUARE—8:15—The Two Orphans.
LYCEUM—8:15—The Lion and the Mouse.
LYRIC—8—The Merchant of Venice.
MADISON SQUARE—8:15—The Three of Us.
MAJESTIC—8:10—The Rose of the Alhambra.
MANHATTAN—8:15—The Girl and the Governor.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Mignon.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—2:30—Piano Recital.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—L'Africana.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Brewster's Millions.
NEW YORK—8:15—George Washington, Jr.
PRINCESS—8:20—The Great Divide.
SAVOY—8:15—The Man of the Hour.
TELHARMONIC HALL—2—8—Electric Music.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Rich Mr. Hoggenheimer.
WEBER'S—8:15—Dream City and The Magic Knight.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1907.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—A dispatch from Tokio says that popular opposition to the proposed treaty restricting immigration is strong, but the government remains calm and resolute. ==== Nicaragua is reported to be greatly excited over the invasion of her territory by Honduras, and there is a general demand for reparation. ==== The French Cabinet is expected on Tuesday to define its position before the Chamber of Deputies; M. Briand, if his policy of a liberal enforcement of the Separation law is defeated, is expected to continue the fight in the lower house. ==== The British steamer Heliopolis sank the British steamer Orianda in a collision off Wales; fourteen persons on the Orianda, including the captain, were drowned. ==== Many Jews have been beaten in the streets of Odessa by members of the Black Hundreds organization; the students of the university there have struck. ==== The Turkish Sultan yielded to Germany's vigorous representations and banished Fehmi Pacha. ==== General Carlos Garcia Velez, according to mail advices from Havana, is a candidate for the Presidential nomination on the Liberal ticket; he has a large following among the laboring classes.

DOMESTIC.—The report of the special committee of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, made public at Philadelphia, exonerated the officers of the company of almost all charges of mismanagement and favoritism made against them. ==== Mayor Schmitz and the other members of the San Francisco delegation decided to remain in Washington till after action by the House of Representatives on the Immigration bill. ==== The letter of Otto Kelsey, Superintendent of Insurance, to Governor Hughes, in which he refused to resign, was made public at Albany, with a brief letter of reply from the Governor. ==== Assemblyman Merritt, of Albany, issued a statement in the interest of his proposed constitutional amendment permitting the flooding of state lands, making reply to the literature sent out by Edward Hagaman Hall, secretary of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. ==== Colonel George W. Dunn, of Binghamton, N. Y., resigned as Railroad Commissioner. ==== The president of the Pittsburg Coal Company reported stock valued at $325,761 13 as missing.

CITY.—Up to a late hour death in the hospital had increased the number of dead of the Central's Saturday night wreck from nineteen to twenty, and several in the hospitals were in a critical condition; officials of the New York Central said the cause of the wreck had not been determined; they thought the motorman was free from blame. ==== Mrs. William Thaw succeeded in quieting the trouble among the counsel for her son; the case will continue today. ==== Mrs. Leopold Wallau, charged with the murder of her mother, was held without bail by the coroner. ==== It was announced that the Astor National Bank and the New Netherlands Trust Company would be merged under the title of the Astor Trust Company. ==== Word was received in this city of the death of Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, one of the leaders of modern theosophy, at his home in Adyar, Madras, India. ==== An electric hansom crashed through the wnidow of a restaurant in West 34th street. ==== The Salvation Army held services at Carnegie Music Hall in memory of the army's officers who were drowned in the Larchmont disaster. ==== Many ministers preached on the relation of Christ to the workingman.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Partly cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 38 degrees; lowest, 18.

VARDAMAN VERSUS WILLIAMS.

The Democratic voters of Mississippi are to nominate next August a United States Senator to succeed Hernando De Soto Money when the latter's term expires on March 3, 1911. The two leading candidates for the succession are Governor J. K. Vardaman and Representative John Sharp Williams. Reports which come from Mississippi indicate that the Governor is making steady headway with his canvass and that Mr. Williams is losing rather than gaining ground. The country at large would undoubtedly prefer to see Mr. Williams win. His service in the House of Representatives, where for two Congresses he has led the Democratic minority with greater skill and more credit than many of his predecessors in that thankless and difficult undertaking, has made him a familiar figure in national politics. He is an apt and often eloquent speaker, and in matters which do not involve his special prejudices an intelligent and useful legislator. He measures more nearly than any other man in Mississippi up to that state's better standards of qualification for public service. He approaches in equipment the type of Lamar and Walthall, while his opponent, so far as the country now knows him, represents a marked deterioration from that type. Mr. Vardaman stands for cruder and rawer ideas, and for a harsher attitude toward the dependent race to which the South looks to do its labor and on whose economic fitness for that task the South's prosperity must continue to hinge for several generations. To that extent he is a reactionary whose policies unwisely threaten and darken the future.

Yet from another point of view it is easy to understand why Mississippi should be tempted to prefer Mr. Vardaman to Mr. Williams. The weakness in the latter's make-up—a weakness shown in his leadership of the House minority—is that he does not know exactly what he wants or where he stands politically. He cannot square himself with practical conditions. Mr. Williams has expended a great deal of intellectual energy in exploiting ideas on tariff taxation which nearly everybody else now in public life admits to be obsolete. He belongs by conviction to an almost extinct school—the school which held that our protective tariff was born in iniquity and applied in folly, and that its effects were in a national sense absolutely injurious and demoralizing. The protective theory was to economy, in this school's opinion, what original sin and total depravity were to theology. National development under our tariffs has made that contention ludicrous. But Mr. Williams still clings to it, and while other political leaders, both Republicans and Democrats, are prepared to reduce the tariff on the ground that in many lines of industry present rates are not needed for its beneficent work, he still argues that it never was anything but a monstrous outrage and an incubus on national growth.

This same haziness of vision has cropped out in connection with the chief issue on which Mr. Williams and Governor Vardaman are making their present fight. It will be admitted that a party which intends to nominate Mr. Bryan for the Presidency next year must be prepared to appeal to the country's ultra-radical sentiment. Mr. Williams wants to be a half-way radical—not too radical, but just radical enough. He favors Mr. Bryan's renomination. Yet, as he says, he wants to de-radicalize the candidate's programme—to "save him from himself." As an excuse for not accepting Mr. Bryan's railroad ownership policies he has sounded the alarm that government ownership will eliminate the "Jim Crow" car. And the "Jim Crow" car is the cornerstone of Mississippi's civilization! Governor Vardaman takes a more practical view of the situation. He thinks that the "Jim Crow" regulations can take care of themselves. They are not a national issue. But Mr. Bryan's government ownership programme is, and if the Democratic party chooses to renominate Mr. Bryan with its eyes wide open it will have to stand for his ideas and make no pretence of "saving him from himself." In this respect the Governor has logic on his side, and logic tells in elections. If Mr. Vardaman wins in the Mississippi primary it will be because the voters prefer a leader who has pronounced and positive opinions to a leader who doesn't know exactly "where he is at."

DEATH BY RAIL.

Week by week the list of railroad catastrophes lengthens and the death roll grows. There used to be, perhaps, some point in making fun of country bumpkins who were frankly timorous about railway travel. But fear is beginning to lay hold of us all, and Saturday night's horror is enough to shake the stoutest heart. No doubt official investigation will sooner or later tell us whether the White Plains express was derailed by excessive speed, or spread rails, or a broken axle, or the collapse of a decrepit car, or some other cause. The information has only academic interest just now; the essential fact is that a score of human beings were killed with horrible swiftness, while a round hundred were maimed. And all this, not far away in some unfrequented region, but within the municipal limits of New York City.

It is not the specific cause in one case or another that creates such disquietude—that makes even Mr. James J. Hill say, according to report, that he is afraid to travel by rail. It is the fact that American railway companies have not yet gained control over all the conditions necessary to safety. There may be a thousand duties involved in the transportation of passengers; it may be that failure to perform any one of these obligations might bring disaster and death, but the great public of railway travellers must insist that every provision be made for the safety of every train. Fine cars and high speed are not enough; their comforts become perils with careless dispatchers, engineers or section gangs.

It is time, however, for the public to recognize that its own insistency may, at bottom, be the cause of many horrors. It might be wiser to pray the railway companies for safety, above all things, and after safety for comfort, promptness and speed. On tracks within New York's commuting zone trains run during the rush hours almost with the frequency of streetcars. Thousands of citizens who insist upon living in the country insist also upon having fast trains ready to carry them at all hours of the day and night. Perhaps railway officials ought to have shown more firmness in refusing these demands of the commuters, even at the risk of unpopularity. It would be better to be cursed and cartooned than to yield to the clamor of a public which knows nothing of railroading and thereby to kill a carful of human beings. This latest tragedy ought to be a lesson to travellers and officials alike; to the travellers to think less of their personal convenience and more of public safety; to the officials to make every train, local or express, as safe as human foresight and skill can make it, before anything else is taken into consideration. This means, however, more sympathy and less selfishness all around, more strength of mind and less fear of popular disapproval.

BATTLESHIP POLICY.

The House having passed the Naval Appropriation bill last week, the fate of the President's request for authority to build two ten-gun battleships rests with the Senate. Two questions are involved in Mr. Roosevelt's proposition. One relates to the type which shall be adopted as the next standard by the government, and the other to the number of vessels to be sanctioned this winter. Practically no disagreement arose in the House on the first of these. From that fact it may be inferred that in the Senate the chief difference of opinion will be over the second.

A consideration which will probably not be without influence on the decision of that body is the effect of this year's legislation on the standing of America as a naval power a few years hence, when the programmes to which other nations are now committed shall have been carried out. Some light on this point is shed by William G. Groesbeck, United States Naval Constructor, in the current issue of "The Navy." The comparison is limited to "first class battleships," although that term really embraces several distinct groups of vessels, and gives the outlook for the year 1912. The computation includes the ships whose completion within the next five years may be expected, as well as the great majority of those now in commission, but it excludes ships which will then be sixteen years old, and hence may be assumed to have outlived their usefulness. Mr. Groesbeck estimates that at that time England will have 52 battleships, Germany 26, the United States 25, France 22 and Japan 14. According to "Brassey's Annual," an accepted authority in such matters, France to-day ranks second in effective strength, the United States third and Germany fourth. Mr. Groesbeck's figures, therefore, point to an exchange of positions by Germany and France, but leave very little difference between the former and the United States.

America's inferiority to Germany might become more evident if the armaments of the ships represented in Mr. Groesbeck's tables were compared. The theory embodied in the design of the Dreadnought and the Satsuma is that a battleship should carry only guns which are suited to long range fighting, and that calibres of six, seven and eight inches should be discarded. Suppose, then, that the effective strength of the principal navies of the world five or six years hence be estimated on the basis of the ten, eleven and twelve inch guns with which they will be provided. It was rumored last summer that the German Emperor had determined to alter the design of two battleships, the construction of which had been authorized, so that they would each carry sixteen 11-inch guns. Should that report be true, one of these vessels would be equal to four of Germany's next best battleships and to four Louisianas or four Virginias. Now, suppose Germany should build four such vessels and have eighteen ships of the old kind fit for service. She would then have 136 big guns in service. If the United States were to build two ships of the kind recommended by the President, each mounting ten guns, this country could count on only 124 guns of the largest calibre. The Michigan and the South Carolina would each contribute eight to the total, and twenty-two other battleships only four each.

Mr. Hale's committee may deem it worth while to inquire into the truth of the reports which have been circulated in regard to Germany's plans, to consider to what extent the Kaiser's recent victories at the polls will stimulate his desire for naval expansion, and to weigh the expediency of permitting him to increase the lead which Germany promises soon to secure over this country.

BILLBOARD HORRORS.

The flying phalanxes of reform are again breaking their battle front against the billboards. This time hostilities have been precipitated by "Secret Service Sam" and "A Millionaire's Revenge," two profound, vividly drawn revelations of superhuman craft, villany and degradation. The realism of these productions finds its way into print and posters which shackle the juvenile attention with hypnotic power and wring pennies even from those youths and maidens to whom cigarettes and gumdrops are dearer than life itself. The Woman's Health Protective Association of Brooklyn has swooped down upon both the posters and their pasters, charging that the former incite to crime and the latter are active accomplices in the transgression. The courts are called upon to expunge the thrilling chromos of high and low life from the highways and byways of the eastern borough, that boys and girls may sin no more.

We have sundry fears as to the merits of the reform. Of course its motive is the best, but how about its means? Secret Service Sam is, for the immature mind, the advance agent of "real life," and he refuses to be suppressed by expurgated billboards. His fame is enduring and will spread from schoolroom to schoolroom, in spite of Virtue at the press. And ten-year-olds there will always be who will beg or borrow their mammas' pennies in order to drink in the mysteries of life from the gallery. For the next few thousand years at least some of these gallery gloaters will be perverted by the ideas such plays give them, just as there will always be drunkards so long as tea and ice cream soda are on the market. But the vast majority of boys and girls who visit melodrama soon learn to love it only for its thrills; its pictures are not thought of as photographs, and its heroes soon cease to be models. To the sixteen-year-old Secret Service Sam is still a tried and trusted stage friend, but he has changed his role. Once a serious actor, with marvellous power of expressing the deepest human truths, he has now become an indirect comedian, whose heartrending shrieks and terrifying flippancy with blank cartridges fill our juvenile adults with the philosophical humor of disillusionment.

We would not make out the case of the billboard reformers to be altogether wrong, but wouldn't it be more strategic to aim at the proper control of sensational shows and the sane education of children? As the establishment of a melodramatic censor would be hazardous, the needs of the present emergency might readily be met by an intelligent exercise of police powers. But far more valuable than any such supervision would be the instruction and advice of school teachers and parents. Probably nine-tenths of the bad effects of melodrama are being daily counteracted by this means. Playgoing, after all, is a small factor in child life compared with the influences of home, school and playmates. With a little more systematic effort these latter might reduce the harm of Secret Service Sam to an inevitable minimum. Among other devices parents might, perhaps, sterilize the world famous detective by allowing their children to gaze upon him. If he ceased to be forbidden fruit, all his mystery and a part of his charm would fade away.

YOUNG DOLTS AND WISE DOCTORS.

Feeding the brain is much like feeding the stomach. If it is true that happiness depends as much upon the eater as the eaten, it is doubly true that education—which is happiness of the second degree—depends as much upon one's receptivity as upon the information proffered for mental digestion. School children must accordingly be made to like their work, at least with some warmth, before they can eke sense and profit out of it. You can't make everybody like everything, though; there are pretty definite flesh and blood limits to each man's powers of appreciation. But often the apparent limits are fictitious boundary stones set up by caper-cutting Nature. It has been discovered, for instance, that obstinacy and stupidity in school children are often due to hypertrophied tonsils, adenoids growths and cranial depressions; simple surgical operations in such cases will radically change both temperament and interests.

Superintendent Maxwell proposes to make the most of this discovery. He advises the Board of Education to subject all bad boys and naughty girls, all little stupids and young blockheads, to medical examination, and in case improper tonsils or other things be found to remedy the same by scalpel and forceps. As the present laws apparently fail to empower school authorities to operate upon pupils without the consent of parents or guardians, the superintendent recommends that the statutes be suitably amended.

The aim of this recommendation is praiseworthy. But are the means to the end the best? We have a suspicion, not altogether vague, that diplomacy under the present laws might succeed more brilliantly than autocracy under new ones. There can be no question that our school teachers should do as much toward putting children into the right mood for study as they do toward furnishing them with facts and precepts. If a tonsil stands between ignorance and wisdom or smothers virtue beneath bad nerves and irritability, away with it! But all the after effects of the extirpation must be taken into consideration. Snipping adenoids and tonsils usually involves bloodshed, shivers and wailing. Youthful patients are positive that they are being killed entirely, and fond mammas and papas of the Ghetto are all too prone to accept the verdict of their progeny. We have not yet forgotten how the mere inspection of tongues and gullets precipitated a panic among East Side pupils and a riotous assault of the schoolhouse by their frenzied relatives. This happened not once but several times. Heaven only knows what would occur if the scions of unwilling houses were to come home with scissored noses and throats.

Due regard for the cost of window glass and broken heads ought to convince the board that it might be well to gain control over the source of trouble, namely, the ignorant parents. Might these persons not be won over through the aid of rabbis, priests and neighborhood physicians? We imagine that these gentlemen would gladly assist by assuring the obstinate parents of the good will of the school authorities and the necessity for the proposed treatment. The number of truants and backward pupils is not so great as to make such a programme impracticable.

Here and there we find traces of a tendency to regard any law which does not operate automatically as hopelessly bad. The fancy is a dangerous one and thoroughly false. Every statute depends for its success upon the tact and resourcefulness of those who enforce it. And the present laws assailed by Mr. Maxwell prove the rule by their failure, if they really have failed. If brute power is ever inferior to diplomacy, it surely is so in the present case, where the gulf between the law enforcers and those upon whom the law is enforced is so wide. Probably the physicians and surgeons will be the first to protest against the suggested revision.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Despite some irregularity and days in which there was no support, the stock market again showed definite progress toward higher prices last week. A certain professional element is constantly liquidating, recent experience having demonstrated the advisability of taking profits whenever possible, but between much investment buying and some public speculative purchases the undertone has shown firmness in the face of a hardening money market. Severe weather has reduced earnings, yet reports for the first week of February compare favorably with the corresponding week last year as to gross earnings, although the heavy expense of operation under adverse conditions will probably leave little or no increase in net earnings. Interest was noteworthy in some industrial properties, especially copper stocks, which responded to the good demand for actual metal at abnormally high prices. Extensive advertising is also a helpful feature in this respect, although this factor was one of the first influences that caused the loss of outside interest in securities two years ago, which has only recently given signs of returning. Without buying by the general public there can be no substantial rise in prices nor a return to the times when a million shares was considered a dull day's business.

A higher money market reflects the liberal demand in all departments and the withdrawal of public deposits by the Treasury. It is believed that the government will allow the rest to remain with the banks until there is less pressure, although Secretary Shaw made these special deposits with the understanding that the money would be returned in ample time to facilitate measures of relief when the next movement to the interior should weaken the position of local institutions. This is the season when redundancy is usually expected, but all lines of trade and manufacture are so active that funds do not accumulate at this city. In fact, rates of domestic exchange give no indication of a tendency in this direction, and reserves of the associated banks are below normal for the season. Rapid strengthening of non-member banks suggests that there has been much transfer of funds to those institutions also, which helps to explain the poor showing of Clearing House banks. A little gold has arrived from abroad, but expected engagements failed to materialize because the price rose a small fraction at London. In view of the low quotations for sterling exchange, it is evident that gold could have come from abroad very readily, especially as London bought securities in large blocks during the week and the Bank of England made a very strong statement. These facts suggest that there need be no fear of severe stringency unless from a speculative point of view it is found desirable to force money rates upward.

General trade has resumed more normal progress with cessation of violent snowstorms, reports from interior cities being almost unanimous in their statement of the liberal volume of merchandise distributed. As the winter season nears an end there is a depletion of stocks that augurs well for the future, dealers being in position to place large advance orders for spring and summer goods. Jobbers and wholesalers are unable to make these shipments with desired promptness, especially in drygoods lines, and the vigorous tone is also conspicuous in millinery, footwear and farming utensils. The outlook has improved, particularly at many points where mercantile payments have become more prompt, and when traffic congestion is relieved so that agricultural communities can readily market the big crops of last year there should be still further pronounced improvement in collections. Some extensions are being asked, but not more than is seasonable, and latest returns show failures much lighter than at this time in 1906. Reports of bank exchanges continue to make gratifying exhibits at other cities, but New York clearings are smaller than a year ago, because of the decrease in speculation.

Commodity markets have not fluctuated widely, but part of the recent advance was lost because of liquidation by traders who were content to take the profits in sight. Cotton was also depressed by legislation against trading in futures and the fact that the movement into sight continues 100,000 bales greater each week than a year ago. These factors were only effective in the option trading, however, as liberal domestic consumption and enormous exports sustain the spot market. Shipments abroad are phenomenal, the official statement for January far surpassing all records for that month, while the first half of February promises another high water mark. Exports of grain, on the other hand, are most unsatisfactory, but this is still attributed in large measure to the delayed movement to the seaboard. Foreign needs are believed to be very large, and domestic crops were ample enough to assure a liberal surplus for consumers abroad, but receipts at primary markets are light. Northwestern flour mills are not fully occupied by any means, owing to the quiet demand and also in part to poor deliveries of raw material.

Industrial conditions are not altered, except that pressure for prompt shipment of textile goods increases with the approach of spring. Cotton mills are urged to make quick deliveries, and the high prices demanded have no retarding influence on spot business. Producers in this line have large orders on hand and are independent of the attitude of buyers or the variations in price of the raw material. Similar conditions exist in the iron and steel industry, in which the only developments of the week were reports showing that pig iron production has fallen considerably from the record breaking figures at the opening of the year. As consumption has not diminished, there is prospect of a scarcity of material at the steel mills in the near future, or more extensive importations of pig iron. Shoe shops are not shipping from Boston as freely as a year ago, and fall business is still limited to sample cases, but there is a vast quantity of spring trade in sight which promises full occupation for machinery during the remainder of the season. Prices of leather and hides are fully maintained.

Now that a Pittsburg astronomer has discovered a sun spot three and a half million square miles big, the strange activity of the London "suffragettes," the San Francisco anti-Japanesers and the Washington prohibitionists becomes intelligible. We await only the aurora borealis and a tidal wave of watered stock from President Stickney. After this much chaos poor old Earth will, we hope, be allowed to settle back into the quiet humdrum of the Thaw trial.

America does not want to meddle in the Congo or elsewhere, but it also does not want to see an international scandal indefinitely maintained. And there will be such a scandal so long as appalling charges are made against the Congo State and their truth or falsity is not determined or the state of affairs which gives the pretext for them is not radically amended.

Again we hear of Helicon Hall, Mr. Upton Sinclair's boarding house Utopia, and again there is criticism of the food, which is to be expected regarding a boarding house, but not, we had fondly hoped, of Utopia. First, we were told that the butter was bad and now we learn that the hash is not up to the best standards. Mr. Sinclair protests that bad butter may happen in the best regulated boarding house and in the best regulated Utopia. Doubtless, but the world has a right to demand that hash shall always be good in Utopia. If hash is not good there, how can anything be; for is it not a compendium of food, a compound of the samples of all the delicacies in Utopia?

The Governor of Nebraska, who has caused the state to sue him for rent on the Executive Mansion, has a finger on the popular pulse. A man must not only be honest, but he must find new ways of being honest; he must exhibit novelties of scrupulosity. Why, they already call the Nebraska Governor "Honest George," all because he is unwilling to take it for granted, like his predecessors, that the state having built an executive mansion intended it for the Governor's occupation! The state's intent must be proved in court.

Last week outbreaks of virulent diseases of a potentially epidemic nature were reported from three leading Eastern colleges, one of the institutions being so badly menaced as to be compelled to dismiss its students for a time and close its doors. Most circumstances suggest that colleges should be exceptionally free from such visitations and should have higher standards of health than ordinary communities, and whenever disasters of this kind occur there is cause for a thorough searching not only of hearts, but of buildings, water and food supplies, and general sanitary supervision.

PERSONAL.

James E. Martine, the "Farmer Orator" of New Jersey, enjoys the distinction of having been the candidate of his party—the Democratic—for almost every office in his county and Senate district for the last thirty years, without ever having won. Mr. Martine, who was defeated for Congress at the last election, was the Democratic choice for United States Senator to succeed Mr. Dryden. He is now spoken of as the Democratic candidate for Governor next fall.

Frederick Holbrook, Governor of Vermont during the Civil War, celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday at his home in Brattleboro last week.

Professor Genung, who has just completed twenty-five years' service as a member of the Amherst College faculty, has obtained a six months' leave of absence, and he will go to the Holy Land with three objects in view—rest, preparation for his work in the department of Biblical literature recently assigned him, and opportunity to make plans for future literary work.

Eric Geddes, recently appointed freight manager of the Northeastern Railway, in England, is an American who fourteen years ago was agent at a small station on the Baltimore & Ohio road. Later he was connected with railroad enterprises in India.

At a recent meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society of Lehigh University, the twenty-fifth year of consecutive service of Professor J. F. Klein, head of the department of mechanical engineering, was celebrated. The alumni of that department and the Mechanical Engineering Society of the university presented him a life membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a silver loving cup and a gold watch.

Dr. Emil G. Hirsch is advocating the starting of properly conducted dance halls as a counter attraction to those which owe their existence solely to the revenue derived from them, hoping thereby to overcome many of the evils attributed to the ordinary dance halls.

Harry Libby, of Hampton, Va., has sent his annual gift of oysters to the members of the press gallery in Washington. Mr. Libby was in the House in the Forty-eighth Congress, and about this time every year since then he has sent to Colonel Mann, superintendent of the press gallery, a bounteous supply of bivalves to be served to newspaper workers at a luncheon. Mr. Libby is postmaster of Hampton, and owns large beds of oysters in the James River.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Vienna has installed what is perhaps the most remarkable electric, or electrically lighted, fountain in existence. It is situated in the Schwartzenbergplatz. Underneath the fountain, in a huge cemented chamber, are placed twenty-seven reflecting lamps, capable of producing seventy different luminous and colored effects. The light is transmitted through the waters of the fountain. The light power of the plant is estimated as equal to 900,000,000 candles.

Mother (returning home)—Gracious, Tommy, what means this? The lamp is broken, the dishes are smashed, and everything is upside down?
Tommy—Why, mother, you said we could play anything we wanted, didn't you?
Mother—Yes.
Tommy—Well, we played the Hippodrome earthquake.—Illustrated Bits.

Eli A. Smith, a United States mail carrier of Nome, Alaska, driving a team of Eskimo dogs from his home to Washington on a wager of $10,000, is now in Maryland, and on Wednesday of this week hopes to win the prize by presenting a letter to President Roosevelt, thus marking the accomplishment of his journey. He left Nome on November 14, 1905, and took the trail for 1,538 miles to Valdes. Then he went by boat to Seattle, Wash., a distance of 1,600 miles, and from there started on his long trip across the United States. His longest day's journey was sixty-five miles on the first stretch, where he had plenty of snow, and during that part of his trip he went eight days without seeing a human being.

"She thinks her husband is a veritable lion."
"How do you know?"
"She says he is the king of beasts."—Houston Post.

It is estimated that the peasants of the south of France spend on food for a family of five an average of four cents a day. For breakfast there is bread, with a preparation of salt fish to spread on it; for dinner, stockfish or a vegetable soup or salad, and for supper lentils, beans or other vegetables. Water is the chief drink, with a thin wine once in a while. Rabbit is occasionally used as a flavor in a vegetable stew, but that is a luxury. Beef or mutton is seldom tasted. Most of them dress poorly. But this economy is not for nothing. Many of them have bank accounts, and in the matter of hard cash are well enough off.

THAT SUN SPOT.

On Old Sol's iridescent face
A dainty freckle lies,
Ten times as big as all outdoors,
And something more in size.
It's full of Kansas cyclones
And Atlantic hurricanes,
And every other kind of ill
That haunts the coast and plains.
Oh, talk no more of stellar tips,
Of baleful crescent light!
No more they stand as sponsors for
Each dread terrestrial plight.
For now a modern hoodoo's got
Them strictly on the run—
A triple plated bugaboo,
That big spot on the sun,
That makes a man unlucky
When it scowls upon his birth,
What bumps big ships together,
And what shakes the solid earth?
What brings wide open winter,
And a spring much overdue?
What hands out whiskered blizzards,
And a thunderstorm or two?
What makes the grip so mighty gay,
And other human ills?
What fosters gout, pneumonia,
And variegated chills?
What makes call money run so high
And causes stocks to slump?
What makes these runs upon the bank
And cost of living jump?
Why is the cruel financier
So cussedly perverse?
What makes the striking union man
Go rapid and get worse?
What makes the burglar burgle,
And inspires the bold Black Hand?
What started all this wave of crime
That overflows the land?
What made the Brownsville nigger get
So careless with his gun?
It's a madness in the atmosphere—
That big spot on the sun.

GARRET SMITH.

Book agents are sometimes forced to take on peculiar side lines to enable them to make a living, and one of the venders in this city has a plan which is most original, says "The Philadelphia Record." It is merely to find in the course of his day's wanderings persons who are ailing and have no regular physician, and then to recommend to them a young doctor friend of his. Of course, the physician divides his fees. The agent in question, upon returning to his lodging house the other evening, summed up his day's work to a fellow lodger in this way: "Nary a book sold," he said, "but I discovered four patients for that doctor around the corner, and he'll give me half his fees. He owes nine-tenths of his practice to me. He didn't have a patient when I met him. I volunteered to keep my eye open for sick people while on my travels, and when I found one to try and work him in. I succeeded so often that he now has a decent practice, and I earn more off my commissions from him than through my regular business."

"Yes," said the fellow with the bald brow, "it's certainly true that if a man hasn't any respect for himself, nobody else will have much respect for him."

"But it's equally true," replied the keen one, "that if he has too much, nobody else will have any."—Philadelphia Press.

HOW GERMANY VOTED.

Notes and Observations on the Recent Election.

Berlin, January 30.

A German general election presents many features of interest to the visiting spectator, because of both its resemblances to and its differences from elections in Great Britain and the United States. The campaign is conducted with great zeal, so far as newspapers and speechmaking are concerned. Nowhere are press and platform more vigorously used. Banners, posters and parades, however, are little known. The appeal is to the ear, not to the eye, and to the reason, not to the imagination. It is to be assumed, therefore, that campaign expenses are lighter in Germany than in America. A candidate is privileged to spend as much as he pleases to promote his interests, so long as he does not buy votes. If he does the latter, his election is invalidated, and he is liable to be sent to prison for two years. As a matter of fact, bribery is probably very uncommon in Germany, and so, too, is official interference with elections, although in its present campaign there have been charges of undue official influence. Theoretically, the German Empire is a pure democracy, with one vote and no more for every man who is twenty-five years old, and who is not a soldier or sailor in active service, a criminal in prison, a bankrupt, a ward under a guardian, or the recipient of alms within a year preceding the election. Theoretically, too, the representation of the people is based equitably on population, with one member of the Reichstag for every one hundred thousand persons.

But one of the first things that impresses the observer is the gross inequality of apportionment. When the empire was organized, in 1871, its population was about 39,750,000. So the membership of the Reichstag was fixed at 397, or one for every 100,000. That was thirty-six years ago. In that time the population has increased more than 50 per cent, but the number of members of the Reichstag remains the same. There must, therefore, be on the average at least 150,000 persons in each constituency. To that there might be no objection if the constituencies were equal or nearly equal in size. But they are not. There has been no reapportionment of seats since 1871, but members are to-day distributed just as they were when the first Reichstag was chosen. The result is gross inequality. Some districts have actually lost population in these thirty-six years, while others have enormously increased. To-day you may find some provincial constituencies with less than 50,000 inhabitants. Schaumberg-Lippe has only 43,000. On the other hand, one district here in Berlin has nearly 700,000. Thus, one member represents more than sixteen times as many people as the other. Similar inequalities are doubtless to be found in England, but in America, with reapportionment every ten years, they are impossible.

This state of affairs explains why the Social Democrats, in spite of their enormous popular vote, succeed in electing so few members. In the last election they cast more than three million votes, or half a million more than any other party. Yet they elected only 80 members, while the Clericals, with little more than half their votes, elected 100. If the Social Democrats had secured a representation proportionate to their vote they would have had 125 instead of only 80 members. In the present election they are increasing their vote, but are losing heavily in representation. They will poll nearly one-third of all the votes in the empire, but will have less than one-eighth of the members of the Reichstag. If seats were fairly apportioned, too, the Clericals or Centrum would lose heavily, their representation falling from 100 to 80 or less. It is not difficult to understand, then, why there has been no reapportionment since 1871. The government has not wanted it, because it would greatly increase the power of the Social Democrats, and that is what the government most dreads and seeks to avoid; and the Clericals, who form the largest single party in the Reichstag, have opposed it because it would greatly lessen their strength. Moreover, the Conservatives, and especially the Agrarians and Junkers, have also opposed it, because it would lessen their strength. So, while it is theoretically democratic and fair, the electoral system is in fact grossly unfair. It is perhaps a little better than that of the Kingdom of Prussia, which has been accurately described as the worst in the world. For while there is nominally universal suffrage in Prussia, the voting power of each man is conditioned upon the amount of taxes he pays. The result is that while the Social Democrats number nearly one-fourth of the population, they have never yet in the history of the kingdom succeeded in electing a single one of the 433 Deputies. In more than one district a single rich landowner himself casts a majority of all the votes, so that the Deputy elected represents nobody but that one voter. It will be recalled, too, that the gallant General Caprivi, who succeeded Bismarck as Chancellor of the Empire, once whimsically complained that, as he was a poor man, he had only one-tenth of the voting power of one of his own servants, who was comparatively rich.

But to return to the imperial election. The date was, of course, fixed by the Chancellor immediately after the dissolution of the Reichstag. Four weeks before that date lists of the candidates in each district were publicly posted for inspection by the voters. Never before, say old inhabitants, was so much scrutiny bestowed upon these lists as this year. That circumstance was indicative of what has actually been realized, namely, the polling of an unprecedentedly large vote. Germany has hitherto been notorious for the number of its stay-at-home voters. These have generally amounted to more than one-fourth of the whole electorate. This year not half as many refrained from voting as hitherto. That is one reason for the material changes in party strength shown in the elections which have just occurred. Just why so many Germans have hitherto failed to vote is not easily explained. The process of voting is not difficult or vexatious. There is no elaborate blanket ballot, with a confusing multitude of names, to be marked in a mathematically precise fashion and folded just so. The ballot is a small slip of paper, which may be of any color or style, and which bears only the single name of the candidate for whom the voter wishes to vote. The ballots are not printed by the government, but by the various candidates themselves, and are distributed in advance to the voters. All a voter has to do, therefore, is to select at his leisure the ballot he wants to cast. Or he may make his own ballot, by writing with pen or pencil upon a scrap of paper the name of the man for whom he wants to vote. With his ballot in his pocket or in his hand he goes to the polling place. There an election officer without a word hands him an empty envelope, which is not gummed for sealing. He takes this into a private booth, and there, in complete privacy and secrecy, places his ballot within it. Thence he passes into the voting room, where a number of inspectors and clerks are gathered around the ballot box. He gives his name, for identification, and if it is found correctly enrolled on the register of voters he hands the envelope containing his ballot to one of the officials, who deposits it in the box. There is one polling place for about every six hundred voters. At the end of the polling the votes are counted in the same room in which they were cast, and by the same officers who presided over the casting of them—officers who, by the way, get no payment for their services, and who are not permitted to be employes of the government.

The election was held in such fashion on Fri-