EFFECTS OF THE EPIDEMIC.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE SERIOUS RESULTS OF LA GRIPPE.

The Whole Medical Profession Studying the Recent Visitation—Little Known of Its Cause and How to Deal With It.

It is coming to be realized that the disease popularly known as the grip was in reality a very serious epidemic. It has made the tour of the world. It was last heard from in Central Africa, where it delayed a caravan. Although disappearing as an epidemic in certain localities it persists as a disease, and there is no end to the painful, as well as curious, instances where the subjects have been plunged in the depths of dark despair by the terrible nervous prostration that is its distinctive mark.

No mere statistics can give an adequate idea of the ravages of this disease, known in various countries by different names, and yet to a very great extent the terra incognita of medical science. The vexatious part of it for the statistician is that the disease gets so mixed up with other diseases that it is often almost impossible to distinguish which ailment has given the death stroke to the patient. If a patient is afflicted with consumption or bronchitis or pneumonia he is a fit subject for the grip, and his death, which was before certain to come shortly, will be hastened by the epidemic. In such cases the chronic disease has been put down as the cause of death in the reports of the New York Health Department, and in this way the severity of the epidemic has been in a measure kept out of view, although palpable to the experienced eye. In Paris they call it La Grippe. In Germany they call it Epidemischer Schnupfenfischer. At Beirut they call it Dengue. In New York or in the English nomenclature we call it the Influenza.

Everywhere it takes strongest hold of those already weak and suffering from other diseases or the infirmities of age. It is a cowardly disease; it strikes people when they are down. It is the last straw on the back of the camel; the drop which makes the overflow. It takes people already miserable and makes them more miserable.

Counted as influenza, there were in New York city, between Jan. 4 and Feb. 15, nearly 300 deaths from the grip. The rise was rapid. The greatest number was for the week ending Jan. 11, when there were 93. But, when you come to look at the general increase of mortality in the period when the grip prevailed, the effect is startling. For the week ending Dec. 28 the deaths were 762. The next week the deaths were 1,202. The week ending Jan. 11 the deaths were 1,424, or double what they were two weeks before, and this was at the height of the epidemic. The next week the deaths were 1,151, and after that the decrease was as rapid as the increase. Curiously enough, right along with the rise and fall of the epidemic followed the rise and fall of the deaths by phthisis or consumption, pneumonia, and bronchitis. Some people say that those who had those three fatal diseases took the grip. Others choose to think that in many cases the grip produced the other diseases. It is settled that they rose and fell together and produced an untold mass of suffering.

The epidemic was raliest in Berlin, stronger in Vienna, very violent in Amsterdam, and most intense at Paris. The highest death rate was at Paris for the week ending Jan. 4. The total deaths were 2,683, of which pneumonia was credited with 953, consumption with 357, and bronchitis with 326, making a total of 1,444 deaths, or more than half the mortality at least hastened, if not entirely caused by the grip. In London the death rate was 203 per thousand on Dec. 28. Two weeks following the death rate ran up to 42.4 per thousand, at the very time when the New York death rate was the highest. About the same time the epidemic raged highest at Amsterdam, where the death rate got up to 61.5 per thousand. At Vienna, shortly before, it got up to 45.6 per thousand, and at Berlin to 36.4 per thousand. At all points the same characteristic was observed, that the epidemic made its greatest ravages among those already afflicted with other diseases. This is, in fact, the truth about all epidemics. The most fatal week of the epidemic in London was that ending Jan. 18, when, out of 2,720 deaths, there were 612 from consumption, 281 from pneumonia, and 609 from bronchitis.

The late Austin Flint, M. D., in the year 1873, wrote this about la grippe: "Its occurrence from time to time has been noticed by medical writers for several centuries. It is an epidemic remarkable for its extensive and rapid diffusion, sometimes extending within a brief period over many different and widely separated countries. Influenza differs from ordinary acute bronchitis in the frequent extension of the inflammation to the frontal and maxillary tissues, the lachrymal ducts and conjunctiva, and the Eustachean tube; but more especially it differs in a greater amount of constitutional disturbance. It is, in fact, to be regarded as a general or constitutional disease of which bronchitis is the local manifestation. Like all epidemic diseases, this has doubtless a special cause, and this cause is undoubtedly the atmosphere. The special cause, however, is independent of appreciable atmospheric changes, as to the nature, source, and mode of diffusion of the cause we have no positive knowledge, but we are equally ignorant of the special causes of many and indeed of most epidemic diseases. That these diseases depend on organic entities is a supposition which at the present time many regard with favor; but this remains to be proved or disproved by further researches. During some epidemics of influenza a vast number of persons are simultaneously affected. Generally the affection is mild, but it occasions some fatality among the aged and feeble. The fatality, however, is in general due to complications which occur, and of these capillary bronchitis and pneumonia are especially apt to cause death."

Although this was published in the American Cyclopædia seventeen years ago, it represents the state of medical science on the subject today. It suggests the germ theory of the origin of the epidemic, but to-day that theory is yet under discussion. There are pathologists who say that they have seen the bacilla of the disease and that they can propagate them. Others deny this. The fact is that the late epidemic has attracted immense attention throughout the civilized world, and that no previous visitation has been watched so intently as this. Great numbers of independent investigators have been busy collecting facts on the subject, and at no previous time have so many facts been collected as to the nature of the disease, its direct and indirect character of the patients attacked, the rate of mortality, the symptoms under different circumstances, and the thousand and one things which the accurate methods of modern science demand shall be known before any generalization can be made. Not a few scientific medical journals have been filled with articles by skillful physicians on the subject, and the literature collected by medical societies by means of lectures and essays is enormous. It is safe to say that the outcome of the late epidemic will before long be the advancement of some more definite and acceptable hypothesis than any heretofore known.

William H. Draper, M. D., in a late article in the *Medical Record* on "The Complications and Sequelæ of Influenza," summed up by saying: "It seems evident that the deleterious effects of the disease, whatever it may be, to one which spends its force primarily and directly upon the nervous system. Its most serious results have, as a rule, been observed in persons of advanced years and in those who were enfeebled by previous disease or intemperate habits. The relative mortality of the malady has, to be sure, not been large, but when we consider, apart from the mortality which it has caused, the vast sum of human energy that it has destroyed, and the check that it has everywhere put upon the wheels of human industry, its effects have been indeed appalling."

In the epidemic at Beirut, Syria, there were so many sick with the disease in one village that there were not enough well persons to take care of them. There were over twenty thousand cases at Beirut alone. Every physician in the city had it.

When the epidemic raged in Paris the City Council voted relief for the families of the afflicted. The Pope ordered the Bishops of the countries visited by the epidemic to excuse from the observance of the Lenten fasts all those who had suffered from the influenza in an aggravated form and are still in a weakened state as a result thereof.

It has been suggested that there is an analogy between the grip and the epizootic epidemic that attacked horses a few years ago. This is sufficiently answered by the fact that when the horses had it the men did not have it, when the men had it the horses had it not.

The recent epidemic originated in Russia near St. Petersburg about the first of November, spread quickly, filling the hospitals and barracks, and within three weeks about half the population of St. Petersburg was afflicted. Curiously in one family one would be ill while all the rest would escape. Then whole families would be laid low. But the simple explanation of this apparent enigma is that in every family the aged or the weak or the sick were the victims, while the strong and vigorous escaped with little or no attack.

A number of prominent physicians connected with the Health Board and with various medical societies are preparing elaborate reports of the late epidemic based on widespread observation and it is to be hoped that the next time the grip comes around, as it surely will, the doctors will be better prepared to give it the reception it deserves and do something to keep away this, one of the greatest ills that flesh is heir to.

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To-morrow (Monday) evening, April 14,
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Gounod's opera, ROMEO AND JULIET.
Mme. ADELINA PATTI, Fabbri, Bauermeister, Stagno, Pongini, Del Puente, De Vaschetti, Marcoux, and Ravelli.
Tuesday evening, April 15,
MME. ALBANI, SIG. RAVELLI.
Verdi's opera, RIGOLETTO.
Wednesday evening, April 16,
MME. ADELINA PATTI.
Rossini's opera, IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA.
Friday evening, April 18, farewell appearance of
MME. ALBANI, SIG. RAVELLI.
Meyerbeer's opera, LES HUGUENOTS.
Saturday, April 19,
POSITIVELY LAST PATTI MATINEE.
Donizetti's opera, LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.
Wednesday evening, April 23,
MME. ADELINA PATTI.
Donizetti's opera, LINDA DI CHAMOUNIX.
This performance is given in lieu of the 17th Subscription Evening, which should have taken place on Wednesday evening, April 9. All tickets purchased for this performance will be recognized on that evening.
Seats for any of the above performances now on sale at the box office of the Metropolitan Opera House. Prices, $1.50, $2, $3, $4, $5, $7. Boxes, $42 and $60. General admission, $2. Family Circle, $1.

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METROPOLIS.
Marvellous Scenery! Matchless Company!

MISS MARIE G. LUKSCH begs to announce a Soiree Musicale to take place at STEINWAY HALL MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 14. Miss Luksch will be assisted by her pupils, Mrs. Jerline Held and Miss Emma Scharmann, and the following artists: Mrs. Adolphine Fallwill, pianiste; Mr. Sam Franko, violinist; Mr. Max Liebling, accompanist. Tickets now on sale at Steinway Hall ticket office. Price $1.50.

CHICKERING HALL. De Pachmann.
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 19, at 3.
SPECIAL CHOPIN MATINEE.
A REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMME.
Programmes and seats at Schuberth's, 23 Union square, and hall. Chickering piano used exclusively.

The First Annual Spring Meeting of the
BERKELEY ATHLETIC CLUB
and reopening of the Berkeley Oval, after the recent improvements, Saturday, May 17, 1890. Reserved seats in the south grand stand will be on sale at the box office of the Berkeley Lyceum on Monday, April 21, 9 o'clock.

H. E. JACOBS'S BD AV. THEATRE.
Matinees Monday, Thursday and Saturday.
GRAY'S OLD OAKEN BUCKET. SAVED FROM STEPHEN'S PLAYS. BUCKET. THE STORM.
April 21—PASSION'S SLAVE.

Amusements.

ALL EUROPE MADE CAPTIVE BY THE EXCELLENCE AND MAGNITUDE OF THIS EXHIBITION.

BARNUM & BAILEY'S
Greatest Show on Earth.

PRECISELY THE SAME IN EVERY ESSENTIAL AS PARTICULAR AS THE GREAT EXHIBITION THAT ASTOUNDED AND AMAZED ALL EUROPE IN ASSOCIATION WITH
IMRE KIRALFY'S NERO; OR, THE DESTRUCTION OF ROME. GRAND HISTORICAL SPECTACLE
OLYMPIA HIPPODROME, TRIPLE CIRCUS, DOUBLE MENAGERIES, MUSEUMS, AVIARY, AQUARIUM, BLACK ART ILLUSIONS, HORSE FAIR, ELEPHANT PAVILIONS, UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION
GRAND BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, NEW BACCHANAL, GRAND TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO ROME, IAN ORGIES
Ancient Pageants, Rites, Sacrificial Offerings, Early Roman Scenes, Tableaux and Pageants. $250,000 in Costumes. $75,000 in Scenery. $50,000 in Ancient Weapons and Armor.
Actually 1,000 people employed with 400 horses and 100 other animals.
196 Advance agents, 64 railroad cars, 5 advance cars, 50 ponies, 2 herds of elephants, 3 herds of camels, 30 circus performers, 50 Hippodrome riders, 50 acrobats and gymnasts, 25 clowns, 20 ballet dancers, 200 musicians, 400 actors and musicians, MAMMOTH STAGE, positively 300 feet long, HUGE TENT, 500 FEET LONG, 3 rings, 3 stages, 3 circus rings, Hippodrome racing track, 4 acres of magnificent painted panorama, 10 acres of water proof canvas tents.
Every department increased and augmented, and quadrupled the size of any previous year.
P. T. Barnum and J. A. Bailey, equal owners. Capital invested, $3,500,000. Daily expenses, $7,000.
Heartily approved and endorsed by and thrice honored with the presence of the Prince of Wales and Royal Family of Great Britain, and the nobility of the realm.

NOW OPEN ON THE OLD POLO GROUNDS!
IN THE LARGEST TENTS EVER MADE.
103RD ST. AND 5TH AV.
Two performances daily. Doors open one hour earlier for an hour before the performance. Admission, 50 cents. Private boxes, $12. Single box seats, $2. The usual night advance will be charged for all reserved seats. Prices of admission at Bushnell's Reservation, 10 Jones. ADMISSION TO SEE THE CHILDREN, 50. Seats secured in advance.
HOW TO GET THERE.
SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE N. Y. Central and H. R. 6:47, and 7:00 P. M., stopping at 103d st. (the Slow) 5:34 and 11:32 P. M. for grand Central depot.
EXTRA FACILITIES and coupon circus tickets will be sold at Sixth and 9th av. elevated roads to 103d st., 3d av. horse cars to Madison av. street, at 2 and 8 P. M. Metropolitan Museum and other departments. Prices Children under 9 years, 25 cents. Reserved seats, $1. Tickets bought at branch offices as follows: Lyceum, 4 cents each. Tompkins, 25 cents each. Sixty, 25 cents each. Stevens, 25 cents each. Tickets cost 25 cents each at both places.

STANDARD THEATRE.
J. M. HILL ..... Manager.
MAGNIFICENT ACTING,
REALISTIC SCENERY,
STARTLING SITUATIONS,
AND THE NATURAL RESULT AN
OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!
MONEY MAD.
BY STELLE MACKAYE.
NEW YORK WORLD.—Nothing in all the imported sensations can compare in STRUCTURAL AUDACITY and HISTORICAL FIDELITY with the bridge scene. It will fill the average theatregoer with WONDER and ADMIRATION, for MONTHS, and IT WILL FILL THE THEATRE. It was ADMIRABLY PLAYED and fully entitled to the success of WONDERMENT the play achieved."
NEW YORK SUN.—A most remarkable illusion. The crossing of a chasm, and the swinging of a bridge brought forth cheers and applause. The implosion on the island and in the bridge, in the darkness was realistic enough to make one wish to be far away.
NEW YORK EVENING WORLD.—The bridge scene beats the Lick and the stockyard, burglars, real rats and wet rivers. Hanlon in a boat, floating sheep, and breaking reindeer, in a crooked lake."
NEW YORK TRIBUNE.—"Not the slightest doubt of the popularity and success of MONEY MAD. Nothing more realistically picturesque than the bridge scene has ever been attempted in theatre."
NEW YORK NEWS.—"MONEY MAD is superior to any drama of its kind either seen from England or France or produced in this country. The bridge scene is a triumph of scenic and mechanical art never equalled. The audience cheered with delight."
SEATS CAN BE SECURED 8 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

DORISS BIG MUSEUM. 8th Ave between 27th & 28th sts. WEEK COMMENCING APRIL 14. ADMISSION 10c. Reserved seats 5c. Open from 10 A. M. to 11 P. M. SACRED CONCERT SUNDAY from 1 to 10 P. M. DORISS HARLEM MUSEUM. 125 WEST 125TH ST. ATTRACTIONS THE WHOLE WEEK.

CURIO HALL'S TEEMING WITH LIVING HUMAN STRANGE PEOPLE WITH AN ENTIRE CHANGE OF CURIOSITIES AND STAGE ATTRACTIONS EVERY WEEK. NOTHING REMAINS. The 2nd Week. THE GRANDEST MUSEUM ON EARTH.

HUBER'S 14th St. and 4th Ave. **PALACE MUSEUM**
"A DOLLAR SHOW FOR TEN CENTS."
OUR TRIPLE ANNEX IS NOW OPEN.
W. H. SMITH, THE HERMIT OF THE ADIRONDACKS.
A Modern Rip Van Winkle.
Mr. Smith is 64 years old, stands feet 4 inches high, and his beard is 7 feet 7 inches long and white as snow.
An Automatic Silver Mine, showing 1,000 Mechanical Figures at Work. A Faithful reproduction of a mine near Freiburg, Saxony.
Annie Leak Thompson, the Tireless Woman, who fatigues with his trained performing monkeys the Three Leopard Children, what is it, and Gorgeously the Human Quadruped, Barney Baldwin, Broken Neck Man, Oldest Living Dwarf, Tattooed Woman, the Indian Mummies, Band, Bob Roy, the Albino Fish, Stormfort, Washington the Hungarian Tattooed Lady.
In Lower Curio Hall—Royal Venetian Troubadours and Herman, the Modern Hercules in Novel Acts.
In the Museum: Anna Boleyn and the SPECIALTY COMPANY, including Harrington and Aubrey, Lionor and Archmier, Healey and Cosgrove, James Neary, Clara Simpson, Phil Gibbons, St. Julien, Jeffers, Donovan, Edward Clarence, Tom Carr, and other well known artists.
Grand Sacred Concerts Sundays. Extra Attractions.

HARDMAN HALL,
5th av. and 19th st.
APRIL 15 and 16—TAMAGNINI, violin playing.
APRIL 16—Jenness Miller School for Physical Culture.
APRIL 17—"THE KING'S DAUGHTERS." Musical performance and tableaux