The Sun.

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The Liquor Law and the New York City Administration.

The announcement that Governor ODELL, in his coming message to the Legislature, will oppose any proposition to alter the Liquor law in the direction of liberalizing liquor selling on Sunday, puts an end to all further agitation for that purpose and calls for a review of the situation.

The movement for a more open Sunday was a choice of evils, founded not so much upon the general principle of liberty as upon the special police conditions in New York city. Experience shows that while the Liquor law may be enforced here and the saloons closed on Sunday by the exertions of the extreme rigors of police power, the voters will not support such a policy. Rather than do that, they will put Tammany in power, with its secret violation of the law and the inevitable corruption of the police that goes with it.

The answer of Governor ODELL and the New York Republican party is that New York city must abide its own fortunes under the present arrangement. The Liquor law, prepared for the State at large, cannot be changed to meet this city's special exigencies. In addition to the Republicans up the State opposition to the change suggested has been made very emphatic on the part of a great body of Republicans and of Democrats also in this city.

The policy of the new Commissioner of Police who will take office to-morrow, Col. PARTRIDGE, happens to have been clearly indicated. He makes it known that he favors what is called a "liberal interpretation" of the Liquor law, or that saloons known to be trustworthy as to their character and manner of conducting business shall be enabled to sell on Sunday under the present law. Putting it bluntly, on Sunday the Liquor law is to be officially labelled "Blue," and openly relegated to the lumber room for statutes that are practically disregarded, a programme of the most sensational sort, when applied to a statute of such moment as the one in question.

Pictures Fair but False.

It does not fall to the lot of many artists to live to such an age and maturity of distinction that they are extensively counterfeited within their own lifetime. Artists who are really great seldom enjoy the real fruition of their art. It is only when they are gone that it is fully appreciated and the true measure of its merit declared in the open market.

The venerable T. SIDNEY COOPER, R. A., who is now nearing his hundredth year, testified the other day that a picture attributed to him and disputed in the courts, was not painted by him. He stated that he had had 287 pictures submitted to him for verification, of which he had found 256 to be forgeries and 31 to be true. The court, he said, would readily understand how his reputation had suffered.

This seems to be an extraordinary state of affairs and suggests some very disagreeable reflections. Suppose that COROT, for instance, were alive and had presented to him at this time for his scrutiny, say, 1,000 canvases! The late M. TROUILLEBERT painted many admirable Corots and deceived the elect themselves with them. His industry was somewhat harassed by the Correctional Police and his person was sequestrated for a time, but that was due in a measure to his difficulty in showing that the dealers and not he had painted the "J. B. C. Corot" in the corners of his canvases. But how many of the thousand pictures attributed to him in this country alone, would the venerable Père COROT, could he revisit these scenes, acknowledge and attest? Some of the Trouilleberts would bother him, if, indeed, the great man did not quite placidly accept them; but there would certainly be a vast number that he would violently repudiate. In England it would be worse even than here. Great Britain turned to the Barbizon school long after we did, long, long after all those artists were dead and gone, and turned to it with a prodigious appetite. We should doubt very much if the artists of that famous group painted one-half of the canvases attributed to them in England. A well-known gallery in Bond street had a Barbizon exhibition about fifteen years ago and of twenty-two Corots that it included two were really by that artist and they were the least pretentious of the lot. The Scotch picture buyers, by the way, escaped. It is most creditable to them that not a solitary base example is to be found in any important Scotch collection, and there are not a few such.

We have fared better than some of our neighbors, and experience is beginning to enforce its lessons. Besides the better class of dealers have long been pointing out that there are certain things that they cannot supply. They are no longer to be had, and when the difficulty of procuring them is rightly understood it naturally leads to a much more exacting scrutiny of those which the market does offer. Besides there is a distinct change coming over the public taste. There is a demand for old masters of all the schools and of the English school in particular: GAINSBOROUGH, REYNOLDS, ROMNEY, TURNER, LAWRENCE, OPIE, MORLAND, HOPPNER, WILSON, CROME, COX and all the rest of them are bringing prices that should make them turn in their graves. No one of them earned in his lifetime the amount that a few of his pictures have sold for during the past year. This importunate demand has been attended with the inevitable result and every due effort has been long since made to meet it. We confess that to imitate a Reynolds or a Gainsborough is a very much more difficult problem than that to which M. TROUILLEBERT addressed himself, but it was achieved many years ago when the rewards of successful forgery were very poor compared to what they are now. We have already acquired more than a fair share of those precious commodities, bogus Gainsboroughs, Reynoldses and Romneys especially, but we are like, in the present temper and buying vigor of the public, to fall a victim to whole armies of them.

Tammany.

The nomination of Mr. PERRY BELMONT in the Seventh Congress district, sustained or unsustained by the courts, indicates another power in Tammany than that of Mr. RICHARD CROKER, who opposed it with every possible exertion of influence.

Who is it? After the death of the late JOHN KELLY the supreme authority in Tammany Hall had centralized itself for a long time before the personality of the new leader was disclosed. Then a triumvirate on the Napoleonic plan became known, and finally Mr. CROKER emerged as the actual Boss.

Is there already a new centralization? And what's its name?

The Price of Panama.

The Isthmian Canal Commission's estimate of the present value of the Panama canal property was this:

Excavation already done	$27,474,033
Panama Railroad stock at par	6,850,000
Maps, drawings and records	2,000,000
	$36,324,033

To this the Commission added 10 per cent. to cover items not included, making the total valuation $40,000,000.

The French company's own valuation of its property, as officially communicated last October by Monsieur HUTIN, was as follows:

Panama Railroad stock	$10,615,000
Buildings, lands, &c.	1,737,000
Hospitals	868,500
Amounts expended for concessions, with interest	4,632,000
Work done by old company	80,095,000
Work done by new company	7,720,000
Technical surveys	3,474,000
	$109,141,500

This is, of course, a greatly inflated valuation, and most of the items either dwindle or disappear altogether upon scrutiny. For example, the concessions held by the first French company and its successors have no market value, as the United States would be obliged to procure a new concession from Colombia. In the estimate of value of work already done there is included a vast amount of machinery and implements, old or not adapted to present American methods of canal construction. The title to the lands included in the schedule, if we are right, does not pass to the company until the canal is completed. There are other doubtful items accounting for the difference between the French company's valuation of $109,141,500 and our Commission's estimate of $40,000,000.

But even this inflated valuation of $109,141,500 was not at first a definite offer to sell at that price; for it was tied up with a claim for a share of the future profits of the completed canal, or a lump sum in advance capitalizing these future profits. The Isthmian Commission stood stiff against this preposterous claim, and on November 2 Monsieur HUTIN relinquished it with the remark that "this surrender constitutes on our part an act of conciliation which must be taken into account during the discussion of our other propositions."

Now, it is only three years since the literature put forth by the New Panama Canal Company in the interest of a sale to the United States dwelt, somewhat vaguely it is true, upon $156,400,000 as the cash value of their property.

At the same time the French estimate of the cost of completion, under the plans adopted, was $102,400,000.

Our Isthmian Commission's estimate of the cost of completion is $144,233,358.

The fact of main importance, so far as concerns the thorough, careful and comprehensive investigation of the two routes by Rear Admiral WALKER and his associates, is that the Commission's distinct recommendation of the Nicaragua route in preference to the Panama route was based solely on the failure to obtain from the French company any offer better than $109,141,500 for its property and rights. That proposed compensation put the estimated cost of a Panama canal to this Government at $62,510,796 above the estimated cost of a Nicaragua canal, and with this enormous difference in view the Commission concluded its report thus:

"After considering the facts developed by the investigations made by the Commission and the actual situation as it now stands, and having in view the terms offered by the New Panama Canal Company, this Commission is of the opinion that 'the most practicable and feasible route' for an isthmian canal to be 'under the control, management and ownership of the United States,' is that known as the Nicaragua route."

In other words, there is absolutely nothing in the report precluding the supposition that, with money figures equal or nearly equal as to the two routes, the Commission might have recommended Panama as "the most practicable and feasible."

An offer of Panama to the United States for $40,000,000 instead of $109,141,500 would at once wipe out the advantage which Nicaragua enjoyed in the previous consideration of the subject. It would make the estimated cost of completing the Panama canal $5,630,700 less than that of constructing the Nicaragua canal. With this approximate equalization of cost, it would leave as the only questions to be considered those of convenience of situation, ease of navigation and cost of operation.

On this last point the Commission reported:

"The estimated annual cost of maintaining and operating the Nicaragua canal is $1,300,000 greater than the corresponding charges for the Panama canal."

A saving of $1,300,000 in annual charges is 4 per cent. on a capital of $32,500,000. Adding to this the item of $5,630,700 in favor of Panama in the estimated cost of completion, we actually find that the Panama route would be $38,130,000 cheaper than the Nicaragua route, providing the Panama property is acquired by the United States for $40,000,000.

This would not be conclusive as between the two routes; but it certainly would inspire further consideration on the basis of the new figures.

Superintendent Kilburn's Report.

The annual report of FREDERICK D. KILBURN, State Superintendent of Banks, of which a synopsis was published yesterday, shows, as was to be expected, that the banks and trust companies of the State are in a flourishing condition. One hundred and ninety-eight banks now report to the State Banking Department, having an aggregate capital of $28,245,700, with surplus and undivided profits amounting to $29,176,768, and aggregate resources of $403,477,331, a gain of $52,397,059 over 1900. Sixty-one trust companies under the supervision of the department have an aggregate capital of $47,450,000, with surplus and undivided profits of $98,391,728. Their resources are $966,528,398 and their deposits $802,518,096.

Mr. KILBURN says that he is not prepared at present to recommend the requirement suggested by many critics that trust companies should carry some percentage of their deposits as a cash reserve. He maintains that this would compel the trust companies to hold in their vaults such a percentage of their deposits as would harmfully withdraw from active employment many millions of dollars. Public opinion on this matter is, we think, that in the case of trust companies doing an old-fashioned trust business no specific reserve is needed; but that trust companies that are virtually banks, as many of them are, should be required to keep the same reserve as banks.

The Superintendent declares that it has been his policy to refuse approval to trust company organizations in every instance where it appeared that there was no likelihood that the institution in question would be able to secure any considerable trust business and where it was intended that the new company should operate practically as a bank. He also says that it has been his policy not to authorize any new savings bank unless its proposed trustees executed an agreement to defray all of its expenses themselves until such time as its earnings should be sufficient to meet expenses and to permit the payment to depositors of interest at the rate of not less than 3 per cent. annually.

The most important recommendation of the Superintendent's report, and one which people generally will cordially approve, is that power be given to him to inspect and supervise personal and building loan associations, or else that these institutions be removed entirely from any connection with the State Banking Department. Mr. KILBURN declares that the ruin of building and loan associations can be traced directly to extravagance and waste on the part of the officers and trustees and to improvident and reckless loans. Associations for personal loans exclusively, while commonly believed to have a benevolent and charitable character, are in fact simply merciless usurers, and should no longer enjoy the favor of the State.

The Battleship Missouri.

The battleship Missouri, launched at Newport News on Saturday, is another important addition to our navy. Laid down as an immediate consequence of the destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor, she is one of the three ships of the Maine class, the others being the Maine, recently launched at Philadelphia, and the Ohio, now building at San Francisco. The Missouri's keel was laid on Feb. 7, 1900, and she is expected to be completed during 1903.

As originally planned, the Maine was practically a reproduction of the Alabama; but the speed, 16 knots, was deemed too little, and the plans were changed to permit the use of engines able to produce 18 knots. The hull of the Maine and her sisters in consequence is twenty feet longer than that of the Alabama, being 388 feet in length; and the displacement is increased from 11,545 to 12,500 tons. The added length permits also of two more 6-inch guns in the broadside batteries. Consequently the Maine class carries four 40-calibre 12-inch rifles in two turrets, and sixteen 50-calibre 6-inch rifles, ten in broadside on the main deck, two in sponsons on either bow, and four in broadside on the upper deck.

The protection given to the new vessels is very complete. A belt of armor, 11 inches thick at the water line amidships, extends from near the stern entirely to the bow, decreasing there to a thickness of 4 inches. The protective deck is 2½ inches thick above the engines and machinery, 3 inches at the bow, and 4 at the stern. Diagonal bulkheads extend across the ship at each barbette, and on the main belt rises another wall of armor, 6 inches thick. This will prevent the entrance of explosive shells beneath the central broadside guns.

The new vessels carry nearly half as many tons of coal again as the Alabama class; the constructors have in them returned to the plan of placing the smokestacks fore and aft, while in the preceding class the stacks are placed transversely, as in river steamers. The under-water torpedo tubes installed in the Missouri and her sister ships are novel in our navy; water tube boilers are used for the first time exclusively in an American man-of-war.

When the Ohio shall have been launched, and the three vessels of the Maine class commissioned, we shall have a pretty important addition to the United States Navy.

The first number of the first volume of the *Sun Worshipper*, a publication started in Chicago for the cultivation of Mazdaznan philosophy, and, we suppose, "for other purposes," illustrates a troublesome principle of art, or of nature, or of art applied to nature. It is found in the full-length portrait of the Master Worshipper, the Reverend Doctor OTOMAN ZAR-ADUSHT-HANISH, Manthra-Magi of the El-Kharman Temple, Apta-Perest of the Mazdaznan Philosophy, Manthra for the Communion of Universal Friends and Dastur in the Art of Breathing.

The Doctor, or Manthra-Magi, or Apta-Perest, or Dastur, a smooth-faced journalist or seer, appears in beautiful silken robes that harmonize in sentiment with his titles, but cut so short in front that they reveal his legs encased in commonplace trousers. The incongruity of these legs with the character attributed to their owner, causes us to reflect that the only really spiritual conception of the human form is the cherub, which has no legs.

During this month, in accordance with the requirements of the city Charter, the present Board of Education will cease to exist and a new board, with different powers and of wholly different character from the old, will be called into being. The change is probably for the public interest; but every one who has had to do with our schools will regret that such an intelligent, efficient and courteous officer as MILES M. O'BRIEN, the present President of the Board of Education, must resign his chair.

The Budget or Appropriations Committee of the French Chamber has reduced the provisional estimates for the navy by about one million dollars. The actual amount is not very great, in proportion to the total estimates of about 312,000,000 francs; but radical changes have been made in the programme for next year. Two battleships and one cruiser have been abandoned entirely, not merely postponed; and it is proposed by the committee that only vessels and other works shall be undertaken for which appropriations were actually made in the budget of 1901. The whole shipbuilding programme adopted in December of last year is thus suspended. The proposed strength of the personnel is reduced, and to keep the force at its present level, it is proposed to put out of commission all wooden vessels, as well as transports, and to charter merchant ships instead. The opposition to the programme of last year is led by M. LOCKROY, who as a former Minister of Marine will be able to bring considerable influence against the further increase of the navy.

State Hospitals for the Insane.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can some one of your readers report the classification in respect to kinds of infirmity in these institutions and the number of patients in each class? It is stated that there are 100 to 500 patients in excess of accommodations in each of the asylums, respectively.

This State charity is on a grand scale, and necessary, but the result of habeas corpus proceedings indicates frequently that many are confined who are harmless and no worse possibly then eccentric or simply neurasthenic—in some cases confined through the greed of relatives, or with a desire to get rid of care for invalids. In some way such patients should be weeded out, as a part of the plans of retrenchment of the State's expenses.

And the statutes respecting commitments of alleged lunatics should be so amended that it will be impossible to deprive any one of liberty without due course of law, which, in this matter, should include timely notice to all relatives near of kin, and a presentation of the whole case, pro and con, before the proper court. As it is, any two petitioners can get a certificate from any two doctors and the County Judge can railroad the patient to a prison for the insane—all within a day or two. The expert, Dr. Charles L. Dana, was reported to have said lately that very few doctors are judges of insanity—true even of those everywhere who are made "examiners in lunacy." H. W. P.

FLUSHING, Dec. 28.

On Reports of Christmas Dinners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why is it, Mr. Editor, that we have columns imposed upon us in our morning papers because individuals from their enormous incomes distribute a Christmas dinner to the less wealthy in some institution? Many of these are people of refinement and culture, who through adversity, are obliged to look to the protecting arms of some institution, as the writer can vouch for several such cases which have come under his personal observation. A gift, when distributed by the donor, must therefore embitter still more the recipient. The little Salvation lassie, who stood by the iron kettle through the bitter cold days which preceded Christmas did not look for any particular notoriety and nothing is said because all of her Christmas was spent in standing behind long rows of tables serving the hungry. Not even her white apron received honorable mention. AN OBSERVER

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Dec. 29.

The Riverside Drive Blocked.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To my mind, we have but one beautiful drive in the city of New York and that is the Riverside Drive, and so I rise to the submitting of a question. Why, for two years, has the Riverside Drive been blocked from Ninety-third to Ninety-eighth street? The construction of the viaduct would have been in any other civilized city in the world completed in ninety days. Here it has already taken two years and to judge from the leisurely and slovenly manner of the work (?) now in progress it will take at least two years more. It's an insult to the man who pays the bill, i. e., the taxpayer. Are we never to be relieved from our now already heavy load, "The Tammany Contractor?" AN ENGINEER.

Bad Footway on Macomb's Dam Bridge.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I desire to call to the notice of the proper authorities through your news columns the deplorable condition of the footway on the Central Bridge crossing the Harlem River at 155th street. The footway is laid with asphalt and no adequate provision has been made for the purpose of draining the sidewalk; the consequence is that thousands of persons living in the upper section of this city who are compelled to travel twice daily over this bridge are practically forced to wade, every rainy day, through a series of puddles from one end of the bridge to the other. Even during light showers the water continues to stand in puddles on this footway when other sidewalks are completely dry. Apparently no provision was originally made to drain this sidewalk, but no efforts or expense should now be spared by the proper authorities to right this evil. WALTER SHELL

132 Wood [illegible] Ave., New York.

Numbered Street Signs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* So far no attention has been paid to providing street signs. No one can tell in which direction the numbers increase. Many times all of us have walked far out of our way before finding that we were going in the wrong direction. [illegible]

SPRING OF 1901 [illegible]

[illegible]

Cancer Cured by Finsen Light Treatment.

From the New York Medical Journal.

[illegible]

MRS. GARDNER OBDURATE.

Will Light Her Palace With Candles Rather Than Permit Official Inspection.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Rather than permit inspectors from Wire Commissioner Lott's department to inspect her Venetian palace, Mrs. Jack Gardner threatens to light her great ballroom and the interior of the building with candles and to run the risk of fire, as the underwriters have notified all the insurance companies not to accept a risk upon the place under the present conditions. This state of affairs is the result of considerable correspondence between Mrs. Gardner and Commissioner Lott.

When the palace was being constructed Mrs. Gardner had the wiring done by expert men and supposed she would have no difficulty in having a connection made with the cables of the power furnishing company. When she learned that all work of this kind in Boston has to be examined and passed upon by the fire underwriters and the inspectors from the Wire Department of the city, Mrs. Gardner began writing to Commissioner Lott in an endeavor to have the usual formalities dispensed with.

The city has an agreement with the electric light companies that they will not connect or turn on a current in any building, the wiring of which the inspectors have not approved. When this information was placed before Mrs. Gardner, she insisted that the wiring in her place was all right and that an inspection was unnecessary, but the Commissioner was obdurate.

Then Mrs. Gardner grew indignant and said she would light the place by candles rather than allow a city employee to enter the place. The fire underwriters have sent out notice that insurance companies must not insure the palace and the city has notified the electric light companies not to make connections with it until the owner complies with the usual requirements.

Draining the Everglades.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I see in THE SUN an announcement that Mr. Flagler is going to back up a scheme to drain the Everglades. This is an old story, and there is just as much probability of its truth as there was of the previous visions of that kind. The fact is that there is not fall enough to drain that part of Florida by the gravity of the water. Draining could only be accomplished by pumping, and the results would not warrant that expense. To drain the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee must be first drained, as that great body of water constantly spills over into the region known as the Everglades.

Mr. Diston undertook to drain that lake, but he found it impossible, and he sank the money he expended on his attempt. Lake Okeechobee is seventy-five miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and the surface of the lake is from eighteen to twenty-five feet above the surface of the Gulf, depending on the varying depth of the lake. That amount of fall will not keep an outlet running, in the climate where these waters lie. It probably would not in any climate, as a fall of less than three feet to the mile would have current of less than three miles an hour. I was familiar with the Diston attempt, and I thought I demonstrated that one good shower of rain, let alone a tropical downpour of a foot at a time, would put more water into the lake than the outlet could discharge in a day.

The bottom of the lake is below the level of the Gulf. The good land that would be developed is thousands of acres of saw grass swamps immediately surrounding the lake, a perfect dead level. The proper Everglades are not particularly good land. JOHN G. WEBB.

OSPREY, Fla., Dec. 26.

Are New York Cocktails Bad?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In view of the fact that the cocktail is one of our great national drinks, it would seem that New York, with all its high-class bartenders and fine cafés, should be able to turn out the very finest kind of a one. Such is not the case, though, but on the contrary the cocktails served up in New York at the best bars are of a very inferior quality generally. I have always observed that the bartenders in the cafés of the big hotels and other famous resorts in New York generally use the poorest whiskey in concocting the drink. I am told that they do this because the ordinary person cannot tell the difference between good and bad whiskey in a cocktail or other mixed drink. If these bartenders are asked to use a good brand of whiskey they generally do so with poor grace, and scrimp on something else. The mixing of the various ingredients is done in the most slovenly manner, and the same ice is used over and over again, being thrown back into the chest after your drink is poured out. Ice is cheap, and if one is charged 15 cents for a cocktail any bar ought to be able to afford new ice for each drink. Bartenders in other cities of the country take a little pride in mixing up good cocktails, and New York is far behind in this respect. In New Orleans there is a café owned by one Sasserac, and the cocktails mixed there cannot be excelled by any in the country. His place has a national reputation for the mixing of cocktails, and those of his bartenders who grow wealthy enough to start out for themselves advertise the fact that they mix Sasserac cocktails. No more is charged for these cocktails than others, but, I believe the bartenders take nine or ten minutes in mixing one of them, and do so with a great finish. I am satisfied that if any café in New York made a specialty of fine cocktails its trade would be enormous. COCKTAILS.

DEC. 30.

For a Young Women's Christian Home in Egypt.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In most of the large cities of the United States of America and of Greater Britain there are now bright, comfortable Christian homes provided, where, for a reasonable charge girls and women earning their living can board and rest. Three years ago in Alexandria (Egypt) we started under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A., a similar home in a small flat; over and over again we have been compelled to move into larger premises, and now, though we have two flats, we have not room enough for all the applicants.

We accommodate, as far as possible, girls of any nationality and creed, so we have a claim for worldwide sympathy and help.

For some months I have been making inquiries as to building, and find that for $20,000 we can have a large building with meeting hall, library, work room, bicycle and dark rooms, dining rooms, sitting rooms, and bedroom accommodation for 20 governesses and sick nurses, 20 maids, and 20 Syrian girls and Armenians (for training as servants), and I am venturing to appeal to those who enjoy home comforts and bright social lives to help us both to smaller and larger gifts.

Reference is kindly allowed to H. B. M. Consul, Alexandria, Egypt, and I will gladly give more details of the need, and donations may be sent either to Mrs. Tritton, Lyons Hall, Chelmsford, England, or Miss Woods (Honorable Treasurer World's Young Women's Christian Association), [illegible] street, London, W., or Mrs. S. H. Carter, Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt, or M. A. [illegible], Alexandria.

As our lease will soon expire we long to build quickly. [illegible]

Honorable Secretary Alexandria Y. W. C. A.

ALEXANDRIA, Nov. 5.

Swear off Her: December 31.

[illegible]

W. J. L.

LANDMARKS IN MEDICINE.

Short Review of the Great Medical Revolutions of the Past Century.

From Mosher's Magazine.

Just before the beginning of the nineteenth century an epoch-making discovery was made by an English country physician that foreshadowed the greatest advances that were to be made during the next hundred years in medicine. Edward Jenner (1749-1823), finding a tradition among milkmaids in his native Gloucestershire that those who had suffered from a disease called cowpox, caught from an eruption on the cows' udders did not afterward contract smallpox, investigated the matter. He found that cowpox was probably an animal modification of human smallpox, and he suggested the introduction of vaccination, that is inoculation with the virus of cowpox in order to produce immunity to smallpox. At the end of the eighteenth century his practical application of a chance discovery anticipated such ideas as immunity, protection and modification of disease, that are now, at the beginning of the twentieth century, topics of acutest interest in the most promising department of medicine.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the impression was very general that most of the symptoms of disease were due to living causes. As nothing was known of the minute germs of disease it was concluded that worms in the intestinal tract were a frequent cause of otherwise inexplicable symptoms. A great number of prescriptions for the removal of worms were in use. The vermifuges, as they are called, were the most popular family remedies.

Supposedly scientific medicine at this time was occupied with the thought that disease was due to a change in one of the humors of the body, the blood, the lymph or the bile. During the first few years the teaching of the eminent Frenchman Bichat (1771-1802) did much to counteract this false notion. He showed that most diseases were due to changes in special tissues.

The first to take advantage of Bichat's teaching and apply it seriously to practical medicine was another Frenchman, Läennec (1781-1826). Läennec found that by listening to the sounds produced in the heart and the lungs he could tell much of the character of the ailments from which these organs suffered. This was an extremely important advance in diagnosis. At first Läennec applied his ear directly to the chest. During his investigations into diseases of that part of the body, a young woman was admitted to the benefit of his service at the Necker Hospital in Paris. In order to save her modesty he did not apply his ear directly to her chest, but used a roll of paper as a tube to convey the sound from the chest to his ear. This was the first stethoscope, and the invention of an instrument that has proved of very great service in the accurate detection of lung and heart diseases.

After Laennec the most important work on a special organ was done in England by Richard Bright (1789-1858), who showed that certain symptoms, and especially dropsy, were connected with changes in the kidneys. Bright's work was very complete in its way, and since then the degenerative kidney affections have been called Bright's disease.

A revolution in medical thought with regard to the basis of disease was preparing. Theodor Schwann (1810-1882), a German professor in the Catholic University at Louvain, showed that the tissues of all animals, like those of plants, are composed of distinct minute portions separated from one another, which he called cells. The study of cells and cell life soon led to better knowledge of the intimate constitution of organs and of the manner in which their functions are performed.

Another famous German, Virchow, (1821-), the father of cellular pathology, as he is called, showed, about the middle of the century, that it is not the organs as a whole that are affected by disease, but the cells of which the organs are composed. Not all of the cells are affected, but different ones in different diseases. This was the new idea that was to revolutionize pathology. Ten years before Virchow's discoveries, the great medical men of Vienna were teaching that disease was due to changes in the body humors.

Another great change in medicine was effected by the illustrious Frenchman, Pasteur (1822-1895), shortly after Virchow's first work was published. Pasteur showed that certain diseases in animals, and, later, certain diseases in human beings also, are due to the presence of minute living germs, which are called bacteria. Pasteur's work represents some of the most practically valuable advances in medicine during the whole century.

Another distinguished Frenchman was doing great original work in medicine about the same time. This was Claude Bernard (1813-1878), who taught us the function of the ductless gland and a number of the important physiological truths with regard to the nervous system and nervous reflexes that enable us to understand the intimate sympathy that exists between all portions of the body.

Lord Lister, following closely the work done by Pasteur with regard to the existence of germs in the air that cause fermentation, suggested the employment of methods to prevent these germs from getting into wounds—the antiseptic treatment. This made possible the great advances in surgery at the end of the nineteenth century.

World's Steel Business.

From the London Engineering.

The accompanying table indicates at a glance the relative position of our principal competitors in the manufacture of steel:

	Coal Tons.	Iron Ore. Tons.	Pig Iron. Tons.	Steel. Tons.
Britain	225,181,300	14,028,208	8,959,691	5,000,000
United St.	240,965,917	27,553,161	13,789,242	10,188,329
Germany	*149,551,058	19,[illegible]	8,520,390	6,[illegible]
Belgium	23,462,817	*201,445	1,018,507	[illegible]
France	*33,270,385	4,985,793	2,699,494	1,[illegible]
Spain	2,772,000	8,[illegible]	294,118	*122,954
Sweden	257,[illegible]	2,[illegible]	526,[illegible]	300,[illegible]
Russia	16,127,[illegible]		2,871,[illegible]	1,[illegible]
Austria				
Hungary	*[illegible]	3,[illegible]	1,[illegible]	1,[illegible]
Canada	4,[illegible]	127,000	86,[illegible]	23,[illegible]

*Includes lignite. †For 1899. [illegible]

Britain and United States are in gross tons; others in metric.

It will be seen that in the production of coal—the source of heat for smelting iron ore and refining the resultant metal—the United States has now excelled us. But the domestic needs of this population must be at least [illegible] per cent. greater than those of ours, even allowing for other sources of heat, oil, natural gas, wood, &c.

[illegible]

The North American Review for January is noteworthy for the high character of its contributions. [illegible]

HITCH IN DANISH ISLAND SALE.

The Liberal Ministry Frightened Into Withholding Its Consent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Information received here indicates that the Danish Government is in a terrible stew over the proposed sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The Washington Government thought that everything had been arranged for the signing of a treaty by which possession was to be transferred from Denmark to the United States, but opposition to the sale has developed in Copenhagen which has frightened the new Liberal Ministry into withholding its consent to the treaty arrangement.

According to the understanding in official circles here the trouble in consummating the deal lies in the inexperience of the Danish Ministry. For the first time in many years the Liberals are in power, but they are afraid to take any radical step that may result in a return of the Conservatives, who are making the most of the agitation over the West Indian matter. A suggestion that a plebiscite be held in the islands to determine whether the inhabitants want American or Danish rule has been made, but not formally, to the State Department or its diplomatic representative at Copenhagen.

That this Government will not consent to a plebiscite appears to have been determined, so that Denmark has no chance of conciliating her subjects by such a course. There was a plebiscite when the Seward treaty for the sale of the islands to the United States was negotiated and the Danish West Indians declared for American rule. The United States Government thinks, therefore, that another such test of popular sentiment is unnecessary.

Denmark has been trying for three decades to sell the islands and the Washington Administration is amazed over the hesitation displayed in formally assenting to an agreement that is satisfactory to the royal authorities at Copenhagen. Since this agitation against the sale has begun certain suggestions showing the timidity of the Liberal Ministers have been thrown out, but as none of these have been made formally to this Government, no consideration has been given to them by the State Department.

A German's Mastery of English.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a German and have been an attentive reader of your paper for ten years. I have always an English book in reading, a well chosen book, written by an approved author, yet I have to thank THE SUN more than any teacher on books for the progress I have made in learning the English language. This being my experience, it always "jars" me to hear the corruption of English prose laid at the door of the newspaper men. But to-day, for the first time, I read a book which exactly expresses my views of the influence of a well-written newspaper, and I would like to hear the opinions of your more competent English readers about this matter. I therefore kindly request you to print the following passage from John Earle's "English Prose." It is written in a Johnsonian style, but my own (and, I think, many others') experience can vouch for its truth.

"The social principle is at the root of all linguistic growth. The inducement to a certain elevation of manner, the desire for lucidity, the search after variety—all three spring from one motive, and that motive is a proper respect for those before whom we appear, making us wish to win their attention and their favor, and to avoid being tedious to them. A writer may be quite master of his subject, and yet he may not be able to present it advantageously, for want of sympathy with his audience.

"And when we fully see the importance of this social principle, we may be in a position to do justice to the great services which have been rendered to English prose by the newspaper press. That large and influential order of men which daily provides news and comments upon public affairs for the millions of English readers is animated by one highly developed professional instinct and that instinct is the social sense of their relation to the public. Under the salutary influence of this honorable sentiment, our English prose (more than by any other means) ascertained the right pitch of elevation, and the most available means of attaining lucidity accompanied with the relief of variety."

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. TYRO.

Public School Graduates as Typewriters.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As indicated by "Plain Language" in Saturday's SUN, the teaching of English in the New York city public schools is undoubtedly very defective. I have been a teacher of shorthand and typewriting for many years, and as my pupils have consisted almost wholly of graduates direct from the grammar schools, I had an exceptional opportunity of testing their knowledge. They use such oral English as your correspondent illustrates; and, in their transcriptions of shorthand into typewriting, I have found them wofully deficient in written English. They do not seem to be able to determine with certainty the beginning and end of sentences, and will often make such absurd divisions as, "I shall go there. In the morning." They are usually at a loss whether to use, "to" or "too," "there" or "their," "no" or "know," "a" or "an," "who" or "whom," &c.

The public school pupils get a smattering of technical grammar, but they do not seem to know how to use this knowledge in speaking and writing. I have noticed that the graduates of a few of the grammar schools are much further advanced in this subject than the others; their instruction includes the principles of rhetoric. How is this? Is not the same course in English prescribed for each of these schools? G. S. WALWORTH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.

Massachusetts Men Fined for Not Helping a Policeman.

From the Boston Daily Globe.

GLOUCESTER, Dec. 27.—It cost George W. Gorrett, Sidney P. Townsend, George O. Hanley and John W. Keefe $20 for refusing to assist an officer when called upon. Such was the decree by Judge York in the district court to-day.

Policeman Charles P. Parsons attempted to make an arrest of two men who were fighting in what is known as the "Fort" district Tuesday night. On the arrival of the officer the crowd present rushed one of the fighters back of a stable. The policeman followed and the crowd closed in.

He found his man secreted in a wagon and pulled him out. The man showed fight and the crowd urged him on the officer. Parsons, however, got his man down and held him by the throat.

He called on the men by name for assistance in the name of the Commonwealth. He handed one, Townsend, the keys of the signal box and ordered him to ring in for the patrol. Townsend refused and returned the keys. He called on the others and they refused.

Progress of the Marine Turbine.

From the London Engineering.

So successful has been the King Edward, both from a mechanical and commercial point of view, that Capt. John Williamson has ordered another vessel somewhat similar to the King Edward, but of larger dimensions, and one knot more speed, with about 4,000 horse power.

[illegible]

The Christmas Table of Tiny Tim.

[illegible]