

ALMOST A CHOLERA SCARE.

An Incident of the Peculiar Fright That Seized New York City.

"Let me tell you how I came near being the innocent cause of a big cholera scare," said a well known lawyer to a reporter one afternoon.

"It happened in this way: I was breakfasting alone in East Twenty-eight street at a private Italian boarding house filled with the leading people from several comic opera companies, including 'Robin Hood' and 'Puritans'.

"My landlady, Mme. S., whose English pronunciation is at once the delight and despair of those who seek to imitate or understand it, came in and said: 'Mista John, writta me una note. Say Alida wot are down. Come quick. You putta mia nonna atta bot, Spiale.'"

"I was in haste to get down town," continued the narrator, "and I wrote it out as I understood it. 'All the women are down; come quick.' I thought that the message sounded odd. She said, however, that it was 'alla rat,' and sent it to Dr. X. around the corner in Lexington avenue.

That worthy physician glanced at the note, and thinking that it opened the way to fame for him informed the board of health that he had discovered an outbreak of cholera in an up town Italian boarding house.

He telephoned the same message to several newspaper men of his acquaintance.

"In less than twenty minutes a squad of burly policemen appeared in front of the house, followed by the doctor, six reporters and several officers of the board of health, whose instincts had been wrought up to a white heat by the message.

Mme. S. answered the incessant ringing of the door bell in person. She was attired in a becoming morning gown, and being a large and remarkably handsome woman, presented a dramatic appearance as she explained the situation: 'Gentlemen, who eats breakfast now, no understanda me. I tell him olda wot are down, slyppa down, you mustan! Olda wot worka for me. Falla down stairs. Hurta her side. No worka down here at all. Day alla out. Goodday, gentelman, goodaday.'"

"New York Tribune." "My father insisted that my sister Katie and I should teach the polka step to him and Mr. Leech. My father was as much in earnest about learning to take that wonderful step correctly as though there were nothing of greater importance in the world.

He Paid His Bet.

"Speaking of strange bets on an election," said Colonel Joe Tucker, of Colorado, "the one that takes the ribbon over any I have ever seen mentioned was bet, lost and paid by an enthusiastic Greenbacker many years ago.

One of these enthusiasts at that time, whose view of the political situation was seen through the roseate hued spectacles of a reform organ, was certain that a man by the name of Brown would be elected governor of Missouri, and bet everything he had except the clothing on his back and a young wife.

Either his affection for his wife or his knowledge of law prevented his making a wager of her, so as a last bet he wagered his services for a year against \$500.

"Of course he lost, and borrowing a few dollars from a friend he sent his wife back to her folks in Missouri, while he presented himself to the saloon keeper in Denver with whom he had made the bet.

The latter, more as a joke than anything else, grabbed him and sent him out to prospect. The first month a small find rewarded his labors, and cupidry then caused the saloon keeper to insist on the payment of the wager in full.

To curtail the narrative, he carried out his wager of a year's service scrupulously and located two more mines, from which the winner, though now wealthy, is still drawing dividends. Upon the fulfillment of his obligation he sent for his wife, and is now employed by one of the street car companies of Denver at about fifty dollars a month, and will probably never get above that figure."

Notes That Druggists Receive. "You'd laugh if you could see some of the home-made prescriptions we receive here sometimes," said an east side druggist the other day.

"I mean the notes mothers give to little children when they send them here for medicine. 'Here is one written on a piece of newspaper margin 'rmy 4 a sor foot, which translated means arnica for a sore foot.'"

Another, on a piece of cardboard, was equally intelligible, "powdered magnesia for phisic." "Poison," "a box of Saltpeter for bedbugs" called for corrosive sublimate to rid a bed of the terror of the tenements.

"1 Poishon insect powder meant Persian insect powder for the same purpose. 'Dangle foot fly paper' was for paper to tangle the feet of the flies. 'Bis carod of body' meant the simple baking soda, to be used in this instance probably for a disordered stomach. 'Tincture of lobelia was asked for on a torn scrap of billhead under the disguise of 'tinctur lobster,' and capsine porous plaster was supplied when 'cappicine plasster' was requested.

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