

AN OLD MYTH EXPLODED.

How An Ingenious German Made an Immense Fortune.

Where the Many Stamps Collected to Found Free Beds in Hospitals Have Disappeared To.

Now and then some one announces himself as the victim of the 1,000,000 postage stamp hoax, writes somebody in Good Housekeeping. It is firmly believed that if 1,000,000 stamps are collected and forwarded to some one, a bed will be provided for an invalid boy in some hospital or a home for an orphan. Christian churches have been the special victims, and there is hardly one in England, the United States, Australia, India or any other country that has not had several members begging, borrowing and stealing stamps in order to make up the million that will go to clothe and feed some poor orphan.

This swindle originated in the fertile brain of a postage stamp collector at Stettin, Germany. He desired to get vast collections to sort out and sell again, and hit upon a plan to set the whole civilized world to go to work for him free of charge. He preyed upon the sympathies of the people by announcing that an orphan would be cared for in the "Syrian Orphan Home" for every 1,000,000 of stamps sent to him. This worked well, and the next dodge was the starting of a mythical mission in China, the Holy Sister of which agreed for every 1,000,000 stamps sent to them to save from the jaws of the crocodiles of the Yellow river at least one Chinese baby, and then educate and christianize it. The stamps are to be sent, not to Jerusalem or China, but to Munich or Stettin.

The last claim on the sympathy of the world that has been made by this German is that for 1,000,000 stamps a good home for an old lady or an old gentleman will be provided in one of the three homes—one in London, another in New York and the third in Cincinnati. For 500,000 stamps a bed will be endowed in a hospital, and for 100,000 a home will be found for an orphan for one year. There are agencies in various cities to forward stamps to Stettin. It is estimated that this swindler has collected over 100,000,000 stamps in the United States alone, and that these were worth from \$500,000 to three times that amount.

Typoid Fever.

ED. HERALD.—Typoid or Typhus is derived from a Greek word meaning stupor; hence has no special significance as related to the symptoms called typhoid fever. The writer being only a child-hoper had supposed that the germ theory of disease died the death years ago and that none might be found who still believed the silly legend that a germ or bacilli (Greek word for stick) went up and down the land seeking whom it may devour, or lurked in the water ready to bite the moment some unhappy wretch should swallow it.

I supposed since the German government appointed a committee of eminent doctors to go to India, during the cholera epidemic in 1817, and make a report on the cause of it, that the germ theory was so very dead that no one would have the temerity to seriously advocate it. When that committee of men whose lights were so large that they all actually had the headache, got down to India they examined the cistern water with a powerful microscope and found small black sticks, which they termed bacilli, floating in the water. They did not say "stick" because that would be too simple—our ranchmen would understand that—but they used the Greek word. Well, when they got back home every medical journal proclaimed that the cause of cholera had been discovered. True nothing was said about how it could be cured; but was it not enough for the poor patient in the last throes of death to be told that it was the bacilli in the water he drank that was getting in its fine work. It happened that there were several crank doctors in the vicinity; quacks probably (whatever that is) who could not just see how a little stick could give a fellow the cholera, especially when the stick was so small that it required a powerful magnifying glass to see it, so they got together and found the bacilli still alive, in good health enjoying himself in his native element exactly the same as when the cholera was raging. But recently the writer heard of several doctors, somewhere, who still held that typhoid fever was either caused by a germ that floated about in the air and managed to get inside a fellow and "hit" him, or some bacilli, or words to that effect, in deadly water made the fever come.

Some seems to silyly to answer, the fact that many people not only believe it, because the doctors say so, but, put themselves in such unnecessary trouble and worry, I wish to write something that will set them to thinking for themselves. If the germ of typhoid fever is in the air or water why does it only bite about one person out of about two hundred, when all drink the same water and breathe the same air? If it is a thing that causes the fever, instead of a condition, why will two or three in a family of six take it and the others escape? If impure (?) water is the cause of it why do those who use the best of spring water only, sometimes take the fever? The wise ones say "no many take this fever at the same time it must be a germ." (That's a germ, because had colds? Many persons take colds at the same time. Is there a diarrhoea germ? Many children have summer complaints at the same time. Decayed grass or vegetation in the water has no power to cause typhoid fever or any other kind. The alimentary canal has a way to take care of a little decayed grass. A few animals, more or less, with a wiggle-tail or tad-pole thrown in, may not be a very inviting dish, because we have been falsely taught that they are poisonous, but they are no more so than you are.

frog, mudfish or muskies. The stomach can and does digest all such matter in the good old way. Let us test the truth of my plain words so that all us common, plain Americans and naturalized foreigners will understand it. Anything that is injurious to the human organism will always produce an unpleasant sensation if held in the mouth. The mouth is Nature's true taster and nothing should ever be swallowed by old or young that the mouth and tongue does not approve of. Now, take a cup of ditch water containing several typhoid germs, more or less animalcule and a few wiggle-tails and see if the mouth objects. Not at all. If dark you will not know but what it is well water, or take the deadly well water that frightens so many people and see if it burns the mouth or tastes bitter, or sour, or strong, or in any way destroys tissue. Alcohol and a hundred drugs I might name will burn and scorch and shrivel the membrane and tissue of the body, wherever it touches it; yet many will swallow these when sick and some of them when well with impunity, while they are frightened at a piece of grass or a wiggler that has no power to harm an infant. Boiling water or filtering it to get rid of imaginary impurities is another imposition palmed off on an unsuspecting public, that needs ventilating. If it is because it contains alkali, know, oh, degraded mortal, that alkali is not removed by boiling; also know that only a trace of alkali is found in our water and that the human system contains alkali. So do not be frightened. If you boil to kill some animal life that the wise man told you was surely there, remember that soon after boiled water cools it resumes its former conditions. In filtering water, some of it is absorbed by the coal or other substances used as a filter and some passes through. That which is absorbed in the filter substance and that which passes through are exactly alike.

The time and anxiety that has been spent and endured over these imaginary demons is almost beyond belief. Once the doctors would not let their patients drink water. Now they don't want well people to. But once upon a time a sick man who had been prohibited from drinking it during a fever became delirious and got out of bed and drank a pail full and got well in spite of the doctor and his drugs. So then the doctor said, "in fever water is very good." So after the people—just common, plain looking people without diplomas or any frills or extra good looks—all tell the doctors and fellows with the microscope and the stethoscope and thermometer and things, that it is not catching; that a disinfectant is a fraud; that ditch water is harmless; that well water is good and healthy, they, the doctors, will then declare they knew it all the time.

Now that man has usurped the land and staked it off into lots, the only things that we might enjoy without money is air and water and one we shut out with doors; the other we refuse to drink because of ignorance. If some one would form an air and water trust and charge \$1.00 per square yard for air and \$1.00 per gallon for water some people would use enough to keep healthy.

But the HERALD is not a medical journal and you are tired by this time or I would tell you something about the cause of typhoid fever, but of course it would only be the opinion of a

CLOD-HOPPER.

THE UPPER NACHLES.—There are some of our people who are quite ready to cry "chestnuts," whenever the upper Nachles is mentioned as turning out something wonderful in the way of a mineral production. But just the same, the mineral is there. It is not one thing or two that are found, but every thing in the shape of mineral, that is valuable has been discovered. From the mouth of the Rattlesnake on up to the summit, almost everything in the mineral line can be found. At the mouth of the Rattlesnake and at the mouth of the Nile there are first rate place diggings. At the mouth of Rock creek are silver claims and from there to the mouth of the Bumping river is one vast deposit of silver and gold, assays from Portland and San Francisco running from \$40 to \$80 per ton. On the Bumping River is coal, silver and gold. On Milk creek are large deposits of red oxide of iron or mineral paint, of the very finest quality. To the south, over the mountain has been found pure copper, so pure that the pick strikes into it like in a pig of lead; in a due line west of this have been found small quantities of red cinabar or mercury. Still further south, towards the Indian basin is first class iron ore, and in almost immediate proximity, coal and limestone. The next two years will see all this section opened up and developed with a vast addition to the wealth and population of this county.

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