THE SOCIAL WORLD.

Resume of Recent Happenings in Society Circles.

Engagement Announcements—The Bettancourt-De Freitas Wedding—Baptism at San Jose—The Future.

The week now opening will see January relegated to the past. Little more than a single month remains before Lent (which commences on March 24) will interpose a barrier to any very general entertaining. February is a short month, but it is a popular one, and as yet very few dates have been taken. Miss Hager will give a ball in the neighborhood of Valentine's day; the local Cotillon Club will meet twice, and that in Oakland once; we are to have a charity ball for the benefit of Russian refugees; there will be a few fashionable weddings—and that is about all. Of course, there are rumors of private entertainments more or less informal, and of one or two large club affairs. But of elaborate house entertainments—costume or otherwise—such as were once common here, there is nothing definite in view. In the week just gone the Holbrook breakfast and Friday night cotillon were among the most notable events. The coming seven days are more promising, as will be observed in the announcements below, and may possibly herald the entrance of a more lively close of the winter season than other indications would seem at present to intimate.

A "Quaker Tea" for the benefit of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home Fund, will be given under the auspices of Ivy Chapter, No. 27, Order of the Eastern Star, next Saturday evening, at the residence of Mrs. John H. Gray, 2804 Bush street, corner of Baker. The hours named are from 2 until 9 o'clock. A very pleasant time is assured to all who attend.

Several young ladies have organized a musical club, which meets at the residence of Miss Anna Head, 1165 Taylor street. Each member plays in turn with a violin and 'cello. Among the members are: Miss Page, Mrs. Edward Eyre, Miss Helen Otis, Miss Anna Head, Miss Vassault, Miss Beaver.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Rubenstein (nee Warshawski) will be pleased to receive their friends at their residence, 1392 Webster street, on Sunday next.

Attention is again invited to the dramatic entertainment to be given next Thursday evening under the auspices of the Helping Hand Society. This organization of young society ladies meets every week to make articles for members of their kindergartens. They can be greatly aided in their good work by a full attendance on this occasion. Two comedies, "Withered Leaves" and "The Noodles," will be presented at the Bijou, where seats can be secured on Wednesday and Thursday for the performance next day.

Mrs. Pendleton and guests, who gave such an enjoyable New Year's eve party, will give another hop to-morrow evening. At the press reception last week the exceptional advantages of the Pleasanton for hospitality were fully demonstrated.

A musicale and reception will be given at the home of the Misses Sweeney, 2036 Jackson street, on next Wednesday evening.

The Club Galete of Stockton will give its third party on Thursday evening, January 28th, at Masonic Music Hall, and grand preparations are being made by the committee in charge of the preliminaries.

A prominent event this week will be the fortieth anniversary of California Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, which will be celebrated at Odd Fellows' Hall next Thursday evening. The Eminent Commander and his colleagues are making every arrangement for a signal celebration.

The children's international costume ball to be given at the San Francisco Verein next Saturday evening will bring out some marvelously pretty costumes. The "Pied Piper of Hamelin" is to be represented, minus the rats, and the affair is altogether to be elaborately attractive. After 12 the adults will dance.

The full-dress reception to be given on Friday evening at Lunt's Hall by the N. S. L. A., 110, will probably be one of the best parties the club has given this season. Invitations are very scarce and much in demand.

The Concordia and Calliopean clubs may possibly each give a fancy dress ball in the not very distant future.

Mrs. Grant's tea to-morrow afternoon is given to sixty-four young ladies, and will be particularly notable from the fact that there will be but one married lady and no gentlemen present. Such a delightful opportunity for discussing the burning question, "What Shall We Do With Our Bachelors?" may never occur again.

The San Francisco Operatic Society will give a leap-year party on Monday, February 29th, at Saratoga Hall, when a light operatic piece, entitled "Sea Nymphs," will be introduced by dancing. The committee in charge consists of Mrs. Dellefiane, Mrs. Parent, Miss Alvina Herer and Miss Kreling. The society's recent admirable production of "A Trip to Africa" netted over $1000 for St. Joseph's Home.

Engagement Notes.

The engagement is announced of Miss Ida L. Carleton and Chaplain Frank Thompson, U. S. N. Miss Carleton is the niece of Mrs. B. F. Norris, formerly of Chicago, now of 1822 Sacramento street, this city, and Chaplain Thompson is the son of Right Rev. High Miller Thompson, Bishop of Mississippi. The wedding will take place at the expiration of the Captain's present term of duty.

Cards have been issued for the wedding of Miss Florence E. Rodda and Mr. A. Auchie Cunningham, which will take place next Thursday evening at 8:30 o'clock at the First English Lutheran Church.

The ushers at the La Montagne-Catherwood wedding on the 4th prox. will be Messrs. E. M. Greenway, C. Osgood Hooker, S. M. Shortridge, Cal Byrne, Mr. Alick and Mr. George A. Loughborough.

The engagement is announced of Miss Carrie Hamlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Hamlin, of this city, to Mr. George I. Tilden, also of this city. The happy event will take place the latter part of February.

Mr. Sidney Boyle, a wealthy young merchant of San Rafael, has applied for a papal dispensation to marry his niece, Miss Boyle.

The engagement is announced of Miss Angie Whitney, a pretty and popular young lady of this city, to Mr. William L. Hughson.

The engagement is announced of Miss Clara Seiler to Mr. H. Sanders of Oakdale, formerly of this city.

The engagement is announced of Miss Martha Tuft to Mr. S. P. Mesick, a well-known young insurance agent.

The engagement is announced of Mr. J. H. Walker and Miss Ella Howe of Alameda.

The engagement is announced of Miss Tillie Friedmann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Friedmann, to Mr. Philip Eisner. They received their friends yesterday.

The engagement is announced of Mr. W. C. McCormick and Miss Edith R. Harris of Oakland.

The engagement has been announced of Miss Bella Louisson to Mr. G. Simon of Portland, Oregon.

Cards are out for the wedding of Mr. Angus McKay of Wardner, Idaho, to Miss Lizzie Horan of Grass Valley, this State, to take place to-day.

The engagement is announced of Mr. John H. Pape to Miss Cecil Gibbs, both of Berkeley.

The engagement is announced of Miss Parthenia L. West of Los Angeles to Mr. Charles W. Dunning of Oakland. Miss West is the daughter of the Hon. George L. West, the capitalist of Los Angeles, and is now visiting her aunt on Webster street in Oakland.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Charles E. Johnson of the revenue cutter Corwin and Miss Rosale A. Magagnos, daughter of Mr. J. Magagnos, the insurance man of Oakland.

The engagement is announced of Mr. J. A. Spencer of Oakland and Miss Hilda Goodall of New York.

The marriage of Miss M. Raphael of Oakland to Mr. J. Marks of this city will take place on Sunday next in Oakland.

On Wednesday next at San Jose Miss Maud Riley and Mr. Charles S. Beach will be married at the residence of the bride, who is one of the loveliest of San Jose's fair daughters. The groom is the youngest son of Tyler Beach of the St. James Hotel.

The marriage of Miss Carrie Jacobs and Mr. Harry Unna will take place next Sunday evening at 807 Ellis street.

The engagement of Mr. F. W. Godtfring, Secretary-General of the German branch, Young Men's Christian Association, to Miss Lizzie Uffinger, a native of this city, has been announced.

The Bettencourt-De Freitas Wedding.

The first wedding to occur in the new St. Joseph's Church was that of Miss Maggie de Freitas of Oakland and Mr. J. C. Bettencourt, a wealthy young business man of San Francisco, last Monday evening. It was a very elaborate and pretty affair.

The church was beautifully lighted and decorated for the occasion. There was a forest of palms in the background and statues and flowers in profusion about the aisles and altar. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Fernandez beneath a beautiful marriage bell of camellias. To the music of the wedding march, played by Miss Mabel Hussey, the bride, leaning on the arm of her stepfather, entered the church, followed by the bridal party. Miss Lillian Murphy and Mr. M. Bettencourt supported the bride and groom respectively.

The bride was prettily dressed in cream silk, trimmed with point lace, and wore tuberoses in her hair. She carried a bouquet of white roses. The bridesmaid also carried a bouquet of La France roses, tied with pink ribbons.

After the ceremony they were driven to the bride's home, at the residence of her step-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cordoza, 589 Thirty-fifth street. Here the rooms had been prettily decorated with smilax and roses, the handiwork of Miss Abbie Sunderer.

After a wedding reception, at which only the intimate friends and relatives were present, the happy young couple left on a wedding trip to Monterey. On returning they will take up their residence in Oakland. They were the recipients of a large number of beautiful presents.

An Interesting San Jose Ceremony.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ward Wright received the sacrament of baptism yesterday and was given the name of Muriel Genevieve. Mrs. Martin Murphy, the great-grandmother, was godmother and Mr. John McGeoghegan, who was Mrs. Wright's godfather, acted as sponsor. Mr. and Mrs. H. Ward Wright expect to be domiciled in their elegant home on North First street early next month.

The Bear Club Leap-Year Party.

A very pleasant affair was the leap-year party given by the United Social Club at Bear Club Hall, on the 16th inst.

The floor was in the hands of an able committee of young ladies, to whom great credit is due for the successful manner in which the programme was carried out and the interest they displayed in making the gentlemen feel at home. The rules governing leap-year parties were strictly enforced, and gentlemen assuming any privileges were fined and centured by the floor committee.

The following ladies composed the committees: Floor Directress, Miss J. Hamlin; assistant, Miss M. Gibbons. Floor Committee—Miss M. Stone, Miss Daly, Miss Ward, Miss A. Plunkett. Reception Committee—Miss Wheeler, Miss N. Stone, Miss Winters, Miss Creed and Miss J. B. Joyce.

Parties to Take Place.

On the 13th of March California Lodge, No. 163, I. O. B. B., will give their first Purim masquerade ball at B. B. Hall. The committee offer valuable prizes for best dressed and sustained characters.

The County Monaghan Club will give their quarterly social at Metropolitan Lower Hall on Tuesday evening, February 9th.

The fifth annual ball of Golden Gate Council, No. 34, Y. M. I., will be held at Odd Fellows' Hall on the evening of Washington's birthday, February 22d.

A change of locale will be noted for the next dances of Excelsior Lodge, No. 1252, K. and L. of H., which will give a Valentine hop on Thursday evening, February 11th, and an "April Fool" party on March 31st at Union-square Hall, on Post street. Invitations can be procured of the Secretary, Mr. John C. Horn, 236 Sutter street.

The Kajanka Dramatic Company will produce "The Fair Lass of Lichfield" at Saratoga Hall on Friday evening, February 26th. Dancing will follow. Mr. James A. McGrath will manage the stage.

Minerva Parlor, No. 2, N. D. G. W., will give their fifth anniversary ball at Union-square Hall on Thursday evening, February 18th.

Young Ladies' Institute No. 10 will give a fish-pond social on the 26th prox. at Liberty Hall, Pythian Castle.

A masquerade ball will be given by the Amt Lilienthaler Verein at Saratoga Hall on Saturday evening, February 6th.

Orinda Parlor, No. 56, N. D. G. W., will give an entertainment and hop at Union-square Hall on Thursday evening, February 4th. "Who's Who?" will be presented by members, among other attractions.

Hesperian Parlor, No. 157, N. S. G. W., will give a Valentine party at Mission Opera Hall, Friday evening, February 12th.

Golden State Parlor, No. 50, N. D. G. W., will give a leap-year party at Union Square Hall on Thursday evening, February 25th.

Britannia Lodge, No. 7, Daughters of St. George, will give a leap-year party at Foresters' Hall on Wednesday evening, the 24th of February.

Benita Circle, No. 104, C. of F., will give a leap-year party at Mangel's Hall on Friday evening, February 5th.

The annual masquerade ball of Pacific Hose Company will take place Saturday evening, February 20th.

The La Volitas will hold their first leap-year party at Odd Fellows' Hall Tuesday evening, February 16th.

The "Incogs" will give their second hop at Odd Fellows' Hall Thursday evening, February 11th. Noah Brandt will furnish the music. Applications for invitations may be sent to the Secretary, Mr. H. G. Poole, 1327 Market street.

Alcatraz Parlor, No. 145, N. S. G. W., will hold its high jinks at O. C. F. Hall, Alcazar Building, on Wednesday evening next.

The "Scientifics of '91," a club consisting of the young lady graduates from the scientific senior class of '91 of the Girls' High School, will give their first hop at Lunt's Hall to-morrow evening. The dance will be an invitation affair.

No. 10, Catholic Ladies' Aid Society, will celebrate the first anniversary of the society with a donation party on Friday evening next, at St. Joseph's Hall, corner of Tenth and Howard streets.

The installation party given in honor of the officers-elect of Columbia Council, No. 55, Y. M. I., will take place at Pioneer Hall, to-morrow evening.

The Berlins have announced special features for their first leap-year reception to take place at Odd Fellows' Hall to-morrow evening.

The San Francisco Pressmen's Union, No. 24, will give a party in B'nai B'rith Hall on Saturday evening next.

The Esla Club will give a novelty and grab-bag party at Teutonia Hall on Saturday evening next.

Justina Circle, No. 104, C. O. F., will give a leap-year party on their first anniversary at Irving Hall, Friday evening next.

The Excelsior Musical and Literary Club will vary their Monday night meeting by giving an invitation reception on this evening, the precursor of a bon-bon party on the following Monday at Washington Hall, on Eddy street.

The Social Club of '92 will hold their regular weekly dance to-morrow evening at B'nai B'rith Hall.

The first ball of the San Francisco Musical Club will take place at Harmony Hall on Mission street opposite Woodward's Gardens, on Saturday evening next.

Yosemite Circle, No. 107, C. O. F., will give a leap-year party at A. O. F. Hall next Wednesday evening.

The lady friends of the Fohrer Verein will give a leap-year party at the verein's parlors in Harmony Hall on the evening of Wednesday next.

The United Social Club will hold its next social on Saturday evening at Bear Club Hall, corner Post and Fillmore streets.

The young ladies of Love's Academy will give a leap-year party on Friday evening next at 537 Sutter street.

Fremont Parlor, No. 59, N. D. G. W., will give a leap-year party on Thursday evening next at Irving Hall.

The Liberty Corps of W. R. C. will give a leap year party at Washington Hall on Wednesday evening next. Refreshments free.

The Independent Old Friends will hold their high jinks and banquet at A. O. F. Hall on Friday evening next.

The California Specialty Company will give an entertainment and dance at Irving Hall on Wednesday evening next.

"Ten Nights in a Bar-room" stereopticon views and other attractions will be given by Anchor Division, No. 63, Sons of Temperance, at Anchor Hall, 997 Market street, to-morrow evening.

California Chapter, No. 4, O. E. S., will give their twenty-first anniversary party at 102 O'Farrell street to-morrow evening.

The Citizen Mutual Benefit Society will give an entertainment and dance at Irving Hall next Saturday evening.

The Children's Progressive Lyceum, which meets each Sunday morning at 909½ Market street, will give their regular monthly entertainment in that hall on next Saturday evening.

Society Personals.

Mrs. M. L. Requa of Piedmont has gone down on a brief visit to the Arlington, Santa Barbara.

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Hopkins will reside at the Palace Hotel until the spring, when they will go East.

Judge Advocate-General Remey has left for Washington, D. C.

Rear Admiral A. E. K. Benham, U. S. N., and wife are temporarily making their home in Brooklyn, N. Y., on Montgomery street.

Miss Grace Hamilton, daughter of Lieutenant Hamilton of the Presidio, has gone to attend school in Petaluma.

General J. G. Martine has returned from a trip to the northern part of the State.

Mr. M. Theo. Kearney has the plans for Chateau Fresno about completed.

Mr. John W. Coleman of Oakland has left for the east.

Miss Rita R. Kelley has gone on a visit to Southern California, and will join her mother and sister, Mrs. A. D. McDonald, who are sojourning at Los Angeles.

Mr. Fred M. Somers, the well-known editor, is expected to arrive here shortly en route to Japan.

Miss Maud Rose, youngest daughter of Senator L. J. Rose of Los Angeles, made her debut on Friday at a brilliant reception held in her father's home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hubert Winston (nee Leggatt), who were married at San Jose on the 13th inst., will be at home to their friends at 725 Pine street after February.

Among the recent arrivals at the Hotel Florence, San Diego, are Mrs. James Burns and Miss Ethel Burns, of London, South Canada, in company with Mrs. J. L. Beveridge, wife of ex-Governor Beveridge of Illinois. The ladies are traveling through Southern California.

MICROBES IN THE EYE

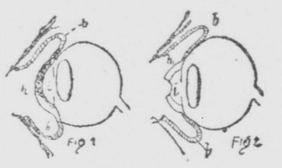
How The Sight Is Lost Through the Ravages of Bacteriæ.

Wonderful Discoveries by German Surgeons. Thirty Thousand Cases of Blindness Traced to the Little Pests.

St. Louis Sunday Post-Dispatch.

Bacteriæ, the minutest living particles, attack the human body in three different ways: First, they invade the system mechanically; second, they deprive it of the nourishment which they require for their own sustenance, and third, they deposit their product in the body. This latter is the most injurious of all, for nearly all bacteriæ breed poisonous products. The so-called ptomaine or toxine has been chemically analyzed by Professor Brieger of Berlin, and from these experiments he concludes that even the smallest quantity is capable of killing large animals in a very brief space of time.

The eye appears a very fertile soil for the growth of bacteriæ, and, as they increase at an enormous rate, it is easily seen that this delicate organ must necessarily succumb to such an onslaught. It has been demonstrated that a large proportion of the diseases of the eye owe their origin to bacteriæ germs;



The eyelids and their connection with the cornea.

tuberculosis, diphtheria, erysipelas, etc., attack the eye as well as other organs of the body.

I will briefly enumerate the three kinds of bacteriæ that threaten the eye, and lay down general rules for their prevention and cure.

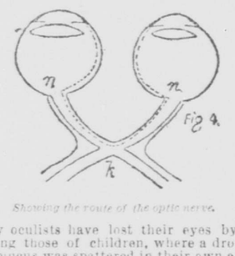
BLENNORRHOE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

The eyelids (Fig. 1 and 2), as is well known, are connected with the pupil of the eye by a very delicate, mobile membrance which, however, does not extend over the center of the pupil, the latter being covered by the cornea (H) through which the light penetrates and which must be clear and brilliant if the sight be good.

For centuries physicians and the public have been troubled by a very troublesome disease, the so-called "inflammation of the eyes of the new-born."

On the second or third day after the birth of a child, it happens frequently that the lids begin to swell more or less and a thick, yellow mucus is discharged. This mucus which comes from the inner surface of the membrane of the lids begins very soon to attack the cornea, producing there a cankerous sore (fig. 2 b). This sore either breaks and then the eye runs out, or it heals after many weeks and instead of the transparent, clear cornea there is left a white opaque filament which causes either total blindness or weakens the sight very greatly.

It has been known for many years that this mucus is very contagious; the least drop that entered the eye of an adult caused the loss of the eye within three days' time.



Showing the route of the optic nerve.

Many oculists have lost their eyes by attending those of children, where a drop of this mucus was spattered in their own eyes.

The statistical census of the institutes of the blind in Germany has demonstrated that up to within a short time one-third of the blind children lost their sight by "blennorrhoe" (an inordinate secretion and discharge of mucus), and that the loss of sight of one-tenth of all the living blind is directly attributed to this cause.

In 1879 Professor Neisser of Breslau discovered in the mucus of the deceased eyes of children singular bacteriæ, coccæ, which he called "gonococcæ."

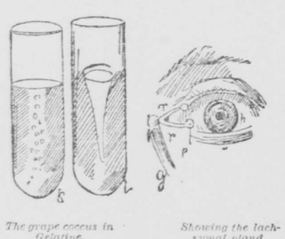
These are round microbes, which make their appearance in pairs. The coccæ are passed from the eyelid to the eye the moment the child opens its eye. They attack the tissues of the cornea and cause blennorrhoe. Attempts have been made to inoculate animals with this bacteria, but the experiments proved fruitless. The coccæ are the parasites of the human system, and will not thrive outside of it.

TAKE IT IN TIME.

The old adage "an ounce of prevention" is nowhere better illustrated than in this instance. The disease can be entirely obviated when the necessary steps are taken before the birth of the child, and a physician cannot be consulted too soon, particularly in families where one child has already been similarly afflicted.

Where this has been neglected there are still certain remedies which remove the disease immediately after the birth of the child. Professor Credé of Leipzig made, in 1880, the discovery that one single drop of a weak solution of lapis infernalis (lunar caustic) applied to the eye immediately after birth destroyed completely all the "gonococcæ," of which Professor Neisser talks.

The observation of this simple rule has been crowned with the most brilliant results. While the lying-in establishments of Europe revealed formerly 10 per cent of the children born there afflicted with this disease, it has now almost entirely disappeared, and in all the large hospitals of Europe, such as Vienna, Berlin, etc., no child



The grape coccus in Gelatine. *Showing the lachrymal gland.*

greets the light of day that does not receive that drop of lapis infernalis, which protects the little orb against this insidious and dangerous disease, and does not do it the slightest harm.

Dr. Hermann Conn of Breslau, one of the most celebrated oculists, states that whereas ten years ago more than half of the children that appeared daily in his polyclinic were afflicted with this trouble, weeks pass by to-day before such a case comes under his notice, and these come usually from the country, where a doctor failed to be present at the birth.

If this treatment were observed in all private practices there would be 30,000 fewer blind in the world.

As for the second class of bacteriæ, oculists have known for many years that if one eye is injured and the iris inflamed therefrom, or some foreign substance penetrates the pupil, the other eye becomes inflamed also in from three to six weeks, sometimes even after years, and it is then irretrievably lost. This is the much dreaded "sympathetic inflammation," so called because it was believed that the sympathy with the injured member caused the healthy eye to sicken.

HOW THEY PASS FROM EYE TO EYE.

For a long time it was not known why other parts of the body, so much nearer the injured eye, were not affected, while the trouble seemed to spread so far. This question was solved by Professor Deutschmann of Hamburg, who received the great Graefe prize for having penetrated the darkness with his patient researches.

Professor Rosenbach of Goettingen foreshadowed the former in 1883 by his pamphlet on the discovery of certain bacteriæ, which he called the yellow grape coccus. These are small, round tubercles which appear in dense, irregular heaps, resembling the clustering berries of the grape, hence the name. This coccus is very tenacious of life; spread upon a watch-glass and kept in a dry atmosphere it lived at the end of ten days, and it can only be destroyed by submersion in boiling water. In gelatine it may be preserved for a year. Placed in a little tube filled with solid gelatine there appear at the bottom (fig. 3 T. R.) and two days afterward little white spots which discharge water and produce an orange-colored substance. This coccus can be very successfully inoculated. Dr. Garre made experiments on himself with it. By rubbing a bit of it over the perfectly healthy skin of his forearm he produced a powerful abscess, which it required weeks to cure, and which left behind large scars. In this abscess the grape coccus disclosed its presence in an enormous quantity. This grape coccus is found in every mucous discharge.

Dentschmann inoculated the eye of an animal with this coccus and found that pending a very short time it had traveled along the optic nerve (Fig. 4 N) toward the brain, at the base of which (K) it pursued its way along the other optic nerve to the healthy eye. In this eye it produced an inflammation similar to the one which had heretofore been called "sympathetic inflammation." The grape coccus from the second eye could also be bred and transplanted again. The "sympathetic inflammation" of the eyes is therefore based upon the migratory habit of the bacteriæ. They pass from one to the other of the optic nerves which cross at the base of the brain.

And what is the lesson deducted therefrom? As it is impossible to destroy the coccus in the eye that has been first attacked with it, it is best to take it out entirely, to prevent the transmigration to the other. The sacrifice of an eye is an unspeakably serious matter, but it is the only operation by which the second can be saved.

The "chain coccus," peculiar to inflammations of the lachrymary glands (fig. 7) is as dangerous as the grape coccus. So long as the outer membrane of the cornea (H) is in a healthy condition this coccus cannot attack it, but should the same receive the slighest scratch, such as is often the case, when dust flies into the eye, this mucus causes the most dangerous inflammation of the cornea, which leads to a rapid destruction of the eye.

The knowledge that the bacteriæ are the chief causes of suppuration has not only been of immense value to modern surgery, but to the therapeutics of the eye as well. Many oculists have formerly racked their brains to know why, after the most successful and technically perfect operations for cataracts, the entire eye was lost in three or four days afterward through ulceration. When the great master, Albrecht von Graefe, had performed sixty-one cataract operations, none of which were attended by ulceration afterward, he felt satisfied that he had found the key for this brilliant result. But when the sixty-second, sixty-third and the sixty-fourth led to a total ulceration of the eye he exclaimed in his distress: "Alas, this shows that not all the windows of the eye-clinic are turned toward the side of the light!"

This was twenty years ago. To-day it is very different, and it is the science of the bacteriæ that has brought about this great revolution. Fifty years ago every fifth eye which was operated on for cataract was lost through suppuration; twenty years ago this number was reduced to every twentieth and thirtieth eye, while to-day this unfortunate event is one of the rareties of the age; so rare has it become in fact, that with the last few years it is difficult to demonstrate the disease to the students by actual cases.

HISTORY OF THE ASTORS

The Butcher Brothers the Head of the Family.

Let me step back 100 years and tell you about these Astors. I may tell you some things you do not know, says Julian Ralph in the Providence Journal. When John Jacob Astor worked his way down the Rhine to the sea and skipped to England away from his slothful, lazy, inn-keeping father he stopped in London and went to work for his brother, a successful manufacturer of flutes and pianos, and, unless I am very much mistaken, junior partner in what is still the greatest piano-making house in England, though there are no Astors in it now. John Jacob Astor was on his way to America, and only went to England to stop awhile and learn English—a feat which he had not accomplished when he died. When he reached New York City, not very long after the close of the Revolutionary War, he had heard about the fur business and had determined to embark in it. It does not matter whether he peddled a little before that any more than it matters whether Jay Gould sold rat-traps before he became a railroad operator. In time John Jacob apprenticed himself to a fur-dealer and learned all the tricks and secrets of the business. But in the meantime he had come to this city for the same reason he had gone to London—he had a brother here. This brother was Henry Astor, and in those days nobody questioned which would be the more successful of the two, for Henry was a mighty and cunning man in business.

He was a butcher in the Bowery, and lived above his store there. He had married a chubby, rosy German woman, of whom he used to boast: "She was der poetiest gal by der Bowery."

Now the Bowery was no ordinary street and Henry was no ordinary butcher. The Bowery was the southern termination of the old Boston post road, and down it came the bulk of the produce of the country-side which was taken in and shipped from New York. Among other things, all the cattle came into town on that road on the hoof to be sold to the butchers. Henry knew that and so did the other butchers, but Henry put this knowledge to practical use. He drove out of town twice a week on market days and met the cattle on the road up in the country. There he bought the best of all the steers and cornered the market. It was he who thereafter set the prices and sold to the other butchers. His young brother, John Jacob, was just as instinct with the speculative spirit, but he had no money to buy with and so he used to borrow of Henry. Henry did not like the idea, but distrusted his brother's shrewdness or else he was close with his money. At any rate, he loaned it to John Jacob unwillingly, and finally he met a request for a loan with a bluff "no." He said he would not be bothered any more, but this is what he would do: He would give John Jacob the sum of $500 outright as a gift if John Jacob would sign a paper promising never to ask for the loan of another penny from that date forever. John Jacob jumped at the offer. He took the $500, and perhaps that had more to do with the foundation of the great Astor fortune than any other sum he got in all his life. I have heard that there are some Astors descended not from Henry living up the Hudson River, and that the great and rich Astors have nothing to do with them. I do not know whether that is true, or whether there are such Astors, but if it is true it is all right, for Henry unquestionably parted with the rest of the family deliberately and in cold blood when he paid that sum of money to John Jacob so as to not be bothered by his poor relations any more.

John Jacob Astor prospered amazingly. He made millions when it was something that nobody else unconnected with royalty appeared able to do, except the Rothschilds in Europe. With these millions, made by putting the entire continent under a tax for its furs, he established not only a landed estate but a family with a principle, with a fixed purpose. He was of incalculable service in the development of New York, because he went to districts the city had not reached and built dwellings for persons of moderate means. He built them very well, to last as long as possible, and he rented them for a fair return, thus establishing a moderate system of rentals with all the landlords of the city. In another generation an unfortunate split occurred, and the estate and the family have since then gone forward in two parts, much the larger part (nearly two-thirds, I believe) going to the descendants of the elder son, and the smaller part to the descendants of a second son. William Waldorf Astor now represents the bulk of the estate, and the little baby, John Jacob, is heir to the smaller part. But the old principle and purpose still lives in all the Astors. They still build and extend the city; they still ask only fair rentals; they still refrain from gambling, and among the mercenary hands which seize our breadstuffs, our coal, our oil and our meats in order to raise the price of our necessities, no Astor's palms are included. That is why we like the Astors.

DEADLY COAL-OIL CAN.

An Explosion That Resulted in a School Teacher's Death.

Fort Worth Gazette.

Miss Nevada Roberts, a young lady from Wolf City, who was teaching a private school at the corner of Greenwood and Florida streets, East Dallas, was the victim of a deplorable and most heart-rending accident, which cost her life. About 8 o'clock, as was her custom, she started to build a fire before the pupils assembled, and had kindled it in a blaze. After putting on the coal she attempted to pour coal oil from the can on the fire, which ignited and exploded with fatal results. The can was found melted by the stove, and her death must have occurred from the shock of the explosion, as she was found dead by Mrs. Kidwell, who was on the scene a few moments after the accident. The young lady was horribly burned and disfigured. Her lifeless body was found stretched across the doorway of the little school-house, her neck and arms and back having been burned to a crisp, and her clothing having been burned from her.

George L. Roberts of Brunswick, Me., is in hard luck. Officers found in his possession 2852 short lobsters. The fine for having short lobsters in one's possession is $1 for each lobster, so that the unfortunate young man is out a small fortune.

"The melancholy days have come" with coughs, etc. Use Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. 25 cents.

A little singular. Salvation Oil the greatest cure on earth for pain. Costs only 25 cents.

B'NAI B'RITH.

Annual Meeting of the District Grand Lodge.

First Graduating Exercises of the Free Religious School Established by the Organization.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of District Grand Lodge No. 4, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, opened yesterday morning in B'nai B'rith Hall, Grand President H. P. Bush presiding. One hundred and thirty-six delegates were present from all parts of the district, which embraces the entire Pacific Coast.

After the usual preliminary business incident to a yearly session the Grand President submitted his annual address, which was an elaborate review of the society's work for the past twelve months. It also contains a strong appeal to the Jewish people in the matter of sustaining the Free Religious School, which has shown splendid results, although but recently established. In concluding his report concerning this subject the Grand President says:

And now, representatives, I appeal to you as men and brethren, as heads of families and as friends of the Jewish cause, yourself imbued with that religious sentiment that is the main stay and protection of the people of Israel; that you will take this matter to heart and stand as a unit in solidifying that which your predecessors called into existence, and fostering and protecting that young tree which promises to bear such good fruit.

It would be a fatal day for the interests of the Jewish cause, if money should now stand in the way of the development of education and enlightenment, and it must not stand in the way of this institution unless we elect to let the general community take charge of it, thus showing to the world that our charge to the initiate are mere idle words.

CHARITY INCULCATED.

The late organization of the Jewish Alliance of California, as a branch of the national society for assistance of Jewish refugees, is then taken up and considered at length. It contains, in conclusion, a stern admonition to the children of Israel in the matter of dispensing charity to those unfortunate individuals who may land on American shores in a destitute condition.

The report of Secretary Louis Blank shows that the organization is prospering under the "Optional Endowment Law," and that under this law the decrease in membership, noted in the last annual report, has been stayed. The total admissions for the year have been 119. Of this number thirty-nine have availed themselves of the above mentioned law. The total amount collected for endowments aggregated $55,335, and thirty-three endowments have been paid, aggregating the sum of $66,000.

There are now 29 lodges in the jurisdiction, distributed as follows: San Francisco 10, interior of this State 11, Oregon 3, Nevada 3, Washington 2.

Sick benefits for the year amounted to $12,619 50 and funeral benefits to $2225. The total membership of the lodge is now 2273.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

Several committees also submitted reports, and at 12 o'clock the session adjourned, the delegates having been invited to attend the first annual commencement exercises of the Free Religious School, established last May under the auspices of District Grand Lodge No. 4. These exercises were opened at 2 o'clock by Felix Merzbach, one of the school Trustees. In a brief speech he recounted the history of the short existence of this institution, and concluded with a bright tribute to the corps of teachers and the founders.

Among other things the speaker said that it had come to the knowledge of certain members of the lodge that over 2000 Jewish children were growing up in San Francisco without religious instruction, and in this fact was found the motive for establishing the school. "It has been," he continued, "a grand success. During the past year we have had an average attendance of 250, and have thus been enabled to prevent many from growing up in indifference to the Jewish faith. It is the pioneer work of absolutely free religious instruction in our faith on the Coast, and we take this occasion to congratulate your worthy body upon the astonishing and gratifying results already achieved."

THE PROGRAMME.

When Mr. Merzbach had concluded his remarks the orchestra played an operatic selection, and a programme containing the following numbers was rendered:

Opening prayer, Simon Harris; song, "Oh, Israel, Hear," school; "The Two Welcomes," Aaron Schwartz and May Levy; recitation, "The Sisters," Adine Lewis; violin solo, Goody Gensler; recitation, "Somebody's Mother," Jerome Breyer; song, selected, Miss Belle Levington; recitation, "How the Baby Grows," Arthur Roth; song "Maccabees," school; "The Tea Party," Carrie Rosenberg, Rose Fulda, Pauline Stern, Ray Auffdiffe, Nettie Robitscher, Millie Lewis, Gertie Lapidaire, Flora Rosenthal, Pauline Cohen, Minnie Schoenfeld, song, selected, Miss Regina Gans; operatic selections, orchestra; "Shona," Hebrew class; "Hear Israel," Bertha Morris, Clara Rosenthal, Sadie Mund, Sadie Lapidaire, Elka Meyer; reception, Ten Commandments, Gertie Lapidaire; the Ten Commandments (Hebrew), Arthur Hirshfield, Isidor Mayer, Abe Karsky, Simon Mayer, Max Israel, Harry Kornfeld, Milton May, David Morris, Anglo May, Arthur C. Bush; English—Stella Hamburger, Millie Jacobs, Jennie Cohen, Dora Levy, Katie Aaron, Gertie Lapidaire, Ernestine Wittenberger, Nettie Robitscher, Catherine Jacobs, Martha Goldberg; Adoration, Gertie Cohen; One Hundredth Psalm, Eddie Wasserman; piano solo, "Morning Serenade," Millie Keenman; distribution of prizes; closing prayer, Helen Schwartz; song, "America," school; march, orchestra.

EVENING SESSION.

At an evening session of the Grand Lodge the subject of an appropriation for the maintenance of this school was the only matter under consideration, and it occasioned quite a spirited discussion.

Some of the delegates held that $1000 per year was enough to spend in running the institution, while others wanted to set aside the sum of $1500. So excited did some of the $1000 people become that the legality of the school was fiercely assailed.

Past Grand President Joseph Bien maintained with considerable heat that the school was established without the consent of the National Lodge. The fallacy of this argument was soon shown however by D. A. D'Ancona, who read from the constitution concerning the establishment of religious schools.

After four hours discussion it was decided to make the appropriation $1500.

The lodge will continue its deliberations at 10 o'clock to-day, and to-morrow afternoon the annual election of officers will be held.

PROBATION.

A Training-School Where Souls Will Be Prepared for Heaven.

The fourth in a series of doctrinal lectures, now being given at the First New Jerusalem Church by Rev. John Doughty, was delivered last evening on the subject of "Probation."

"Is there a state of probation after death?" was the question that the pastor sought to answer in the course of his discourse, which was a strong and scholarly argument in the affirmative.

He referred, in the first instance, to the words "sheol" and "hades," which occurred so frequently in the original Greek, before the Bible was warped and twisted by frequent translations to suit certain narrow creeds, and then expounded the ideas of immortality as held by the Jews, Greeks and Christians. Continuing, he said that the truth of the existence of this world of probation is clearly demonstrated by a careful perusal of the scriptures, and a more general acceptance of the grand truth would explain many of the mysteries of the Bible. Unless we accept this doctrine we are at once lost in a maze of absurdities and contradictions.

Without this intermediate state, without this preparation in a land of probation, how can we expect to reach heaven. Heaven is a state of absolute purity, and we know that a soul cannot be changed at once from the defilement incident to a life on earth to spiritual perfection. This is the teachings of Christ. Either none of us will reach heaven or there is a world of preparation and probation. Here we shall be fitted for an eternal existence in Paradise.

Lost by Flim-Flamming.

John Sexton, a druggist at 2401 Howard street, complained to the police yesterday that he had lost $5 at the hands of two young crooks by the "flim-flamming" process. He gave out that sum too much in making change for a $20 gold piece, after his calculation had been muddled by the usual jugglery. There are several reports of successful flim-flamming now being looked up by the police, who are confident the fraud is being resorted to by several crooks.

LABOR MATTERS.

The American Bakers Denounce a Young Rival.

Some time ago certain members of American Bakers' Union, No. 51, withdrew from that organization and formed an independent brotherhood. Their action was not applauded by the old union, which has sent a statement relative to the matter to the Bakers' Journal, in which it says:

Several labor papers having copied an item from one of our local dailies stating that Union No. 51 was split and that a new order was organized by seceders, permit us to say that there is no split, consequently no seceders to organize anything.

Attorney-General Hart has received information to the effect that street-railroad employes in this city are compelled to work sixteen hours per day in violation of the law, which provides that they shall work but twelve hours per day. The men say that if they complain they are told that they have the right to quit any employment which is not to their liking. The Attorney-General says that if he can obtain proof of this violation of the law he will sue the companies in the name of The People.

The Executive Committee of the Federated Trades held a very brief meeting yesterday,