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DISEASE WORSE THAN WAR

Beri-Beri, Oriental Affliction, Kills  
More Japanese Than Rifles—  
Caused by Food.

"If anything were needed to add to  
the horror of war," writes "a medical  
expert," in one of the leading London  
journals, "it might certainly be found  
in the presence of disease among the  
combatants. While the Russian army  
has not been free from illness, it would  
appear at least to have escaped attack  
from a very curious tropical disease,  
best known in this country under the  
name of 'beri-beri,' and in Japan as  
'kakke.' War correspondents recently  
reported that the losses from beri-beri  
in the Japanese army exceed the total  
casualties sustained in battle. It was  
added that every transport returning  
to Japan brings hundreds of men suf-  
fering from this disease.

"As to the nature of beri-beri, we  
find one of its prominent features to  
exist in a form of neuritis affecting the  
nerve-endings in the skin, and more  
especially those nerves which, carry-  
ing impressions from nerve centers to  
the body, are called motor nerves. Cer-  
tainly very important internal nerve  
trunks are also involved. In addition  
there is to be found general distur-  
bance of the bodily functions at large.  
"Loss of power of the muscles and  
loss of sensation are common symp-  
toms, while drooping is usually present.  
Fever as indicative of beri-beri is not  
a marked sign, and death supervenes  
probably as often as not from failure  
of the heart's action. The death rate  
is very high in this ailment. It was  
one in 40 in the Japanese navy in  
1878-84, and one in two at Bahia in  
1867. Sir P. Manson, M. D., was told  
by the medical officer of a tobacco  
plantation in the Malay archipelago  
that the planters considered them-  
selves lucky if at the end of a year  
three or four survived out of every 100  
Chinese coolies imported as laborers at  
the beginning of the year.

"Having regard to all the circum-  
stances under which beri-beri appears,  
to the nature of the symptoms, and to  
the fact that hygienic conditions of  
life tend to prevent attack, the inference  
is that the ailment is due to some  
specific poison produced by a microbe,  
this last in all probability being de-  
rived from infected food, seems to be  
warranted."

NEW EVOLUTION THEORY.

Scientist Who Disputes Darwin Idea  
Tells of Important Discoveries  
in Plant Life.

Professor Hugo de Vries, director of  
the Botanical Gardens, Amsterdam,  
and scientist who disputes Darwin's  
theory of the "origin of species," ex-  
plained his views at length at the New  
York Botanical Garden recently.

Prof. De Vries differs with Darwin in  
asserting that a new species of plant  
may be seen to develop at once from the  
parent plant, while Darwin's theory de-  
mands many generations, marked by in-  
numerable minor differences and years  
of time.

Prof. De Vries bases his conclusions  
upon actual experiment, and although  
his earlier investigations covered a wide  
field, his best and most conclusive results  
were obtained through careful culture  
and observation of the evening prim-  
rose. Twelve new species were described  
at length by Prof. De Vries, and their  
differences were further illustrated by  
colored plates and lantern slides.

Dr. De Vries's discoveries have led  
to the establishment of a laboratory at  
Cold Spring Harbor, where the investi-  
gation of evolution in both the plant and  
animal kingdoms will be conducted for  
at least half a century at the expense  
of the Carnegie Institution. Experiments  
conducted by Dr. D. T. MacDougal at the  
New York Botanical Garden since Prof.  
De Vries presented the results of his  
researches to the world of science have  
already confirmed several important  
features of Dr. De Vries's discoveries.

Due to want of space  
The duke of Orleans has asked permis-  
sion of the government of Norway to  
hire the arctic steamer Fram, in which  
Dr. Nansen made his voyage to the arctic  
regions, for the purpose of making an  
arctic expedition in 1905. It is un-  
derstood that the admiralty will require  
that Capt. Otto Sverdrup, the former  
commander of the Fram, shall command  
the vessel if the government agrees to  
the proposition.

NEW ROTARY ENGINE

SUCCESSFUL INVENTION OF A  
BUFFALO MAN.

Claimed That It Will Revolutionize  
Locomotive Building—Occupies  
Less Space and Costs Less  
Than Present Style.

A perfect rotary engine, the much-  
desired achievement of hundreds of  
mechanical inventors, is the triumph  
which, in the opinion of eminent ex-  
perts, has crowned more than a score of  
years' work by William M. Hoffman, a  
successful inventor of Buffalo.

A year ago P. T. Berg of Stockholm,  
Sweden, formerly of the Carnegie Steel  
company and now consulting engineer  
for the United States Steel corporation,  
examined Mr. Hoffman's engine for  
Charles M. Schwab and made a favor-  
able report on the inventor's claims. Cor-  
nellius Vanderbilt, several of whose in-  
ventions are now in use on the New  
York Central railroad, has declared that  
if the engine bears out the claims of the  
inventor it will send all the present style  
of locomotives to the scrap iron heap.

In brief, the advantages of Mr. Hoff-  
man's engine are that it will occupy not  
more than one-fourth the ordinary floor  
space required for other engines of sim-  
ilar power; it will effect a saving of one-  
fourth in steam; it is economical in con-  
struction and operation and it is without  
vibration.

"The problem in my invention," Mr.  
Hoffman said, "was to overcome friction  
of packing, and this I have done by what  
I consider a unique yet simple combi-  
nation, consisting of revolving the cylinder  
around a stationary abutment. This  
stationary abutment does not come in  
contact with the inner periphery of the  
cylinder or the cylinder heads or walls,  
and the construction is such that the  
revolving piston makes a steam-tight  
joint on an elliptical abutment through-  
out one-half of a revolution of the engine  
when it takes the place of the piston  
which has been exposed to the steam  
pressure and performs the same func-  
tion, the one in advance producing the  
steam-tight joint. In other words, the  
entire packing, which produces joints  
fully as steam tight as the packing rings  
in reciprocating engines, is exposed  
practically to no wear and consequently  
no friction, as the packing all revolves  
with the cylinder and pistons. An evi-  
dence of the correctness of this claim is  
provided in the fact that my engine in  
Buffalo has been run for five hours with-  
out lubrication of any kind and without  
bad results of any description."

KING TAKES UNIQUE TITLE.

Ruler of Ava Signs Himself "Monarch  
of the Twenty-Four Um-  
brrellas."

A collector of curious trifles notes  
that the sultan of Turkey has 71 titles,  
and on the parchment containing them  
are the words, "As many more as may  
be desired can be added to this num-  
ber." Among the titles are "Abdul  
Hamid, the Eternally Victorious," "the  
Eternally Smiling," "the Eternally In-  
vincible," "Distributor of Crowns to  
the Heroes Seated on Thrones" and  
"Shadow of God on Earth."

The shah of Persia has also many  
pompous titles, among them being  
"Luminous Star of the Firmament,"  
"The One Star That Gives Light to the  
Terrestrial Planets," "Pivot of the Uni-  
verse" and "the Magnetic Center of the  
Globe."

The funniest title, however, is borne  
by the ruler of Ava, a small kingdom  
on the borders of Afghanistan. This  
monarch signs all his decrees as fol-  
lows: "Signed and sealed by the  
King of Kings, whom all the world  
should obey because he preserves life  
in all human beings, because he regu-  
lates the seasons, because he is the  
father of the sun, and because he is  
the king of the 24 umbrellas."

REVIVES; THEN DIES AGAIN

After Being Pronounced Dead Man  
Comes to Life, Creates Ter-  
ror and Expires.

Given up by a physician as dead, Frank  
McCormick, of Guttenburg, N. Y., re-  
turned to life just as an undertaker called  
to embalm his body. Then, after order-  
ing the undertaker away, McCormick  
was seized with another attack of the  
ailment which had first prostrated him,  
and died within a few minutes.

Word was again sent to the undertaker,  
who lives in New York, but he refused  
to respond.

McCormick had been ill several days  
with a severe attack of dysentery. A  
doctor who was summoned worked over  
him for several hours, and then, turning  
to those about the man's bedside, said  
that McCormick was dead.

A death watch was set beside McCor-  
mick's bed. The man at the bedside had  
already begun their vigil when the sup-  
posed dead man suddenly moved and  
groaned. The watchers fled and sum-  
moned the physician, but while they were  
waiting for him the undertaker arrived.

He insisted upon seeing McCormick, and  
when he came into the room the man who  
had come back to life murmured that he  
didn't want to be disturbed. Upon hear-  
ing this the undertaker promptly fled.

Then the doctor arrived. McCormick  
again lapsed into unconsciousness, and  
the physician, after applying every test  
known to his profession, declared that no  
trace of life remained.

Strong Breath, Too.

Fortunes in fancy farming continually  
stagger the imagination. Fourteen acres  
of onions in Indiana have this year  
yielded their cultivators a clear profit  
of \$10,000. The profitability of raising  
this vegetable with modern machinery  
fairly takes one's breath away.

Odd Election Beta.

With the approach of election some  
funny bets are being made on the pre-  
sidential result. One man has wagered  
that if Parker is not elected he will stand  
on a cake of ice weighing 300 pounds in  
his bare feet until the ice melts. The  
Roosevelt man says if his favorite is de-  
feated he will let his hair grow until 1908.  
According to another bet, if Parker is  
defeated, the Parker man is to roll a  
peanut across the Brooklyn bridge. If  
Roosevelt is beaten his man will have to  
get shaved on one side of the face only  
for one month.

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