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DANGER UNDER YOUR NOSE.

How many microbes—disease breeding microbes—are there in the mouthpiece of your telephone?

You don't know? Neither do we, not anyone else for that matter—exactly.

But microbes are there by the millions if what the scientists say is true. And they aren't there to do any good.

An examination was recently made by a New York scientist—a bacteriologist—of a score or more of mouthpieces of the public telephones and what he found in these instruments was enough to make you and all the rest of us gasp.

In one of these mouthpieces, for instance, he found the bacilli of tuberculosis, bronchitis, typhoid fever, diphtheria, la grippe and a half dozen or more diseases to which man kind is susceptible and in sufficient amount to communicate the various diseases they represented.

You will say there could not have been very many of them in such a small instrument as a telephone mouthpiece.

Not many!

There were millions!

Why don't you know that some of the very worst disease germs roaming around are so infinitesimal that thousands of them could be assembled on the point of an ordinary pin.

They are none the less deadly because they are small.

How do you know but that the very telephone you talk into every day is not a rendezvous for a choice collection of disease germs that are just laying back and waiting for someone to prey on?

No telephone mouthpiece that is not disinfected every day is clean.

Some people will let their telephones go from one year's end to another without a bath. And they both will talk into and handle these same telephones as if they were as clean and inoffensive as a breath of fresh air, when in reality they are as dangerous as a rattlesnake—more so in fact.

When did you disinfect the mouthpiece of your telephone last?

What's that? You never have?

Well, what do you know about that?

For heaven's sake, in the name of cleanliness and all that is sanitary, at least unscrew the mouthpiece of your phone and wash it with some sort of antiseptic solution, especially if several persons talk into it daily.

The telephone mouthpiece looks innocent enough, but it isn't.

Scientists say it is a prolific breeder of disease under insanitary conditions.

Swat the microbes in your telephone mouthpiece today.

That the harmonious and brilliant tints in the geysers and hot-spring pools are mainly due to plant life is one of the interesting statements made in a publication entitled "The Geological History of Yellowstone National Park," just issued by the Department of the Interior. Algae flourish equally well in the waters of all geyser basins and on the terraces of Mammoth Hot Springs. Wherever these boiling waters cool to the temperature of 185 degrees algaous growths appear, and by the lowering of the temperature on exposure to air still more highly organized forms gradually come in. It is said that at about 140 degrees the conditions are favorable for the rapid growth of several species. The development of plant life at such excessive temperatures and on a scale of such magnitude seems a marvelous thing. Nowhere else can this be seen so well as in the Yellowstone Park.

As the water in shallow pools chills rapidly, corresponding changes in color follow. No life exists in the center, where the water is boiling. On the outer edge certain colors prevail, and in the colder overflow channels still other colors predominate. In the geyser basin, the first evidence of vegetation in an overflow stream consists of creamy white filamentary threads passing into light flesh tints and then to deep salmon. With distance from the source of heat, the predominating colors pass from bright orange to yellow, yellowish green, and emerald and in the still cooler waters various shades of brown.

The marvelous colors in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone are mainly due to mineral matter, the pigments being derived from the lavas. Along the base of the canyon thermal and solfataric agencies have been at work through long ages, slowly but steadily decomposing the rhyolite rock that forms the walls. Upon the buttressed walls and sculptured amphitheaters tints of green and yellow are intermingled with red, the colors being blended with singularly harmonious effects. From the roaring turbulent river at the bottom to the somber green forests at the top, the abrupt walls seem to glow with the color.

This publication contains an account of the geologic forces that have caused the wonderful natural features that have made the Yellowstone famous throughout the world. It is illustrated by photographs of some of the principle features of the park and is written in nontechnical language so that it may be readily understood by persons without scientific training.

THE LAST OF THE EMPERORS.

There is a pertinent query going the rounds "Did Wilhelm say it?" Karl Von Kroon, the historian, says that Emperor William of Germany recently made a tour of inspection through the Berlin school of History and Literature, and then remarked:

"My son will be the last of the emperors. That is why I am bringing him up as I was brought up, under

firm discipline. He must be a credit to the house of Hohenzollern and to the throne that, after his, will cease to be. All the world will be republican within 50 years. Germany will be the last of the empires. It is inevitable."

That such a remark should be made by the monarch who has been so deeply imbued with the doctrine of the divine right of kings that the subject has become well nigh a fetish to him, seems improbable. At the same time, the mere fact that he should be so eager to retain every vestige of sovereignty possible is one of the sure proofs that he can hear the rumblings which threaten to overturn the very throne upon which he sits.

Emperor Wilhelm is one of the keenest statesmen of Europe. He knows his Germany thoroughly, as becomes the father of his people. It would be impossible for him to do his work today if he did not have his eyes fixed upon the future as well. It is not so much prophetic insight that marks his statement, as calm recognition of the inevitable.

If every German father, and every father, should so concern himself with the training of his son, as the emperor of Germany, the world republics when they come would be real republics.

NO REST FOR TRAMPS.

By its system of discouraging the "Weary Willie" England is far ahead of this country in remedial measures.

Their most effective method is that of the "way ticket", which is provided to all unemployed persons who seek lodging at any of the porrhouses or other lodging places provided by the government.

This "way ticket" entitles the wanderer to a certain allowance of bread and cheese along the way he intends to take. In this way he is kept from begging from house to house, and if he really is looking for work he is spared the temptation of having to steal in order to obtain food. He is also put in touch with employment agencies and every effort is made to assist him in securing employment.

The habitual tramp is not given much sympathy when he applies at

one of the porrhouses for lodging. However, the fact that he is given a ticket which makes it unnecessary to beg, places him at a disadvantage and he soon feels ashamed to keep presenting such tickets.

His pride soon drives the habitual tramp to seek some more congenial clime for his wanderings and England is freed from his society.

Householders all over England are informed as to the government's attitude toward tramps, and when they discover that there is no necessity for begging they soon leave the tramp to the mercy of the government instead of encouraging them to continue their lives of idleness.

A way ticket system in America would soon transform a shiftless class of citizens into wage earners. Or at any rate, it would soon rid the country of its parasite population. There is no excuse for the tramp

PENSION THE WIDOWS.

It is nothing short of monstrous that a great republic like the United States should permit the widow of a great man, such as the late Justice Harlan, to suffer for the comforts and necessities of life.

Justice Harlan was an honest and conscientious servant of the people. He devoted his great brain and his heart—his life blood—to the public service. He championed the cause of the people, and rendered decisions on the supreme bench that are bulwarks of liberty and guides to broad citizenship and popular government.

His life is imbedded in the very structure of the republic. He died, as even great men must do, and, being honest, left no fortune measured in money.

His whole estate netted only \$2500; but he died rich, because he lived a life of service.

But the shame of it is that his widow is now in want, and friends must assist her.

A rich government like ours should be willing to pension the widows of great men who render conspicuous and honest service and die in the harness.

There should be a law passed authorizing the granting of pensions to widows of presidents, of justices of the supreme court and of members of

Congress who die in the harness.

The country needs the best talent and the most courageous souls it can get now; but the fear of poverty and want to widow and children often frightens good men out of public service. The people should arrange matters so that men of ordinary means can enter the battle of public service. If it is left entirely to the wealthy, there is a sad day ahead for the nation.

A civil pension law for widows of public servants would be a good thing.

THE "BAD" CHILD.

A study of fourteen thousand "bad" children who have been wards of the Chicago juvenile court, which has been made by a number of Chicago sociological experts, develops some interesting and important facts.

It produces nothing more interesting and important, however, than the fact that in a great majority of cases the "bad" child is bad because of bad environments.

In the history of the families of the boys", says the report, "we find drunkenness, poverty, indecency, cruelty, demoralizing labor, sickness, insanity, nagging and beating, coarse bullying, fathers and mothers' quarrels—in brief there is no phase of family misery which is not illustrated in this fearful picture of the bad child's progress."

The question of human culpability is always an intricate one. How actually "bad" shall an erring child be considered who grew up in such surroundings? How much personal blame is to be attached to an adult criminal who is a product of such conditions?

There is heredity in the evidence, but environment is a much more potent factor.

And in nine cases out of ten, these family conditions are social products, poverty, the slum, inadequate employment and insufficient pay—matters for which society is responsible.

It is good to take one or many of these "bad" children and by submitting them to good influences make useful men and women of them.

But where one case is so treated a hundred more are developing from the same conditions, which society en-

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