Compulsory Insurance in Germany.

In Germany the law of compulsory insurance against old age and infirmity, passed in June, 1889, completes the programme of legislation for improving the condition of the working classes which was set forth in the imperial rescript of 1881. It affects more than 18,000,000 people, giving them an inalienable legal claim to support in cases of infirmity and in old age.

The insurance is compulsory in all industrial occupations upon persons over sixteen years of age of both sexes. Clerks and tradesmen's apprentices who do not earn more than $500 a year also participate, but assistants and apprentices in druggists' shops are excluded.

Exemption from compulsory insurance is granted to persons who work for food, clothes and lodging only, and who receive no pay, or who are only in temporary employment.

The pension for old age varies from about twenty-five dollars to fifty dollars a year, and is granted to every insured person who has completed his seventieth year, irrespective of his ability to earn a livelihood, provided he does not already draw a pension for infirmity. The infirmity pension varies from about twenty-seven dollars to over a hundred dollars, and is given, irrespective of age, to persons who are permanently incapacitated from earning a living.

In order to establish a claim to a pension under the German law, contributions, regulated by the amount of earnings, must be paid for a prescribed period. The means of paying pensions are obtained by fixed contributions from the imperial treasury, added to regular payments on the part of the employers and employed.—Youth's Companion.

The Blood Circulates Rapidly.

Medical workers have made many curious experiments, but none more wonderful than that by which they ascertained the exact time required for the blood to make one entire trip through the system, which all students of physiology know means a complete circulation through the lungs, veins, arteries and general capillary arrangements. Professors Dalton, Hering, Poissenille, Matteucci and Blake have been the chief investigators in this line, the first named having become more eminent in this particular branch of research from having the experience of the others to fortify himself with. All the old school anatomists believed that a considerable time elapsed, say from three to nine minutes, from the time when the blood left the right side of the heart, traversed the whole system and then again returned to the starting point; Dalton has shown that the time is much shorter than was formerly generally supposed.

He says: "Dozens of carefully tabulated tests of this somewhat extraordinary subject shows that the blood of man makes a complete circulation once every fifteen to twenty-five seconds, according to the physical conditions of the subject experimented upon."—St. Louis Republic.

Two Epitaphs.

Remarkable are two epitaphs, the first of which is said to be upon a tombstone in the city of Sacramento: "Here is laid Daniel Borrow, who was born in Sorrow, and Borrowed little from Nature except his name and his love to mankind and hatred to redskins; who was nevertheless a gentleman and a dead shot; who, through a long life, never killed his man except in self defense or by accident, and who, when he at last went under, beneath the bullets of his cowardly enemies in the saloon of Jeff Morris, did so in the sure and certain hope of a glorious and everlasting Morrow."

The other, which belongs to a Nevada burying place, is a noteworthy achievement in this line. "Sacred to the Memory of Hank Monk—the Whitest, Biggest-hearted, and Best-known Stagedriver of the West; who was kind to All and Thought Ill of None. He Lived in a Strange Era, and was a Hero, and the Wheels of his Coach are now Ringing on Golden Streets."—Chambers' Journal.

Philadelphia Pretzels.

Philadelphia pretzels are a thing by themselves; that is, the genuine Philadelphia pretzel is, but unscrupulous manufacturers have been making imitations with machinery which have served to lessen the high standard raised by the reputation of the homemade pretzel. The pretzel came over with the Dutch, and it is still found in its original purity in Lancaster and Berks counties, the inhabitants of which have been so many generations in this country that they are unable to speak their mother tongue. They have not been here long enough to learn English, so they make their pretzels as they were taught, and talk the language which they have manufactured.—New York Sun.

Soapsuds Are Valuable.

Few persons know how very useful soapsuds prove when employed as manure. Applied to the roots of vines, fruit trees, roses, etc., they impart a vigor and rapidity of growth which is perfectly surprising. No one who is so lucky as to have a garden should waste this valuable form of manure. It is an excellent plan to have a large tub, and put the soapsuds and dirty water into it till required upon the garden.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Medicine Lake.

Medicine lake is a wonder that draws many visitors annually. It is a body of water that does not contain a living thing, and at certain hours of the day is full of a gelatinous, spongelike substance that sinks and leaves the water clear. At the lake are two mountains, one of pure obsidian, the other of pumice stone in layers.—Potter Four Corners.

The Power of Observation.

The Bank Clerk—It's a shame the way some men rob their employers by loafing when they're paid to work. There's a bricklayer on that new building across the street who hasn't done a stroke for an hour—I know it, because I've done nothing but watch him.—London Tit-Bits.

Out of thirty-two cities with populations ranging from 200,000 to 50,000 all but one are using the electric railway system.

Right or Wrong.

Which will ye have? It does seem as if some folks prefer to have the last condition of the liver rather than the first. They perpetually dose themselves with purgatives totally without virtue as alterative of liver trouble. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the successful candidate for the people's choice, and yet, popular and well known as it is, there are unfortunates who keep on trying the drastic remedies of former days. It is to the intelligent portion of the public that the well-known and long-tried properties of the bitters appeal. Reason should be guided by experience in the matter of medication. "The best guide to our feet is the lamp of experience," said a great patriot of the early revolutionary period, and the exclamation is pregnant with truth. For over a third of a century the bitters daily has met with the indorsement of people suffering from liver complaint, malaria, constipation, rheumatism, debility, and troubles accompanied by dyspepsia. Latterly it has declared itself and been thoroughly approved as a remedy for "la grippe."

Streets for the Florist.

In Hartford there is a succession of streets named as follows: Edward, Smith, Grand, Flower, Garden. Edward Smith ought certainly to have a grand flower garden to occupy so many streets.—Meehan's Monthly.

Horace Greeley once described a very famous literary woman of the last generation as "a great woman and a greater bore. Her talk was incessant."

It is a curious fact that the late Earl of Yarborough should have married a lady named Hare, and the present one a lady named Fox.

Beatty's Pianos and Organs.

Hon. Daniel F. Beatty, the great organ and piano manufacturer, is building and shipping more organs and pianos than ever. In 1870 Mr. Beatty left home a penniless plow-boy, and by his indomitable will he has worked his way up so as to sell so far, nearly 100,000 of Beatty's organs and pianos since 1870. Nothing seems to dishearten him; obstacles laid in his way that would have wrecked any ordinary man forever, he turns to an advertisement and comes out of it brighter than ever. His instruments, as is well known, are very popular and are to be found in all parts of the world. We are informed that during the next ten years he intends to sell 200,000 more of his make. That means a business of $20,000,000 if we average them at $100 each. It is already the largest business of the kind in existence.—Send to Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, New Jersey, for catalogue

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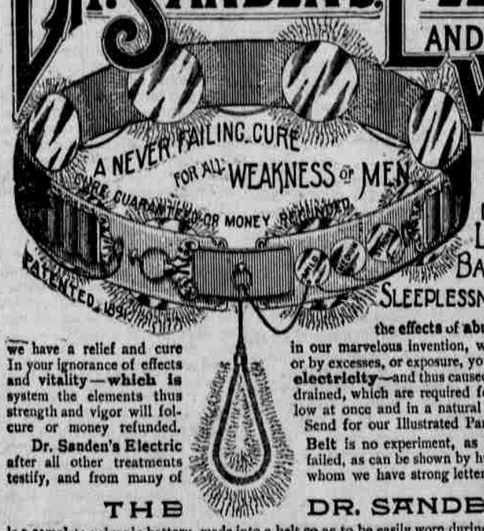

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