

MICROSCOPIC DISCOVERY OF MALARIAL POISON.

For some years, physicians and scientists have been much occupied in efforts to ascertain the nature of the poison which produces malarial fever, and success has finally crowned these labors, as will be seen by the following, which we copy from a contemporary:

The poison is not cognizable by the senses, nor can it be detected by chemical tests. The air of malarial districts has been analyzed, the soil has been submitted to microscopical examination, but no light was thrown on the subject. But not finding a thing looked for is only negative proof, and by no means decisive in any investigation. One thing was certain, namely, that the poison was generated in salt and fresh-water marshes, in wet meadows, from vegetation decaying under a hot sun, in lands alternately flooded and drained, in the moving of earth rich in vegetable matter, and in the drying up under certain atmospheric conditions of stagnant pools. But what the poison was that produced those remittent and intermittent diseases which are known by the various names of marsh fever, malarial fever, fever and ague, and popularly as "chills" and "shakes," has at length been discovered by two scientists, Signor Tomasi, of Rome, and Prof. Kleb, of Prague. After spending three weeks in that fever-stricken region, the Roman Campagna, experimenting on its soils, its atmosphere, and its stagnant waters, they have succeeded in seeing the microscopic fungus, which, on being placed under the skins of healthy dogs, caused distinct and regular paroxysms of intermittent fever, and produced in the spleens of these animals that peculiar enlarged condition which is a recognized part of the pathology of this disease.

The report of their investigations and experiments, and the success that crowned them, was read a short time since in the Academy at Rome, and if further tests substantiate the truth of their discovery, the next series of experiments will have for their object the means whereby these poisonous fungi may either be destroyed or rendered innocuous. The practical agricultural remedy of draining and liming will probably remain the best remedy.

The discovery of the source of malaria in a minute fungus, discernible only under the microscope, merits the applause with which it has been received, and will strengthen very materially the belief in the germ theory of disease which has found in Tyndall one of its ablest advocates.

FOR CLEANING KID GLOVES.—Among the many methods for cleaning kid gloves, the following may be given: Put them together with a sufficient quantity of pure benzine in a large stoppered vessel, and shake the whole occasionally with alternate rest. If on removing the gloves there remain any spots, rub them out with a soft cloth moistened with ether or benzole. Dry the gloves by exposure to the air, and then place smoothly between glass plates at the temperature of boiling water until the last traces of benzine are expelled. They may then be folded and pressed between paper with a warm iron. Another way is to use a strong solution of pure soap in hot milk beaten up with the yolk of one egg to a pint of the solution. Put the glove on the hand and rub it gently with the paste, to which a little ether may be added, then carefully lay by to dry. White gloves are not discolored by this treatment, and the leather will be made thereby clean and soft as when new.

A boy in the wild West who for the first time in his life saw a military company out for a drill with life and drum, gave his mother the following account of the business: "A little man blowed on his squealin' stick, and a big man that stood beside him hammered on his thunder box, then the boss man pulled out a big, long knife and shook it at the fellers what was standin' up in a long row, and they all walked off on two legs."

GRAZING AND BULL-WHACKING.

The business of grazing in all its history has called forth races of peculiar people, and they have devised systems and methods of operation according to the phases of the work in which they are engaged, and the circumstances under which it is pursued. A writer for the New York Tribune, who recently visited the grazing lands of Nebraska, gives an account of his ob-

They would as soon think of leaving off their trousers in the morning, as neglect to buckle on their belts with their long revolvers and full supply of ammunition; and Eastern men who employ them or superintend them, and who have been accustomed to live in civilized communities are obliged to carry arms in order to command the respect of their subordinates.

CHLORATE OF POTASH FROM THE DEAD SEA.—Chemical analysis having long ago shown that the waters of the Dead sea in Palestine are rich



SCENE ON A NEBRASKA CATTLE RANCH.

servations, from which we take leading points to show the general system followed. The cattle are herded on Government land at very little expense. The owner of the stock has, of course, no valid legal claim to the range which he takes up, but the right of the first comer, to the occupancy of the land of which he takes possession, is one that has thus far been almost universally recognized. To take up a range, a man selects a section of unoccupied country lying along some stream, builds a house upon it, and drives his cattle to it. The extent of his range will depend upon the size of his herd. The Bowler herd of 27,000 cattle occupies the valley

in chlorate of potash, a company has been formed, and already commenced operations, to extract this salt from its waters. It is stated that in this way chlorate of potash can be obtained 30% cheaper than by the cheapest process thus far known; and as there is an increasing demand for this salt, it is a safe and profitable investment. In order to save fuel, which is scarce in those regions, the works are kept in the most active operation during the dry season, when the water is low and the River Jordan does not dilute them much, the water level varying considerably, and consequently the concentration. This body of water, of course, con-



BULL-WHACKING ON THE GREAT PLAINS.

of the North Platte river for a distance of 40 miles.

The herds are replenished every year by the purchase of Texas yearlings, and by the natural increase. The more enterprising of stock raisers improve the breed of their cattle by keeping them with a good class of bulls which are purchased in the East. Half-breed cattle grow larger and bring a better price than pure Texans.

The "cow-boys" who are employed to herd the cattle are, as a rule, a rough set of men.

tains the soluble ingredients from the hights surrounding the whole water-shed, of which the rains have made a lye, and solar evaporation has concentrated in that sea.

A SIMPLE LIFE-PRESERVER.—It is not generally known that, when a person falls into the water, a common felt hat can be made use of as a life-preserver. By placing the hat upon the water, rim down, with the arm around it pressing it slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.