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New Theory Regarding Railroad Wrecks.

In communications to The Railway Age Alfred Foster, of Wilmington, N. C. and W. B. Waggoner, of Chicago, advance a startling theory about railroad wrecks, due to engineers disregarding orders or failing to obey signals. Both writers are experts of high standing, and as the result of research extending through many years they unite in declaring that engineers are peculiarly subject to attacks of petit or grand mal, which are forms of epilepsy, or of a peculiar nervous trouble difficult to detect and diagnose. Mr. Waggoner states his point in this way:

"The concentrated attention on one point for a long period of time required of the engineer of a fast passenger train brings about a peculiar nervous disturbance that has many of the external appearances of petit mal, the most noticeable of which is a temporary loss of consciousness."

Attention is called to the psychic fact that the easiest and quickest way to lose oneself is by concentrated attention on a given point. According to the theory advanced, years of concentrated thought on one idea or point makes engineers peculiarly susceptible to epileptic attacks, during which a wave sweeps over the victim and for a few moments dazes or confuses him, or causes him to lose consciousness. Mr. Foster declares that:

"Epilepsy, which is much more common than generally supposed, is quite often the sole factor in otherwise inexplicable accidents—for example, the recent wreck of the Owl Limited on the Southern Pacific."

Why the most trusted engineers should so frequently fail to do what had become second nature to them is readily explained by Mr. Foster's theory. It is pointed out that the great danger lies in the insidious character of the disease. An engineer suffering from it may lose consciousness for a few moments, and even a physician sitting at his side would not be aware that anything was wrong with him, the afflicted man himself scarcely realizing it. Under present conditions of traffic, however, those few moments are more than likely to be long enough for the train to run into something.

Numerous instances are given where examination of engineers who have done inexplicable things showed them to be suffering from this peculiar malady. Both writers strongly urge the employment by railway managements of competent neurologists. Mr. Foster declares, and Mr. Waggoner agrees with him, that: "It would occur to the layman that the modern fast passenger engine is too complicated and the signals to be looked out for too numerous to expect one man to attend to both."

Feathered Hats and Heaven.

Do the wings of a sea gull on a woman's hat waltz her into the shades of sheol?

This is the question raised by the startling statement of Professor Dallas L. Sharp, of Boston University, to the effect that no woman who wore the feathers of a song bird or of a sea gull could get into heaven. Interviews with a number of Chicago women in the Record-Herald reveal a wide divergence of opinion as to the correctness of Dr. Sharp's ornithological observations. There appears to be no verification in holy writ for his sea-gull theory, and as for the feathers of song birds they are not mentioned in the decalogue as barriers against heavenly bliss.

In the absence of any biblical injunction against it the women appear inclined to go right along breaking into "heaven" with a new hat as often as the family exchequer or credit will permit. Indeed, some of them exhibit a reckless disposition to take their chances on heaven hereafter if they can linger in the paradise that comes from a feathered headgear that outdoes everything in the block.

It will be noted that Professor Sharp referred only to the feathers of "song birds and sea gulls." This, after all, leaves a wide range for the decorative fancy of women. There is the red-headed woodpecker, the English sparrow, and the sand-hill crane. These and hundreds of other birds do not sing.

But why slaughter any of the feathered tribe to adorn woman's headgear when the world is full of flowers and fruits and vegetables, asks the Audubon Society. Why should a woman yearn for the plumage of a sea gull when she can cover her Easter hat with flowers, with bunches of luscious-looking grapes, or with yellow carrots and red-ripe tomatoes? Have the

cherries ceased to shake on mother's bonnet? What could be more tempting than a pyramid of pink-yellow peaches and blue plums peeping from a bower of dahlias and hollyhocks? Let the slaughter of the feathered innocents cease.

Talk of the Pan-American Railroad.

The fascinating project of building a Pan-American Intercontinental Railroad is not a new one, having been favorably considered by several Pan-American congresses. The scheme, however, borrows new interest from the action of Congress in appropriating money to investigate the countries through which it will pass, and gather facts relative to the trade opportunities which may spring from it. The railroad distance from New York to Buenos Ayres is placed at 10,471 miles. This makes the project the peer of both the Siberian railroad and the building Cape to Cairo line. It has not behind it the political incentives that belong to either, but the inducement to furnish the capital to complete it must be the profits which the local sections might secure. Of the whole distance there is now a continuous rail line from New York to the southern frontier between Mexico and Guatemala. In Central and South America there are about 1,500 miles more in operation that would be available, leaving gaps approximating 5,000 miles to be filled in. The probable commencement of work on the Panama Canal is a good business reason for continuing the line from Mexico through the Central American states to that point, as it would be a factor for some years in conveying supplies and material to the canal builders. From there southerly through Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia the question of profitable traffic is more serious and the problems of construction extremely difficult and expensive, although engineers have pronounced them surmountable. It has been estimated that to fill in all the gaps would cost about \$2000,000,000. The business of finding the capital has received encouragement by the interest which Andrew Carnegie has been induced to take in the scheme. His purse is large enough to furnish the whole amount if he chose to look on it as a monument to his name.

Slavery Prevailing in the Philippines.

A good deal has been said about the existence of slavery in the Philippines, but little positive knowledge has drifted to these shores regarding the details. A letter from the islands, published in the New York Sun, seems to clear up some of the uncertainties. According to the writer, the institution was inaugurated by the Spanish friars, and was easily continued by the well-known lazy and shiftless propensities of the native Filipino. How it came about is thus related:

A poor Filipino finds himself in debt and without the means to meet his creditors. He forthwith borrows from a rich neighbor the required amount, often not more than thirty pesos—two pesos are equal to about eighty cents of our money—pays his debts, and becomes from that moment, together with his entire family, a slave to the man who had lent him the money. To remain his slave until this money is paid back. This poor native and his family work for the rich native, and in return receive clothes and food of the cheapest quality, but, of course, never any money. They also get a house to live in, but for this house the man is supposed to pay rent. As he has no money and has placed himself and family where not one of them can earn any, this rent can not be paid and is added year by year to the original sum borrowed. The man dies without ever paying the debt, and dies a slave, leaving his family in like bondage.

The Irish Land Bill.

The Irish land bill bids fair to become a great agency for the settlement of Ireland's woes. Certainly it is of vaster scope and more liberally designed than any one of the eight or ten bills upon the same subject that have been passed by parliament since 1870. Its own passage is assured, though much amendment is possible.

The Irish members of parliament strikingly showed their thankfulness and appreciation of the bill at the close of the session at which it was introduced. It can be set down as certain, however, that they will work hard to alter it so that it will have more compulsory features and leave less of its benefits dependent upon good administration. The rock of bad administration is that on which many of the land bills of the past have been wrecked.

In the main the provisions of the bill are of the precise character predicted by Walter Wellman in his letters in the Record-Herald last December. The readers of this paper may congratulate themselves on having had the coming solution of the Irish problem fully described to them several months before the English parliament, press and people became cognizant of its details.—Record-Herald.

In the primaries last Saturday there was small interest shown except in a few precincts many having but one ticket. The result is that Senator Brownell will have the support of the delegation. If the delegation can get him the nomination he will have it. The party has too long acted without the unanimity necessary to accomplish results. The fight for the nomination is very mixed and it is any one's at present. The delegation from this county should make itself felt. It is in a position to secure the nomination for Senator Brownell if it will do hard work. Lay aside personal differences and unite once for your own county.

A RURAL telephone system is to be inaugurated in Polk county. Radiating from Independence, it will literally bring the farmers of a wide section in touch with each other, besides contributing in a substantial way to the business interests of Monmouth and Independence. Rural mail delivery, rural trolley car lines, and now rural telephone service—truly the days of isolated farms and lonely country life belong to an outdated era in the history of Oregon.

THE POPULAR COUNTY CLERK OF THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO.



HON. WILLIAM A. DEANE, OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Hon. Wm. A. Deane, Clerk of the city and county of San Francisco, was Chief Deputy in the office of his predecessor during the latter part of his term. He is a Native Son, having been born and raised in the city of San Francisco, and has for many years been prominently identified with the Order of Native Sons of the Golden West, as well as other fraternal organizations. He is an exceptionally popular young man, socially and politically also, as evidenced by the ballots cast at the late election, he having defeated his opponent for the office of County Clerk by nearly 8,000 votes.

In a letter written January 28, 1899, from San Francisco, to Dr. Hartman, Mr. Deane has the following to say of Peruna:

The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, Ohio.

Gentlemen:—"I would not be without Peruna, as I have found it to be the best remedy for catarrhal complaints that I have ever used. I have tried most all of the so-called catarrh remedies advertised, and can conscientiously say that of all the remedies for catarrhal complaints recommended to me none have been so beneficial as Peruna."—WILLIAM A. DEANE.

CATARRH assumes different phases in different seasons of the year. There is, therefore, four quite well-marked varieties of catarrh. Winter catarrh, autumn catarrh. In each of these varieties different organs seem to be the principal seat of the catarrh. In the winter the catarrh is more frequent in the head, throat and respiratory

organs. In the spring the catarrh seems to chiefly affect the stomach and biliary system. In the summer the bowels suffer the most; while in the autumn the liver and kidneys seem to be particularly subject to the ravages of catarrh.

Of course it is not meant by this that catarrh is absolutely confined to these parts of the body during the season to which we have assigned them. Catarrh may attack any organ in any season of the year, but the liabilities are so much greater for catarrh to attack particular organs in certain seasons that these four distinct varieties have become recognized. Mr. Robert Douglas, Homoeopathic Specialist, cor. 6th and F Sts., N. W., Washington, D. C., in a recent letter to the Peruna Medicine Co., of Columbus, O., has the following to say concerning their noted catarrh remedy, Peruna:

"I have been a practicing physician for some years, during which time I have administered Peruna to a number of my patients for colds, catarrh and general debility with great benefit to them. I have paid particular attention to its effects, and I have absolute confidence in its curative qualities, and have no hesitation in giving it a most emphatic endorsement."

Hon. Clement M. Hammond is one of the best known newspaper men in New York City. He was for years editor of one of the principal papers in Hartford, Conn., later was prominently connected with the New York Recorder and New York World. He has traveled extensively and is known all over the United States for his talent as a newspaper man. Writing to The Peruna Medicine Co., he says:



Hon. C. M. Hammond

"For about six years I have had trouble every fall and winter with my voice. At times it has extended to my bronchial tubes and lungs. I think all this trouble came from whooping cough which I had when I was about twelve years old, and which left me with catarrh. Since I have taken Peruna, my voice has been clearer than in over two years, all of which I am willing to testify to." Mr. Hammond's address is "The Arlington," 64 Montague street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Peruna is an internal remedy—a scientific remedy for catarrh. It cures catarrh wherever located. It secures fast Peruna gives strength by stopping waste. By saving the mucus it enriches the blood. By cleansing the mucous membranes it preserves the vital force.

No remedy can possibly supply the place of Peruna. Insist upon having Peruna. Take no other remedy. There is no substitute for this catarrh medicine. Send for a free book on catarrh. Address the Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, Ohio.

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- Good Laundry Soap, 8 bars..... 25c.
- Good Table Syrup, 1/2 gallon can..... 25c.
- Washing Powder, 1 pound..... 5c.
- Good Roast Coffee, 2 pounds..... 25c.
- Good Green Coffee, 2 "..... 25c.
- Yosemite Coffee, per pkg..... 11c.
- Soperla—same as Sapolio, 6 bars..... 25c.
- English Breakfast Tea, 1 pound..... 30c.
- Lemon and Vinallo Extracts, (Bring Bottle) 1 oz..... 5a.
- Rex Lye, 2 cans..... 25c.
- Ground Spices (Bulk) 1 pound..... 25c.
- Liquid Bluing, 1 bottle..... 5c.
- Wheat Flake, 7 1/2 pounds..... 25c.
- Good Maple Syrup, 1 quart..... 25c.

We Trade for Farm Produce and Shingles.

The Red Front

COURT HOUSE BLOCK

OREGON CITY, - - - OREGON.