A GOLDEN AGE IN FRENCH LITERATURE

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE

XVII.—MOLIERE AND THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV.

BY MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN, LL. D.

The name of Louis XIV, with whom the Caesarism of the Bourbons culminated, recalls not only the splendor and viciousness of his court, the garish magnificence of his palace at Versailles, the bravery of his Generals, but several names of great men of letters, whose fame would live, even if the "sun king" were forgotten. These are Moliere, "the prince of comedy," as Sir Walter Scott calls him; Racine (1639-99), Corneille (1606-84), writers of tragedies not second to those of Euripides and Sophocles; Bossuet (1627-1704); Fenelon (1651-1715), the most eloquent and cultivated men of their time, whose glory has not been dimmed by succeeding time; La Fontaine (1621-95), "the flower of the French spirit, with the perfume of antiquity," whose fables have become part of the household language in every civilized country. There are, too, Bolleau (1636-1711), the master of exquisite satire and the mentor of stylists, and Descartes (1596-1650), whose influence as a philosophical investigator has been so powerful; Pascal (1623-62), a scientist with an ardent imagination; La Rochefoucauld (1613-80), historian and brilliant maker of maxims, and Mme. de Sevigne (1627-96), whose letters are models of brightness, sympathy and of the power of drawing character. There are many other names that add to the glory of the epoch called the age of Louis XIV (1636-1715), just as we speak of the "age of Pericles," "the age of Augustus," "the age of Elizabeth." But the splendor of the flashing constellations dim by contrast stars that would be great alone.

Moliere (Jean Baptiste Poquelin) must be classed among the constellations. He assumed the name of Moliere after he had become an author. Of his youth—and, indeed, of his later life—all sorts of stories and calumnies were current, for his pen made him many enemies. He was born at Paris, January 15, 1622. His father was an upholsterer at one time. Later he assumed the personal service of the King. At the age of 14, Jean entered the Jesuit College of Clermont in Paris—he owing, like Voltaire, who records this, his training in rhetoric and philosophy to the disciples of St. Ignatius Loyola. Some time about the year 1641 he took to law. Whatever else he did between this date and 1659, it is certain that he was a strolling actor and a hard student. The Italian and Spanish comedies—to which Moliere owed much—were not included in the courses of the Jesuits, though the Latin comedies of Terence and Plautus were not unknown names. Moliere studied the art of acting from the strolling players, who were then looked upon as outcasts, and the science of constructing dramas from the Italians and Spanish. It was a similar combination of genius and knowledge, with theatrical experience, which made the plays of Shakespeare more than beautiful dramatic poems—in fact, acting dramas.

Moliere was permitted by the favor of Louis XIV to establish himself and his company of players in Paris. Before the year 1625 there were no "stock companies" in that city. Pierre Corneille had, about 1630, written some farces which gave a theatrical troupe an opportunity. Cardinal Richelieu recognized the value of the drama as a civilizing process and brought the play of manners—which is called in France a comedy—into fashion. The picture of the disappointed tragedian in "Cyrano de Bergerac" will give a clew to the condition of the drama in the time of Richelieu. Having employed his hand for some time in adapting from the Spanish and Italian farces, Moliere, in 1659, produced "Les Precieuses Ridicules." The "precieuse" was what in England was later called a "bluestocking."

As time went on the lovers of ultra-refinement in letters and ultra-sensibility in life become more and more absurd. But when Moliere's "Les Precieuses Ridicules" (The Absurd Bluestockings) appeared, "precieuse" became as ridiculous an epithet as "esthetic" is now, and both meant about the same thing. All Paris laughed. A new master of comedy had arrived, but there were still touches of the farce, of distasteful exaggeration about Moliere. Comedy pure and simple without the farce element was demanded.

The methods of Moliere continued to improve until they reached their highest in "The Misanthrope," "The Doctor in Spite of Himself" and "Le Tartuffe." These are true comedies of manners, and the best of all his delightful plays, though there are critics who will raise their voices for "The Pretended Gentleman"—how else shall I translate "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme"?—and still others for "The Hypochondriac," "Le Malade Imaginaire." In 1665 Louis XIV, who had allowed his company to call itself "the King's," bestowed a pension upon Moliere. While Corneille and Racine were rivals and had rivals—Voltaire (1694-1778) later wrote tragedies—Moliere had no rival but himself. He stands alone; he was really the inventor of comedy pure and simple. Like Shakespeare, he borrowed his plots, and even some of his episodes, from the Italians and Spanish; the dramatic movement, the presentment of character, the laughter, the tears, are entirely his. He saw deep into life and he drw pictures of what he saw, and those amusing trifles which seem exaggerated when presented by him are even drawn from life. The chief character in "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" is astonished to find that he has been speaking prose all his life. A reference in the letter of Mme. de Sevigne, dated June 12, 1680, shows that the original of this character was not a pretended gentleman, but a noble, the Count de Soissons. The letters and memoirs of the time are evidences of the appreciation in which Moliere was held and of his faculty of using the details of daily life in his comedies. "Tartuffe," a satire upon religious hypocrisy, raised a storm only equaled by that which broke out after the production of "L'Ecole des Femmes" (The School for Women). It is difficult to understand why "Tartuffe" should be considered a blow at religion, and only persons whose consciences were more concerned with the externals of religion than the spirit, could have thought it so. It was natural enough that the friends of the Abbe de Roquette, who, it was supposed, was the object of Moliere's satire, should have resented the insinuation. But it was probably the enemies of Roquette, afterward Bishop of Autun, who pointed out where Moliere's arrow ought to have struck, whether it was aimed that way or not. "Tartuffe" is a comedy of character as well as manners. It ranks in this respect with "L'Avare" (The Miser) and "Le Misanthrope." "L'Avare" is a reminiscence of Plautus, but an improvement on the Latin poet. It has been asserted that Moliere in "The Miser" shows too much tolerance for avarice—he merely makes us laugh at it. It is quite enough to be grateful that he has made us laugh with a harmless laughter, which will go on for a long time to come, increasing the merriment of nations. The situations and even some of the lines in "L'Avare" have been copied so often in modern farces and comedies that now, when we read the scene between Harpagon and his cook, it seems "full of quotations." "Les Femmes Savantes" (The Learned Ladies) will always be a favorite, but probably of all the episodes introduced into Moliere's plays that in which Orgon discovers the perfidy of Tartuffe represents high comedy at its best.

Moliere was not a moralist or a reformer. He took life as he saw it. He did not pretend to teach. The mean or gross mind will find it easy to reflect itself in "The School for Women" or in some of the farces of which "Sganavelle," "Monsieur de Pourceaugnac" and "Les Fourberies de Scapin" (the Rogueries of Scapin) are examples. Only the narrow-minded or the prurient can discover dislike of true religion in "Tartuffe," or immorality—that is, the intention to be immoral—in any other of the comedies. Shakespeare as a poet is as immeasureably above Moliere as he is above Corneille and Racine. But as a writer of delicate comedy, of manners and character skillfully arranged, Moliere is beyond all writers, including even the author of "Much Ado About Nothing" and Lope de Vega himself.

In 1662, the year after the performance of "The School for Husbands," Moliere married Mdlle. Bejart. On Februgry 17, 1673, while acting in "Le Malade Imaginaire," he was taken ill. He hid his illness from the audience; death was near; a hemorrhage could not be stopped, and that night he died.

MOLIERE AND HIS TROUPE OF PLAYERS.

The most brilliant of the contemporaries of Moliere were Pierre Corneille and Jean Racine. They were not great in comedy—though Racine wrote a clever comic play, "Les Plaideurs" (The Pleaders). They remain, however, the greatest of French writers of tragedy. Their names would have been sufficient to make a literary epoch. The greatest dramas of Corneille are "The Cid" (1637), suggested by and partly borrowed from the Spanish of De Castro; "Horatii" ("Les Horaces"), produced in 1639; "Cinna," his masterpiece, according to the French, and "Polyeucte" (1640). The lesser works are "Rodogune," "The Death of Pompey," "Nicomede," "Don Sanche," "Sertorious," "Otho" and "Heraclius." Corneille made comedy possible in France and revived tragedy. It has been truly said of this imitator of Roman writers of tragedy that "his heroes are all demi-gods and his heroines, except Chimene and Pauline, all men."

Corneille and Racine were rivals. Henrietta of England asked them to write "Berenice." Racine carried off the palm. Corneille was Roman, Racine Greek. Their genius was so different that each must be judged by himself. Racine touches the heart; he does not, like Corneille, keep us above the ordinary feelings of humanity. His "Andromaque" (1667) made an epoch as "The Cid" had done. In "Britannicus" Racine is strong in the Greek sense, revealing great psychological strength without physical realism. He takes us to the court of Nero, but he avoids the horrors which the Latin historian Suetonius and the modern romancer Sienkiewicz have inflicted on us. In "Bajazet" he parted for a time from his Greeks to return to the Romans in "Mithridatus." In "Iphigenia in Aulis" (Iphigenie in Aulide) and "Phaedro" (Phedre) he reached his most glorious height.

Pierre Corneille.

The court circle was narrow in the reign of Louis XIV, and then even great poets bloomed or drooped in the smile or frown of the king. The king, led by a cabal against Racine, frowned, and the poet gave up the stage, retiring to the society of his wife and children. But Mme. de Maintenon, the king's wife, wanted a play in which love should have no part, for the young ladies of her school at St. Cyr. On request, Racine wrote his great pieces "Esther" and "Athalie," both suggested by the Old Testament. "Athalie" was founded on "Ion," a tragedy of Euripides; but when Racine borrowed he returned the loan with more than compound interest to humanity.

Regarding the effect of the performance of "Esther" at St. Cyr, the charming Mme. de Sevigne says, in a letter to her daughter, written on February 21, 1689:

"I cannot tell you the extreme beauty of this piece. It is a performance not easy to represent and is inimitable. It is the union of music, poetry, singing and character so perfect and complete that there is nothing we wish to alter. The young ladies who represent kings and great personages seemed to be born for it. Everything is simple, innocent, sublime and affecting. I," continues Mme. de Sevigne, "was delighted, and so was the Marshal de Bellefond, who left his seat to tell the King how glad he was to have a place near a lady so worthy of seeing 'Esther.' The King approached our seat, and, having turned round, addressed himself to me. 'I am told, madame, that the piece has pleased you.' I answered with perfect self-possession: 'Sire, I am delighted; what I feel is beyond the power of words to describe.' The King continued: 'Racine has great talents.' 'Sire, he has indeed, and so have these young persons. They enter into the matter as if it were the sole employment.' 'Ah, that is very true,' he rejoined. And then he retired, leaving me the object of universal envy."

The great Louis had spoken—for in that golden age kings were more than men of genius; but now we remember the "sun king" principally because the men of genius he reigned over help us to forget his arrogance and viciousness.

Maurice Francis Egan

Catholic University of America.

CONTOUR MAP.

Portland Weather Bureau Has a Valuable and Interesting Addition.

The Portland branch of the Weather Bureau has received an excellent contour map of the United States, which, as far as known, is the only one of two in the country. The map is so built as to represent a surface section of a globe 15½ feet in dimaeter. On it are faithfully represented all the main elevations and depressions of the United States, and those in the oceans bordering it. The principal transcontinental railroad lines are added in red ink, as are also the larger cities.

The topography of the Pacific Northwest States is in particular accurately represented. The snow mountains are elevated in proportion to their height, Mount Rainier and Mount Hood towering above the rest.

The map was prepared by Ed E. Howell, under the supervision of the United States Geological Survey. Forecast Official Beals states that he would be glad to show this fine piece of work to any one interested in geology or in the topography of the country.

EAST SIDE AFFAIRS.

Rafting Ties Down the Sandy—Death of Mrs. H. Denlinger.

A considerable per cent of the railway ties cut by the sawmills on the Sandy River and heretofore hauled to Troutdale for shipment eastward, will soon be rafted down the Sandy River. Cummings & Cole have had their new mill hauled out from Portland, and in about two weeks they will commence sawing. They will flume their output of ties to the Sandy and drive them down the river to Troutdale, where they will be taken out of the river and piled up for shipment near the railway track. This will be the third sawmill which will raft its ties down the Sandy, the other two being Bramhall's and Menzie's mills. This will keep the Sandy River pretty full of railway ties this season, when there is plenty of water. It will reduce the wear on the county roads in that district and the cost of repairs. It has been quite a problem to keep the roads in condition with the procession of heavy tie teams passing over them. It is considered probable that a railway switch will eventually be extended southward as far as Pleasant Home from Troutdale. Already a spur is projected to Cone's mill from that point. The tie business continues to increase. There is no limit to the market.

Death of Mrs. H. Denlinger.

Dr. T. C. Humphrey, of the East Side, yesterday forenoon received a wire from H. Denlinger, dated April 24, Raton, N. M., announcing the death of his wife. He left for Las Vegas, San Miguel, three weeks ago, and is supposed to have been making his way there when his wife died. At the time he left Portland his father was in Portland and has since died. The trip was made to New Mexico in the hope that the change of climate would benefit Mrs. Denlinger's health, which had become seriously impaired. Her parents live at Independence, where Mr. Denlinger had been engaged in the practice of law. She was Miss Nellie Hill. A little son survives her. Her husband is now on the way to Oregon. Dr. Humphrey states that the remains will no doubt be taken to Independence for interment.

Stone Retaining Wall.

The warehouses and buildings of the Standard Oil Company, on East First and East Water streets, are being repaired in such a way as to guard against the spread of fire in future. Stone retaining walls are being built between the buildings, the buildings themselves serving as the remainder of the walls. On East Water street the stone wall between the brick office and the stables has been completed, and the wall will be continued so as to connect the other buildings in the same way. On the opposite side of East Main street, where a new warehouse is under construction, a stone wall has been put up on the north and west sides, while the Southern Pacific embankment fences in the east side. The plant will thus be fenced in with these walls. At the fire the great apprehension was lest one of the oil tanks should burst and the oil spread destruction to the surroundings. These retaining walls will greatly reduce the danger in case of fire.

To Install Alarm Signal.

The city electrician will shortly install an alarm fire signal in the tower of the Sunnyside hosehouse, by which the bell there will repeat the signals given by the big bell. The tower is in the rear of the building, and is open. It will be inclosed, and the lumber for the purpose has been received. The apparatus will likely be the usual electric signal, which will be placed in the house under the bell. It will be quite an advantage to the residents of Sunnyside to be able to hear the signals from all over the city repeated by the Sunnyside bell. The bell is large enough to be heard all over that portion of the city, and beyond. After a time, when the city boundary lines have been extended to the summit of Mount Tabor, a chemical engine-house will have to be built somewhere up the slope. There is already a growing section requiring fire protection.

Mrs Prettyman Very Ill.

The friends of Mrs. Prettyman, wife of Henry W. Prettyman, of Mount Tabor, will deeply regret to hear of her serious illness. She was taken sick several days ago, while in the city, and was removed to her home. Since then her condition has been very serious. Only about a month ago she and Mr. Prettyman returned from California, where they spent the Winter, and at that time she was in excellent health.

Moliere.

Died From Scalds.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Taylor, who was buried from the home of his parents at Montavilla, a few days ago, died from the effects received by scalds. In some way the child fell in a boiler of hot water, his legs and body being scalded in a shocking manner. Dr. Darling was called to dress his injuries, but they were too severe for him to recover.

Back From Conference.

Rev. C. T. Hurd, who came from Williamsport, Pa., some time ago to supply the First United Evangelical Church, has been sent back to the First Church for the year, by the Hillsboro conference. He arrived yesterday from Hillsboro, and resumed his duties. Rev. Mr. Lindsay, who is sent to the Second Church, Albina, is from Nebraska, and comes highly recommended. Rev. H. A. Deck, who was at Second Church, goes to Dallas. He leaves many friends in the city. The educational question was left unsettled. Bishop Dubbs has now commenced his tour of the churches, and will be in Portland, May 6.

East Side Notes.

The funeral of Mrs. Taylor, wife of B. L. Taylor, took place yesterday afternoon from her late home, 34 East Ninth street, corner East Couch. A large number of the friends and acquaintances of the family were present.

This evening the Albina Republican Club will hold a general ratification meeting in Gomez Hall. All the Republican candidates are expected to be present at this meeting. Fine orchestra music will be provided for the evening.

The work of changing the building on Grand avenue, formerly occupied by the Troy laundry, into a fruit cannery was commenced yesterday morning. Some of the old flooring is being renewed. The building is two story, and contains considerable room.

The Democratic Club of the Eighth Ward held a meeting last evening in Gruner's Hall. Addresses were made by George E. Chamberlain and J. T. Morgan. In the Eleventh Ward a Republican meeting took place in the Mississippi-avenue engine-house. S. C. Spencer was the speaker.

The Peninsula Lodge, No. 128, I. O. O. F., will celebrate the 81st anniversary of the establishment of the order tomorrow evening, with an entertainment at St. Johns. Orient Lodge, No. 17, I. O. O. F., with Omega and Utopia Rebekah Lodges, will observe the anniversary with appropriate exercises this evening.

The Albina Republican Club will have a grand rally at Gomez hall this evening. All the regular Republican candidates have been invited to be present and receive a ratification at the hands of the club, and many of them have signified their intention to be present. There will be good speaking and good music. All are invited.

EAST MULTNOMAH.

Death of Parker Rowley—Another New Saw Mill to Cut Ties.

Parker Rowley, one of the prominent residents of Troutdale, died at that place on Saturday last, aged 52 years. He came here from Nebraska seven years ago, since which time he became identified with the interests of this section. His wife died three years ago and since then he made his home with one of his sons, Cyrenus Rowley. A few weeks ago he was taken with the grip which developed into pneumonia and resulted in his death. His remains were interred in Troutdale cemetery on Monday, the funeral being largely attended. He leaves three sons and two daughters, two of the former, Charles and Nathan, being residents of Iowa.

Another Sawmill.

Smith & Carpenter put a large force of men at work yesterday morning clearing away the site for a new sawmill which will be located on the Wiholn place, about one mile east of the Powell Valley postoffice, on the Bull Run pipe line road. It will have a capacity of 20,000 feet per day and will be devoted principally to the cutting of railroad ties for the O. R. & N. Company at Troutdale.

Teachers Elected.

The directors of the Orient school district at their last meeting elected the following teachers for the next school year beginning the first Monday in September. Principal, A. N. Low; intermediate, Miss Katie New; primary, Mrs. Featherstone. Orient school is one of the largest and best in the eastern part of the county, this year's census having returned the names of 183 pupils of school age.

Bicycle Accident.

Carl Larsen, of Troutdale, met with a severe accident Monday while riding a wheel. On turning a corner he collided with a young woman on another wheel and both went into a heap in the road. The young woman escaped injury but Mr. Larsen was severly hurt internally and was carried to his home where he was put to bed. He was somewhat better yesterday and hopes to be able to mount his wheel again in a short time.

Will Celebrate the Fourth.

The citizens of Troutdale have taken the initiative in a Fourth of July celebration. They expect to make the affair of importance enough to attract the entire surrounding country and will make arrangements for a fitting celebration of the occasion. This will be the first affair of the kind in four years and will be an undoubted success.

Native Sons at Gresham.

A large number of the young men at Gresham and vicinity, have signed a petition for a cabin of Native Sons of Oregon, to be located at that place. It is estimated that a membership of about 100 can easily be secured and the cabin will be organized in a short time by F. H. Saylor, of Portland. Louis Shattuck is the promoter of the organization.

Will Observe Anniversary.

Gresham Lodge, No. 125, I. O. O. F., will observe the 81st anniversary of the order at its hall tomorrow evening. The Rebekhah degree will assist, Wednesday evening being the regular time of its meeting. The affair will close with a bountiful supper provided by the two lodges which will meet together for the occasion.

Brief Notes.

Daniel Mickley, of Troutdale, will leave for San Francisco May 5, as delegate from Pioneer Court, No. 8033, to the High Court convention to be held in that city next month.

Fishing for salmon trout is very good on the Sandy River just now, large numbers being caught every day near Troutdale. One fisherman secured 71 on Monday last, using angle worms for bait. Many other large catches are reported.

Miss Annie Dougherty, one of the teachers in the Troutdale public school has been compelled to lay off several days on account of the effects of vaccination. She was considerably better yesterday, and will be able to resume her duties in a few days.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. T. W. Harris, of Eugene, is at the Imperial.

Dr. L. K. Adams, of Salem, is at the Imperial.

John Leary and wife, of Seattle, are at the Portland.

Charles Cleveland and wife, of Gresham, are at the Perkins.

R. M. C. Murphy, of Eugene, is stopping at the Imperial.

F. Cutting and wife, of Oakland, Cal., are at the Portland.

T. L. Armistead, of Richmond, Va., is stopping at the Portland.

F. T. Kuettner, of the Astoria Railroad Company, is registered at the Imperial.

Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Wood have returned from a short visit to Southern California.

M. D. Garrison, a business man of Thorp, Wis., is registered at the Perkins.

Mrs. Joseph McCabe and daughter, of Walla Walla, are registered at the Portland.

Levi Ankeny, of Walla Walla, the well-known Washington banker, is at the Perkins.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Middlecuff, of Stockton, Cal., are registered at the Portland.

W. B. Lawler, a prominent mining man of Albany, is in the city, staying at the Imperial.

E. Stone, superintendent of the Corvallis & Yaquina Railroad, is registered at the Imperial.

Miss Annie Metschan, sister of Phil Metschan, is visiting her brother and stopping at the Imperial.

W. F. Chutter, Mrs. J. A. Fulton and Miss Fulton, of Astoria, are visiting in Portland and registered at the Portland.

J. H. Aitkin, president of the Oregon Commercial Company, of Huntington, will be in Portland for two or three days. He is stopping at the Perkins.

B. Harrison Roach, manager of the Commercial Company, of this city, left for San Francisco last night on business. He will be gone about two weeks.

Mack Trimble, who has for a long time been a potent element in the mining and milling business of the Cascades and Blue Mountains, is stopping at the Perkins, with his wife.

Mrs. Rebecca S. Millican, worthy past grand mistress of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, accompanied by her daughter, and by Mrs. Nell and Mrs. McFeeley, of Tacoma, is at the Imperial, pending the organization of an auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Representative Tongue, who has been to Atlantic City to regain his health, returned to Washington today.

NEW YORK, April 24.—Northwestern people registered at New York hotels today as follows:

From Portland—W. R. White, at the Park Avenue hotel.

From Seattle—W. W. Lewis, Mrs. W. H. Lewis at the St. Dennis and A. P. Sawyer at the Hotel Victoria.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 24.—The following Portland people are registered at local hotels: Miss Howen, L. W. Countryman, W. Harrington, at the Grand; J. Flanders, Mrs. E. Noble, at the California; B. F. Jackson and wife, at the Occidental; A. Frovor, E. E. Cooper, M. Maison, at the Russ House; S. L. Jones, at the Golden West, and F. Wastell, at the Brooklyn.

MOVING PICTURES.

If you have not decided how to go to California, go to see the handsome moving pictures, now on exhibition, free, at Union Pacific ticket office, 135 Third street.

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SIX MONTHS' TREATMENT FOR ONE DOLLAR of Dr. Burkhart's VEGETABLE COMPOUND.

In Tablet Form. Pleasant to Take.

Sold under a bonafide guarantee to cure the following diseases: Kidney and Liver Disease, Fever and Ague, Rheumatism, Sick and Nervous Headache, Erysipelas, Scrofula, Female Complaints, Catarrh, Indigestion, Neuralgia, Nervous Affection, Dyspepsia, Constipation, accompanied by one or more of the following symptoms: Pain in side, back, under shoulder blade, smothering sensations, palpitation of the heart, tired feeling in the morning, poor appetite, coated tongue, blotches or pimples on the face, bad taste in the mouth, roaring, buzzing sounds in the head, bad memory, sour, sick or bloated stomach, pains in the head, dizziness, headache, restlessness at night, night sweats, bad dreams, feeling of fear, stiffness of limbs, skin troubles, disposition to neglect duties and an inability to concentrate the mind upon the details of business. For sale by all druggists.

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Ely's Cream Balm cleanses, soothes and heals the diseased membrane. It cures catarrh and drives away a cold in the head quickly.

Cream Balm is placed into the nostrils, spreads over the membrane and is absorbed. Relief is immediate and a cure follows. It is not drying—does not produce sneezing. Large Size, 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; Trial Size, 10 cents by mail.

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ELY'S CREAM BALM CATARRH HAY-FEVER 50 CTS. ELY BROS.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Cures Painful, Profuse, and Irregular Periods.

MRS. E. F. CUSTER, Brule, Wis., writes:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Your Vegetable Compound has been of much benefit to me. When my menses first appeared they were very irregular. They occurred too often and did not leave for a week or more. I always suffered at these times with terrible pains in my back and abdomen. Would be in bed for several days and would not be exactly rational at times. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and menses became regular and pains left me entirely."

The monthly sickness reflects the condition of a woman's health. Any woman whose menstruation is unnatural may look for serious trouble to develop at any time.

MRS. ANNA LACY, Ross, Iowa, writes:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I was troubled with female weakness, irregular and painful menstruation. I suffered so every month that I was obliged to go to bed, but thanks to your medicine I am now well. I would advise all women who suffer as I did to use Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

MISS MARY GOMES, Aptos, Cal., writes:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—After receiving your letter I began the use of your remedies, taking both Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier. I am now regular every month and suffer no pain. Your medicine is the best that any suffering girl can take."

Mrs. Pinkham's advice is invaluable help to all women who suffer. It is absolutely free. Her address is Lynn, Mass.

MRS. EDNA ELLIS, Higginsport, Ohio, writes:

"I am a school teacher, have suffered agony monthly for ten years. My nervous system was a wreck. I suffered with pain in my side and had almost every ill known. I had taken treatment from a number of physicians who gave me no relief. One specialist said no medicine could help me, I must submit to an operation. I wrote to Mrs. Pinkham, stating my case, and received a prompt reply. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and followed the advice given me and now I suffer no more. If any one cares to know more about my case, I will cheerfully answer all letters."

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Cures the worst forms of Female Complaints, Bearing-down Feeling, Weak Back, Leucorrhœa, Falling and Displacement of the Womb, Inflammation, Ovarian Troubles, and all Diseases of the Uterus or Womb, Bloating, and is invaluable to the Change of Life.

Dissolves and expels Tumors from the Uterus at an early stage, and checks any tendency to Cancerous Humor.

Subdues Faintness, Excitability, Nervous Prostration, Exhaustion, Kidney Complaints, and tones the Stomach.

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