

GERMS OF DISEASE.

The Different Methods of Their Multiplication.

Life in this world is, as it were, a balancing seesaw between different organisms, in which each helps the rest—a cycle of actions which are to a certain extent dependent on each other.

The molecules of the grain of wheat in part help to construct the muscle cells in a man's arm, and in part furnish fuel for motive power to these cells, while the excreted products of these cells in the form of carbonic acid, urea, etc., and finally the products of decomposition of these cells, may go to construct a new grain of wheat.

But to enable the vegetable to make use of the animal cell as food, the latter must be split up into simpler combinations, and this is effected by micro-organisms of various kinds. The great majority of these minute beings are harmless to man so long as they are confined to his skin and alimentary canal; in fact, every one carries millions of them on and within himself, and it is doubtful whether he could properly digest his food without their help.

There are, however, some forms of these little granules and rods, or micrococci and bacteria, which are not so innocent and harmless, but which, on the contrary, produce disease and death in many of those to whose systems they gain admittance.

Some of these disease germs multiply only within the bodies of living animals, so, for instance, those which give rise to small-pox and scarlet fever; they retain their vitality for a time when thrown off in excretions; but they do not increase in number until they gain access to living tissues, and hence the diseases which they cause are propagated by contagion only. Other disease germs multiply, so far as we know, almost exclusively outside the living body, and produce their effects on man not by growing within him, but by poisoning him with their products, as common yeast may be said to be the cause of delirium tremens through the agency of the alcohol which it produces. Malaria is a type of this class.

A third kind multiply both within and without the living body, and some of these appear to especially multiply and flourish in human excreta. As yet we know very little of the life history of these disease germs, or as to how they produce their effects; we are not even certain as to whether they are distinct separate species or whether they are not some of the common micro-organisms which by over-feeding or otherwise have become abnormal, microscopic monsters as it were, producing evil instead of good.

What we do know is that a very minute quantity of excreta from a case of cholera or typhoid fever may, when introduced into the alimentary canal of a healthy person, produce, in that person disease similar to the one from which the germ originally came; and we also have good reason to believe that if a few such germs fall into a mass of excreta, as in a cess-pool, they may under certain conditions multiply very rapidly and render the whole mass of it highly infectious; so that any portion of it will be capable of conveying the disease.

Their action is closely analogous to that of yeast, and the disease which are supposed to be due to such action are known as the zymotic or ferment diseases.

Hence comes one great danger of retaining or storing in the vicinity of human habitations quantities of organic matter suitable for the nourishment of such organisms, for the channels through which such collections may become dangerously inoculated are so numerous and, in the present state of our knowledge so impossible to guard against, that casks of powder or cases of dynamite would be really safer neighbors.

Sewage is not only a source of danger in this way, but also through the products of its decomposition. The most important of these in this connection are the gases and effluvia evolved in putrefaction, such as hydrogen sulphide, ammonium sulphide, carbon dioxide, and certain organic vapors of very complex constitution, chiefly characterized by unpleasant odors.

When concentrated, as in old cess-pools or vaults, they may produce suffocation and almost immediate death, or great prostration, violent vomiting and purging, convulsions and death in from one to two days.

The circumstances are rare which produce such effects as these; usually the gases are greatly diluted before being breathed, and the effects are less marked.

Constant exposure to such air impairs health gradually, but distinctly, especially in infants and children, the symptoms produced being loss of appetite, languor, slight headaches, etc.—J. S. Billings, M. D., in Harper's Magazine.

A Fastidious Colored Lady.

Mrs. Judge Peterby, of Anasin, employs a colored cook named Matilda Snowball, who is a great favorite with the sterner sex, but who is very high-toned, nevertheless.

"Who was that horrid-looking negro I saw prowling about the back yard?" asked Mrs. Peterby, indignantly.

"Dat's a feller I keeps company wid on week-days."

"On week-days?"

"Yes, mum; yer don't s'pose I'd be seen wid sich a bandy-legged, goggle-eyed moke like him on Sundays, does yer? Yer orter see de cullud gemman I keeps company wid on Sundays. You'd be s'prised, yer would."—Texas Siftings.

—The potato, introduced in England in 1600, was first eaten as a sweetmeat, stewed in sackwine and sugar.

MARSHALL'S DISCOVERY.

An Account of the Finding of Gold in California.

I see a notice of the death of James W. Marshall, who discovered gold in California. I became acquainted with Marshall, at Coloma, California. I knew him intimately, and was associated with him in business at that place, which is on the south fork of the American River. Marshall was a native of New Jersey. Gold was discovered in February, 1848, by Marshall and another man named Wiemer. I have forgotten Wiemer's first name. Marshall and Wiemer built for Colonel Sutter a saw mill at Coloma, and had finished it in February, 1848. I am a stockholder in a company which now owns that saw mill. The mill had been erected at the head of a bar where the river bends around it in the form of the letter U. The mill race had been cut through the bar, and when the mill was started it was found that the race was too shallow, and for this reason the wheel of the mill was partially under water. The water was shut off, and Marshall and Wiemer went down into the race to ascertain where it was to be dug deeper.

A point about fifty yards below the mill, they concluded, was the place which obstructed the flow of water. Here Marshall said to Wiemer: "What is that which shines just at the toe of your boot?" Wiemer then picked up the shining piece, and they both thought it a piece of brass. They began to conjecture how it was possible for a piece of brass to get into the race. From the fact that no brass had been used in the construction of the mill, and that the piece found had been worn smooth, they concluded that it was not brass, and might be gold. On that day Mrs. Wiemer was making soap, and for this purpose had made lye by leaching wood ashes. To test the metal found Mrs. Wiemer boiled it several hours in this lye, and when she removed it from the lye it was as black as ink. These facts were stated to me by Marshall, Wiemer, and Mrs. Wiemer. I went with Marshall to Wiemer's house to see the first piece of gold found in California, and then and there the whole history of the discovery was talked over by all three of the persons who participated in the discovery. Mrs. Wiemer then showed the piece of gold. Its weight was 87, or, the value of the ounce being \$16, in other words, 81 pennyweights. The form of the piece was that of a long, irregular pumpkin seed. It was still black as when taken out of the lye, except at one end, where the incrustation formed by the lye had been removed.

This discovery was made in February, 1848. The day I do not remember. As soon as this lye test had been made Marshall and Wiemer went into the mill race and with wooden bowls washed out some two or three ounces of gold, and Marshall carried it to Monterey to ascertain if it were gold. This was the nearest place where the means to make the test could be had.

Colonel Sutter resided at his fort, near what is now the city of Sacramento. He was a Swiss and a classmate of Napoleon III. One evening, when going down the Sacramento River in a steamboat, Colonel Sutter told me the story of Marshall's return from Monterey. Colonel Sutter said: "I was in bed, and it was about two o'clock at night. I heard some one ride up to the fort, the horse running at the top of his speed. Then a banging at the gate; then I heard the clank of the spurs on the brick floors of the fort; then a pounding at the door of my room, and when I opened the door I rushed Marshall, shouting: 'It's gold! it's gold!'"

At the time Marshall and Wiemer built the mill at Coloma the labor used was in lian labor. There were no other white men besides Marshall and Wiemer. Marshall was unmarried and had no children. I think Wiemer had, but do not distinctly remember.

When Marshall returned from Monterey to Coloma he brought with him about 300 Indians, and took to Webber Creek, distant about six miles from Coloma. There with his Indians he washed out a large amount of gold. His part was sufficient to buy from Sutter the saw mill at Coloma. In 1849 Marshall and John Winter owned the mill together, and they also owned Winter's Hotel. They sold the lumber at \$300 a thousand, and the demand was greater than the mill could supply. I paid at the hotel \$100 a week board, without a room. Marshall was then worth more than \$100,000, but his generosity was without limit. He gave to all who asked of him. He had no business qualifications, and when sharp business men came in and built up the little town of Coloma, Marshall was soon traded out of all his property. His money he had lent where it would never be returned or had been given away.

Then Marshall became a prospector for gold mines. Several times I fitted him out with mules, men and provisions to go prospecting. He knew the country better than any other man at that time, and led the way to many rich placer mines; but he never found any that were rich enough for him. Often has he left mines where he could take out six or seven ounces per day to each man to seek an El Dorado where hundreds of thousands could be made in a week.

Since 1852 I have known nothing of Marshall, but I concur in the opinion that it is a disgrace to the State of California that she has suffered Marshall to die in want. To Sutter first and Marshall next is California most indebted.—Henry C. Gardiner, in N. Y. Sun.

Lace Dresses.

Gauze and lace dresses have two waists provided for them, one of which is of lace or gauze, and the other of velvet. White and pale pink velvets are covered with white lace skirts are elegant to lettes for water-places. Shot velvet in such colors as brown with green or red with blue is the novelty for dark corsages worn with light canvas skirts. The trimming on the skirt is rows of velvet ribbon sewed on the canvas flounces before they are pleated. Plain and striped velvets and those dotted over with small metallic balls beads of gold or lead are worn as jackets with various light fabrics for skirts.—Harper's Bazar.

KEEP YOUR TEMPER.

Those Who Control Themselves Likely to Live Longer and Become Richer.

According to the observation of many men, the results being preserved by statistics, those individuals live the longest and reach the greatest success, besides being infinitely happier, who keep control of themselves and do not fly off into tempers. It is impossible to go through life, or even a single day of it, without meeting perplexities and annoyances, as everybody knows, but they are far more easily dealt with, if looked coolly in the face without excitement, than when irritation is allowed to pass into anger and its accompaniments.

It is easy enough to see why the possessor of a quiet, calm, equable temperament lives longer than the hasty, passionate one. There is no such tension on the vital organs as a fit of anger induces. The blood is sent rushing madly through the veins, beating upon the heart in a tumultuous invasion and straining its powers to the utmost to resist the strain, and this often when the system is least fitted for endurance. The processes of life proceed quietly day after day, through the years, and the body is kept in good order save from the natural wear. It is just like machinery which runs smoothly, and will last many years, if unexpected demands are not made on it, but which is liable to give out suddenly when called without preparation to bear unusual burdens.

People who fly into a passion often defeat their most cherished purposes. An angry man is always at a disadvantage with an opponent. He forgets what he should remember, fails to see an advantage, says what he should have left unsaid, and omits what is of valid importance. He will be made to appear in the wrong when he is really in the right. It is not impossible for one who easily loses self-control to win success in life, but he will not reach the highest measure, and what he does gain will be from a combination of fortunate circumstances, or because he has far more than ordinary ability. Perhaps no better example can be given of a man who always possesses himself than General Grant. His cool steadiness has passed into an axiom with the Nation. He never showed excitement, even when it would seem natural and excusable, and he never failed to come out the victor. It is so in every position in life. There is something in that quiet steadiness which holds the lash of self-possession, that influences others, and compels them to yield, no matter how hotly they have contested a disputed point. Everybody knows how hard lawyers work, how deftly they play an opposing witness with irritating questions, in order to arouse his anger and make him stultify himself.

That the individual who can hold his temper is the happier for doing so, goes without saying. There is nothing which humiliates a self-respecting man or woman so much as the consciousness of having lost self-control, and being therefore placed in a position to attract ridicule or disgust. The very consciousness of self-mastery gives pleasure, and there is not the continual state of bitter penitence for having been unkind or unjust to be endured. The physical, mental and moral being is in an infinitely better condition.

Of course there is such a thing as righteous indignation, but even that should not be ungovernable.—Volo to Blais.

ESPINOSILLA.

A Plant Which Might Be a Joy to the Patent Medicine Man.

The espinosilla, or thorn plant, says Monarchal Oropeza, a well known Mexican naturalist, is a native of Mexico, and abounds in various parts of the Republics, principally near this capital, at San Angel, Texcoco, Santa Fe, etc. It is one of those beautiful wild plants which adorn the plains of Mexico, and is found particularly in cold, dry spots. It has been thus christened because in touching it a sensation is felt similar to that which a plant covered with thorns would produce.

The Aztl's lacking soap so necessary to their health and happiness—found its substitute in the espinosilla. They agitated a bough in water and it produced a lather, with which they washed, using the plant as a scrub brush. Even to-day it is used by women as a hair preservative, having extraordinary powers in that direction, says the Yeco Republics. But its most useful application is as a medicinal agent, to fight fevers, as it is an excellent diaphoretic.

Its ancient name is beautiful. Holtzitzilxochitli, a compound word. Holtzitzil—humming-bird and xochitli flower; thus translated meaning "flower of the humming-bird."

The Spaniards called it Huischilic, signifying sparrow—a name given it on account of the resemblance between the color of the flower and that of a sparrow's head plumes.

Those who know the Aztec tongue assert that its real name is cuchiote. The espinosilla belongs to the polytomaceae family, and the Holtz is a coccinea genus and spec. var.: loeselia coccinea. G. Don; cantua holtzi. Wild; holtzi Mexicans. Lance; cantua, Poir.

It is a perennial plant, of variable height, but never more than three feet in height; of a pivotal root, rather flexible, of white surface, corrugated, from which spring secondary roots, thin and separated.

In general the plant is rough and thorny, more so as its age increases. The taste is bitter, especially of the leaves, but the root has two tastes, when first tasted being sweet, after which it is bitter.

There are other varieties in the Republic—the lesalia glandulosa, growing in the hot lands; the L. superius, in Oaxaca; the L. ciliata, in Vera Cruz; the L. involucrata, in Acapulco, and the L. amplexans, between San Blas and Tepic.—San Francisco Chronicle.

—The house in which General Grant first saw the light had only two windows.

SKILLED LABOR ON THE FARM.

Workmen Who Command High Wages and Who Are Never Begging for Something to Do.

It is the fact that skilled labor, with temperate habits, generally commands a high price and never goes begging for something to do. In no department of industry does mere manual labor command better prices than on the farm, when the fact is taken into consideration that the individual is subject to less inducements to part with his earnings in the country than are fellow-laborers in the city. On the farm prices for labor range from \$17 to \$30 per month with board, only the more superior hands getting the latter price. Really good men, however, may command \$25 by the year, and fair men \$20. All these must be men of decent education, and with direct practical knowledge in dairying, stock-breeding, the management of farm machinery, or the cultivation of special crops. The man who really understands the care and working of machines, who can take apart and put together again correctly any farm machine as it comes from the shop, who knows the proper location of the fractional parts, who can subdue a tendency to heating, can properly grind cutting surfaces, can correctly lay out lands for plowing, run the initial swath straight through a field of grass or grain, who knows how to properly cure hay or to shock grain, can build a stack or rick properly proportioned, who can take the supervision of a large farm as working manager in the absence of the owner—all such can and do get up to \$1,200 a year and board if a single man, and up to \$1,500 a year with house rent and garden-spot free if married. How many can stand the test in actual practice in this respect? Not many. And yet, why not? It is simply skilled labor.

The reason is the farm laborer has not the means of application in early life to carefully instruct himself in manual art, thinks more of debasing pleasures than of reading or study, and hence is all his life a drudge, more or less incompetent, and never arrives to the dignity of even twenty dollars a month until he has settled down to serious thought of what the true dignity of honest labor signifies.

The fairly capable man, able to manage a farm, has not heretofore contented himself to work for others all his life. Wild lands waiting for the settler were plenty. As soon as he could provide a team and a few implements the fertile West absorbed him, and a new country found him growing up with it. Area after area have thus been converted from a wilderness of grass to smiling farms. It has made the prairie region of the West the granary of the world, and the products of her flocks and herds have found a market wherever civilization is known. But free and fertile lands will not last always, and the next generation must look to other channels of self-sustaining independence. It must be found in a broader knowledge of agricultural art, rendered yearly more necessary by the increasing tendency to a more perfect cultivation of the soil, and more intelligent thought in the breeding, feeding, care and management of live-stock.

With increasing wealth and better systems of cultivation, the young man of the day finds it more difficult to "set up" for himself in business of any kind, and not less so in farming than in other pursuits in life. Patient application, however, with health, will always win its way if combined with intelligent industry. But, behind all lies education. The sons of farmers, and the children of industrial parents in the cities, have no difficulty in acquiring all that is necessary for practical purposes. After leaving school self-culture must do what remains. The school training must give place to intelligent application to the art or profession chosen. A trade or profession must be learned after the student leaves school or college. Here in the son of a farmer choosing the same profession has more than an equal start with other professions. He has also received manual instruction on the farm.

The excellence of a piece of plowing lies in the absolutely straight, equal width, and the depth of the furrows, the proper disintegration of the soils, and the careful turning under of trash. This is manual art and as necessary to success as intelligence to discriminate between superior and inferior work. The intelligence that discriminates between varieties of soil and their availability for certain crops, and when the one or the other is in proper condition for working, is expert knowledge of high order.

How many who call themselves expert farm hands really can do this? How many actual working owners of farms understand the subject perfectly? And yet it is not important and necessary in a country where the measure of success is decided largely by the high character of farming? This and other knowledge of a like nature is what distinguishes the expert from the inexperienced performer.

The tendency of the age, as in manufactures, is to specialties in agriculture. In manufactures this is comparatively simple, since the finished parts of an implement or machine are simply parts of a whole. Diversified agriculture is analogous to this. One crop fits another in the rotation. Horticulture, floriculture, and the cultivation of crops sent away from the farm must bring profit sufficient to allow return to the soil in the shape of manure, of the fertility carried away, else the business is in the end a losing one to the owner. Accurate knowledge in this direction is what makes the expert manager or the expert laborer. He who has this knowledge will receive profit or wages in accordance with that knowledge.

The statistics of wages for the average farm-hand, so far, show him to be well in advance of his brethren in other departments of labor, at least so far as the mere ability to perform labor is concerned.—Chicago Tribune.

—A New York State dairy maid has succeeded in milking nine cows in twenty-eight minutes, and that without being kicked once. She'd probably go through her husband's wallet in five seconds.—Detroit Free Press.

DIAMONDS.

The Difficulty of Identifying Them if Removed From Their Settings.

Wanting to buy a few precious stones to distribute among my friends before I get my life insured and go to the sea-side, I interviewed a diamond merchant down town, and while we were comparing the gems the conversation turned upon the difficulty of identifying diamonds. Some people assert that they can recognize a certain stone as accurately as other people can recognize a certain man. You take your diamonds to be cleaned or reset, and you are sure that you receive the same stones again, although others less valuable, or even paste imitations, may have been substituted. But the experts are sure that they can never be deceived unless the stone has been recut. Upon this point the diamond merchant told me a good story.

One day another firm in the same business—call it Smith & Jones—sent him a diamond which was very fine and very cheap. It was set in a ring so that he could not weigh it; but after examining it carefully he concluded that its cheapness must be caused by some defect, and so he returned it to the owners. The next week an agent called with another fine cheap stone, which my friend concluded to purchase. Before binding the bargain he thought he would take it over to Smith & Jones and see what they said about it. They praised it enthusiastically. "Why, it's a bargain!" cried Smith; and so my friend bought the diamond.

"Aha!" said Jones, when they met the next day, "you did buy our stone after all, and you paid fifty dollars more for it than we asked for it originally." This was gall and wormwood. My friend hurried back to his office and looked at the diamond. Sure enough, it was the stone which Smith & Jones had sent to him. The clever firm had angled for him through an agent and caught him nicely. He matched the diamond, had a pair of ear-rings made and bided his time.

At last he gave the ear-rings and his price to an agent and sent him out to sell them. The agent came back and said: "Smith & Jones want one of these stones. Will you split the pair?" "Yes," said the diamond merchant, "sell them this one," and he took one of the stones out of its setting; "the price is so much a carat, as the color is very fine."

When the agent returned with the check my friend sat down and wrote Smith & Jones the following note: "Quits! You have bought back your own stone and given me ninety-seven dollars profit. I prefer Pomey Sec." It was a case of diamond cut diamond, and it confirmed my doubts as to the possibility of identifying unset stones.—N. Y. Star.

The Straits of Malacca.

The Straits of Malacca comprise a long strip of water, extending from southeast to northwest, and connecting the Bay of Bengal with the South Pacific Ocean, or rather with that portion of it which is sometimes called Australasia. It is in itself a pretty piece of water, through which, though you are never out of sight of land on one side or the other, a steamer is nearly two days in passing. On the east the peninsula of Malacca thrusts down a long, slender strip of land, like a slim finger, far into equatorial waters. On the west the Island of Sumatra, longer and almost as slender, and having nearly the area of France, extends farther to the south, being only separated from Java by the Straits of Sunda. The Straits Settlements comprise the four cities of Singapore, Malacca, Penang and Wellesley, with certain dependencies nominally under the rule of sultans or rajahs, but really controlled by the British residents in each. Singapore is on an island fifty or sixty miles in circumference at the lower end of the straits. The population of the island is about 150,000, of whom nearly 100,000 are Chinese. Penang is on an island nearly the same size at the upper end of the straits, and Malacca is about half way between. Penang Island contains a population of 200,000, with perhaps 80,000 Chinese. Malacca has about 100,000, with 25,000 Chinese, and a larger proportion of native Malays than either Penang or Singapore. The European population here, including the British troops on duty, rarely exceeds fifty.—Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

Bacteria.

Londoners, and yet more Parisians, says the St. James' Gazette, must hope that bacteria are not such dangerous animals as they are sometimes said to be by their enemies; for the air of large cities is full of them. The proportion of bacteria in a cubic metre of atmospheric air, according to M. de Parville, writing in the Journal des Debats, 0.6 in sea air, one in the air of high mountains, sixty in the principal cabin of a ship at sea, 200 on the top of the Pantheon, 380 in the Rue de Rivoli, 6,000 in the Paris sewers, 36,000 in old Paris houses, 40,000 in the new hospital of the Hotel Dieu, and 79,000 in the old hospital of the Pitie. It is gratifying to know that in Ryder Street, St. James', a cubic metre of air (taken from the open street) contains only 240 bacteria, whereas in the Rue Rivoli the same quantity of air contains 360. The superiority of London air as compared with the air of Paris is shown not only by its containing fewer bacteria, but also by the rate of mortality being smaller. The greater purity or lesser impurity of the air of London is accounted for by London being nearer than Paris to the sea, by its covering a greater extent of ground in proportion to the population, and by its houses being newer. Old houses are all, according to M. de Parville, haunted by bacteria and the ghosts of bacteria.

—"Was it a forgery?" asks a magazine writer. We are unable to say without knowing more about it. If he escaped to Canada it was probably only a sharp business speculation.—N. Y. Ledger.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

—Dr. Tanner, the pastor, is a convert to the faith cure.

—The room in which Patti was divorced was that wherein she was married in 1863.

—Victor Hugo spent his first earnings as an author in buying a cashmere shawl for his wife.

—Mrs. Langtry, the actress, is said to pay her husband a monthly salary for keeping away from her.

—Dr. Prime's estate is estimated at \$300,000, most of which he made out of the New York Observer.

—General S. W. Crawford, one of the three surviving officers of the garrison at Fort Sumpter, has completed a book of political and military reminiscences.

—John C. Fremont, now seventy-two, says that he camped where Chicago is, where Minneapolis is, and where Salt Lake City is, before there was a house at either place.

—Joseph Taylor offers to let the current carry him over Niagara Falls for \$10,000. Mr. Taylor is extravagant. It is believed the current will undertake the job for a much less sum.—Puck.

—Santa Anna's widow, a bright and chatty little body, full of reminiscences of her husband and his times, is still living in the City of Mexico. She was married to him at the early age of thirteen years.

—Jennie White, whose death at the age of one hundred and twenty-two is announced from St. Joseph, Mo., was a cook for Captain Waterfall, of General Washington's staff, during the revolution.

—Miss Adelaide Rudolph, of Cleveland, O., has been selected by the Board of Regents as the Latin professor at the State University of Kansas. Miss Rudolph is a niece of Mrs. Garfield.—Cleveland Leader.

—Dr. R. J. Gatling, of Hartford, who invented the famous Gatling gun, is a stout man with a chubby face and a stubby gray beard. His eyes are small and squinty, requiring the use of strong lenses to aid them. The doctor is an enthusiast on the subject of building up the defenses of America.—Hartford Courant.

—Captain Richard G. Luce, who died at Vineyard Haven, Mass., recently, was, during his life, at sea 310 months, or nearly twenty-six years. He landed in New Bedford 38,000 barrels of whale oil, 8,500 of sperm oil, and 383,000 pounds of whale bone, and he was called the champion of the whale fishery.—Boston Journal.

—Olive Logan saw the Princess of Wales with her three daughters driving in Rotten row the other day, and tells the ladies what Alexandra wore: A plain gray Turk satin gown, fitting tightly to the figure, linen collar and cuffs, a white straw bonnet trimmed with black velvet ribbon, a cluster of crimson poppies pinned up by the throat. No shawl or mantle, no diamonds, no jewelry of any sort. The three girls were dressed alike in navy blue cashmere, with red spots, round hats of white straw, trimmed with black velvet and a stiff red feather.

HUMOROUS.

—The Governor of the State Prison ought to be pitted, for a man with six or eight hundred felons on his hand is deserving of sympathy.—Lowell Citizen.

—Fencing is the new craze among young ladies. Well, if they occupy the fence occasionally it will give the gate a rest, and the whole business will wear out together.—Chicago Tribune.

—A man in Long Wood, Fla., recently exchanged a weekly paper for a mule. This trade was not so inappropriate as it would seem at first blush. They are both elevators of the human race.—The Judge.

—A man claiming to be a scientist wants some one to bore the earth to prevent its bursting. We have a friend who we think would be able to do it. Up to this time he has devoted all his boring energies to us, and we would be glad to see him try it on the rest of the earth.—Boston Post.

—"Are you superstitious, my dear?" said Miss Birdie McGinnis to a newly-arrived stranger in Austin, to whom she had become engaged. "Not a bit, but why do you ask?" replied the youth. "Nothing, except you are the thirteenth young gentleman to whom I have been engaged."—Texas Siftings.

—A little boy was told that he must never ask for anything at the table, as it was not good manners to do so. The consequence was that he was frequently overlooked. One day his father said: "Johnny, get me a clean plate for my lettuce." "Take mine, pa; it's clean," and he added with a sigh: "There hasn't been anything put on it yet."—Texas Siftings.

—Bessie, a bit of a blue-eyed girl, was about to go with her aunt to dine at a friend's house. "Don't forget your manners, Bessie," said her mother. "Be sure to say 'yes, sir, no, sir,' and 'yes, ma'am' and 'no, ma'am' when any one speaks to you." At the table the first question asked her was: "Bessie, will you have some soup?" "Yes, sir; no, sir; yes, ma'am; no, ma'am," said Bessie, faintly, while everybody burst out laughing.—Golden Days.

—Doctor—Have you got the bitter of the ague yet? Patient—No, sir, and an' my wife is as bad as ever, sir. Doctor—Did you get that whisky and quinine I prescribed? Patient—Yes, sir; but it did no good at all, at all. Doctor—That is strange! You took it according to instructions, I suppose? Patient—Yes, sir; ye know a man and his wife are one. Doctor—What has that to do with it? Patient—Well, ye see, sir, bein' as we are one flesh, I tuk the whisky and gave Biddy the quinine.—The Whip.

—"You don't seem to have the slightest knowledge of natural philosophy," growled a man, as the ice-man left a chunk on the sidewalk. With a what-the-hence-do-you-mean expression in his eye, the dispenser of frigid water retorted: "Yes, I do." "Then what do you mean by leaving so small a piece of ice on a red-hot day and such large chunks in cold weather?" "Because I know that heat expands and cold contracts. If I left you a bigger piece so this morning, before night it would swell so that you couldn't get it in your refrigerator. Good-day!"—Chicago Times.