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CABINET.

A Cabinet of Curiosities may also be found here. We would be pleased to have persons possessing curiosities and specimens bring them in, and we will place them in the Cabinet for inspection.

WINTJEN & HELMS, Jacksonville, Aug. 3, 1874.

THE SCOURGE, DIPHTHERIA.

The California State Board of Health, at a recent meeting held in Sacramento, ordered the following address to the people to be issued:

SACRAMENTO, October 29, 1877.

The continued prevalence of the diphtheria in different parts of the State, and its apparent increase in some localities, justify the State Board of Health in calling the attention of the public to a few precautionary measures which, in accordance with the views now generally entertained of this disease, are considered proper to be observed.

When diphtheria appears in a family, the precautions commonly taken to prevent communication of the sick with the well, in other contagious or infectious diseases, should be adopted in this. A child or other person being attacked with the disease, access to the room should be prohibited to all except those necessary in the capacity of nurses or attendants, and other children should not be allowed to visit the house. The same rule might be judiciously applied to adults.

The room of the patient should be well ventilated, and woolen cloths, curtains, and where practicable, carpets, should be removed therefrom.

The saliva and expectoration of the sick should be kept disinfected by requiring the vessels used to receive them to contain a little of one of the disinfectant solutions. For this purpose the solution of chloride of zinc, in the proportion of half an ounce to a gallon of water, or chloralum—or the solution of permanganate of potassa, sixteen grains to the ounce—will be applicable, all of these being odorless.

The clothes, removed from the body of the patient, as well as the bed linen, when changed, should be immediately dipped in boiling water, to which may be properly added to every gallon one ounce of sulphate of zinc (white vitriol), or half an ounce of chloride of zinc, or Condy's fluid (permanganate of potassa, sixteen grains to the ounce). Chloride of lime and sulphate of iron (common copperas), are objectionable for this purpose, as the former, if used of strength, will tend to injure the fabric, while the latter will stain it.

Funerals of those dying of this disease should not be attended at the house by children, it having been rendered probable, by investigations conducted in some of the Eastern cities, that the dissemination of the malady is often effected by this means. There is reason to believe that diphtheria may be communicated in the school room, the liability being increased by the fact that the disease may not be at once recognized by parents, who consequently exercise no restraint upon attendance of their children. There cannot be too much caution used by those having the supervision of children to avoid a too common method of disseminating this and other infectious diseases. After convalescence from an attack, it is prudent that the child should be kept from the school until its attendance is considered safe by the physician.

Cleanliness in and about dwellings, draining off or providing a suitable receptacle for the waste water, slop, and other substances accumulating in the kitchen, the cleaning and disinfection of cesspools, sewers, privies; and where drains into these lead from the interior of houses, the provision of a suitable trap for the purpose of preventing the ascent and entrance of sewer gas, are regarded as of the first importance. As the traps in use are often insecure, we cannot too strongly urge the necessity of close attention to this subject. In addition to the trap, the connection of a ventilating tube with the soil pipe, extending above the roof of the house, would afford yet greater security.

Disinfection in such cases may be cheaply effected by the free use of sulphate of iron (copperas), or by chloride of lime. Three pounds of the former to an ordinary bucket full of water will commonly suffice for a single disinfection. The chloride of lime may be used in the same manner—about one pound to a gallon of water.

In towns which rely upon wells for drinking and culinary purposes, care should be taken to avoid their contamination by contiguous cesspools and other filthy deposits.

Lastly, when diphtheria is suspected in a family, send for the family physician, and under no circumstances rely upon the various nostrums or specifics so often published in the newspapers, or recommended by kind-hearted but ignorant advisers.

H. Gibbons, M. D., President; F. W. Hatch, M. D., Secretary; A. B. Stout, M. D., Joseph F. Montgomery, M. D., Luke Robinson, M. D., Walton Todd, M. D., J. S. Cameron, M. D., State Board of Health.

A kiss by telephone is said to be something like starting out for a clam-bake dinner and getting nothing but fog.

WINTJEN & HELMS, Jacksonville, Aug. 3, 1874.

CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

Thirty-four hundred years ago two obelisks, known as Cleopatra's needles, were hewn from solid blocks of stone and erected at the entrance of one of the Egyptian temples. Each needle weighs 200 tons. One of these obelisks still stands where it was placed more than thirty centuries ago; the other many years since fell to the earth and time had buried it almost out of sight in the sands. An energetic engineer undertook the task of transporting the fallen needle to England. He enclosed it in an iron tube to prevent the column from breaking during transportation. By the aid of powerful machinery he succeeded in transporting it to a place where it could be loaded on a transport for the purpose of taking it to England, where it was the design of the English government to set the needle up on the bank of the Thames. When off the coast of Spain, the boat carrying the obelisk and the tug towing the same were overtaken by a storm. To save themselves the crew cut the transport loose, and the needle was given up for lost, and the news telegraphed here a few days ago that it had taken its place at the bottom of the sea, there to remain securely for another period of thirty-four hundred years, and perhaps until the end of time. But later news from the scene of the storm states that the transport has been found off the coast of Spain all right. This venerable monument of antiquity will now probably reach its destination, and England can look upon the wondrous works of man chiseled by master-hands away back toward the dawn of civilization. New York is putting forth exertions to secure the companion of the obelisk now afloat, and we trust she may succeed. There is little use to allow these works of art to decay in the sandy deserts of Egypt where no one will derive benefit from them, and when the bringing of them to American soil might awaken a new interest in scientific men to study more minutely the early history of the Egyptians, and the wonderful remains of that land, made famous in Biblical and classic story.

A SINGULAR PROPOSAL.—A young gentleman happening to sit at church in a pew adjoining one in which sat a young lady for whom he conceived a sudden and violent passion, was desirous of entering into a courtship on the spot; but the place not being suited for a formal declaration, the case suggested the following plan:

He politely handed his fair neighbor a Bible opened with a pin stuck in the following text:

Second Epistle of John, verse 5th—"And now I beseech thee, lady, not as I thought I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another."

She returned it, pointing to the Epistle of Ruth, verse 10th:

"Then she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him: 'Why have I found grace in thine eyes, seeing that I am a stranger?'"

He returned the book, pointed to the 13th verse of the Epistle of John:

"Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with pen and ink, but trust shortly to come unto you face to face, that our joys may be full."

From the above interview a marriage took place the ensuing week.

THE CHEAPEST MEAT for the farmer is mutton. It may safely be said to cost nothing, as the fleece from a sheep of a good breed will amply pay for its keeping. Then, for additional profit, there are a lamb or two, the pelt of the animal if killed at home, the excellent manure from its droppings, and the ridance of the pastures from weeds, to which sheep are destructive foes. With the exception of poultry, mutton is also the most convenient meat for the farmer. A sheep is easily killed and dressed, by a single hand in an hour, and in the warmest weather it can be readily disposed of before it spoils. Science and experience both declare it the healthiest kind of meat, and a foolish prejudice alone prefers pork, which, whether fresh or salt, is the unhealthiest of all. When people gain more wisdom farmers will keep more sheep.

WHAT DEFEATED HIM.—A candidate for the California Legislature was defeated at the last election, and a local paper declares it was through making a rash promise to his wife. He had promised, in the event of his election, to buy her a sealskin cloak and a pair of navy-blue stockings, and she couldn't rest till she told thirteen lady friends about it. The ladies expressed themselves as "awful glad" to hear it, but threatened their husbands with a suit for divorce if they dared to vote for this particular candidate. "That old cat would look nice in a sealskin cloak and navy-blue stockings, wouldn't she?" is the way they expressed themselves. Who says that women have no political influence?

A SUCCESS.—From Capt. Ross, says the Crescent City Courier, we learn that the entrance of the steamer Geo. Hawley into the mouth of Klamath river was a success in every particular. There was not the least trouble in going in or coming out. The Captain informs us that the soundings showed ten feet of water on the bar, and thinks that in ordinary seasons that steamers can enter the mouth of Klamath in perfect safety nine months in the year, as it is well known that the river is lower at the present time than it has ever been known to be before. The entrance of this steamer into the Klamath will have a tendency to open up the most valuable portion of our country, as we understand there is a large valley, extending far up the river, which can easily be converted into farms. The soil is very rich and fertile, and will produce almost anything that will grow on this coast; besides there is an extensive belt of timber, of the most valuable kinds for lumbering purposes, extending for miles up the river on either side, and easily attainable. Again, there are the fisheries at the mouth of the river, which have already been worked quite extensively, and which bid fair to be as valuable as any (outside of Columbia River) on the Pacific Coast. With all its advantages, it must eventually become a desirable location for numbers of the many emigrants who are hunting homes on the Pacific Coast.

A VAST ESTATE.—The Sacramento Bee says: Lux & Miller are probably the largest land owners in the world. In Fresno their land extends over forty miles in a direct line in one direction, and some twenty-five miles in another. They own also large tracts in Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Joaquin, San Benito and other counties. Taken altogether they probably have as much land as there is in the State of Rhode Island. It is doubtful if they can tell within a thousand head of the number of their cattle (estimated at 80,000), sheep and hogs; the horses they use in their business would be sufficient to supply some two or three regiments of cavalry; but they use their land either for cultivation or grazing, and in San Joaquin Valley have irrigated extensively. At their dairy near Gilroy they manufacture from 100 to 500 pounds of cheese daily, according to the season. They have fenced in thousands of acres of land in the San Joaquin Valley for farms, which they either lease or sell on reasonable terms. Large land-owners would not be so much of an evil if all of them were like Lux & Miller. But it would be better for the State if even the land of which they make such good use was divided up among one or two thousand families.

BETTER TIMES.—People begin to have little faith in prophets who predict that good times are coming and near at hand. Every season newspapers have predicted in advance marked improvements of trade, and subsequent results, just as often, witness but partial fulfillments of the prediction. But each season has left something of value in the experience it taught. Every year has tended towards placing the commercial world upon a solid foundation. Luxury and extravagance find less place in business transactions. Prices and wages are beginning to harmonize again, and the workman is learning that one dollar and a half a day is in reality worth to him almost as much as two dollars and a half used to be. We hear now, as usual, the predictions of a bleak Winter trade, and there are some assurances that those predictions are not wholly without foundation. The crops all over the country have been excellent; and merchants and tradesmen generally feel encouraged. The return to prosperity must of necessity be gradual; but its commencement is not in the far distant future.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.—A western newspaper says that Ex-Secretary Belknap is making a living by canvassing for a patent indelible ink for the use of postmasters in cancelling stamps.

The example of Secretary Belknap is a fearful warning of the uncertainty of the glory of this life. Think of him, once in the esteem of the President of the United States. At his beck and nod armies moved to the shock of battle amid the roar of musketry and booming of cannon. He "sounded all the depths and shoals of honor" to go down to utter disgrace and humiliation. Just think of it! Belknap, the personification of "grim visaged war" canvassing for a patent indelible ink. "How the mighty have fallen."

A MAJOR in the United States army was crossing from England in one of the Cunard steamers, when one afternoon a band on deck played "Yankee Doodle." A gruff Englishman who stood by inquired whether that was the tune the old cow died of. "Not at all," returned the major, "that is the tune that the old Bull died of."

A CHINESE LOTTERY.—We were told a few days ago that a Chinaman had drawn \$2,000 in a Chinese lottery on an investment of one bit. Every town on the coast has a branch of this or some other scheme, and it is kept constantly running, the drawings being made every night at ten o'clock. The mode of operation is as follows: A piece of paper is marked off into 100 squares, and numbered from 1 to 100. The person "bucking" at the game has the privilege of putting down any sum of money he chooses—the prize being governed by the amount put down. Then you have the privilege of marking ten of the numbers. A duplicate copy is then given you, and the original is kept by the agent. When 10 o'clock arrives, 100 numbers are put into a jug and ten drawn out. If three of them correspond with the numbers that you marked on your ticket, you get your money back; if four are drawn, your money is increased five per cent, five, doubled, and so on, and if ten are drawn you have a bonanza indeed. One gentleman in California, on a four-bit investment, drew \$5,000. He was told that if he had put down \$5 he would have broken the bank, so great would have been his winnings. Many Chinese and not a few whites invest in it, but somehow a prize strikes about as often as lightning does.—Reno Journal.

GIVING ADVICE.—Advice is a rare thing when the person giving it knows what he or she is talking about. But there are volumes of advice which are utterly useless, because it is simply the result of an uncontrollable desire to say something—what, makes no difference. Advice, to be worth anything, needs to be matured in the mind before it is uttered. It is altogether better, however, as a rule, to attend to your business and let other people's alone unless you are invited to interfere. Public men are especially the victims of the advice given. All men and women in the world think themselves called upon to give the man who happens to be in public life a sort of advice, seeming entirely to lose sight of the very important fact that any one who has mind enough to attract any considerable share of public attention probably has enough to manage his own affairs. Get your own affairs in good shape and keep them in it and do not waste so much of life in looking after other people's.

TO MAKE BUTTER HARD.—An English butter maker of large experience, who is now on a visit to this country for the purpose of looking over our cheese and butter dairies, gives us the following information concerning a method in practice among the best butter makers of England for hardening or rendering butter firm and solid during hot weather: Carbonate of soda and alum are used for the purpose, made into a powder. For twenty pounds of butter, one teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and one teaspoonful of powdered alum are mingled together at the time of churning and put into the cream. The effect of this powder is to make the butter come firm and solid, and to give it a clean, sweet flavor. It does not enter into the butter, but its action is upon the cream, and it passes off with the buttermilk. The ingredients of the powder should not be mingled together until required to be used, or at the time the cream is in the churn ready for churning.—Western Rural.

AN INTERESTING RACE.—A mail train and a carrier pigeon recently had a race from Dover to London. The pigeon was of the Belgian breed, and was "homed" to a house in Cannon street. On the train leaving Dover it was thrown from a carriage, and was observed to circle round a few moments, when it took its flight in a line between Sittingbourne and Maidstone, which would, of course, be the nearest route to London. Although the railway people were confident in the powers of their locomotive (the Continental express) the bird arrived twenty minutes before the train. The times are not given, but the pigeon must have flown at the rate of fifty miles an hour.

SOUNDED TOO WEALTHY.—"You cannot, oh day star of my life," he pleaded, throwing himself at her feet, "you cannot refuse the rich exhaustless mine of love I pour out at your feet; you cannot turn away from the rare treasure of my heart's devotion that I cast before you; you cannot turn away from all this lavish wealth of heart and hand that is yours to take, and say me 'no'!" She couldn't and she didn't; it sounded too wealthy. That was nearly four years ago. Day before yesterday he gave her \$3.55 to run the house a week, and when she said she would have to have a new pair of shoes, he raised the appropriation to an even dollar, and grumbled about woman's extravagance till he was out of hearing.

Happy is the deaf man, for he can hear no evil of himself. And the dumb man, too, for he can speak no evil of anyone.