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 CLIMATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

A great deal of nonsense is being uttered about the climate of the Philippine islands—most of it by persons whose notions are fanciful, but some of it by writers who assume to speak authoritatively, from personal experience and observation says the Spokesman-Review. In the latter class is Dean C. Worcester, professor of Zoology in the university of Michigan, who has made two voyages to the islands, and has written a book, "The Philippines and Their People." Dr. Worcester has gone to the extreme of saying that white men can not expect to work there and live. "It is very doubtful," he says, "if many successive generations of European or American children could be raised there." Among the diseases that prevail he enumerates malaria, cholera, smallpox and leprosy, all of which exist to some degree in the United States, along with other diseases peculiar to northern climes and unknown to tropical countries.

There is no subject on which so many mistakes and absurdities are made as on the subject of climate. It requires long and scientific study, and the traveler who passes hurriedly through some new and little known country is scarcely more qualified to speak intelligently than the one who is an entire stranger.

For three centuries or more after the discovery of America Europe was filled with false and ridiculous notions about the climate of the new world. Even so late as the middle of the present century we find Charles Dickens traveling in the United States, and returning to England to cram into his notes and fiction many absurd statements about the deadly climate of the Ohio valley!

When the Oregon question was before congress, from 1820 to 1846, the most ridiculous statements were made on the floor of the senate and the house concerning the alleged insalubrity of the climate.

Convincing evidence that the climate of the Philippines is not bad is had in the excellent health enjoyed at Manila by our sailors and soldiers. Our troops here are more free from sickness and death than they were in the home camps at Tampa, Chickamauga, Montauk and San Francisco.

After the long and varied anxiety concerning the Oregon recruits, sent sponsorless to San Francisco last summer and finally shipped on the steamer Senator for Manila, in the fall, it is gratifying to all concerned (which means the good people of the entire common-wealth) to note that the contingent reached Manila without stress of sickness, hunger or disaster, and that the boys are now comfortably quartered in an old Spanish fortress, with plenty to eat and without excuse even for homesickness. Late testimony goes to show that military life in the tropics is not so bad when once the boys get used to it, and, further, that those who have survived this process have become reasonably well seasoned to its exactions, and from this on will have no special complaint to make.—Oregonian.

Many of the native Cubans scarcely know the island since Spain has ceased to call for their large notes and the lotteries for their small change.

When the tongue is an unruly member in high army places, it is a sign that the occasion is ripe for a certain amount of reorganization.

One of the new things under the sun is the balance of trade last year in Uncle Sam's favor of \$621,000,000.

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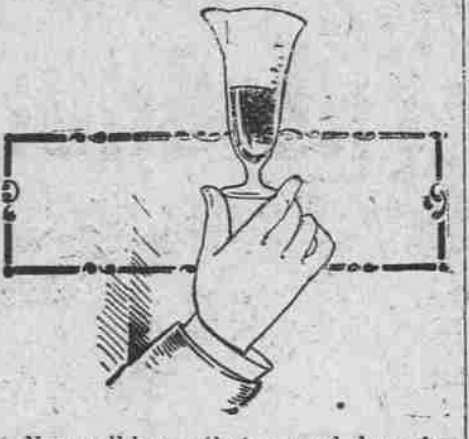
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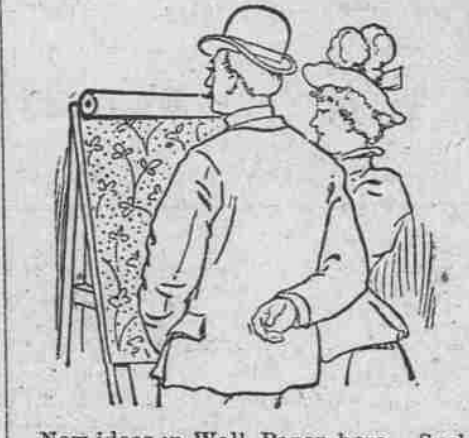
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