East Oregonian

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1902.

EXCEPTIONAL SURGERY.

King Edward has left his bed and is out for a voyage on his yacht. This is one case of surgery in modern times where an important personage has been operated on by the doctors without fatal results. Whether the methods of the old country are different from those used in this country in detail or not, is not stated, but anyway the results in this particular case have turned out differently. Of course, the scientific application of the knife and the treatment that follows are doubtless the same, as prescribed in the books in all countries, but American surgeons, so far have succeeded in throwing enough individuality into such saces as to produce fatal results every time.

It is notoriously charged, and no longer denied, that if the surgeons did not kill Garfield outright, their mistreatment of his case did it indirectly. President McKinley was reported to be doing "nicely" until a few hours before his death, when he began sinking so rapidly that the shock of his death, received so suddenly after the favorable bulletins, was even greater than the announcement that he had been shot. There have never been serious charges sustained against the surgeons in his case, however, and it would do no good for it would only reflect on the science in this country and not restore the dead.

Whether prominent persons are "over-doctored" through the ambition of the surgeons to make a name and reputation or not, it has been charged as a fact, and there is doubtless some reason for believing the statement. Physicians themselves charge that more people have been killed by the annoyance of over-anxious friends who persist in calling on them and "doing something" for them than all of the diseases combined, together with the awkwardness of the physicians and all of their experimenting. It is generally conceded that the physicians themselves have done their share toward supplying the cemeteries in the latter manner, and those who have retired from the practice laugh about it as a huge joke.

The modern plan of taking the patient from his friends and placing him in a hospital under a strange nurse and denying admittance to friends, is an evidence that the scientific conclusion is that in sickness the patient must not have too much attention; that too much is more dangerous than not enough. If too many friends are dangerous to the welfare of a patient, certainly too many doctors and too much experimenting would have a like effect. It is claimed that the rule in the case of physicians is different from that in the case of lawyers. In the latter case it is claimed "that in a multitude of counsel there is safety," but in a multitude of physicians there is usually death.

It is claimed that no well man, it matters not how strong a constitution he might have, could survive the experiments of a horde of physicians any length of time when they are giving medicine alone; and that to undergo their knives and probes would soon depose the most powerful physique yet born. In this day of "scare heads," yellow journalism, and longing for notoriety, the doctor is not behind the times. He is ever ready with his knife and table. What matters it, with some, if the patient should die? The public does not know, and will be satisfied with the statement that "he would have died anyway." But if a delicate operation is performed and the patient survives then the name of the surgeon is made, and in many instances his fortune.

Then how much more ambitious is he to operate on a king or a president, when in case of success, great fortune and fame come immediately. And how much more danger attends the king or president, or other great personage who happens to fall into the surgeon's hands.

Garfield had the best in this country and 70,000,000 people waited with abated breath to applaud the surgeon who should save him. The case of McKinley was equally great. They lost and no glory attaches to their surgeons.

King Edward is recovering. His surgeons have the glory. Whether it was luck or not, it is an exceptional case of surgery.

MORE RANGE WAR.

None of the various propositions for solution of the stock range problem has been acted on by congress. The president referred to the destruction of the range forage on the public domain in his message, and the Secretary of Agriculture treated the subject frankly and intelligently in his report, but the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of the General Land Office seem to have decided that the existing situation is rosy and nothing need be done.

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Competent testimony proves that the range is being destroyed at the rate of 5,000,000 acres a year by overstocking, and that the desert gains that much on the meadow annually. The only parts of the public domain where the foliage is not disappearing are either protected unlawfully by fences or by rifles. Since early spring the range war has been in progress. Rival stockmen have met in battle in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming, and murder has been done and property has been destroyed.

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Commissioner Hermann in his testimony before the Land Committee of the House said: "The great mischief now on the public domain is that it is overstocked. The grazing is not as good today as was twenty years ago, simply because everyone anywhere near having stock drives it to the range, and the result is the elimination of the natural herbage. The natural grasses no longer support the stock they once did, and it requires ten acres now to do what two acres would have done twenty years ago upon the public domain of this country."

That statement is true. Yet the Commissioner declared against all propositions to apply a remedy. In his own state of Oregon the consequences are now apparent. The small cattlemen of Grant county are now up in arms against the sheep that are being driven on the public domain. Masked and mounted men armed with Winchesters have met and slaughtered two bands of sheep and shot the herders and the dogs. A dispatch from Pendleton says: "The situation in Central Eastern Oregon is very strained on account of overcrowding the range, and shooting affrays take place every day or two. News of a general battle between the settlers, who are principally cattlemen, and the forces of the sheep men is expected here."

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Can it be true that there is to be no remedy provided for this situation? It is the same as that which disgraced the ranges of Australia and Texas until it was ended there by leasing the range and making every stock man stay on his own leasehold. In Oregon, where battle and murder rage on the range, both political parties in their platforms resolved against leasing the range or changing the land laws at all, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office declares for that do-nothing policy!

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The statistics in the Department of Agriculture show that the potency of the range declined 61 per cent between 1895 and 1901, leaving only 31 per cent of its strock-producing capacity. Suppose that the country's potency in the production of iron, wheat, corn or other staple had declined in a like ratio, would there not be a widespread alarm and a general search for a remedy? Yet that decline in the cheapest method of producing beef has sent the price on the hoof up 30 per cent and threatens to cut off our export trade entirely. The dying industry struggles in its extremity. Murder reddens the range and gentlemen who admit it all weakly say that there is no remedy! It is hardly creditable to American common sense.—San Francisco Call.

As a preliminary to the exhibit of Louisiana at the World's Fair, it is proposed to celebrate the centennial of the admisssion of that state into the Union. The date is December 23, 1903. The celebration will be held in New Orleans.