

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A GRAY OVERCOAT

Upon the tongue, yellowness of the skin and especially, narrowness of the nostrils, beneath the right ribs and shoulder blades, is that the victim of these disorders. The "proper" remedy under such circumstances is to take Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which also cures chills and fever, constipation, dyspepsia, thin mail, and kidney complaints and nervousness.

She—Maudie? Oh, she's one of the friends of my youth. He—I didn't take her to be as old as that.

An interesting meeting was held recently in Washington of the committee appointed lately to co-operate with similar committees in other cities in furtherance of the plan for permanent treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States.

This plan, inaugurated by members of the New York chamber of commerce, has met with much favor. Committees have been organized in Chicago and New York, and it is proposed to take like action in Boston and Philadelphia and elsewhere as soon as possible. Eventually it is hoped the system of arbitration proposed may be extended to all the civilized nations, as well as Great Britain.

There was an interesting general discussion of the mode of procedure and the scope of the plan of arbitration, in which men of the wide experience in diplomatic affairs of Mr. J. W. Foster and Mr. John A. Kasson were able to make many valuable suggestions.

It is proposed to have a conference in Washington in April, at which delegates from each of the states and territories, independent of party or creed, will be present. Dr. Chamberlin of New York has been in consultation with members of congress, with a view of ascertaining the most available men for delegates in each section. He spoke of having received very hearty encouragement from members of congress whom he had met.

The arrangements will be in charge of executive committees of five from each local committee, and at the conference the whole course of action will be settled upon.

The meeting was most satisfactory in showing that the co-operative movement for general arbitration will receive a very hearty and influential backing in the city of Washington.

In the course of the meeting Dr. Chamberlin gave an intelligent exposition of the plan. He said in this connection: The spontaneous, independent movements in Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York and other places in the interests of a permanent provision for some wise methods of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain have now become one enthusiastic movement in favor of a national conference. The purpose of the conference is both patriotic and philanthropic. It is clearly understood that there are questions, such as those of national sovereignty and the integrity of the national domain, which no state will consent to arbitrate, but for the great class of disagreements which are debatable, and which the normal methods of diplomacy fail to adjust, there will be a resort to an arbitrating tribunal instead of the waste and bitterness of war.

It would appear, moreover, that a noble step in the advance of civilization would be taken, should there be between the two great nations which are skin in language, jurisprudence, legal methods and essential love of right a treaty of arbitration, designating the class of issues to be referred and determining certain methods of procedure in constituting and convening the tribunal, as well as certain essential rules governing the presentation of evidence. There would thus be a presumption and practical facility favorable to arbitration, such as do not now exist and have not heretofore existed. The whole effort would certainly be on the side of peace with honor and justice with good will.

It is not too much to say that such a treaty or convention between this country and Great Britain would tend toward the adoption of international arbitration throughout the civilized world.—Washington Star.

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CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION TO BE HELD.

Will Be Held in April—Many Cities Have Indorsed the Scheme—Members of Congress Are in Favor of the Idea—The Plan Proposed—Washington—The

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BURIAL MACHINE.

An Invention Intended to Prevent Accidents at Funerals.

A contrivance for lowering coffins into graves is being experimented with in New York at present, and for which a patent has been granted. The inventor is a woman, who was led to design the affair on account of an accident that happened at the death of a dear friend. Many undertakers throughout the country have placed orders for the machine. The device works automatically, and enables a man of very slight



AUTOMATIC BURIAL INVENTION.

stature to bury a very heavy coffin with ease. It is meant to do away with the greivous association of scenes of burial as far as possible.

The apparatus consists of a wooden frame about six inches square, which fits exactly on the head of the grave. Inside this framework is an ingenious piece of mechanism with an arrangement of cogs and pulleys which are worked by hydraulic power. The machine is operated by means of a hydraulic cylinder, filled with chemically pure glycerine, a non-freezing compound, and requires no re-filling for a number of years. All the active parts are within the frame, and are made either of steel or of bronze. This insures lightness and durability.

At a burial the framework is placed by the edge of the grave. The casket is placed in the waterproof hearse straps, which run transversely across the framework. These straps will bear a weight of 2,000 pounds, so that no accident from breakage can possibly occur. At a given signal the operator places his foot on a treadle, as shown in the illustration, and the coffin is lowered into the grave, without jar or stoppage.

The speed can be regulated at will, and while its descent can be made in twenty-five seconds, it may be regulated so as to take a minute or more. When the coffin is settled at the bottom, a pull at the cords attached to the strap books releases them, and the straps are worked back on their rollers by means of a lever. During all this time the frame remains closed. No machinery is seen in operation. The frame is removed after the grave has been closed.

NOVEL HEADACHE CURE.

Which Proves That It's an Ill Wind That Blows Nobody Good.

The latest "cure" suggested for the relief of headache is a hair cut. A certain physician in London has met with great success lately in his treatment of persistent cases of "nervous" headaches, and he has finally disclosed the secret.

In each case, he says, after the patient had had a long tale of woe—of sleepless nights and miserable days—prescribed, briefly, a simple hair cut. It is not necessary that the hair should be cropped off short, after the fashion of coverts.

The curative property of the treatment is based on the fact that the tube which is contained in each single hair is severed in the process, and the brain "bleeds," as the lawyers say, thereby opening a safety valve for the congested cranium. A commentator in the London society press, in referring to this cure, says:

"Try the cure when next attacked by headache, and if the result be not satisfactory rest assured that it is not the fault of the prescription, but that the head is so wooden that it 'wooden't' act."

WITHOUT ICE.

This Inventor Has a New Process for Shipping Meat Around the World.

Contracts were drawn up at Chicago recently by means of which it is promised that packers and shippers of perishable food products will in future get along without ice.

Dr. A. T. Perkins, now a resident of Chicago, has patented a process of keeping meats, fruits and perishable products during transportation by the use of sterilized air. His patents extend to the antipodes. The contract was between him and J. M. Smart of Melbourne, manager of the Australian Meat Transportation corporation, limited, for the use of the process in the seven colonies of Australia.

A corporation is also about to be formed, with headquarters in Chicago, to control the process over the railroad lines running from the ports of North and South America.

The Reporter's Charitable Motive.

"I am certain," said the election manager, "that you voted in another ward early this morning."

"How come you ter think so, colonel?"

"Because I saw you."

"You're sho' er dat?"

"Quite sure."

"Well, colonel, ter tell de truth, I did vote in de Fast ward, but I only done it out er charity."

"But of charity?"

"Yes, sah. You see, hit wuz dis way, colonel: De man who keeps de polls had dese bin dar sence daylight, en business wuz slow, en he look so lonesome dat I des give him one vote ter start de ball a-rollin, dat's all."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Used to Them.

Hempeck—Have you "Mrs. Candler's Curtain Lectures" or some other book of that sort?

Bookseller—I'll see, sir.

"I wish you would, for I want to get a good night's rest."

"Everything." My wife died a few days ago, and I think if I read a few pages of "Mrs. Candler's" I won't miss her."—Philadelphia Record.

A REGION OF WONDER

THE MYSTERIOUS COUNTRY NEAR THE SCHOMBURGK LINE.

High Plateau With Precipitous Sides Which Modern Man Has Been Unable to Scale—May Contain Prehistoric Animals and Trees—Proposed as a Park.

Perhaps the result of the Venezuela boundary commission's work will be the solving of one of the most remarkable geological enigmas in the world and the exploration of what is regarded as a unique natural wonderland. This remarkable region is a number of elevated and isolated areas of land, situated on what the British call British Guiana's southwestern boundary, which is in the disputed territory. It is on the British side of the Schomburgk line.

A British Guiana newspaper describes this region, as far as it is known, and expresses the hope that the final settlement of the boundary controversy will leave it well within British bounds. Should there be another result, however, the newspaper says, the region should be made an international park, something on the plan of the Yellowstone park reservation.

The region is called by the Indians "Roraima," but the several isolated areas are known by distinctive names. Each consists of what might be called an isolated mountain, but is really a tableland, comprising an area of 100 or more square miles, elevated several thousand feet above the surrounding country. The rocky sides of the mountains are as perpendicular as the Hudson river Palisades and entirely bare of vegetation and have defied all attempts to scale them. The level summits are covered with trees and other vegetation, and down the rocky sides fall a large number of cascades of considerable size, indicating a manner of elevation not known to the region.

The summits have been observed with telescopes, and are known to be as full of plant life as the tropical plains below, but beyond this nothing is known.

Because so little is known of the condition of these tablelands occasion is given for a manner of speculation as to what exists there. That the vegetation is quite different from that on the plains below the telescope shows, and that it should be so is quite natural, for the tablelands are 2,000 or more feet higher than the plains. While the climate of the plains is tropical, that of the tablelands must be temperate, not only because of their elevation, but also because of the free play the winds have about them.

Of the geology of the region this explanation is given: This part of South America rose slowly from the sea, through successive and remote ages. The Roraima mountains were formed precisely as was the rest of the land, and are not the result of volcanic action. Hence they must have been above the ocean long before the surrounding plains appeared. They stood 2,000 feet above the sea level when the neighboring mountain tops were but islands in the ocean. In the course of a period, difficult to appreciate, the adjacent valleys and plains appeared above the water and the result of volcanic action.

On this bank the shipping of the oiling seemed to glide in and out of the bay like figures on a mimic stage.

The sun had ascended some 30 degrees above the horizon before the novel sight disappeared by the melting of this attenuated snow bank. Seamen note such occurrences in the gulf stream, where the warm water of the ocean is evaporated and frozen near its surface on frosty mornings when the air is still.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A remarkable atmospheric phenomenon occurred early the other morning over the ocean near Cape May. The frosty air there was filled for some 20 feet deep with ice crystals, the frozen evaporation of the warmer water of the sea. All the fleecy, flaky characteristics of drifting snow were present. On this bank the shipping of the oiling seemed to glide in and out of the bay like figures on a mimic stage.

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STORIES OF THE DAY.

Remarkable Weather Phenomena Happening in These Days.

A curious phenomenon occurred at Hartford the other night, resulting from a high wind and a slight fall of moist snow on an icy surface. The wind caught the snow and rolled it up into thousands of snowballs. Hundreds of balls were whirled up and sent rolling along, gathering snow at each turn and each leaving its marked trail behind. The wide slope of land surrounding Trinity college was one field of rolling snowballs. Dr. Samuel Hart thus describes the phenomenon:

"The rotary wind flaw catches the snow and rolls it up like a muff in cylindrical form. Most that I saw were about eight inches wide and eight inches in diameter, hollowed at the two ends. They are in effect isosceles triangles of snow rolled up on the vertex."

The same phenomenon occurred about 12 years ago. Some of the wind made snowballs were as large as half barrels.

Chicago was visited by a most singular meteorological phenomenon a few nights since. Black snow, yellow snow and brown snow fell in blinding clouds over the entire city, and reports from suburban towns brought the news that the varicolored storm was not an exclusive Chicago production.

The chief of the weather bureau at Washington says:

"The black snow that has lately fallen in Chicago and the northwest is similar to the great fall of January, 1895, the nature of which was thoroughly investigated by the weather bureau at that time. Notwithstanding the theoretical suggestion that the black deposit on last January might have come from beyond the earth and might be meteoric or cometic, or might even be the volcanic dust from Alaska or Japan, careful investigation showed that it was due to none of these causes.

"On the contrary, microscopic examination proved that the black deposit contained about 90 per cent of the most delicate organic structures (such as diatoms and spores) and about 96 per cent of the finest possible inorganic matter, such as flakes up the ordinary fine silt and clay soils. All this fine material is easily caught up by the dry winds whenever they exceed 20 miles per hour and is carried to great distances before it settles on the ground. It is easily brought down by a large quantity of snow or rain, but is only perceived by the ordinary observer where there is a clean surface of snow for it to fall upon. Large portions of country from Nebraska southward to the gulf are covered by this fine soil, whose depth sometimes is 100 feet. A gale of wind has been known to carry away six inches of the surface soil from a freshly cultivated field and spread it over the land 100 miles away. The blackness is due to the fineness of the silt and not to any magnetic iron."—New York Sun.

Dark snow fell in many localities in Indiana recently. It varied in color from brown to jet black.

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