

East Oregon Herald.

BURNS, OREGON.

A RICE PLANTATION.

The Fascinating Study Presented by the Rice Fields of the Atlantic Delta.

No fairer prospect exists in the whole realm of agriculture than the landscape of a well-appointed rice plantation, whether viewed in early spring before planting, with the tawny seams of its embankments intersecting the checker-board squares, the yellow mold yet steaming from the plow, and the whole visible area apparently as cleanly swept and garnished as a parlor floor; or later, during the nursery stage of the fostering "stretch water," each square a lake, its wavelets rippling under the fresh sea breeze, with the tops of the young plants immersed for forcing, in long, waving lines of tendril floating on the water, and the russet banks, separating lake from lake, now paths of emerald, their grassy carpet blowing in the April sun; or later still, during the "long water," the entire scene one waving sea of green, broken only by the crystal ribbons of canals and quarter drains; or, finally, in the full noonday of harvest-time, the level fields, now lakes no more, but vast stretches of stubble dotted with stacks of golden grain, as if an army tented there.

The wheat lands of Dakota are impressive, but their unbroken, unrelieved monotony is almost painful, the vicissitudes of the upper delta are novel and interesting; the velvety slopes of the valley of the Roanoke and Kentucky's blue grass meadows pretty and attractive; but a study of the rice fields of the Atlantic delta is simply fascinating.

In other agricultural pursuits man's efforts are the sports of the elements, and largely dependent upon the caprice of the future. In this man works with God, in the rice fields of the presence, with the intelligence and judgment regulating the wayward freaks of nature, grafting chemical affinity and physical force, and directing both to an end, reasonably certain if properly compassed.

The high plane of thought necessarily traversed by the planter pursuing this avocation from generation to generation naturally induced a broader intelligence, greater elevation of mind, superior refinement and a more universal and thorough cosmopolitanism than has ever been attained either before or since in any other kindred employment.

Yet this incidental super-refinement was far removed from ostentancy. During the late war, whenever a caisson stuck fast in the mud, the first volunteer shoulder under the wheel was that of the young rice-planter, who a month previous had nicely aired himself in his spotless white duck suit while Jake and Pat, the stevedore and ditcher, invariably "stood afar off" watching the performance, nor lent a helping hand except "under orders."

The word "rice" is evidently of eastern origin: Tamil, *arisi*; Arabic, *ariz*, Latin, *oryza*; Italian, *riso*; French, *riz*. It is only second in importance among the cereals to wheat, and forms the grain food of over one-third of the human race.

It is used by the inhabitants of China and India extends as far back as the earliest records of either country. A Chinese classic describes minutely the drainage and irrigation works constructed by the Emperor Yu in his Yang-tse-kiang 4,350 years ago. It was introduced in Egypt fully five centuries ago, though not the principal food of the latter country. Frequent Biblical references to rice are found. Herodotus fully describes it, as does Pliny in his treatise upon the food plants of India. While Gibbon considers that it was cultivated in Spain at the time of the Roman occupation, it certainly, as an industry, attained no prominence in Europe until comparatively modern times, and it is generally believed to have been introduced by the Moors into Andalusia during the eleventh century, and to have crossed from Spain into Italy about a century after.

Rice is now grown in nearly every portion of the globe—in Japan, Brazil, Hawaii, America, Italy, India, but principally in China and Burmah. The Burmese crop is nearly all exported, the inhabitants subsisting on some cheaper food, as millet or dourha; that of China is principally consumed at home, though a good deal finds its way into this country.—*Southern Bi-weekly*.

AUCTION SPECULATORS.

How One New York Woman Gets a Handsome Yearly Income.

A noticeable feature of every auction sale, especially of household furniture, is that the audience which attends and listens to the glib-tongued auctioneer is composed to a large extent of the same persons. It is easy to guess why the second-hand dealers, whose faces are readily recognized, should be constant attendants, but many of the regular company are not dealers, and it has always puzzled the reporter to classify them until this morning. Dropping into an auction saleroom he learned that these people are engaged in an occupation but little known to the general public. They are speculators. They buy for a rising market. If an article goes cheap they buy it in and hold it for the next sale. Sometimes they get as much again for the piece as they paid for it. They always get some profit over the commission which they are obliged to pay the auctioneer. There is a woman in this city who visits every house that hangs out a red flag. Speculating in auctions is her sole source of income. She has the reputation of being a sharp buyer and active bidder. She has been known to net fifty dollars in a single day. If she buys goods at a private sale she sends them to an auction house at once. Her purchases include everything from a tin cup to a grand piano. She has never been known to make a losing speculation.—*N. Y. Mail and Express*.

Two students, desirous to make themselves comfortable, had a store put in their chamber; one bought the stove and the other paid the mason to have the hole cut in the chimney. They broke up housekeeping the other day and divided the effects. One had the stove and the other the hole.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

A granddaughter of Charles Dickens does a flourishing business with a typewriter.

A bureau of journalism has been established at John Hopkins University and is now under full headway.

A RAILROAD INTERVIEW.

The Man With a Thirst for Information and the Moneyable Lady.

He boarded the train at Rochester and came to the only vacant seat in the car, beside a young lady.

"This seat taken, ma'am?"

"No."

"Well, then I guess I'll sit down."

Two minutes silence.

"Have some peanuts, ma'am?"

"No, I thank you."

"Jiminy, don't like peanuts? Just like my wife. My great holt is peanuts and bananas. Perhaps you'd like a banana, ma'am?"

"No, nothing, thank you."

"Live up to Buffalo, ma'am?"

"Yes."

"I raps you know my friend Cap'n Jack Sloan; lives down in Elk street?"

"No, I don't know where Elk street is."

"By goll and you live in Buffalo. Why, I've sold butter on Elk street market nigh onto twenty years. My name's Johnson. Your name ain't Jones, is it?"

"No."

"That's what I thought. I don't s'pose now it's Brown or any o' them colors?"

"No."

"Been far?"

"Not far."

"Syracuse, mebbe; or Albany, eh?"

"No."

"No? goll 'Hain't been to New York?"

"Yes."

"Jiminy! I've never been there though I saw a pretty slick fellow from there once. Them New Yorkers is regular goers, ain't they? Any relations there?"

"Few."

"Gosh! Wonder if they know my cousin Jake. He's getting \$10 a week just to walk around in a store and look slick. Your folks ever speak of Jake?"

"No."

"Jake and me bought some land out West last year. Ever buy any?"

"No."

"Don't Jake and me lost five hundred dollars. It was way at the bottom of a river. Ever been West?"

"Chicago."

"Jeel! you hev traveled, ain't you? Father and mother living?"

"Father."

"Live in Buffalo?"

"No."

"Our folks all live together down to Rochester. My father and mother have been dead a long time. My wife's mother lives with us. Her name's Martin. That ain't your name, eh?"

"No."

"I was just thinking you looked like a man I know in Buffalo named Waters. He ain't your brother?"

"No."

"We must be coming pretty near Buffalo. That there lot of tracks looks like it. You don't happen to live on Main street?"

"No."

"Then your name ain't Robinson?"

"No."

"You must have a curious kind of a name. Sure it ain't Sanders?"

"Sure."

"Wal, here we be; can I help you gettin' off?"

"No, thank you."

"Oh, is there a door-plate on your house?"

"Yes."

"Name on it?"

"Yes."

"I raps you wouldn't mind tellin' what the name on the plate is?"

"Smith."

"Goll!"—*Robb's Sunday Herald*.

REASONABLE ENOUGH.

What It Cost the Colonel to Get His Mail Out of the Post-Office.

The Colonel had left Birmingham without being able to get within twenty feet of the general delivery window of the post-office, owing to the crowd of colored people, and when he got over to Aniston and found it still worse he went out-doors and sat down on a dry-goods box and spent an hour in reflection. By and by he brightened up and made a bee line for a printing office, and inside of another hour a boy was going about the street and handing out to every colored person he met a dodger reading:

"Don't miss it! Prof. Elba and his celebrated cundurango will arrive at the depot at three p. m. this afternoon. Only one ever brought to this country. Colored people can see it without charge."

At two o'clock I went with the Colonel to the post-office. There wasn't a colored person within a block of it, and the postmaster was almost in a doze. At two o'clock we went down to the depot, and there were seven or eight hundred colored people waiting around to see the spotted cundurango.

"How much did it cost you?" I asked, as he sat down on a barrel of apples to read his letters.

"Only seventy cents," he replied, "and I got twenty-two letters which had been trying to find us for three weeks."—*Detroit Free Press*.

A drunken laborer named John Davies, at Dowdals, Eng., on his way home lay down beside the railroad track so close to the rails that a train coming along, the engine ran over and cut off the head of his boot. When the train stopped and backed up the man was still asleep and was indignant at being made to get up and go home.

A cat in P. Pearson's feed store at Burlington, Kan., attacked its master the other day and bit him severely in the leg. He ran out for assistance and brought back two men, who charged the enraged animal, but were routed and driven out after being badly bitten. The cat held the premises until the marshal came along with his revolver and shot it.

A New York clergyman, who went to preaching in a neighboring city, astonished the congregation by saying: "I must take the first train home, after the service, as I have a wife and three children there, and have never seen one of them." The people were greatly relieved on learning that the "one" that the clergyman had never seen had been born since he left home the day before.—*N. Y. Ledger*.

SUPERFLUOUS DUTIES.

How Many Women Make House-Keeping a Terrible Burden.

A woman's instinct of cleanliness is so strong that she will actually squander time in unnecessary work, just as a squirrel in a cage will store up nuts by force of its instinct of accumulation. If some house-keepers had double the time at their disposal that they have now, yet they would manage to occupy it with superfluous duties. But this is going farther than any semblance of a reason can attempt to excuse. There is no sense in working like this.

A woman can be a good house-keeper without taking all her time to do her housework. If she can not, let her after all be satisfied to be an ordinarily good one and take some of the time from her previously self-imposed drudgery for reading, education of children, self-improvement and for recreation. There is no reason why a long programme of work should be laid out for every day, nor why it should be carried through at all hazards. If each hour of the day is arranged for some kind of work, one hour at least ought to be set apart for recreation, and that hour of all others rigidly observed.

These housekeepers who are facing so much superfluous work every day, never think of doing such a thing as reading a newspaper or gathering information that will enable them to improve the quality of their work. They do not know what is taking place in the world, of which they are so small a part. They like to listen to other people's tales but never think of informing themselves by reading or observation. The children ask her questions that any one would be supposed to be able to answer, and are sent to somebody else for reply, or put off with no satisfaction at all. They soon come to the conclusion that mother isn't supposed to know any thing outside of housekeeping.

The reader has seen the more agreeable housewife who is not always fussing up something and yet who has a house so clean that no sense detects any thing unclean, the housewife who is a companionable sort of person, at least fairly well informed regarding the events of the day as well as her special daily duties, and who finds time to get out of that everlasting grind of work that extinguishes a manifestation of those womanly and motherly instincts that may make her an adorable wife and mother if they are not laid aside for that perpetual cleaning and multiplying of work that make everyone uncomfortable at home. Such a housewife is by no means a rarity, and her opposite, the one who squanders time in superfluous duties, ought to cultivate her acquaintance.—*Good House-keeping*.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

Seaside Life of the Woman Who Rules the Spaniards for Her Baby Son.

If Queen Christina of Spain were pretty, she would carry all before her; but unfortunately she has the sort of complexion which English doctors term roseate—a complexion which would ruin the effect of the most perfectly modeled features. It's a pity that her hands and feet are so long. Don't mind my saying so, but in their arms and the extremities of both sets of limbs the House of Austria shows more than "traces" of descent from Darwin's common simian ancestor. I dare say it would be a vast relief to the Queen-Regent if she could wear gloves when she takes her public sea-baths. Fortunately for her, there are pockets in her tunic, into which she sticks her fingers, and so hides their extreme length and sinewy anatomy. She carries a sunshade that nearly hides her face. She gives it to the bather in the water, and he slings it by the strings on his arm.

The marine attire consists of lint shoes, stockings, pantalettes of the romane kind, with deep frills hiding the ankles and a short tunic. For the promenade after sea-baths, and her Majesty is frequently to be met like an ordinary mortal walking along with a baby infant clinging to each hand—she wears usually a black cashmere skirt, with horizontal bands of crape, and a cascade trimmed with crape. Her veil is very long. She has a figure that lends itself well to drapery, although the shoulders are rather high. We hear that she smokes cigarettes, having learned to do so as a girl at Vienna. Her cousin, the Archduchess Matilda, who was to have been Queen of Italy, was a confirmed smoker, and lost her life through thrusting the cigar behind her back, on seeing an uncle on the terrace under a window at which she was smoking. She forgot that she had on a muslin dress, which, coming in contact with it, at once caught fire and blazed up. This will explain why Queen Christina has no objection to Ministers smoking in her presence at Aranjuez.

The little King is a jolly sort of baby. He is the image of Queen Isabella, and enjoys being noticed, and shown to the crowd, to which he blows kisses with a pair of little fat hands. He goes through this form of salutation with all his heart, and his eyes jump out of his head with glee.—*St. Sebastian Letter*.

A lucky escape.—Cousin Jack—"Going to bed so early?" Edith—"Yes, to get my beauty sleep," you know, and to get my beauty sleep didn't do me much good." Edith—"But just think what you might have been."—*Barvard Lampoon*.

Roast Quail: Draw the bird, wash quickly, season with pepper and salt, cover the breast with a thin slice of salt pork and bake full fifteen minutes. Serve on toast with currant jelly.—*Farmer and Manufacturer*.

The woman who can control her own tongue is greater than he who ruleth a city.—*Somerset Journal*. That is not saying much in the way of greatness if the average mayor is called the ruler of a city.—*N. O. Picayune*.

A bath-room should be supplied with fresh towels every day, and thoroughly renovated to keep it sweet.

The industry of extracting oil from cedar boughs is growing to large proportions in Maine.

TURNED HER HAIR WHITE.

The Effect of Intense Fear on a Southern Girl in War Times.

I happened to be in New Orleans a few years after the close of the war, and at a reception one night I met a young lady who could not have been more than twenty years old, but whose hair was a pure silvery white. She was a beautiful girl, and with this crown of silver naturally attracted every one's attention. I learned how she came to have white hair soon afterward. She was the daughter of a wholesale grocer in New Orleans, and during the early part of the war lived with her parents in that city. Just before New Orleans was occupied by General Butler, her father, who was then an invalid, took his family out to a small plantation that he owned near Baton Rouge. At the same time an uncle of the girl I am talking about managed to run the blockade, and took with him a very large quantity of diamonds and other valuables—for he was a jeweler. He reached England in safety with his precious cargo.

The family enjoyed peace and security for some months at Baton Rouge, but still the father had hoisted the stars and stripes at New Orleans. One night soon after that event a party of bummers, or camp followers, said to be attached to the Union army, but who, as I believe, may just as likely have been thieves and cut-throats of Confederate sympathies from the purlieus of New Orleans, made a descent upon the house at Baton Rouge. It was nearly midnight when the family was aroused by loud knocking at the door. The door a minute or two later was burst in, and five or six masked men entered the house. They proceeded at once to the room where a lamp was burning by the bedside of the master of the house, who was very ill at the time. "I should have stated," said the lady, "that the gentleman's name was Hythe, if I remember rightly. One of the masked men, revolver in hand, stepped up to Mr. Hythe and said: 'We want the diamonds and jewelry you brought away from New Orleans.' Mr. Hythe realized at once that the robbers had mistaken him for his brother, the jeweler, and tried to explain that he had no diamonds or any thing of any particular value in the house. They refused to believe him, and proceeded to make a thorough search of the house. Mr. Hythe's two daughters had been sleeping in the room below their father's, but, of course, were awakened by the noise. The experience of the tide of war which had swept over them once or twice before enabled them to understand the situation at once. By good fortune they were able to get out of the house before the robbers had time to break into the room where they hid. Meantime the robbers, having discovered nothing but a little Confederate money, tried to induce Mrs. Hythe, whom they had captured, to reveal the whereabouts of the treasure. She could only affirm what her husband had said. They subjected her to horrible indignities and finally set fire to the house. She escaped from the building. The girls in their hiding place saw the flames applied; saw their father, as the ladies leaped up to the roof, come to the window, and as they fell back into the fire. They dared not move, and when the neighbors found them, hours later, the hair of the younger girl, then about fifteen years old, had turned as white almost as her cheeks, bloodless with fright. Her hair had been black as night before.—*Pittsburgh Dispatch*.

THE AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG: A PUZZLE TO SCIENTISTS.

Scientists have in vain studied the boomerang to discover the secret of its curious flight. It is against all laws of gravitation that an object hurled into space should return to the same spot from which it was cast, as it is impossible to explain the eccentric action of a curved ball. The boomerang is all the more marvelous when we consider that the savages of Australia were first to use it and to apply the peculiar properties of its form.

A German scientist found that there were larger and smaller boomerangs. The larger ones are slender crescents, plain on the lower side, rounded on top, pointed at each end and sharpened toward the edges. The lower end is cross-grooved to aid in holding it. The smaller ones are of a degree of strength in the material, testing its qualities and scraping it down, is significant of the importance they attach to its having exactly the right curvature. The wood of which the instrument is made is an extraordinarily heavy Australian iron-wood, and the only tools used in making it are sharp stones and pieces of glass. The smaller boomerangs are bent at an angle of forty-five degrees, but are in other respects conformed to the larger ones.

An exhibition of boomerang-throwing revealed a degree of strength in the natives which was in astonishing contrast with the thinness of their forms. They took the weapon in their right hand, with the flat side downward and the concave side forward, and with a run and a shout, threw it by a short jerk about one hundred yards up into the air. It flew away in a straight line, then turned to the left, and returned in a curved line back to the thrower, whirling around constantly and whizzing unpleasantly.

The curve which the weapon describes as it returns is not a screw-line or a spiral, but is more like a figure 8. The savages seemed able to control their instrument, even when wind interfered to complicate its course. Once the projectile went astray, and coming in contact with a gentleman's hat cut it off as cleanly as a razor would have done.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Odessa, in Russia, has a new theater that cost \$500,000.

The Public Museum at Nantes, France, has just acquired the casket in which was placed the heart of Anne of Brittany, Queen of France and Navarre. It is of solid gold.

Corea recently broke down her ancient barriers so far as to send an envoy to Japan, but the government was so poor that it could not support him, and, soon coming to the end of his resources, he had to ask aid of the Japanese Government to avoid being put in desperate straits.

According to S. Walter Baller, a person may now live for weeks and months in New Zealand without seeing a single specimen of the birds originally existing in that colony. In the settled districts they have been replaced by birds of foreign origin, and ornithologists are apprehensive that the indigenous species will wholly disappear in the course of a few years.—*N. Y. Leader*.

The English army consists nominally of 214,474 officers and men, but it is said that only one army corps can actually be got in the field, and that only by frantic makeshifts. Of the 71,810 officers and men stationed in England it is alleged that 15,000 are boys under nineteen, and that 10,000 are under twenty.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Examples of the Knowledge Produced by the Work of the Last Fifty Years.

England may without boasting claim that she has taken the lead not only in gaining knowledge of the conditions which are concerned in the production of particular diseases, but that she has also been first in modifying her laws and in creating a public health administration in response to this teaching. Dr. Thorne took as an illustration of the benefits which had been conferred on the community by these changes the reduction in the death-rates from certain special diseases. Fifty years' experience of small-pox had provided data by which the extent of the usefulness of vaccination might be better defined. The Vaccination acts passed in Queen Victoria's reign had led to a vast saving of life, and especially of child life, and these had especially protected those who are unable to guard their own interests. "Fever" had been found to consist of at least two different diseases—typhus and enteric fever; the former largely due to the crowding of people in houses and of houses on a site where air and light were shut out; the latter mainly due to excremental pollution. Each required its special means of prevention and these had been applied with astonishing results. London had spent fourteen millions of pounds in the improvement of unhealthy areas, and among the results might be cited the almost complete disappearance of typhus from the metropolis. Enteric fever had enormously diminished, and this had been brought about through the adoption of methods which the new knowledge showed to be necessary. Further investigation had indicated the different channels by which disease could be disseminated. Ballard and Michael Taylor had demonstrated the part that milk could play in the diffusion of enteric and scarlet fever; Power and Klein had shown how milk-scarlatina had its origin, and had proved the urgent need for human and veterinary medicine to work together for the saving of human life; Buchanan had taught that phthisis, the scourge of the British Isles, was chiefly dependent upon conditions of soil which would be removed. These are but a few examples of the additions to knowledge which the work of the last fifty years has produced. Not least in importance must be reckoned the development of a system of precise investigation, which will confer in the future even greater benefits than those experienced in the past, and to the perfecting of which the new president of the Epidemiological Society has conspicuously contributed.—*Lancet*.

A ZIGZAG CONUNDRUM.

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ANCIENT WATER-WORKS.

Aqueducts and Reservoirs Built Many Hundreds of Years Ago.

During the first century of the Christian era the water supply of ancient Rome was so abundant "that whole rivers of water flowed through the streets." It has been estimated that three hundred and seventy-five million and seventy-five gallons for each inhabitant, and was conducted through nine miles of masonry, in the construction of which wonderful engineering skill was shown. Their aggregate length was 249 miles. The principal aqueducts were the Aqua Marcia, erected 431 years B. C., thirty-eight miles in length, and partly composed of 7,000 arches; the Aqua Claudia, a subterranean channel for thirty-six and one-fourth miles, for ten and three-fourth miles a surface conduit, three miles vaulted tunnel, and seven miles on lofty arcades, with a capacity of 96,000,000 gallons daily; and the Nova Anio, which was forty-three miles in length. Some of these aqueducts rose in three distinct arches, which conveyed water from sources of different elevations.

The ancient water-works at Jerusalem consisted first of wells in the limestone ridges on which the city was built; but as the population increased the Jews were obliged to gather the rainfall during the winter season and store it in tanks and cisterns placed in secure enclosures and within the walls of the temple. An aqueduct, composed of stone laid in cement, brought water from the pools of Bethem, about six miles, to a tank lying under the chief Turkish mosque. The population of Jerusalem seldom suffered from water famine. Strabo mentions as something remarkable that there was always a plentiful supply of water within the city while a famine prevailed in the region around about.

Among the great waterworks of the world those of Peru were in some respects the most difficult achievements of any. The Incas built aqueducts from the slopes of the Andes for a distance of over one hundred miles to the capital, carrying the water partly through tunnels cut in the rocks and partly on arcades on supporting pillars of masonry work to span valleys, the channels being composed of cut stone without cement. From these great aqueducts a number of branch conduits and furrows were laid laterally for irrigating purposes.

In France the famous Pond du Gard aqueduct, which supplied the town of Nismes, is still an object of interest. It consists of three tiers of arches, the lowest of six, supporting eleven of equal span in the central tier, surmounted by thirty-five of smaller size. Its height is 180 feet, with a channel of 5 feet high by 10 feet wide. The capacity was estimated at fourteen million gallons per day.

In the year 600 B. C., Polycrates, King of Samos, built an aqueduct to supply his capital, bringing water through a tunnel driven for over 6,000 yards through a limestone rock, while about the same time the people of Lydia in Asia Minor, carried water across the vale of Patara through a stone siphon, which would indicate that the ancients were not ignorant of the laws of hydrostatics.

Carthage was supplied by water brought from the hill ranges on the south, over seventy miles distant, and the ruins of an aqueduct, built in the Roman style, may still be seen. The water-works of Athens were begun about 560 B. C., and consisted of stone aqueducts lined with baked clay and carried almost wholly on the surface of the ground. In Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Empire, the Romans left numerous subterranean reservoirs covered with stone arcades resting on pillars.

In India tanks and reservoirs were constructed on an enormous scale and were the chief dependence during droughts.—*Chicago News*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An English engineer proposes by means of electricity to condense the solid part of smoke, and send the solidified portion back to the furnace.

The saw-mills of Maine now ship great quantities of baled sawdust to the market, where it is sold for packing purposes and for bedding purposes.

Mrs. Grundy looks up long enough to say: "What are wanted in society are more pocket editions of books that teach how to appear as ladies and gentlemen."

Mrs. Mary Coy, of Corvode, Pa., during the twelve months last past had 1,750 yards of carpeting and 840 yards of cloth with an ordinary handloom.

Farmers were given a much needed time to stop and think. Many have begun on more careful methods, and the thirder after specific knowledge has been increased.—*Prairie Farmer*.

The shipment of cheeses from Canada for the past season amounts to 1,103,000 boxes, being 212,000 more than last year. The exports of butter amounted to 60,000 packages, against the 54,000 of 1886.

A bit of soft paper is recommended by an English doctor for dropping medicine into the eye as being equally effective as brushes, glass droppers, etc., and far less likely to introduce foreign substances.