

# ART OF POISONING

### Toxicology Made a Record in the Seventeenth Century.

## SECRETS NOW HAPPILY LOST

It Was in Trying to Rediscover Them That Sainte-Croix, the Accomplice of the Notorious Mme. de Brinvilliers Met His Tragic Fate.

The basis of most poisons in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was arsenic. It was extremely easy to procure, the taste was easy to hide, and until Marsb's test was discovered about a hundred years ago its traces were difficult to discover. In the seventeenth century toxicology reached heights that it has never since attained. The laboratories of the poisoners in France and Italy contained secrets happily lost today.

The preparation of the poisons used during the reigns of Louis XIII. and XIV. may be briefly described. An animal was doctored with a dose of arsenic. After death the liquids of the body were carefully distilled, and the resultant was of extreme virulence, being composed of the virus of arsenic and the alkaloids of decomposition. When the animal thus killed was credited with a deadly venom the distilled liquid was a concentration of three poisons instead of two. For this reason the toad was the favorite subject of experiment. This was the poison used by Mme. de Brinvilliers. Against it medical skill was almost helpless.

The list of monarchs whose deaths were attributed by popular gossip to the effect of poison is a long one. Catherine de' Medici was a known poisoner, surrounded by poisoners, and her two sons, Francis II. and Charles IX., were probably hurried to their end by the administration of drugs as well as by their feeble state of health.

There are some grounds for the assertion that Louis XIII. died of poison. His mother, Marie de' Medici, was said to be the greatest poisoner of her age. The comment in Paris was that the king was well or ill as he agreed or quarreled with the queen mother. The state ministers ran desperate risks. Richelieu suffered from many curious illnesses. He knew his danger and took every precaution. Mazarin's death cannot wholly be explained by natural causes. The death of the sister of Charles II. of England is also a matter of mystery.

The chief accomplice of Mme. de Brinvilliers and perhaps actually the instigator of many of her crimes was Gaudin de Sainte-Croix, than whom a more sinister scoundrel does not cross the pages of the century.

He was sent to the Bastille, liberated and met his death before Mme. de Brinvilliers herself was brought to trial. The accounts of his end are conflicting and illuminating. According to one of them, Sainte-Croix was endeavoring to discover a poison the emanations alone of which would be able to kill. He had heard of the poisoned napkin with which the young Dauphin, elder brother of Charles VII. had wiped his face while playing at tennis and the contact of which alone was sufficient to kill. Then there was the gossip about the gloves belonging to Jeanne d'Albret, which had been prepared by one of the Italian poisoners in the train of Catherine de' Medici, a crime which was never brought home to its instigators. The secrets of these poisons had been lost, and Sainte-Croix wished to find them.

There came to pass one of those strange events which seem rather to be a punishment from heaven than an accident. At the moment when Sainte-Croix, leaning over his stove, watched his fatal mixture reach its highest state of intensity, the glass mask which covered his face and preserved him from the mortal exhalations which escaped from the liquor became unfastened and dropped off.

Sainte-Croix fell to the ground as if struck by a thunderbolt. After the death of Sainte-Croix Mme. de Brinvilliers took flight and found a refuge in London and afterward in the Netherlands. Her arrest was effected by stratagem, and she was brought back to Paris to stand trial. The most damaging testimony against her was that of the tutor, Brincoart, who had been in a measure her unwilling accomplice. In one part of his evidence the episode must have suggested to Dumas one scene between D'Artagnan and Lady de Winter described in "The Three Musketeers." Mme. de Brinvilliers was condemned and a full confession of her crimes was wrung from her by the application of the torture of the water. She remained seven hours in the torture chamber and she avowed all her crimes, but denied that she had any accomplices.

The trial, torture and execution of Mme. de Brinvilliers served as a useful lesson. Poison did not disappear, but its practitioners were taught to curb their malevolent enthusiasms. The pursuits of astrology and alchemy waned for a time to reappear in the next century in the richest fruition in the person of that astonishing arch impostor, Cagliostro.—Bookman Review of "Mme. Brinvilliers and Her Times."

**Europe's Cinch.**  
"Europe holds a lot of our stocks and bonds."  
"Invests her cash with us, eh?"  
"Not much cash. Gets most of 'em by marriage."—Washington Herald.

He who commits an injustice is ever made more wretched than he who suffers it.—Plato.

## COSTLY CORSICAN VOTES.

The Islanders Give a Warm Welcome to Millionaire Candidates.

The island of Corsica, although a part of the republic of France, is quite different in its customs from the republic and never ceases to furnish reading matter out of the ordinary for the Parisian journals. The Corsicans have, it appears, a decided penchant for millionaire candidates for the chamber of deputies and are always on the lookout for this admirable material. Yet there is between them and the millionaires a singular misapprehension. The islanders desire that millionaires be candidates because of the manna that falls upon their country during an electoral campaign, but they do not desire to elect them. As for the millionaires, they are perfectly willing to spread the manna, but they also wish to be elected.

"Recently," says a Paris journal, "one of our most successful money makers went to Corsica to visit his future department. At his debarkation several dozens of Corsicans received him with 'hourrahs,' and guns were fired, which down there is the last word of enthusiasm. He undertook a tour of the country. At each village Corsicans, magnificent in local color, acclaimed him and wakened the echoes with gunpowder.

"At the third village, however, he had something of a sensation. He had a visit from a farmer, who said to him: 'We are four brothers, all voters, ready to vote for you. Buy for me the meadow that is on the other side of the village and you have our votes.'

"How much is this meadow?"

"A trifle, 12,000 francs."

"After a tour of eight days the millionaire calculated that to pay for all the votes that had been offered to him would require 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 francs. And even after that expenditure he would not be certain of election.

"He withdrew from the canvass, but he had already expended some hundred thousand francs, of which his enthusiastic welcome had their full share. They really would like to have him come again."—Indianapolis News.

## WALLED LAKE.

Where Its Water Comes From or Where It Goes is a Mystery.

One of the curiosities of the west is the "walled lake," something over a hundred miles west of Dubuque, Ia. This lake is from two to three feet higher than the earth's surface. In some places the wall is ten feet high, fifteen feet wide at the bottom and five feet on top. A remarkable circumstance with reference to this odd lake is the size of the stones used in its construction, inasmuch as the whole of them varies in weight from three tons to 100 pounds. There is abundance of stones in Wright county, but surrounding the lake to the extent of five or ten miles there are none.

No one has any idea as to the means employed to bring these stones to the spot or as to who constructed this lake. Around the entire lake is a belt of woodland half a mile in length composed of oak. With this exception the country is a rolling prairie. The trees must have been planted there at the time of the building of the wall. In the spring of the year 1856 there was a great storm, and the ice on the lake broke the wall in several places. The farmers in the vicinity were obliged to repair the damages to prevent inundation. The lake occupies a ground surface of 2,800 acres. The depth of the water is as great as twenty-five feet. The water is clear and cold; the soil is sandy and loamy. It is a singular fact that no one has been able to ascertain where the water comes from nor where it goes, yet it is always fresh and clear.—New York Press.

**Green Granite.**  
A peculiar characteristic of the New England granite veins is the fact that three distinct colors of granite are to be found in as many states, pink in Massachusetts, gray in Connecticut, and green in Vermont. Green granite is something of a curiosity because of its rarity. The largest columns of this variety to be found anywhere are those which support the dome in the library of Columbia university.—Exchange.

**Different Birds.**  
A western detective was congratulated by a reporter on the arrest of a notorious swindler.

"With his absurd lottery scheme," said the detective, "the man took in \$700 a day in money orders. Ellsah," he continued, "was fed by ravens, and nowadays if you will only turn crook you'll be fed by gulls."—Exchange.

**Just His Size.**  
Maud—I've just heard of a case where a man married a girl on his deathbed so she could have his millions when he was gone. Could you love a girl like that? Jack—That's just the kind of a girl I could love. What's her address?—Boston Transcript.

**A Doctor's Well Meaning.**  
"You must take exercise," said the physician, "and, by all means, worry less. Play golf."  
"Doctor," replied the patient, "you mean well, but a man who plays my kind of a golf game can't help worrying."—Washington Star.

**Liberty.**  
Liberty is the right to do what the laws allow, and if a citizen could do what they forbid it would be no longer liberty, because others would have the same powers.—Montesquieu.

## FRIENDS PUT HIM IN BAD

### Roosevelt Campaign Shows It Has Been Put Into Poor Hands.

Theodore Roosevelt has already been put on the defensive in his third term candidacy, more than anything else, through the inaptitude of his friends. Facing the unusual situation of a third term candidacy, they have not risen equal to the situation.

Senator Dixon, Roosevelt's manager, made a bad mistake in a recent address and Roosevelt must have regretted later that he did not look over his remarks before they were published. Mr. Dixon said that for more than 50 years, the Republican party has controlled the policies of the nation and then referred to the loss of the House by the Republicans in 1910 as the first break in party rule.

But most everyone knows that if the loss of the lower House of Congress constitutes such a break in party rule, the Republican party has been in control in Washington only 32 years out of the last 50, and since 1872, only 22 years out of the last 40. In that time, there have been two Democratic administrations and many Republican ones. In fact, the Republican party is as much in command today as it has been during a large part of the time since the beginning of Grant's second administration.

Mr. Dixon laments the loss of the House in 1910 as an unprecedented disaster. Yet, in four of the last seven preceding Republican administrations, the House was lost in the mid-term year, in 1874, 1878, 1882 and 1890.

Mr. Dixon of course tries to throw the blame of this condition on President Taft, but the truth is that it was as much the Senator's fault as any-

## CHARGE AGAINST TAFT UNFOUNDED

### Administration Does Not Use Office-Holders to Get Delegates.

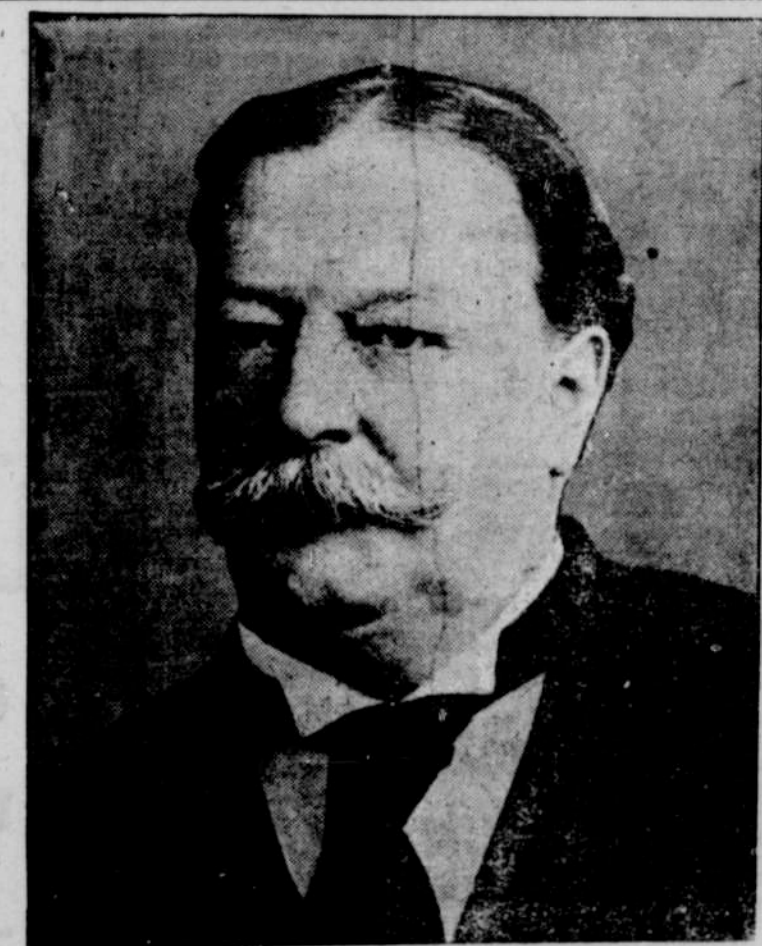
The initial statement of Senator Dixon, in regard to the sins of the administration in lining up office-holders to get Taft delegates to the national convention, is as idle as it is ill founded. As long ago as last December, President Taft directed that office holders in the southern states were not to be chosen as delegates to Chicago in his behalf, and every well posted politician knows that in the distribution of patronage in the southern states, this administration has turned a deaf ear to all pre-convention suggestions.

People who recall the pleasure and avidity with which President Roosevelt corralled the southern delegates for Mr. Taft four years ago, the emphasis with which he instructed Frank H. Hitchcock to "cinch 'em" and the glee with which he received the news that Hitchcock had carried out his instructions, regard the statement of Senator Dixon as a blunder.

Indeed it is not necessary to go back four years to witness the zeal with which Mr. Roosevelt and his associates have gone after these same delegates. Only a few weeks ago, Ormsby McHarg was going through the south promising large sums to those who would procure Roosevelt delegations.

Moreover, nothing will be attempted in this campaign by the administration half so raw as Mr. Roosevelt himself worked to secure his own re-election.

As one instance of this a resident of St. Johns, who was a postmaster of a fourth class office in Arkansas in 1904, the fees of which amounted to about \$8.00 a year, declares he re-



PRESIDENT TAFT

body's. He himself was a willing worker with Senator Aldrich, to prevent adequate tariff revision and he was as a matter of fact among the most steadfast stand-patters in the Senate.

Mr. Dixon's manifesto also seems to be ill-considered when he says that Mr. Taft must rely for his support in the Chicago convention upon delegates from the south and those possibly of the east and north when direct primaries do not prevail, but where the party machine is dominant. Just what states Mr. Dixon believes are convention ridden, would be hard to say. Delegates will be chosen by direct vote in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Possibly also in Maryland and New Hampshire. The only northern states east of the Missouri river clinging to the convention system are Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, Delaware, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa and Missouri, and of these last, four are claimed as friendly by the anti-Taft campaigners.

**President Upholds M. H. H.**  
President Taft regards as unpatriotic the disposition in some quarters to discourage enlistment in state militias. In a recent speech he characterized this branch of the national defense as a prime necessity. He said: "There is, in some quarters, a disposition to discourage enlistment in the National guard. This is unpatriotic and ought to be frowned upon. Every man who enlists should be made to feel that he is preparing his country for a possible emergency."

ceived a letter from the Roosevelt campaign managers at that time, stating that he and all other postmasters of the fourth class had been assessed \$25.00 for the Roosevelt campaign.

## M'HARG IS ON THE JOB

His work for Roosevelt will not get much support in this state.

The news that Ormsby McHarg is one of the Roosevelt managers and is going through the country organizing a following for the Oyster Bay candidate will not be received with entire approbation by people of Oregon.

They will remember that it was this same Ormsby McHarg who came to Oregon just a few short years ago and did everything in his power to induce members of the State Legislature, to violate their most solemn pledges to the people by refusing to support statement No. 1.

At that time Ormsby McHarg was evidently not so much of a progressive as he has become in this campaign. The people of Oregon had declared for George E. Chamberlain for United States senator. But Ormsby McHarg did not then want the people to rule.

One of the most disgraceful scenes ever witnessed at the Oregon capital was this McHarg person bringing every possible influence to bear to get weak-kneed legislators to disregard the peoples' instructions, violate their statement No. 1 pledge and cast their ballot for a Republican senator.

It is an open and notorious fact, as well known as anything else during that session.

Do Oregon Republicans want to vote for a professed reformer like Roosevelt who has Ormsby McHarg on his staff?

## NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Portland, Oregon, March 2, 1912.

To William Knous, of Blaine, Oregon, Contestee.

You are hereby notified that ROY L. COOK, who gives 200 Third st., Portland, Oregon, care of Plummer Drug Co., as his post-office address, did on February 5th, 1912, file in this office his duly corroborated application to contest and secure the cancellation of your Homestead, Entry No. 0425, Serial No. 0425, made September 14th, 1908, for S.W. 1/4 of N.E. 1/4, S.E. 1/4 of N.W. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 of S.W. 1/4 and N.W. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4, Section 34, Township 3 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, and as grounds for his contest he alleges that said WILLIAM KNOUS has never established residence on said land, has never made any improvements thereon, has never cultivated any portion of the same, but has wholly abandoned said land for more than six months immediately preceding this date.

You are, therefore, further notified that the said allegations will be taken by his office as having been confessed by you, and your said entry be canceled thereunder with out your further right to be heard therein, either before this office or on appeal, if you fail to file in this office within twenty-days after the fourth publication of this notice, as shown below, your answer, under oath, specifically meeting and responding to these allegations of contest, or if you fail within that time to file in this office due proof that you have served a copy of your answer on the said contestant either in person or by registered mail. If this service is made by the delivery of a copy of your answer to the contestant in person, proof of such service must be either the said contestant's written acknowledgment of his receipt of the copy, showing the date of its receipt, or the affidavit of the person by whom the delivery was made stating when and where the copy was delivered; if made by registered mail, proof of such service must consist of the affidavit of the person by whom the copy was mailed stating when and the post office to which it was mailed, and this affidavit must be accompanied by the postmaster's receipt for the letter.

You should state in your answer the name of the post office to which you desire future notices to be sent to you.

H. F. HIGBY, Register.  
J. C. ARDREY, Receiver.  
Date of first publication March 7th, 1912; date of second publication March 14th, 1912; date of third publication March 21st, 1912; date of fourth publication March 28th, 1912.

## Are You Giving Your Live Stock a Fair Deal?

You like a little salt and pepper—a little mustard—a little lemon extract—a little this and that to flavor your grub. Your cow, your steer, your hog under natural conditions would have a chance to get a bite of this, a bite of that and a bite of the other thing and so get a variety in its feed. But under the unnatural condition in which you keep them, they get every day about the same sort of stuff to eat. As a natural consequence they get "off their feed." Even if they do not, their digestive organs need the tonic effect which comes from a variety of feeding stuffs.

**Watkins' Stock Tonic** is a scientific preparation which not only improves the flavor of the feed you feed, but also supplies that tonic element so needed to make your live stock do their best.

There is no longer any doubt about the need of a tonic for the modern domestic animal kept under artificial conditions. You must give them something to help them digest their feed and get the greatest good from it. Watkins' Stock Tonic supplies this need. It makes the animal relish its feed more; it aids in the digestion and assimilation of the feed, and in addition to that, it has a tonic effect upon the whole system.

Your animals need a tonic of this kind. Watkins' Stock Tonic is not a secret preparation. We tell you the actual ingredients that are used in it. You know exactly what you are buying, and pound for pound it will go farther and do more good than any other stock tonic or so called stock food ever made.

The Watkins Man will be glad to leave you a pail on trial, backed by the Watkins guarantee.

Delivered by Wagon.

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**TONIC IN ACTION - QUICK IN RESULTS**  
Give prompt relief from BACKACHE, KIDNEY and BLADDER TROUBLE, RHEUMATISM, CONGESTION of the KIDNEYS, INFLAMMATION of the BLADDER and all annoying URINARY IRREGULARITIES. A positive boon to MIDDLE AGED and ELDERLY PEOPLE and for WOMEN.

**HAVE HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION**  
E. A. Davis, 271 Washington St., Concord, N.H., is in his 64th year. He writes us: "I have lately suffered much from my kidneys and bladder. I have never been in action and my kidney action was too feeble, causing me to lose much sleep at night, and in my bladder there was constant pain. I took Foley's Kidney Pills for some time and am now free of all trouble and again able to be up and around. Foley's Kidney Pills have my highest recommendation."

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