

## Fighting the Yellow Fever

Outbreak of the Scourge in New Orleans. The Mosquito as a Deadly Factor in Spreading the Disease.



DR. QUITMAN KOHNKE.

WHEN the governor of North Carolina made his historic remark to the governor of South Carolina a precedent was set for the avoidance of interstate hostilities like those recently threatened between the governors of Louisiana and Mississippi. In the present instance, however, Governor Blanchard of Louisiana could not extend to Governor Vardaman of Mississippi the customary invitation to "have one," because quarantine regulations keep the former confined to the soil of his own state. The strained relations between the governors and the clash between armed men representing the two commonwealths were due to the efforts of each state to protect itself in its rights in connection with the outbreak of yellow fever in New Orleans and vicinity.

The cities of the southern portion of the United States have so often been devastated by the dreaded scourge of yellow fever in the past that the very name of the disease is sufficient to cause terror; hence the extraordinary precautions adopted in Mississippi when the fever broke out in New Orleans. The fever cases came chiefly from one part of the city, Gallatin street. It is only two blocks in length, yet fifty or more cases have been treated there. Where the fever appeared elsewhere it could be traced back to Gallatin street. The people of New Orleans and of Louisiana have been very active and efficient in fighting the disease and, with the aid of modern medical study of the subject has given them, have been able thus far to prevent such ravages as have been experienced in former years. Dr. Quitman Kohnke, who is at the head of the board of health of the city of New Orleans, and Professor John Guiteras, who has served as an expert in all yellow fever outbreaks since 1881,



DR. JOHN GUITERAS.

have won commendation by the efforts they have made to restrain the spread of the malady.

Dr. George M. Sternberg, an authority on the subject, says: "Yellow fever is an acute infectious disease which is transmitted from the sick to susceptible individuals through the agency of mosquitoes. The yellow fever mosquito (*Stegomyia fasciata*) is found in tropical and semitropical regions, and especially in lowlands near the sea or in river valleys. This mosquito serves as an intermediate host for the yellow fever parasite, which is present in the blood of those sick with the disease during the first three days of the attack. After filling itself with blood from a yellow fever patient a period of twelve days is required for the development of the parasite in the body of the mosquito before it can transmit the disease by its sting to another individual."

It was in 1900, while Dr. Sternberg was surgeon general, that the board was appointed which gave special study to the subject of yellow fever at Havana and conducted the experiments which have reflected so much light upon the question of restraining the disease. These experiments were made upon individuals who volunteered to submit themselves to mosquito inoculations with a full knowledge of a possibility of serious and even fatal results. Some of these volunteers died, among them Dr. Jesse W. Lazear, a member of the board and a conspicuous martyr in the cause of medical science. Yellow fever is believed by many to be of African origin. Slave ships carried it to American shores and other sections of the globe, and in former times the visit to a port of a ship bearing slaves was often followed by an epidemic. It was in this way that Philadelphia suffered repeatedly from the disease in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Dr. Guiteras, whose experience with yellow fever is now proving so valuable at New Orleans, was born in Matanzas, Cuba, in 1852. At seventeen years of age he removed to the United States and began the study of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1873. He was professor in this institution for some years, afterward taking the position of professor of pathology and tropical diseases in the University of Havana. He helped General Shafter keep yellow jack from killing American soldiers in the Santiago campaign of 1898.

## OPTIMISTIC DEPEW.

He Does Not Allow Equitable Affairs to Spoil His Humor.

It was cabled to this country from Europe that Senator Chauncey Mitchell Depew, the ever genial and ever witty statesman, campaign orator and postprandial speaker, was becoming old and bent, careworn and sorrowful as the result of worry over the dragging of his name into the investigation of Equitable Life Assurance society affairs. But when the junior senator from New York recently landed on American soil after his annual vacation in Europe his friends noted that no anxiety had bent him down, that his step was as elastic as of yore, that his characteristic smile had not come off and that he was rosy of countenance and apparently care free.

"I can't speak for others," remarked the optimistic statesman, who is sev-



CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW.

enty-three years young, "but to me life is still worth living." His handsome wife, who stood by his side, smiled a glance of approval. Mr. Depew says that he is ready to face any criticism that may be made of his acts as a director of the Equitable and declares that the choice of Paul Morton as president of the society is a wise one, even though one of Mr. Morton's first acts in carrying out a policy of retrenchment was to lop off an annual fee of \$20,000 that had been paid Senator Depew for his services as a legal adviser of the company. Mr. Depew cut short his vacation in order to meet any criticism of his course in connection with Equitable matters that might arise.

Senator Depew has said that he finds it very hard to refuse any request made of him. "That is the reason," he added, "why I make speeches at so many dinners and tell stories. That reminds me that I haven't got a new story since I've been abroad. Everybody says to me, 'Now, then, Depew, tell us some of your good stories,' and I have to tell 'em some of the old ones. But they seem to go."

## AN ECCENTRIC POET.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, His Greatness and His Peculiarities.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, who has just republished under his real name a story which he gave to the public twenty-five years ago under the signature of "Mrs. Horace Manners," is a man of many eccentricities. When he wrote this story, entitled "Love's Cross Currents—A Year's Letters," he was fearful of how it would be received and would not attach his own signature. It did not make a big hit at the time, but now that his fame is more secure Swinburne has decided to trust the public with the knowl-



ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.

edge that he wrote it. In the opinion of critics it will not make him as famous as a novelist as he already is as a poet.

Though so great a man in the world of literature, Swinburne is very small physically, being but five feet two inches in height and of slight and delicate build. He was born in London in 1837, and his father was the late Admiral Charles Henry Swinburne. His first work was published when he was about eighteen years old. Being somewhat deaf, the poet avoids general society. His chief diversion is taking long cross country walks, and on such tours he wears a broad brimmed felt hat, seldom lifts his eyes from the ground and distributes cakes and candy among the youngsters he passes on his way. He never wears an overcoat and never carries an umbrella, even when it rains the hardest. Many persons thought Swinburne would be chosen Tennyson's successor as poet laureate, but Alfred Austin got the prize.

## Corks For Bottle Stoppers.

The application of cork as a bottle stopper for liquid vessels is said to be of great antiquity. The earliest record extant of its use in Europe is that mentioned by Horace, who asserts that the Romans had cork as stoppers for their wine amphorae. Certain of the uses of cork were known to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, but whether they used cork for stopping the mouths of their liquid vessels history does not say. It was not, however, until the year 1766 that the Spaniards first commenced to work their cork woods with some degree of regularity for the making of corks. Although perhaps corks were more or less in use from the time glass bottles were first invented, which Beckmann asserts to have been in the fifteenth century, yet it was not until two and a half centuries later that the Spaniards began to prepare cork for bottle stoppers, which they did in a forest situated at the northeast of the Tiguera, on the Muga. The cork industry has since gradually risen to be one of the first magnitude, its chief center in Spain being in Catalonia.

## What the Teacher Must Do.

Knowledge is good, but wisdom is better. The college valedictorian, trained to take knowledge in rather than to impart it, may have much of it with but little wisdom. He may be able, as a teacher, to drill boys and girls in Greek and Latin declensions and cram them with facts, useful or valueless, but if he cannot produce in them what Spencer calls "pleasurable excitement" and interest he is a failure. His would be the sort of teaching that harps upon obedience and discipline and endeavors by force of rule and rod to oblige the pupil to study and learn. The will cannot be forced, but the real teacher knows well that it can be led. He remembers the remark of Rousseau that "the teacher's province is less to instruct than to guide;" that "he must not lay down precepts, but teach his pupils to discover them." This was the way of that great teacher, Agassiz, certainly.—Arthur Gilman in Atlantic.

## The Small Mouthed Bass.

The small mouthed bass fully deserves his reputation for being vigorous and gamy from infancy. He is extremely pugnacious by nature and has fighting tactics peculiarly his own which for strength, activity and craft are unequalled. I once took a bass four inches long on a spoon hook, the bowl of which was more than two inches long. This bass does not hesitate to tackle that terror of all other fish—the fierce and voracious pickerel. With his first dorsal fin rigidly set up, he lays off some ten or twenty feet and then makes a rapid dash right into and under the "long face," forcing him to clear out at once or ripping him so badly that he is hors de combat. The fact has been established that bass introduced into a pond containing pickerel will ultimately destroy the latter. The same fate awaits other fish, including trout.—Outing.

## Wind Superstitions.

The Finns of Norway long entertained a traditional belief in the power of controlling the winds by a small rope with three knots tied in it. This popular superstition gave rise to the curious industry of making and selling these wind controlling ropes with magical knots to mariners and fishermen. It was believed that by unloosing the first knot a favorable breeze was secured, the second raised a strong gale and if the third knot was untied it would prove the prelude to a tempest. According to Ranulph Higden, the witches of the Isle of Man had a similar ancient practice of selling winds to sailors.

## Apr.

Douglas Jerrold had a way of putting pat names to things. One of his remarks is given by George Hodder in "Manners of My Time." Jerrold was at a party one night where a doctor, who was tall and thin almost to emaciation, had for a partner a lady who was short and square in build. Turning to a bystander, he remarked, "There is a mile dancing with a mile-stone."

## When Labor Did Not Tell.

A home missionary who visited Sing Sing prison took occasion to have a heart to heart talk with one of the convicts. "Don't you know, my friend," said he, "that crime never brings success? It is only achieved by hard labor." "I did six months of it at a stretch once, and I didn't come out no richer than I went in."

## He Was Spurred.

"Believe me," said old Gotrox, "although I'm an old bachelor I'm sure I could learn to be a good husband. You know, a man is never too old to learn." "Nor too old to learn, perhaps," replied Miss Pechis; "also I'm sorry to say you're not too old to spurn."—Philadelphia Press.

## Always Something Lacking.

Love is like a waltz. It never quite fulfills all one expects of it. Either the man's lead is too fast or too slow, his hold too tight or too loose, he stumbles over your gown or steps on your feet, and if everything else is right it is the wrong man.—Life.

## Blunt.

A Scotchman once took dinner at a house and regarded the meal as inadequate. As he was leaving his host asked him when he would dine with him again. "Now," was the startling reply.

A good cause needs not to be patronized by passion, but can sustain itself upon a temperate dispute.—Brown.

## Jewish Sabbath and the Romans.

The disdain of the Romans for the Jewish Sabbath because it was not accompanied by any tumult or noisy and joyful demonstrations perpetuated itself throughout all ages. Rutellus, who was the prefect of Rome under Honorius, says in speaking of the Jews: "They are very much attached to the cold Sabbath, but their heart is colder than their religion. The seventh day of every week is consecrated to a shameful idleness, in memory of the rest to which their God gave himself up after he was harassed by fatigue."

Juvenal does not love the Sabbath, which, according to him, is also a sad feast, for he relates that the kings of Palestine celebrate that day barefooted. Juvenal meant perhaps to designate here by "festa Sababata" the day of Atonement and the fast of the ninth of Ab—anniversary of the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem. During these two days the Jews remained in fact barefooted.

Juvenal has no great affection for the Jews. He has an aversion for those who observe the Sabbath, that live isolated and who do not mingle with the Romans. He dislikes them because they have a peculiar religion and special laws, and he reproaches them for despising the Roman laws.—Menora.

## The Hindoo Strong Man.

The Hindoos tell wonderful stories of the feats of Bhima, who was their strong man. Among the wonders credited to Bhima are the following: Pursued by a tiger, his mother when nursing Bhima let him drop. The force of the impact shattered in a thousand pieces the rock on which he had fallen, but the boy was none the worse. When he quarreled with other boys he gathered them up, ten or fifteen at a time, and plumped them into the nearest pond. His cousins hid themselves in a tall banyan to jeer at him, but he tore it from the ground without effort. He snapped his bonds like Samson, and a hungry cobra's fangs could not penetrate his skin. His triumph, however, was the defeat of Bakasura, who "consumed a cart load of food at a sitting and used palm-tree trunks for toothbrushes."

## How the Condor Is Caught.

Many birds cannot fly straight up. They must rise at a very gentle incline. They must get upward motion before their wings can get full effect of the air. It is said that the mode of taking the condor is to build a pen, say, forty or fifty feet in diameter and six feet high and put a carcass in the middle of it. The condor alights, but cannot again rise at an angle which will take him over the fence. Many heavy bodied, short winged ducks rise from the water at so small an angle that they must use both feet and wings for thirty or forty feet in order to get upward motion enough to give effectiveness to their wings by coming in contact with larger masses of still air.

## Oxford Examinations.

When John Scott, the future Lord Chancellor Eldon, took his B. A. at Oxford in 1770 he was examined in Hebrew and in history. His own pen has recorded this noteworthy "exam." It consisted of two questions, one in each subject. The Hebrew question ran, "What's the Hebrew for 'place of a skull?'"—the history, "Who founded the University of Oxford?" The candidate, of course, replied, "Golgotha" and "Alfred the Great," though he had his misgivings touching the truth of the second answer, a fiction which has since been scattered to the winds by those two highly distinguished Oxonians, Professor Freeman and J. H. Green.

## The Gallows Plant.

During the middle ages the botanists, or old "herbalists," gave currency to many curious stories concerning the growth, form, etc., of mandrake or May apple, which finally resulted in its being given the name of "gallows plant." The pseudo scientists of that time declared that mandrake would grow in no other place except upon which some terrible crime had been committed. The roots were formerly supposed to bear a strong resemblance to the human form.

## Mind Reading.

"Perhaps smoking is offensive to you, Miss Smith?" "On the contrary, I like the smell of a good cigar." Without a moment's hesitation he threw away the weed he was smoking. Something in her manner rather than her words led him to suspect that she was a judge of cigars.—Chicago Tribune.

## Time Had Passed.

"I always forget how times flies when I'm enjoying myself," said Mr. Staylate. "I hope you would hesitate to tell me when it's time to go." "Gracious!" replied Miss Patience. "It's too late now. You should have mentioned that several hours ago."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

## No Further Delay.

Abner Slopack (desperately)—"M-may I name the day? Jimmie Jones (decisively)—"No! Abner Slopack (in alarm)—"Why? Jimmie Jones (frankly)—"Because, if you put it off as long you did your proposal, we never will be married. I'll name the day myself!—Cleveland Leader.

## Raw Animals.

With a heart attuned to "nature study" a little Hungarian girl in the Canadian northwest exclaimed: "Yah, teacher. It's certain beautiful on our prairie, where the birds and the small sheep run about raw."

Decision of character will often give an inferior mind command over a superior.—Wirt.

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