

law." The death rate in Russia is 35.4 and 37.3. In the whole of Central Russia the death rate reached in 1882 was 62 per thousand per annum. A congress of surgeons pronounced the cause to be an insufficient quantity of bread. A significant fact which was an important factor of the decision was that the mortality was greatest in the districts entirely devoted to agriculture. Out of a total number of young men tested by the recruiting officers in 1874 70 per cent were accepted as able bodied. After that the rate fell annually as follows, 69, 68, 67, 65, 29. This means a decrease of 12 per cent among the flower of the nation. The peasants grind up straw and husks with their meal and rye flour. As their necessities increase more and more chopped straw is added to the flour until it crumbles at touch.

On the other hand the Russian peasant practices a democracy that is broader and more practicable than the socialism of Henry George or the author of Looking Backward. The Russian mir meetings are town meetings of all the workers on the land, men and women. The whole amount of land at the disposal of the village commune is divided up among the families according to the number of workers in each family. That land cannot be sold and belongs each season to those who till it, is firmly fixed in the mind and habit of the Russian peasant. The Tsar has set an officer over the elected mir elder, but he cannot destroy the peasant's ideas that they have a prescriptive right to the land which existed before their was any Tsar. The competitive system has not developed to any extent in Russia because manufacturers and trade have been neglected for agriculture and the peasants desire only to raise enough grain to feed and clothe themselves and their families. The mir buys agricultural machinery and makes rules concerning the common pasture or forest belonging to the commune. They have a habit, centuries old, of working in concert and Russia may yet give us the norm of a democracy such as Englishmen like Sir Thomas More have only dreamed of.

Julia Marlowe's late pictures show that she has travelled far since she first set her dainty feet in the via dolorosa of stars. The dimple in the chin is not worn away and the nose is piquantly retrousse, but her features have lost in the purity and ingenuousness that made a lack of feeling excusable. It is as though she had seen the Gorgon head and been turned to stone.

The profession does not seem to have the same effect upon the male physiognomy. Jo. Jefferson's eighty summers have not altered his gentle, deprecating expression, which is plainly as much of an inheritance as Julia Marlowe's tip-tilted nose. But the life of movement, glare and publicity is as a rough hand on a butterfly's wing. And the delicate bloom of womanliness is ravished except the woman be a genius like Duse, whose spirit sits so far out of sight that she never really plays in a crowded house to more than the small circle in which the average woman passes her life. Then she keeps her private life private. It is not invaded, because she will not have it so, by the eavesdroppers and talebearers of the press. Most actresses welcome newspaper notoriety because it is free advertising and they are hard up for fame as well as money. It may be that Mrs. Taber's acting has gained depth by her unfortunate matrimonial experience and that the hard lines are modeled into softness by the footlights which throw shadows up instead of down and she may have kept its old trick of girlish-

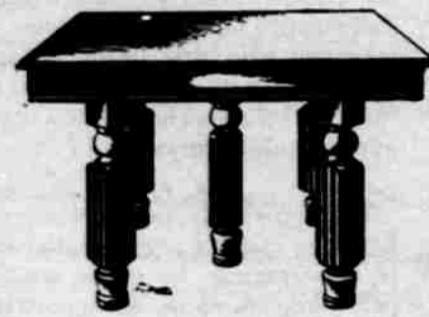
ness that her photographs deny, but the nameless elusive charm which enslaved men and women has gone and as it was something felt rather than seen or heard she cannot command affection as she did before she married Robert Taber and left him. Julia Marlowe was one of the actresses whom society loved to reward for preserving her reputation by inviting her to functions and by consenting to have personal relations with actor folk as represented by her. There are only a few like Sir Henry Irving, the Kendals and Joseph Jefferson, whom society does not patronize, and Julia Marlowe was beginning to be a social rival of the Kendals when she fell out with Robert Taber, though, to do her justice, it is not social neglect which has hardened her face. She is too much interested in her work to be disturbed by what is only the surface of emotion even for artificial people. Disappointment and disillusionment and a reckless disregard of former ideals is what has hardened other youthful faces. In Julia's case there is only a pitilessly truthful photograph as exhibit A.

Last year THE COURIER started a crusade to get good water for the city. It was successful in a measure though Mr. Mockett received most of the credit. History repeats itself. This year THE COURIER has devoted most its editorial space to comment on the city council and its ruinous methods of conducting the business of the city. The daily papers are now adopting the conclusions urged by THE COURIER that most of our financial difficulties are due to the silly set which is able to outvote the sensible minority of the city council. Busy men have almost ceased to read the reports of the council's deliberations, because, as a body, it has no sympathy with the difficulties of the people who pay an annual tax many times larger than it should be. Newspapers, in matters of financial polity, should stand for the interest of their patrons who are of all political faiths. In Lincoln, for instance, most of the large advertisers, who are the real support of the city and of every institution in it, happen to be advocates of free silver. But with the good sense which has contributed to their success they support the newspapers of value irrespective of the particular party policy which they (the newspapers) advocate. This is as it should be, but the newspapers owe these workers and pillars of commerce a reciprocal duty, viz.; that of supporting men of character and ability to administer the funds contributed by these workers, who are too busy to take a hand in politics themselves. Instead of performing this obvious service the Journal and the News will recommend and advertise anything that Bud Lindsay and D. E. Thompson chose to nominate for their support. In consequence the affairs of this city are badly administered with a rising tax rate and a constantly threatened increase of the debt. The taxpayers owe their bankruptcy largely to this and preceding city councils. The banks which have suspended payment on account of the inability of borrowers to pay notes which they might have paid had it not been for the depreciation of the value of real estate due to over taxation, owe their failure to the city council, members of which are surprised and insulted when the heaviest taxpayers complain of their extravagance. It was not so long ago that Mr. Mockett, when remonstrated with for advocating a purely ornamental sewer in his ward, replied that the ward in question had paid more taxes into the city than the city had returned to it, and as for economy, that was not an issue in the last city election. And Mr. Mockett

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is the most thoughtful of the silly set in the council.

If the charter can be revised so that the council is reduced to three men drawing a salary worth the while of fairly intelligent men, every bit of property in the city will feel the effect before the first year of such an administration is concluded. In the meanwhile the alienation between the council and that part of the people not-paid a salary by the city or not directly responsible for Mayor Graham, is increasing. The silent, busy part of the population, who do more daily for the welfare of the city than the council can destroy in a night, will not be influenced by a desire to endorse President McKinley at the next election and they may make the issue one of economy as they have done before and ignore politics. The daily papers might be of direct assistance to the industrial classes which support them if they also would refuse to endorse the nominees of ward heelers and men who force assessors to rate their property far below an equitable assessment and those who make cat-paws of corporations for their own gain. From two recent editorials in the daily papers referred to there is reason for hope that the papers have decided that the merchant guild has a claim upon an institution which their industry supports.

Rev. Dwight L. Moody is a much overestimated man. Altogether lacking in scholarship he has the courage of ignorance and never hesitates to deny the conclusions of the most profound and reverent Hebraic students. At Denver he has made most ridiculous statements about women's clubs, though he admits he knows nothing about them. His celebrated addresses

are composed of rather pointless stories, but his unlimited supply of words and abundant vitality and emotion hypnotize conscience stricken listeners into a display of emotional repentance whose reflex action carries them deeper into iniquity the week after the celebrated hypnotizer has departed with a fat salary for his two week's exertion of his mesmeric powers.

The merchants of the state did not do overmuch grumbling while the exposition was in progress but now that the Omaha retailers are trying to get up another one next year, there are unmistakable threats from the country merchants that in case of such an attempt they will not continue to patronize Omaha jobbers. Therefore the Omaha jobbers are opposed to another, or the same old exposition in 1899. The Burlington is also opposed to the plan because it made a profitless rate for the benefit of Omaha and donated \$30,000 besides. All the people whose moral sensibilities are still shocked by the sights and sounds and conduct of the midway are allied with the railroads and although the latter class is regrettably small when it is sensibilities versus gain, the strength in this difference of opinion seems to be with the jobbers, the railroads and the sensitive.

In this connection it may not be out of place to comment upon the admirable self control of the Burlington road which gave \$30,000 outright and has not complained that its lack of faith in the exposition prevents it from receiving the 75 per cent which has been distributed to the stockholders. If the positions were reversed, i. e., if the city had made a donation to the road and all the other donors were paid back 75 per cent, would there not be a howl in the papers against corporations which take advantage of a little natural lack of faith in the first place to refuse the railroad its deserts? But the Burlington has paid its money and has gone on carrying passengers to Omaha to get their 75 per cent and nobody has heard a whine from the road.