

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE United States were visited with terrible disasters recently. Beginning March 21, with the Alabama and Louisiana cyclone where sixty persons were killed, there were storms that struck thirteen states resulting in property loss in Illinois and Indiana alone that amounted to one million dollars. Then came the Omaha and Nebraska storm on Sunday, March 23. In that storm in Omaha alone, 110 persons lost their lives and more than 600 houses were totally destroyed while 1,699 houses were partially destroyed. The property loss will be at least ten million dollars and 2,179 people were made homeless. Then came the Ohio and Indiana floods which damaged the city of Dayton, O., particularly. A Chicago dispatch, carried by the Associated Press and dated March 26th, says: "Three thousand perished in the deluge-swept portion of the Ohio yesterday and today. Probably half a million people were made homeless by the floods in Indiana and Ohio and property damage in both states will be at least \$100,000,000. The figures were compiled late today from reports received here from various points in the stricken district. Further reports may increase the number of dead and it is unlikely that any decrease in financial loss may be expected. An additional horror was reported early this evening from a Dayton fire, which seemed widespread and probably uncontrollable in view of the paralysis of the water plant, and probably brought a horrible death to many who sought to escape danger by climbing to upper floors of buildings. Following are revised figures of the dead. Ohio—Dayton, 2,000; Piquette, 540, Delaware, 100; Middleton, 100; Sidney, 50; Hamilton, 12; Tippicanoe, 3; Tiffin, 50; Fremont, 11; scattering, 200. Total, 3,066. Indiana—Peru, 150; Newcastle, 3; Lafayette, 2; Indianapolis, 14; Noblesville, 2; scattering, 25. Total, 96. Grand total, 3,262." Later reports materially decrease the number of dead.

REFERRING to Dr. Friedmann, the St. Louis Times says: The action of the United States government in deciding to give the Friedmann tuberculosis "cure" an official test will be commended by all unbiased individuals. If the Berlin physician has a remedy for the white plague, it is of the utmost importance that the fact should be demonstrated. If he is a self-deceived man, the promotion of scientific truth demands that the facts should be ascertained, in a matter which is of such vital interest to millions of people. If he should belong to that class of men who are willing to deceive others, the unkindness of ignoring him would be as nothing compared with a demonstration setting this fact before the public. As yet the consensus of opinion does not appear to be at all favorable to Dr. Friedmann. Fellow scientists in Europe did not accept his "discovery," and conservative men in the United States have asserted that the Friedmann method of bringing himself and his case before the public has not been in accordance with accepted practices. This may be due in part to professional limitations in point of view. It may be due to a conscientious desire to spare the world any unnecessary disappointment. The fact which should not be overlooked is that all great discoveries have had to combat the incredulity of those who should have been in the best position to recognize them. What was impracticable and impossible yesterday becomes an established fact today. The government has nothing to lose in testing the Friedmann "cure," and in a matter of such potential importance, the truth should be ascertained by the highest court and in the most thorough manner.

TOUCHING the action of the New York board of health in denying Dr. Friedmann the opportunity to demonstrate his treatment for tuberculosis the Chicago Record-Herald says: It looks like a piece of cheap gallery politics. The medical profession in the United States has no reason for cold-shouldering him. It has no grounds to convict him before he has been tried. Dr. Friedmann is a man of high standing in the medical world of Germany. Even his

detractors admit that he is a brilliant scientist, though personally eccentric. That the German government failed to take official cognizance of Dr. Friedmann's discovery is no ground for pouncing upon a noted scientist and branding him another Dr. Cook. The motives of governments, and especially of monarchical governments, are not always of the purest. Royalty often recognizes or fails to recognize in accord not with merit but diplomacy. Before a scientist, or poet, or artist gains official recognition in Germany he not infrequently has to run the gauntlet of race and caste scrutiny. Such was the case with the poet Heine, and, in a smaller degree, with the dramatist Ludwig Fulda. The affiliations with one or another political party, the views on society which the poet or scientist may hold also enter into consideration. Nor are the cables, which speak detractively of Dr. Friedmann, to be taken too seriously. Cables often reflect official sentiment. Friedmann was slighted by the German government, and the cables paint him black. Dr. Cook was honored by the Danish government, and the cables praised him. In the United States we know no caste nor race differences. Nor are a man's political faith or social views obstacles to his winning fame as a scientist. Hurt by official neglect in his own country, Dr. Friedmann turns to the United States for an unbiased and unprejudiced hearing. We should give him that hearing and then judge him on his merits.

HERE is a striking story told in a Marion, Ohio, dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: Found not guilty of murder, Viteo Benedetto, fourteen years old, who admitted he killed Antonio Stefano, his mother's paramour, fell on his knees as the verdict was read and sobbing, kissed the hands of each juror. The scene in the crowded courtroom was dramatic, as a new form of the unwritten law was upheld. Benedetto, a handsome lad, moved hundreds of spectators, Judge Scofield and the jury to tears. Dropping to his knees and with hands raised he cried: "I only did what you men would have done to a man who stole your mother and broke up your home." The boy came here from his father's home in Freeport, Ill., to induce his mother to leave Stefano. The mother told the court today that Stefano used love drops to keep her devoted to him.

A STORY that makes the heart beat faster is told in a most interesting way by the New York American: James J. Lynch and Thomas Morris, of Yonkers, had been chums for thirty years, but were not bound by blood ties until recently. Lynch is a contractor and Morris a manufacturer, but Lynch assumed both roles and contracted to manufacture a new lease of life for Morris. By delivering to his chum one pint of good Lynch blood he saved Morris's life. Lynch had been visiting Morris every day since the latter became ill, several days ago. Recently he arrived at the usual hour. "Hello, Tom!" he said. "Hello, Jim!" replied the invalid, weakly. "Can't you 'tend to your business instead of bothering with a poor sick fool?" "Not today," said Lynch. "You've been appointed a nobleman. You're going to get some blue blood in your family—the blood of the Lynches, descendants of the royal Lynches, of County"—"Hush your blarney," said Morris. "What do you mean?" "I mean the families are to be united." "There's no children old enough to be united." "Then we'll unite the blood of the ancient kings ourselves," said Lynch, removing his coat. It was in the Morris home at No. 73 Buena Vista avenue, Yonkers. Lynch calmly lay down beside the patient. The doctor, E. I. Harrington, came in in time to prevent the patient from dangerous excitement. He explained that a transfusion of blood was absolutely necessary. The sick man reached out a feeble hand that was warmly clasped in that of his lifelong friend. Quickly an incision was made in a vein of Morris's wrist, and another in an artery of Lynch's arm. The arms were bound together and the

blood flowed from the powerful healthy man to the invalid. "That was a fine sacrifice," said one of the doctors, as Lynch was leaving. "A sacrifice of family pride, yes," replied Lynch, with his incorrigible humor. "But as to blood, I was merely returning what I took out of him as a boy." The invalid's eye flashed in defiance, but he had only strength enough to grin gratefully.

POSTMASTERS have received copies of a general order providing for the installation of the collect-on-delivery system for the parcel post. The Omaha World-Herald says: The new rule provides that after July 1, 1913, packages may be sent by parcel post, C. O. D., provided that the full amount of the postage on the package is paid and 10 cents in parcel post stamps in addition to the amount required for postage, be attached to the package. Upon delivery of the package the person to whom it is addressed must pay the charges on the package and sign a receipt, which also serves as an application for a money order. This tag, together with the amount collected, is returned to the money order department, where a money order is made out to the sender of the package and forwarded in a penalty envelope, the money order serving the sender of the package as a receipt for the goods. No goods so sent may be examined until the charges on the package have been paid. No package can be returned after delivery. This new branch of the parcel post service will undoubtedly increase the business, and it is estimated by some that it will in time entirely do away with the express business in the United States. Any package so sent is insured for its value, which shall not exceed \$100, without extra charge. C. O. D. packages may be received by and sent to money order offices only.

NOW they are talking about White House weddings and some one has prepared the following list of marriages that have taken place at the executive mansion: 1811—Lucy Payne Washington, sister of Mrs. Madison, and Judge Todd, of Kentucky; 1812, Anna Todd, cousin of Mrs. Madison, and Representative John G. Jackson, of Virginia; 1820, Maria Monroe, daughter of President Monroe, and Lawrence Gouverneur, secretary to President Monroe; 1826, John Adams, son of President John Quincy Adams, and his cousin, Helen Jackson; 1829-37, Jackson administration, Della Lewis, a friend of President Jackson, and Alphonse Joseph Yver Pageot, attache of French legation; Mary Easton, niece of President Jackson, and Lucien B. Polk; Emily Martin, a connection of the Jackson family, and Lewis Randolph; 1842, Elizabeth Tyler, daughter of President Tyler, and William Waller; 1874, Ellen Wrenshall Grant, daughter of President Grant, and Algernon C. F. Sartoris; 1878, Emily Platt, niece of President Hayes, and General Russell Hastings; 1886, President Grover Cleveland and Frances Folsom; 1906, Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Roosevelt, and Representative Nicholas Longworth.

## LIKE LINCOLN

Buffalo (N. Y.) Times: In depth of thought, in felicity of expression, the Wilson inaugural stands side by side with the best speeches of Abraham Lincoln. The famous Lincolnian passage about "the mystic chords of memory," and the awakening of noble purpose by the better angels of our nature, is irresistibly called to mind by such a paragraph as this: "The feelings with which we face this new age of right and opportunity sweep across our heart strings like some air out of God's own presence, where justice and mercy are reconciled and the judge and the brother are one. We know our task to be no mere task of politics, but a task which shall search us through and through, whether we be able to understand our time and the need of our people, whether we be indeed their spokesmen and interpreters, whether we have the pure heart to comprehend and the rectified will to choose our high course of action."