mitations, failure to claim within aree years and other causes, was 43,-16, and the number of claims disd was 197,917. During the year 10,054 pension certificates were issued, of which \$7,077 were for new or original pensions. The amount disbursed for army and navy pensions during the year was \$138,355,052.29, which was \$1.66,461.61 less than the sum of the

appropriations.

The Grand Army of the Republic a its recent national encampment held that at Philadelphia has brought to my equa attention and to that of the congress that the wisdom and justice of a modifica-tion of the third section of the act of June 27, 1890, which provides pensions for the widows of officers end enlisted for the widows of officers end enlisted men who served ninety days or more during the war of the rebellion and were honorably discharged, provided that such widows are without other means of support that their daily labor and were married to the soldier, sallor or marine on account of whose service they claim pension prior to the date of

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. On the 10th of December, 1898, the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain was signed. It pro-States and Spain was signed. It provided, among other things, that Spain should cede to the United States the archipelago known as the Philippine islands, that the United States should pay to Spain the sum of \$20,000,000 and that the civil rights and the political staatus of the native inhabitants of the territories thus ceded to the United States should be determined by congress. The treaty was approved by gress. The treaty was approved by the senate on the 6th day of February. 1899, and by the government of Spain on the 19th of March following. The ratifications were exchanged on the 11th of April, and the treaty publicly pro-claimed. On the 22d of March the congress voted the sum contemplated by the treaty and the amount was paid over to the Spanish government on the

Ist of May.

In this manner the Philippines came to the United States. The islands were ceded by the government of Spain, which had been in undisputed possession of them for centuries. They were accepted, not merely by our authorized commissioners in Paris, under the direction of the executive, but by the constitutional and well-considered action of the representatives of the peo-ple of the United States in both houses of congress. I had every reason to be-lieve, and I still believe, that this transfer of sovereignty was in accord-ance with the wishes and aspirations of the great mass of the Filipino people. HISTORY OF OCCUPATION.

From the earliest moment no oppor-tunity was lost of assuring the people of the islands of our ardent desire for their welfare and of the intention of this government to do everything possible to advance their interests. It my order of May 19, 1898, the com-mander of the military expedition dispatched to the Philippines was in-structed to declare that we came not to make war upon the people of the country, "nor upon any part or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights." That there should be no doubt as to the paramount authority there, on August 17 it was directed that "there must be no joint occupation with the insurgents," that the United States must preserve the peace and protect persons and property within the terri-tory occupied by their military and naval forces; that the insurgents as well as all others must recognize the military occupation and authority of the United States. As early as December 4, before the cession, and in antici-pation of that event, the commander in Manila was urged to restore peace and tranquility and to undertake the establishment of a beneficient govern-ment, which should afford the fullest security for life and property.

treaty was signed, the commander of the forces of occupation was instructed announce and proclaim in the most public manner that we come, not as invaders and conquerors, but as friends to protect the natives in their homes, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights." On the same day, while ordering General Otis to see that the peace should be pre-served in Iloilo, he was admonished that "it is most important that there should be no conflict with the insur-gents." On the 1st day of January, gents." On the 1st day of January, 1899, urgent orders were reiterated that the kindly intentions of this government should be in every possible way communicated to the insurgents.
On the 21st of January I announced

my intention of dispatching to Manila a commission composed of three gentleof the highest character and dis tinction, thoroughly acquainted with the orient, who, in association with Admiral Dewey and Major General Otts, were instructed "to facilitate the most humane and effective extension of authority throughout the islands and se with the least possible delay cure with the least possible benefits of a wise, generous protection of life and property to the Inhabi-

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION. These gentlemen were Jacob Gould Schurman, president of the Cornell university; the Hon. Charles Denby, for many years minister to China, and Prof. Dean C. Worcester of the univer-sity of Michigan, who had made a most careful study of life in the Philippines. While the treaty of peace was under consideration in the senate, these commissioners set out on their mission of good will and liberation. Their charcter was a sufficient guaranty of the beneficent purpose with which they went, and they bore the absolute in-structions of this government, which made their errand pre-eminently one of peace and friendship.

"SINISTER AMBITION" ARISES. But before the arrival at Manila the sinister ambition of a few leaders of the Filipinos had created a situation full of embarrassments for us and most grievous in its consequences to them-selves. The clear and impartial preliminary report of the commissioners, which I transmit herewith, gives so lucid and comprehensive history of the present insurrectionary movement that the story need not be here repeated. It is enough to say that the claim of the is enough to say that the claim of the rebel leader that he was promised independence by any officer of the United States in return for his assistance has no foundation in fact, and is categorically denied by the very witnesses who was called to prove it. The most the were called to prove it. The most the insurgent leader hoped for when he came back to Manila was the liberation of the islands from the Spanish control, which they had been laboring for years without success to throw off.

without success to throw off.
The prompt accomplishment of this American army and navy rave him other ideas and ambition, and insidious suggestions from various quarters perverted the purposes and intentions with which he had taken up quarters perverted the purposes and intentions with which he had taken up arms. No sconer had our army captured Manila than the Filipino forces began to assume an attitude of suspicion and hostility which the utmost efforts of our officers and troops were unable to disarm or modify. Their kindness and forbearance were taken as a proof of cowardice. The aggressions of the Filipinos continually ingreased until finally, just before the

A "BARBAROUS" PLOT.

Ten days later an order of the insurgent government was issued to its adherents who had remained in Manila, of which General Otis justly observes, that "for barbarous intent it is unqualed in modern tiers." equaled in modern times." It orders that at 8 o'clock on the night of February 15 the territorial militia shall come together in the streets of San Pedro armed with their bolos, with guns and ammunition where convenient; that Filipino families only shall be respected, but that all other individuals of whatever race they may be shall be exterminated without any compassion, after the extermination of the army of occupation, and adds: "Brothers, we must avenge ourselves on the Americans and avenge ourselves on the Americans and exterminate them, that we may take our revenge for the infamies and treacheries committed upon us. Have no compassion upon them; attack with vigor." A copy of this fell, by good fortune, into the hands of our officers, and they were able to take measures to control the rising, which was actually attempted on the night of February 22, a week later than was originally contemplated. A considerable number of armed insurgents entered the city by water ways and swamps and in concert with confederates inside, attempted to destroy Manila by fire. They were kept in check during the night and the next day driven out of the city with heavy

WHAT THE COMMISSION FOUND. This was the unhappy condition of affairs which confronted our commissioners on their arrival in Manila. They had come with the hope and intention of co-operating with Admical Dewey and Major General Otis in establishing peace and order in the archipelago and the largest measure of self-government compatible with the true welfare of the people. What they actually found can best be set forth in their own

day driven out of the city with heavy

words;
Deplorable as war is, the one in which
we are now engaged was unavoidable by
us. We were attacked by a bold, adventurous and enthusiastic army. No alternative was left to us except to fight or re-

native was left to us except to fight or retreat.

It is not to be conceived of that any American would have sanctioned the surrender of Manila to the insurgents. Our colligations to other nations and to the Fillpinos and to ourselves and our flag demanded that force should be met by force. Whatever the future of the Philippines may be there is no course open to us now except the prosecution of the war until the Insurgents are reduced to submission. The commission is of the opinion that there has been no time since the destruction of the Spanish squadron by Admiral Dewey when it was possible to withdraw our forces from the islands with honor to curselves or with safety to the inhabitants.

REBELLION MUST BE PUT DOWN.

REBELLION MUST BE PUT DOWN. REBELLION MUST BE PUT DOWN.

The course thus clearly indicated has been unfilinchingly pursued. The retellion must be put down. Civil government cannot be thoroughly established until order is restored. With a devotion and galiantry worthy of its most brilliant history, the army, ably and loyally assisted by the navy, has carried on this unwelcome but most righteous campaign with richly deserved success. The noble self-sacrifice with which our soldiers and sallors, whose terms of service had expired, refused to avail themselves of their right to return home as long as they were needed to avail themselves of their right to re-turn home as long as they were needed at the front forms one of the brightest pages in our annals. Although their operations have been somewhat inter-rupted and checked by a rainy season of unusual violence and duration, they have gained ground steadily in every direction, and now look forward con-ndently to a speedy completion of their task

the United States military governor of trat civil government for all the the Philippines and a civil governor and an advisory council elected by the people. The military governor was authorized to appoint secretaries of the treasury, interior, agriculture, public instruction an attorney general and an auditor. The seat of government was fixed at Bacolor. The military govern-ment exercises the supreme executive power. He is to see that the laws power. He is to see that the laws are executed, appoint to office and fill all vacancies in office not otherwise provided for, and may, with the ap-proval of the military governor of the Philippines, remove any officer from office. The civil governor advises the military governor on all public civil questions and presides over the ad-visory council. He, in general, performs the duties which are performed by secretaries of state in our own system of government.

The advisory council consists of eight

members elected by the people, within the territorial limits which are defined in the order of the commanding general. THE SULU ISLANDS.

The authorities of the Sulu islands have accepted the succession of the United States to the rights of Spain and our flag floats over that territory.
On the 10th of August, 1859, Brigadier General Bates, United States volunteers, negotiated an agreement with sultan and his principal which I transmit herewith. By article 1 the sovereignty of the United States over the whole archipelago of Jolo and its dependencies is declared and acknowledged.

The United States flag will be used in the archipelago and its dependencies.

on land and ses. Piracy is to be sup-pressed and the sultan agrees to co-operate heartily with the United operate heartily with the United States authorities to that end, and to make every possible effort to arrest and bring to justice persons engaged in piracy. Al trade in domestic prodand bring to justice persons engaged in piracy. Al trade in domestic products of the archipelago of Jolo when carried on with any part of the Philippine islands and under the American islands, shall be free, unlimited and undutiable. The United States will give full protection to the sultan in case any foreign nation should attempt to impose upon him. The United States will not sell the island of Jolo or any other island of the Jolo archipelago to any foreign nation without the consent of the sultan. Salaries for the sultan and his associates in for the sultan and his associates in the administration of the islands have een agreed upon to the amount of

A SLAVE MAY BUY HIS FREEDOM. Article 10 provides that any slave in he archipelago of Joio shall have the right to purchase freedom by paying to the master the usual market value The agreement by General Bates was made subject to confirmation by the president and to the future modifications by the consent of the parties in interest. I have confirmed said agreement, which I have directed shall be communicated to the sultan of Jolo, that this agreement is not to be deemed in the property of the wifer of the wifer of the said which have come under the

lime set for the senate of the United States for a vote upon the treaty, an attack, evidently prepared in advance, was made all along the American lines, which resulted in a terribly destructive and sanguinary repulse of the insurgents.

A "BARBAROUS" PLOT.

Ten days later an order of the insurgent government was tested to the courts are dispensing justice. Business is beginning to circulate in its accustomed channels. Manila, whose inhabitants were fleeing to the country a few months ago, is now a populous and months ago, is now a populous and thriving mart of commerce. The ear-nest and unremitting endeavors of the commission and the admiral and major general commanding the department of the Pacific, to assure the people of the beneficient intentions of this govern-ment, have had their legitimate effect in convincing the great mass of them that peace and safety and prosperity and stable government can only be a loyal acceptance of the authority of the

United States. The future of the Philippines rests with the congress of the United States. Few graver responsibilities have ever been confided to us. If we accept them been confided to us. If we accept them in a spirit worthy of our race and our traditions, a great opportunity comes with them. The islands lie under the shelter of our flag. They are ours by the title of law and equity. They cannot be abandoned. If we desert them we leave them at once to anarchy and finally to barbarism. We fling them, a golden apple of discord, among the rival powers, no one of which could permit another to selze them unquestioned. Their rich plains and valleys would be the scene of endless strife and bloodshed. The advent of Dewey's fleet in Manila bay instead of being, as we hope, the dawn of a new day of freedom and progress, will have been the beginning of an era of misery and violence worse than any which has darkened their unhappy past.

INDEPENDENCE IMPOSSIBLE. The suggestion has been made that

we could renounce our authority over the islands, and, giving them independthe islands, and, giving them independence, could retain a protectorate over them. This proposition will not be found, I am sure, worthy of your serious attention. Such an arrangement would involve at the outset a cruel breach of faith. It would place the peaceable and loyal majority, who ask nothing better than to accept our authority, at the mercy of the minority. thority, at the mercy of the minority of armed insurgents. It would make us responsible for the acts of the insur-gent leaders and give us no power to control them. It would charge us with the task of protecting them against each other and defending them against any foreign power with which they chose to quarrel. In short, it would take from the congress of the United States the power of declaring war and vest that tremendous prerogative in the Tagalo leader of the

NO RECOMMENDATIONS. It does not seem desirable that 1 should recommend at this time a specific and final form of government for these islands. When peace shall be restored it will be the duty of congress restored it will be the duty of congress to construct a form of government which shall establish and maintain freedom and order and peace in the Philippines. The insurrection is still existing, and when it terminates further information will be required as to the actual condition of affairs before establishing a permanent scheme of civil government. The full report of civil government. The full report of the commission, now in preparation, will contain information and sugges tions which will be of value to congress, and which I will transmit as soon as it is completed. As long as the insurrection continues the military arm must necessarily be supreme. But there is no reason why steps should not be taken from time to time to inaugurate governments essentially popular in their form as fast as territory can be held or controlled by our troops. To this end, I am considering the advisability of the return of the commission, or of such of the members thereands, with its seat at Manila, but rather that the work should be commenced by building up from the bottom, first establishing a municipal government and then provincial governments, a central government at last to follow. and then provincial

PORTO RICO. The system of civil jurisprudence now adopted by the people of this isl-and is described by competent lawyers, who are familiar with it, as thoroughly modern and scientific, so far as it re-lates to matters of internal business, trade, production and social and pri-vate right in general. The cities of the island are governed under charters the island are governed under charters which probably require very little or no change. So that with that relation to matters of local concern and of private right, it is not probable that much, if any, legislation, is desirable; but with reference to public administration and the relations of the islands to the federal government, there are many mat-ters which are of pressing urgency. The same necessity exists for legisla establish judicial jurisdiction in he island as has been previously pointed out by me with reference to Hawaii. Besides the administration of Hawaii. justice, there are the subjects for pub-lic lands; the control and improvement of rivers and harbors; the control of of rivers and harbors; the control of the waters or streams not navigable, which, under the Spanish law, belonged to the crown of Spain, and have by the treaty of cession passed to the United States; the immigration of people from foreign countries; the im-portation of contract labor; the impoition and collection of internal rev enue; the application of the navigamoney; the establishment of postoffices and post roads; the regulation of tariff rates on merchandise imported from the Island into the United States; the establishment of ports of entry and delivery; the regulation of patents and copyrights; these, with various other subjects which rest entirely within the subjects which rest entirely within the power of the congress, call for careful consideration and immediate action.

The 14th of December will be the 100th anniversary of the death of Washington. For a hundred years the republic has had the priceless advantage of character and contest with he heavesthed to the Amer.

less advantage of character and con-duct which he bequeathed to the Amer-ican people. It is an inheritance which time, instead of wasting, continually increases and enriches. We may just-ly hope that in the years to come the benignant influence of the Father of his country may be even more potent for good than in the century which is drawing to a close.

drawing to a close.

Presented to this congress are great opportunities. With them come great responsibilities. The power confided to us increases the weight of our obli-

COMPUTATION.

I look about me in dismay,
I read the prints with feeling sore;
The times seem ill and every day
I feel their fierce oppression more.
Priscilla sweet, I turn to you
For comforting in my distress
When mercers' reckoning fall due
And balliffs on my pathway press.

may not eat, I may not drink Nor smoke in quest of mild content Except of sordid pelf I think— Of taxes to the government, of profits to some lucky wight, Who to a better fate was born, While I must ponder day and night, Lest I be tattered and forlorn.

Priscilla sweet, I turn to you-And still another grief is mine, My heart with sadness thrills anew And I am smitten and supine. No variation do I meet From these opressions which

For even you, Priscilla sweet, Are growing dearer every day.
-Washington Star.

## The Two Sisters.

(By M. Crosble Thompson.)

When first this sickness fastened on ne I knew not which was bitterer, life or death. To me, helpless, despairing, there seemed less torture in the ley grip I felt so suddenly upon my heart. So at first I counted death, too, among my enemies.

en came the day I found out their secret—found out why and how I was dying, and realized that the discovery had delivered into my hands those

who wronged me.
Weary days as I lie here alone and Weary days as I lie here alone and look back on the past few months, I wonder that a commonplace life like mine could have been wrought into such a terrible tragedy. It is not yet a year, Millicent, since you came to us, with your sweet, sad smiles and funeral widow's weeds, to make havoc of my life and take my husband from me. You, my little sister, so grief-stricken and subdued; I so anxious to mother you and comfort you. But all mother you and comfort you. But all my ministrations falled to rouse you my ministrations falled to rouse you from your hopeless sorrow, till at last I appealed to Jim, my husband, to cheer you up! Dear God! how unwittingly one may set about the ruin of one's happiness!

remember how he acted on my suggestion, began to show Millicensome small attentions, brought her home a few trifling presents; and so successful were his efforts that in his presence the heart-broken little widow ceased to droop and pine. I remem-ber the first time I heard them laughing and chatting gayly together I felt I could never thank Jim for his kindness to my sister. Poor fool, poor fool! Blindly loving and trusting both, I rejoiced as the sadness dropped from Millicent like the widow's weeds which were so speedily lightened. Interest-ed and amused at her bright talk and prett yways, Jim began to desert his club and spend his evenings at home with us. I was not jealous—then. But it's like sitting in hell now to look back on those quiet evenings when for all those pretty ways of hers and childlike manner, the woman set her-self deliberately to take away my all. Before my unseeing eyes she wove cunningly the web which bound my husband to her. Her web has proved a snare. Tangled in its folds we shall ow all three perish together.
When Millicent's visit to us had pro

fault side with her against me, my patience could stand it no longer. She was making my life intolerable; so, coming to a sudden determination one day, I went to her and told her it was a cruel sneer, that she was my hus-band's guest, not mine, and that only at his request would she leave the house. Furiously angry, I rushed to Jim. He was alone in his dispensary. I repeated Millicent's words to him, and, catching hold of his sleeve. I and, catching hold of his sleeve, I would have dragged him straight into

her presence. You must come and tell her to go I said. at once."

another hour in my house."

He freed his arm from my hold with a sudden jerk. "Damn you!" he said angrily; what makes you think I'll in-terfere? Can't two women ever live ogether without fighting? Your sister is welcome to stay here as long as she likes. She's a far better sort to get on with than you, my dear wife." As he spoke my whole world seemed suddenly to go to pieces-swift as a flash, though wholly unsuspected until then, the knowledge of my position came upon me. Millicent and Jim were together against me. alone. None of life's lessons hard for a woman to know and under-stand as that a man can cease to love her. Stupid perhaps in all else, I understood now, all too quickly, that Jim's love for me was dead. He loved Millicent. A lifetime of agony seemed compressed into the moment that brought this knowledge to me.

We looked straight into one another's eyes. There was a message for me in his which I could not fail to read, "You know all now," they said, defantly; "do your worst." defiantly; "do your worst."
"Either Millicent or I must leave
this house!" I cried. "Decide! Which

of us shall it be?" "You can go, if you like," he answered doggedly.

This was the end. "I will go at once," I said.

My preparations for departure were soon complete. My first impulse was to go somewhere by train, miles and miles away. A long way off from Jim and Millicent I could think things over better. Putting on my hat and coat, I toms of my illness, which clearly inding table—mean, poverty stellabor and coat in the stable and c ing table—mean, poverty stricken purse that I suddenly remembered contained but one farthing. I had intended to ask Jim for an advance out of my housekeeping money that very morning, and now—I could never in this life took his departure. His visit was, on ask Jim Moreland for anything again.

A woman's face stared at me from the looking glass. It could not have been my own face, for this woman mained while he was there. I bade her A woman's face stared at me from the looking glass. It could not have been my own face, for this woman smiled at me—a grim, hard smile; she nodded her head significantly once or twice, and I found myself repeating the words I read upon her mocking lips: "Drown yourself! drown yourself! The river journey costs nothing!"

Oh, cruelly wise words! You are right. The river was related to see the old lawyer. Millicent came with him into the room and remained while he was there. I bade her give Mr. Sutton the parcel which I had ready, lying in a drawer. I saw had reinspect it curiously, but she could make nothing of it. "That's for Jim."

Mr. Sutton," I said, "when I am gone you must open it when you hear of my death, and you will find instructions inside."

right, you are right. The river was there to drown me and my trouble, and the sooner the better!

As I turned to leave the room, that

I might fare forth on this, the great inevitable journey, Jim knocked at my door. He came in sulky and re-ructant, but conciliatory. He hadn't, of course, meant what he had said; had been speaking to Millicent, who would leave the house at once rather than cause a misunderstanding be-tween us. Would I not come down and make friends with her and forget all the jealous nonsense I had talked in the morning?

In the morning?
Was this a reprieve from death?
If Jim were willing Millicent should go away, I need not drown myself. Yet I was not glad or comforted; no trust was left in me. But—they should have their chance to make wrong right, so, though sick and hopeless at heart, I

though sick and hopeless at heart, I resumed my everyday ways and returned to my household occupations.

We dined all three together that evening—what a cozy little party we looked! I had taken extra pains to prepare a dainty meal, and, moved by some unusual impluse of extravagance, ordered flowers sufficient to nearly cover the table. I dressed for dinner carefully, wearing one of the few pret-ty frocks I possessed. My cheeks were burning, my eyes shining, but my heart was like lead within me. Millicent looked at the table, sur-

"Why," she said, "we have white flowers enough for a wedding." "Or a funeral," said I, and thought that it was because of the bitterness of my voice that my companions

We studiously talked dreary commonplaces to hide our thoughts from one another, till Jim said I looked pale, and should take a glass of Burgundy. I protested, but he went himself to the sideboard to get the wine he wanted. Standing there with his back toward us, he filled a glass, which he brought to me himself. As he set the wine down before me he laid his hand on my shoulder. "Drink that, old girl," he said kindly, almost affectionately; "I see now that you've been letting yourself run down, and I been letting yourself run down, and I shall be having a patient on my hands

When Judas kissed Christ, he set the fashion in treachery. With my husband's hand still resting caressingly upon my shoulder, I drank the thus taking the first step toward the death snare laid for me. That night I went early to my room, feeling queer and sick; before a week was out I had, indeed, become one of Jim's pa-

tients, too ill to leave my bed.

The days passed; I grew steadily worse, not better. While I lie helpless. racked with pain, Millicent has as-sumed the management of the house sumed the management of the house. There is no more talk of her going away. She comes to me once or twice a day, and I can see a look of malicious triumph in her eyes as she asks coldly what she can do for me. In the evening she and Jim sit together. I, lying in the room overhead, am contains of the smoke of his nine and scious of the smoke of his pipe and their frequent laughter. Those were

their frequent laughter. Those were my hours of torture.

But comfort came at last. I dreamed one night that some one was trying to poison me. When I awoke it was early morning. Outside my window there was a stir and twitter of birds; within the house, I only was awake. For the moment my head was clear. I was free from pain. As I lay there idly watching the morning sunshine, my dream came bac kto me; then suddenly I realized in reality. A moment's thought proved the truth of my conviction—Jimes' wine, Jim's medicine, Millicent's broth, all resulted in much the same sort of torture for me, all the same sort of torture for me, all were helping on the much-desired consummation of my disease.

Oh, the horror, the cruelty of it But, oh, the blessed chance that I have name of the standard of the st with my cooking; in fact, for now here. I leave all ready. Old law want of better occupation, she openly sat in judgment on my every action, and generally found much to condemn my death. It contained my accusation and generally found much to condemn my death.
In each of them; and when at last, in answer to her appeals, Jim began to for a post-mortem examination. I all side with her against me, my patience enclose a small bottle of medicine and of broth, both of which, I am sure, will of broth, both of which, I am sure, will show traces of arsent. on analysis show traces of arsenic.

Just before I sent for Mr. Sutton I time her visit should come to an end. For an instant I believed her to have gone crazy, when she informed to have up there, what a hand saffold. High up there, what a handsome man he still would look. Little changed is

and back for the sake of half an hour's lovemaking with me. Sometimes there overmaking with me. Sometimes there was a moon, so metimes there was summer darkness; but we always found one another under the old apple tree, in which we could sit togsther and kiss and promise, instead of vexatious parents and poverty, that we would love one another forever and

Remembering those old days my heart grew soft within me, and "Kill me if you will, Jim." I thought, "but I that when they first began to notice annot hurt you." they came together into my

room, Millicent and my husband, and, as my eyes met the eyes of my mur-derers, all sense of pity left me. Milliderers, all sense of pity left me. Milicent seemed more amiable than usual.

As styles changed and an easy fit was
alone desired the feet seemed to exalone desired the feet seemed to expand and grow steadily larger till the
fashion again required a small, neat
foot, when the process would be repeated.

"I know I am dying, and if Jim can't
"I know I am dying, and if Jim can't
"I know I am dying, and if Jim can't
"One merchant, versed in ancient and
Oriental history, pointed out to me the

cure me, no one else can. "I think I'll ask Brown to walk back

with me from the hospital," said Jim nervously. "He might suggest a difnervously. "He ferent treatment." "Perhaps—if he understood. But he's not very clever; he'll not find out what

ails me.

I spoke softly, but Jim heard me. A shadow fell on his face, and he look-ed at me anxiously, interrogatively. But Millicent was equal to the occasion. "Never mind, dear," she said to me sweetly; "if it pleases Jim he may bring Dr. Brown to see you, though we neither of us believe him to be as

clever as our own doctor here."

A couple of hours later Jim ushered this stupid looking young man into my

The poor old fellow was touched at

"At least, I loved him very dearly, want him to remember me when I am gone," I said, looking significantly of the packet he was holding carefully.
"I promise, willingly," he said, as he turned to take his leave of me, "to carry out all your wishes."

Directly he was gone, Millions brought me in a giass of hot milk. was taking so long to die, she needs must, on her own responsibility, hurry things up.

must, on her own responsibility, hung, things up.
Since I drank that stuff I have passed through my mortal agony. A number has been fetched hurriedly, Dr. Browns brought in again, everything that could be done to alleviate my torture has been tried; my pain seems at last to have lessened, but the end can't be

has been tried; my pain seems at last to have lessened, but the end can't be long.

For a few moments, when the respite came, I slept, or became unconscious. When I again opened my eyes Jim and Millicent were standing together at the fot of my bed, watching me. It was growing dark but I could see their faces and I could imagine an eager look in my sister's eyes a she asked me whether I felt better.

"Much better," I said; for the moment my voice seemed to have grown strong and clear again. "I have been asleep and dreaming. I dreamed that you and Jim were going to be hanged!"

Never did I see anything like the hateful, frightened faces these two turned to one another.

Millicent staggered, and would have fallen but that she held on to Jim. I thought that, for a moment, he shrank from her. So their punishment has

from her. So their punishment has begun already and these eyes, these dying eyes, have seen it! They, fools! plotted to thrust me away that they might be together, but my dead body shall lie ever between them and my dead hands shall hold them one at either side of me in relegities srip. either side of me in relentless grip. So may we perchance spend eternity

together. Night is passing slowly—was ever Night is passing slowly—was ever such a night. Storm, rain, and wind shake the house and beat fiercely at my window. When the spell of pain is on me I hear nothing for the blood beating in my ears; when the pain ceases for a moment I listen to the shrieking of the wind. Can the winds be some outside demon who waits ravenously to selze my soul?

Two people, a man and a woman Two people, a man and a woman, with faces gray and anxious as ghosts, keep wandering in and out of the room; first one comes, gazes at me for a moment, and disappears; then creeps in the other, furtively, cautiously. Both are frightened, nervous, but not so much afraid of me as they are of meeting one another.

A white-cappedi nurse sits, indifferent before the fire. I am dying—oh.

A white-cappedi nurse sits, indifferent, before the fire. I am dying—oh, yes, I know; and a good thing, too, for I'm so tired, so dreadfully tired. If those gray-faced people would but keep away from me I might die in peace. The woman is kneeling by my bed now. She has caught hold of my hand—I am weak. I cannot take it from her. What does she want? She looks imploringly at me. I wish she would let go my hand. The man is there, too, now—he is standing behind her—they both want something, something from the? What is it? I'm tired after such cruel pain—do let me rest! But it's Jim's eyes that are me tired after such cruel pain—do let me rest! But it's Jim's eyes that are looking into mine, and Millicent is holding my hand! Oh, I remember now! I wished my death to ruin them, because—because—yes, I re-

How foolish to have been angry with them-I, who once loved them both! Can I not save them?

God! I cannot speak; The nurse Oh, God! I cannot speak; The nurse is there—she bends down toward me. "Nurse, can you hear? It—was not— Jim-or-Millicent! I have poisoned my-

The storm has died down. breaking. Life, I have laid aside all thy burdens, relinquishing even my revenge. Death comes with morning, shining like a bridegroom!—Sketch.

FEET GROWING LARGER. Shoemakers and haberdashers who cater to the wants of the elite assert that their patrons this year demand hoslery and shoes averaging from one-half to one and a half sizes larger than they did five years ago. The majority of the dealers believe that the average length and breadth of men's feet have been steadily increasing since the wane of the fashion which demanded a pointed toe and tight fitting shoe.

This they explain by saying that the effect of the style in vogue six years ago was to cramp and distort the nat-ural development of the feet. When the style changed and comfort became the criterion of fashion, nature again exerted itself. Feet which had become distorted during the reign of the nar-row shoe and pointed toe slowly began to broaden and adapt themselves to their new surroundings.

The change, being gradual, went for a long time unnoticed, and not until the merchants recently began to compare their sales of five years ago with those of today was it found that the average increase has been approximately one

Several well known shoe dealers said the apparent change they became interested and studied the problem. found that when fashion demanded the use of narrow shoes feet were closely confined and by degrees became small.

Oriental history, pointed out to me the fact that in countries where the san-dal or other loose foot covering is generally worn the feet of the inhabitants are comparatively large, and in coun-

are comparatively large, and in countries where a big shoe is in poor taste small feet are in the majority.

A well known Broadway hosier, when I told him the theory advanced by other haberdashers and shoemakers, smiled incredulously and said: "I'll tell you what my experience has been; peryou what my experience has been; per-haps it would be interesting. When times are hard I notice that men order large socks, and when there is plenty of money that they prefer close fitting ones. It can all be reduced to a question of economics in my opinion. Large hose wear longer than those of perfect fit, but they are not so comfortable. Most well dressed men are the first to feel the pressure of hard times, and then they begin to economize. They would probably deny it if you should confront them with the statement that for the sake of saving a quarter they are wearing a pair of missit socks, but under those conditions nine times out of ten the accusation would be true.

In spite of what people may say and do there is no use trying to get en-tirely away from fringes. They are tirely away from fringes. They are worn in Paris to a great extent and more or less in New York. There are some fringes that are too expensive to be common. Some of the beautiful chenille fringes are to be seen on opera cloaks, and one place where they are to be seen on opera cloaks, and one place where they are to be found, following in the wake of a fringe season, is on handbags. They make a pretty finish to fancy bags.