other subject is attracting so ention in the medical world today t of ptomaines. A ptomaine, says Pro- sor Victor C. Vaughan, is a basic of alka- oidal body formed during the putrefaction of animal matter. It may, therefore, be called an animal alkaloid. The first definite investigations on this subject were made by the learned Danish physician who presided so ably at the eighth international medical congress in 1884—Dr. Panum, of Copenhagen. Panum found that putrid blood, even after being boiled and after being treated with chemical reagents, which would destroy all germs, retained its poisonous properties. He boiled this poisonous substance for eleven hours and found that it still retained all its virulence. From this he rightly concluded that the poisonous substance was a non-volatile chemical compound. He did not succeed in isolating it, and it has always been referred to as Panum's putrid poison. Panum's work was published in Danish, and did not attract much attention for some years.

In 1868 Bergmann obtained from putrid yeast a highly poisonous crystalline substance to which he gave the name Sepsine. In the following year Zeulzer and Sonnenschein obtained a substance which resembles atropia in its physiological action, and in a medico-legal investigation Rorsch and Fassbender discovered an amorphous body which gave reactions similar to those of digitaline. Bence Jones and Durpre about this time also obtained from the liver a substance which, when dissolved in dilute sulphuric acid, gave the fluorescence of sulphate of quinine, and which was called by them animal chinoidine. From putrid meat Professor Brieger prepared a substance, neuridine, which acted as a poison as long as it was contaminated with other products of putrefaction; otherwise harmless. It is closely related to two substances that occur in the human system in its normal condition, namely, neurine, one of the constituents of the brain; and choline, which is present in the bile. By putrefaction, neuridine and the rather harmless choline, are transformed into the highly poisonous neurine. It is a remarkable fact that neurine, which is indentical with muscarine, the poisonous principle of a toadstool, and which is a normal constituent of the human body, should prove so destructive when introduced into the body from an outside source.

POISONS FOUND IN CORPSES.

The fact that the poisons of putrefaction are of a chemical nature accounts for the poisons found in corpses. These poisons bear some resemblance to the alkaloids of the hemlock, strychnine, veratrine, etc. A general was supposed to have been poisoned by his servant, in Rome, and a poison was found in his body, bearing a great resemblance to a virulent poison found in the larkspur. But this evidence of murder was overcome by the success of the late distinguished professor of legal medicine in the university, Professor Selmi, of Bologna, in obtaining the same poison from a corpse where every suspicion of poisoning was excluded.

In 1870, Selmi began a series of investigations concerning ptomaines, which was only interrupted by his death. Selmi obtained from putrid flesh extracts which gave reactions similar to those of morphine, strychnine and delphinine. But he did not succeed in isolating completely any ptomaine. Nencki, in 1876, first succeeded in determining the composition of a ptomaine. This substance was obtained from putrid gelatine.

The poisons like those found in corpses, called ptomaines by chemists, are created by the putrefaction of fish, white of egg, meat, cheese, gelatine and yeast. The presence of moisture is an essential condition, hence the moist mixture of sausage filling is especially well adapted to the formation of these poisons. It is a matter of observation that a great many cases of poisoning have followed the consumption of sausage or of fish that have been kept damp. The action of the ptomaines is more virulent when they are introduced into the circulation through wounds, than when they are in the stomach. Hence, it is that cuts received while dissecting corpses often end in death.

PERSONS WHO ARE SENSITIVE.

People are not equally sensitive to these poisons. Some persons are so sensitive that fish seemingly fresh will cause them inconvenience. Others are likely to suffer from a peculiar eruption of the skin after eating crabs or lobsters. In the maize porridge, which is called "polenta," and which is the chief food of a certain class of Italian workmen, there is formed by putrefaction in hot weather a poison which causes "pellagra," an eruption of the skin resembling erysipelas, which grows worse in time and finally causes death.

In every day life the ptomaines give evidence of their presence. The frequent inflammations of the fingers of persons engaged in washing dishes are due to this cause. The best remedies for the evil is washing with soap, which acts as a mild disinfectant.

All food, whether vegetable or animal, must be regarded with suspicion as soon as the first signs of decomposition become noticeable. Especially should great care be taken in times of epidemics. The poisons of putrefaction are odorless compounds, and it must not always be inferred that they do not exist before the odor of putrefaction is perceived. These poisons are not destroyed by boiling.

hundred cases of sickness in Suabia traced to sausage poisoning from 68. The plague like epidemic that in the Volga district some time ago to the diet of the people in those hich consisted almost exclusively

are divided into two classes— aining oxygen and those which do in this element.—Medical Classics.

**odeling Our School System.**

to meet with much opposition are my conviction that our pub- stem will sooner or later have to remodeled. It is an academic versity curriculum on a re- milar in kind, differing only ulture which it imparts is s but small reference to e great majority of the lead. It kindles an am- ich, in nine cases out of be disappointed, and en- quence, discontent and state which fails to it has aided in arous- yesen in The Forum.

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[illegible] of New [illegible] scene. [illegible] that slopes gently to [illegible] allow and grassy creek at [illegible], and overlooking the waters [illegible], with its busy craft on the [illegible] a little rosy cheeked maiden one bright afternoon not long ago was driving a flock of geese before her with a long slender switch. Her disorderly tresses blowing in the fresh breeze that came up from the shore looked like a mass of golden flax, waving and glistening in the warm August sunlight. The geese themselves were rather a dejected and mournful looking lot. At least they were not of the class that an artist would choose with which to produce an effect of light and shade on canvas; though, to be sure, they were ridiculously picturesque as they ran to and fro, quarreling incessantly. The little girl proved herself a most attentive guardian to such an uninviting company. She hurried here and there among her refractory charges with a never tiring pace; driving reluctant ones from occasional puddles beside the pathway, in which they were disposed to linger, and restricting those who now and then stopped to settle certain disputes that arose between them from fighting it out. She told me that the geese belonged to her papa—all except one. And that one, which she proudly pointed out, but which I was unable to distinguish from the rest, although I said that I could, she declared with a lisp really belonged to her. I had been out for a tramp all day and, indifferent as to where my steps led me, as long as they were away from the heated flagstones and brick and mortar of the city, I accompanied my little goose girl in the direction of her home, while I listened to her innocent chatter about her flock.

She held her switch toward a dilapidated shanty that stood almost at the top of the hill, and which, at least, possessed some interest, if for no other reason than that it was the most woeful looking rookery that one's imagination might picture. It was constructed of old, roughly planed boards green with age and covered in places with patches of lichen. Its roof was an uneven mass of black tar paper, so popular with the inhabitants of Shantytown, while against the sides of the building was piled an amazing quantity of old iron and other refuse. A goat was wandering about aimlessly outside, and as I approached, two dirty faced children, in short frocks, who were eating bread and butter, came up to where I stood, in order that they might wipe their greasy hands on my coat sleeve.

From their mother, who was kind enough to call them back, I learned that the geese, which now gathered themselves together within a fenced inclosure behind the house, were raised altogether for the market, and that the returns were of great assistance in maintaining the little family. Many of their neighbors kept flocks of these fowls, too, for the vicinity seemed to be a most favorable breeding place. There are certainly many ways of adding to one's income, and in the suburbs goose farming does not appear to be the least insignificant of them.—John Preston Beecher in New York News.

**Something About the Milk Cure.**

Talking about the milk cure, it has caused a decided boom in the dairy trade, and we can scarcely supply our custom, as it was already sufficiently large. Milk is the demand of the hour, the greatest call being among the physicians, their families and patients. One prominent medical man always orders five gallons a day, two-fifths of which is consumed by himself. He does not take so much now, because he unfortunately is a victim of the cocaine habit. The deadly drug is slowly killing him, and he is gradually abandoning his practice, which was an immense one. One of his favorite methods of cure for his nervous patients is to order them to be quiet for several months and to take milk as their only nourishment, and in large quantities. I know one lady who was considered a victim of cancer, who was unable to retain anything except milk for six months. Yet she eventually recovered. However, in cases of dyspepsia, milk ought to be tabooed, and such people should confine themselves exclusively to buttermilk, which has already gone through a process of digestion before it enters the stomach. Buttermilk is a cure in itself for disorders arising from indigestion.

But the way sweet milk is used now in all drinks, in the saloons and drug stores, in "milk shakes," etc., is surprising. However, its most unique demand is as an article of the toilet, which use is constantly growing. Why, I have twelve regular orders, four of them on Lindell avenue, from ladies, for eight gallons of milk daily. In this the mistress of the house takes her evening bath. She considers this equal to the champagne bath, so celebrated among Parisian ladies, only the milk baths are much less expensive, skimmed milk being considered sufficient, and eight gallons amounting to only 80 cents a day. I suppose the idea is an offspring of the popular craze for modernizing the antique, and Poppæ, the beautiful wife of Nero, who daily bathed in milk for the benefit of her complexion, is perhaps the example.—Dairyman in Globe-Democrat.

**A Suggestion to Consumptives.**

It is astonishing how little thought invalids and their friends bestow on some questions in which they are vitally interested. For instance, it is an every day occurrence for people who either suffer with or are threatened by pulmonary diseases to leave for Colorado, by order of physicians. But very few of them inquire why the climate of Colorado is expected to benefit them. The fact is that except in the early stages of lung disease it is a problem which puzzles even good physicians, whether that climate will do good or harm. Denver is more than 5,000 feet above the sea level. That is to say, St. Louis, being about 700 feet above the sea, Denver is nearly a mile higher then we are here. The result is that the atmosphere is far more rare, and the theory upon which residence there is supposed to benefit weak lungs is that the extra exertion necessary to inhale the proper amount of the vitalizing element gives fuller and freer play to all parts of the lungs, and preserves them from decay.

But so great a change in altitude as that from St. Louis to Denver, if made suddenly, may be too severe a strain upon a nature weakened by disease, and the change has often proved fatal. When symptoms of consumption appear and medical advice is sought, if the patient has means, he is nearly always advised either to go west, for the reasons I have indicated, or to go south—this on a different theory altogether. I have often thought, however, that when the Colorado trip is recommended, the advice should be coupled with a provision that the change be made by easy stages, rests being made at least three times on the road, to enable the lungs to become gradually accustomed to the changed conditions.—Charles J. Osborne in Globe-Democrat.

**A New Army Saddle.**

A new saddle that has been invented was thought worthy of introduction into the German army. As a final trial a squadron of fifty cavalrymen are now taking a four weeks' ride through Prussia under the personal command of a general. They ride forty-five miles a day.—Chicago Herald.

[illegible] business is a very important class of people. The checks and drafts they issue are so hedged about with forms and characters that they cannot be raised with a derrick or forged by a blacksmith. There is in Chicago a man who probably handles more of this rural negotiable paper than any one else. He deals in a class of literature which is sent "securely sealed" on receipt of price. When his advertising bluffs in the columns of the country press are called, he shows down a pair of literary deuces, but he rakes in the pot all the same, smiling to himself the while at the gullibility of the bucolic public. They seek something for nothing; he gives them nothing for something.

The other day he showed a check he had received in payment for a book which he termed in his pastoral advertisement "rich, rare and racy." The check was drawn on a bank in a small western town of the mushroom era, and it was drawn by the president of the bank. It was for $1. The signature was evidently in imitation of that of the man who signs passes in a railroad office which are "not good unless countersigned by," and across the signature, at an angle of forty-five degrees, was written the legend, "One dollar." No one could have raised it or altered it unless he had been a Herrmann or a Kellar. It was collateral for a dollar that would have baffled even an Oberkampf. It was "exhibit A" of the caution of a country banker.—Chicago Herald.

**A Couple of Clever Tricks.**

A healthy looking man horrified our people a year ago by munching glass apparently as the average American eats peanuts. He did not eat glass, however; he swallowed a skillfully prepared composition that resembled glass, but his punishment is recorded nevertheless. The glass eater is under the physicians' care. The exposure of the trick will lessen the consumption of the diet that has brought a trickster to grief and a gruel diet. This imposture is not as bad as Annie Brown's imposition. About eighteen years ago a woman living in Wayne county, N.Y., named Annie Brown, puzzled the doctors. She professed to be the victim of a snake. The snake owned her. It was seen in her mouth, but when the doctors tried to get it it returned to her stomach. Annie made some money exhibiting the head of the snake, until she was taken to the infirmary, and there one day a shrewd physician suddenly choked her and compelled her to disgorge the snake, which proved to be a large piece of black India rubber that she slipped down her throat, and then, with her convulsive movements, raised up and down. Of the two, Annie Brown's is much the cleverest trick. The managers of museums might revive it now that glass eating is one of the lost arts.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

**How To Do It.**

Irate Matron—Never, sir; never will you marry my daughter with my consent. I hate the very sight of you, sir, and I wish I could find some way to make you miserable.

Obnoxious Suitor—Well, then, why don't you become my mother-in-law?—Philadelphia Record.

**To Promote Beauty.**

Among the miscellaneous articles invented for the promotion of beauty are artificial veins, the wrinkle effacer and the Circassienne which imparts a brilliancy to the eye.

A "stepback father" is a new term of relationship. It designates a man's connection with his widow's son by a second marriage.

Victor Hugo said that God created woman the coquette as soon as he had made man the fool.

"The art of war, which everybody talks about, is difficult."—Napoleon.

## REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

The republicans of the United States, assembled by their deligates in national convention, pause on the threshold of their proceedings to honor the memory of their first great leader and immortal champion of liberty and the rights of the people, Abraham Lincoln, and to cover also with wreaths of imperishable remembrance and gratitude the heroic names of our later leaders who have been more recently called away from our councils, Grant, Garfield, Arthur, Logan and Conkling. May their memories be faithfully cherished. We also recall with our greetings and prayer for his recovery the name of one of our living heroes whose memory will be treasured in the history both of republicans and of the republic. The name is that of the noble soldier and favorite child of victory, Philip H. Sheridan.

In the spirit of those great leaders and of our devotion to human liberty, and with that hostility to all forms of despotism and oppression which is the fundamental idea of the republican party, we send fraternal congratulations to our fellow Americans of Brazil upon their great act of emancipation which completed the abolition of slavery throughout the two American continents. We earnestly hope we may soon congratulate our fellow citizens of Irish birth upon the peaceful recovery of home rule for Ireland.

WE AFFIRM OUR UNSWERVING DEVOTION to the national constitution and to the indissoluble union of states to the autonomy reserved to the states under the constitution, to the personal rights and liberties of citizens in all states and territories in the union and especially to the supreme and sovereign right of every citizen, rich or poor, native or foreign born, white or black, to cast one free ballot in the public elections and to have that ballot duly counted. We hold a free and honest popular ballot and just and equal representation of all people to be the foundation of our republican government and demand effective legislation to secure the integrity and purity of elections which are the fountains of all public authority. We charge that the present administration and the democratic majority in congress owe their existence to the suppression of the ballot by the criminal nullification of the constitution and laws of the United States.

We are uncompromisingly in favor of the American system of protection. We protest against the destruction proposed by the president and his party. They serve the interests of Europe

WE WILL SUPPORT INTERESTS OF AMERICA. We accept the issue, and confidently appeal to the people for their judgment. The protective system must be maintained. Its abandonment has always been followed by general disaster to all interests except those of the usurer and sheriff.

We denounce the Mills' bill as destructive to general business, labor, and the farming interests of the country, and we heartily endorse the consistent and patriotic action of the republican representatives in congress in opposing its passage. We condemn the proposition of the democratic party to place wool on the free list and insist that the duties thereon shall be adjusted and maintained so as to furnish full and adequate protection to that industry.

The republican party would effect all needed reduction of the national revenue by repealing the taxes on tobacco, which are an arrogance and burden to agriculture, and the tax upon spirits used in the arts and for mechanical purposes, and by such revision of the tariff laws as will tend to check imports of such articles as are produced by our people, the production of which gives employment to our labor, and release from import duties these articles of foreign production, except luxuries, the like of which cannot be produced at home, there shall still remain a larger revenue than is requisite for the wants of government, of internal taxes rather than surrender any part of our protective system at the joint behest of the whisky ring and agents of foreign manufacturers.

AGAINST PAUPER AND LABOR TRUSTS.

We declare hostility to the introduction into this country of foreign contract labor and of Chinese labor alien to our civilization and our constitution, and we demand the rigid enforcement of existing laws against it and favor such immediate legislation as will exclude such labor from our shores.

We declare our opposition to all combinations of capital organized in trusts or otherwise to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens and we recommend to congress and the state legislatures in their respective jurisdictions such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue charges on their supplies [illegible] unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market.

We approve legislation by congress to prevent alike unjust burdens and unfair discrimination between states.

PUBLIC LAND LEGISLATION.

We reaffirm the policy of appropriating the public lands of the United States to be homesteads for American citizens and settlers not aliens, which the republican party established in 1862 against the persistent opposition of the democrats in congress, which has brought our great western domain into magnificent developement. The restoration of unearned land grants to the public domain for the use of actual settlers, which was begun under the administration of President Arthur should be continued. We deny that the democratic party has ever restored one acre to the people, but declare that by the joint action of republicans and democrats about fifty million acres of unearned lands, originally granted for the construction of railroads, have been restored to the public domain in pursuance of conditions inserted by the republican party in the original grants. We charge the democratic administration with failure to execute laws securing to settlers title to their homesteads and with using appropriations made for that purpose to harrass innocent settlers with suits and prosecutions under the false pretense of exposing frauds and vindicating the law.

ADMISSION OF TERRITORIES.

The government by congress of the territories is based upon necessity only to the end that they may become states in the union; therefore, whenever the conditions of population, material resources, public intelligence and morality are such as to insure stable local government therein the people of such territories should be permitted, a right inherent in them, to form for themselves constitutions and state governments and be admitted into the union. Pending preparation for statehood all officers thereof should be selected from bona fide residents and citizens of the territory wherein they are to serve. South Dakota should of right be immediately admitted as a state in the union under the constitution framed and adopted by her people, and we heartily endorse the action of the republican senate in twice passing bills for her admission. Where fraud of the democratic house of representatives, for partisan purposes, is favorably considered these bills is a willful violation of the sacred American principle of local self government, and merits the [illegible] of patriotic men. The pending bills in the senate for acts to enable the people of Washington, North Dakota and Montanna territories to form constitutions and establish state governments should be passed without unnecessary delay. The republican party pledges itself to do all in its power to facilitate the admission of the territories of New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho and Arizona to the enjoyment of self-government as states. Such of them as are now qualified as soon as possible, and others as soon as they may become so.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

The political power of the Mormon church in the territories as exercised in the past is a menance to free institutions too dangerous to be long suffered. Therefore we pledge the republican party to appropriate legislation, asserting the sovereignty of the nation in all the territories where the same is questioned, and in furtherance of that end to place upon the statutes book legislation stringent enough to divorce political from ecclesiastical power, and thus stamp out the attendant wickedness of polygamy.

The republican party is in favor of the use of both gold and silver as money, and condemns the policy of the democratic administration in its efforts to demonetize silver.

We demand the reduction of letter postage to 1 cent per ounce.

In a republic like ours, where the citizens is the sovereign and the official the servant, where no power is exercised except by the will of the people, it is important that the sovereign people should possess intelligence. The free school is the promoter of that intelligence which is to preserve us a free nation. Therefore, the state or nation, or both conbined, should support free institutions of learning sufficient to afford to every child growing up in the land the opportunity of a good common-school education.

OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

We earnestly recommend that prompt action be taken by congress in the enactment of such legislation as will best secure the rehabilitation of our American merchant marine, and we protest against the passage by congress of a free ship bill as calculated to work injustice to labor by lessening the wages of those engaged in preparing materials as well as those directly employed in our shipyards. We demand appropriations for the early rebuilding of our navy, for the construction of coast fortifications and modern ordinance and other approved modern means of defense for the protection of our defenseless harbors and cities, for the payment of just pensions to our soldiers, for necessary works of national importance in the improvement of the harbors and channels of internal, coastwiser and foreign commerce, for the encouragement of the shipping interests of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific states as well as for the payment of the maturing public debt. This policy will give employment to our labor, activity to our various industries, increased security to our country, promote trade, open new and direct markets for our products and cheapen the cost of transportation. We affirm this to be far better for our country than the democratic policy of loaning the government's money without interest to "pet banks."

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The conduct of foreign affairs by the present administration has been distinguished by inefficiency and cowardice. Having withdrawn from the senate all pending treaties effected by republican administrations for the removal of foreign burdens and restrictions upon our commerce and for its extension into a better market it has neither affected nor proposed any others in their stead. Professing adherence to the Monroe doctrine, it has seen with idle complacency the extension of foreign influence in Central America and of foreign trade everywhere among our neighbors. It has refused to charter, sanction or encourage any American organization for constructing the Nicaragua canal, a work of vital importance to the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine and of our national influence in Central and South America, and necessary for the development of trade with our Pacific territory, with South America, and with the further coasts of the Pacific Ocean.

FISHERIES QUESTION.

We arraign the present democratic administration for its weak and unpatriotic treatment of the fisheries question, and its pusillanimous surrender of all privileges to which our fishery vessels are entitled in Canadian ports under the treaty of 1818, the reciprocate maritime legislation of 1830 and comity of nations, and which Canadian fishing vessels receive in the ports of the United States. We condemn the policy of the present administration and the democratic majority in congress towards our fisheries as unfriendly and conspicuously unpatriotic and as tending to destroy a valuable national industry and an indispensible resource of defense against foreign enemy.

The name of American applies alike to all citizens of the republic, and imposes upon men alike the same obligation of obedience to the laws. At the same time citizenship is and must be the panoply and safeguard of him who wears it, should shield and protect him whether high or low, rich or poor, in all his civil rights. It should and must afford him protection at home and follow and protect him abroad in whatever land he may be on a lawful errand.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The men who abandoned the republican party in 1884 and continue to adhere to the democratic party have deserted not only the cause of honest government, but of sound finance, of freedom and purity of the ballot, but especially have deserted the cause of reform in the civil service. We will not fail to keep our pledges because they have broken theirs, or because their candidate has broken his. We therefore repeat our declaration of 1884, towit: The reform of civil service auspiciously begun under republican administration should be completed by a further extension of the reform system already established by law to all grades of the service to which it is applied. The spirit and purpose of reform should be observed in all executive appointments, and all laws at varience with the object of existing reform legislation should be repealed, and that the dangers to free institutions which lurk in the power of official patronage may be wisely and effectively avoided.

The gratitude of the nation to the defenders of the union cannot be assured except by laws. The legislation of congress should conform to the pledges made by a loyal people, and be so enlarged and extended as to provide against the possibility that any man who honorably wore the federal uniform shall become an inmate of an almshouse or dependent on private charity. In the presence of an overflowing treasury it would be a public scandal to do less for those whose valorous service preserved the government. We denounce the hostile spirit shown by President Cleveland in his numerous vetoes of measures for pension relief, and the action of the democratic house of representatives in refusing even consideration of general pension legislation.

In support of the principles herewith enunciated, we invite the co-operation of patriotic men of all parties, especially of all workingmen whose prosperity is seriously threatened by the free trade policy of the present administration.

The first concern of all good government is the virtue and sobriety of the people and the purity of their homes. The republican party cordially sympathizes with all wise and well directed efforts for the promotion of temperance.