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WHERE DOCTORS MEET.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE DESCRIBED.

Doctors of High and Low Degree and All Schools May There Investigate and Confer About All Sorts of Long Named Diseases.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, Oct. 8.—Were a visitor to the city of New York to stroll along Fifth avenue and passing the great reservoir to turn down West Forty-third street, he would see on the right hand side a building of red sandstone with a massive yet handsomely ornamented exterior.



GLIMPSE OF LIBRARY.

self within the home of the New York Academy of Medicine, one of the strongest medical societies in the world. I must hasten to say that this institution is not, as many fondly imagine it to be, of an educational character, except so far as any scientific society is more or less educational.

Incidentally they have gathered together a library in which there are over 60,000 books and pamphlets, and incidentally, too, they have benefited the people of this country by their action in times of epidemic.

The New York Academy of Medicine is, as a body of learned men, about forty-four years old. The building in which it now is, and which bears the same name, had its corner stone laid on the 2d of October, 1889, and was ready for occupancy in the following year.

In the basement of the building are the boilers for driving the ventilating fans, dynamos and elevator. Here, too, are the ventilating airways through which air is taken from the roof, warmed if necessary and forced into all parts of the building.



CORNER IN HOSACK HALL.

with its wide open fireplace. To the left is a small reception room and beyond that the smoking room, a delightful place with the easiest of lounging chairs and another of those delicious fireplaces, wide enough for a four foot back log.

meets and listens to papers of general interest to all its members.

The second story is taken up for the most part with the library. This is divided into two rooms—Woeisshoffer hall (named after the late Charles Woeisshoffer, whose widow gave \$25,000 to the academy), which is the reading room, and the library itself, which is devoted wholly to the storage of books.

On this floor is the second of the three journal rooms, or rooms devoted to the many medical and scientific magazines and papers. These rooms, one above the other, are connected by private stairways. This second is called the Farnham room, after the late Dr. Farnham.

Between the first and second stories there is a half story, on which is the lowest journal room and the Du Bois section room, the largest of the rooms devoted to the sections, and having in it the furniture and fittings which were in the extension built by the late Dr. Du Bois on the academy's old home on West Thirty-first street.

The fourth floor might be called the section floor of the building, for on it are four section rooms, as well as a small room arranged for photographing patients or displaying cases of diseases of the eye. In one of these rooms the Dental society has its home, for the academy shelters many societies besides that after which it is named.



BIG BONES.

The section rooms on this floor have anterooms arranged expressly for the use of patients who are to be exhibited. In the fifth story are the rooms given up to the resident librarian, who is also the superintendent of the building.

I have spoken of the section rooms. These are rooms fitted up with seats, platforms and places for the officers. They are, in fact, small lecture rooms. The academy is divided into sections, and each member, when he joins, is assigned to some one selected by himself.

These sections are devoted to surgery, orthopedic surgery, theory and practice of medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, hygiene, therapeutics and materia medica, laryncology, ophthalmology and otology and pediatrics. The use and value of the sections are apparent. Topics of interest bearing on any one of the subjects are thoroughly discussed by the section, and then, if deemed worthy, are brought before the academy as a whole, when a still more exhaustive discussion takes place.

As the academy building is one of the handsomest in New York, so it is one of the most perfect in its adaptation to the end in view. It was erected by a committee composed of Dr. A. L. Loomis, the president; Dr. E. Herrick, Dr. F. A. Castle, Dr. G. A. Peters and Dr. Abraham Jacobi. The money necessary was raised by subscription, bequest and the sale of the property on Thirty-first street.

A CITY ON STILTS.

W. G. Benton Makes a Visit to Astoria, Oregon.

[Special Correspondence.] SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 26.—A few days ago I had occasion to visit Astoria, which, like all western towns and cities, lays claim to some particular point of advantage over other towns and cities. Astoria claims as her crowning feature to be the only deep seaport of the state. It is also the headquarters of the Columbia river salmon industry, and that alone means vastly more than would seem at first glance.

If I were asked to give the place a distinctive title I would call it the city on stilts. It is on the south shore of the Columbia, some twelve miles from the mouth of that river, and some hundred odd miles from Portland. It is said to be the largest city in the country that is without a railroad. Many plans and propositions have been made from time to time to build a road to connect Astoria with the transcontinental lines at or near Portland, but so far nothing tangible has come of them, though a line is at present under construction.

With a rail outlet or connection with the great grain centers of the Columbia tributary country, Astoria would at once take its proper position as an important seaport. Since the government has put in jetties at the mouth of the Columbia the hitherto obstructive bar has been practically disposed of, and a channel of ample depth for the largest ships to pass in safety has been created.

The town has a water frontage of nearly six miles, and there is practically no limit to its extension. To reach deep water, the docks and warehouses have been constructed several hundred feet out into the water, and the business streets have crowded down as close to the docks as possible. And this has resulted in several streets being literally built on stilts or piles driven into the bottom of the river at tide level, and blocks of stores, residences, hotels and street railroads are constructed out over the water.

This part of the city has no need for sewers, as the tides carry all refuse away twice in every day. The residences, churches and other buildings are extending back on the hills, and streets are being graded up steep inclines, and when the water line is walled up, as it eventually will be, the intervening space will be filled in and terra firma take the place of the present plank road bridges which now serve as streets.

The Oregon newspaper men held their annual meeting there this year, and its editors were entertained in a creditable vanner by the public spirited citizens. W. G. BENTON

Snakes in Pike County.

PIKE COUNTY, Pa., Oct. 1.—There is always more or less spiritual enjoyment in a wild country that is full to the brim of quaint people and rattlesnakes. Up here in Pike county nature has poured forth the rattlesnake with a lavish hand. The rattlesnake to Pike county is what the bean is to Boston and the onion to Bermuda; and the native proudly rolls up his sleeves or, so to speak, shuffles off his boot to display the mark of the bite received years ago. And he feels the same peculiar thrill of ecstasy in this display that a seafaring man does in showing the artistic tattooing that is, figuratively speaking, a part and parcel of his person. It is difficult to understand the temperament of a man who loves to hunt rattlesnakes, and displays the same enthusiasm in this pursuit that another exhibits in whipping a trout stream.

A certain native of these parts manipulates them with great delight, and for the modest sum of three dollars will select you one from a boxful and proceed to sew its mouth up with a needle and thread with the breezy abandon of a dressmaker. Some men who are strangers to the country, and only acquainted with the alcoholic serpent, crowd around these snakes—when they are securely boxed—to note their rattle, that they may know the sound when they hear it in the woods. It is described by a local humorist as sounding very much like a few dry peas being shaken in a stiff paper bag. I am willing to accept this picturesque comparison as a faithful one in every particular rather than go to the trouble of wandering into nature's deepest recesses to satisfy myself of the truth of his statement. R. K. M.

Archibald Clavering Gunter.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—The author of the four highly successful and sensational novels that have been issued since February, 1887, has not been engaged for some months past in any new literary development, though the plots of a new book are budding in his brain, despite the fact that "Miss Nobility of Nowhere" is selling well. His most artistic bit of writing, "That Frenchman," apparently lacks the popularity so generously given to his companions. He has lately been actively interested in the supervision of his plays—"Mr. Barnes of New York" (which soon enters upon a third season) and "Mr. Potter of Texas," which began its traveling season this year at Albany on Sept. 14. A. P.

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