## DEADLY PTOMAINES.

A SUBJECT ATTRACTING ATTEN-TION AMONG MEDICAL MEN.

Some Facts of General Interest-The Polsons Which Are Generated in Food. Risks of Eating Stale Sausage or Fish. A Warning.

Probably no other subject is attracting so much attention in the medical world today as that of ptomaines. A ptomaine, says Professor Victor C. Vaughan, is a basic of alkaloidal 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 be rightly concluded that the poisonous substance was a non-vola-tile 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 medicolegal 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 fluoresence 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 teadstool, and which is a normal constituent of the human body, should prove so destructive when introduced into the body from an out-

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 figsh 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 promaines by chemists, are created by the purrefaction 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 fol-lowed 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 inconwenience. Others are likely to suffer from a peculiar eruption of the skin after eating erabs 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

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.

Four hundred cases of sickness in Suabia have been traced to sausage poisoning from 1793 to 1853. The plague like epidemic that occurred in the Volga district some time ago was traced to the diet of the people in those regions, which consisted almost exclusively of fish.

Ptomaines are divided into two classes those containing oxygen and those which do not contain this element. - Medical Classics,

Remodeling Our School System.

I expect to meet with much opposition when I declare my conviction that our publie school system will sooner or later have to be radically remodeled. It is an academic system-a university curriculum on a restricted scale-similar in kind, differing only in degree. The culture which it imparts is academic, and has but small reference to the life which the great majority of the pupils will have to lead. It kindles an am-bition in them which, in nine cases out of ten, is destined to be disappointed, and engenders, as a consequence, discontent and disaffection toward the state which fails to antisfy the expectations it has aided in arousing .- Professor H. H. Boyesen in The Forum.

A Fair Maid's Indifferen Bolingbroke has just fervently proposed. Miss Steels—Do you play a good game of

### REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

The republicans of the United States, assembled by their deligates in national convention, pause on the thre hold of their proceedings to honor the memory of their first great leader and importal champlon of liberty and the rights of the people. Abraham i incoln, and to cover also with wreaths of imperishable re-membrance and gratitude the herole names of membrance and gratitude the herole names of our later lenders who have been more recently called away from our counsels, Grant, Garffeld, 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 hostlifity to all forms of despotism and oppression which is the fundamental idea of the republican party, we send fraternal congratulations

which is the fundamental idea of the republi-can party, we send frate and congratulations to our fellow Americans of Brazil upon their great act of emancipation which completed the abolition of slavery throuhout 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.

rule for Ireland.

WE AFFIRM OUR UNSWERVING DEVOTION to the national constitution and to the indissoluble union of states to the autoommy 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 uncrompromisingly 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 AFFIRM OUR UNSWERVING DEVOTION

of Europe WE WILL SUPPORT INTERESTS OF AMERICA.

We will support intellests of Aberica.
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 unsurer

and sheriff.

We denounce the Mills' bill as destructive to general business, labor, and the farming interests of the country, and we heartly endorse the consistent and patriotic action of the republican representatives in congress in oppos ing 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 in-

mish 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 arregance 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 forcign production, except luxuries. The like of hich cannot be produced at home, there hall still remain a larger revenue than is requisite for the wants of government, of internal taxes rather than surrender any part of our rotective system at the joint behast of the whiskyring and agents of foreign manufacturers.

AGAINST PAUPER AND Labor TRUS 8.

We colare hostility to the it tro-netion into is country of foreign contract labor and of

t is country of foreign contract labor and of Chinese labor allen to our civilization and our constitution, and we demand the rigit enforcement of existing laws against it and layor guid 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 legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress he people by undue charges on their supplies or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market.

In support of the principles berewith enunciated we lovite the co-operation of patriotic men of all parties, especially of all working-men whose prosperity is seriously threstened by the free trade policy of the present administration.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY: their products to market

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

\*\*Batic LAND LEGISLATION.\*\*

We reasure the policy of appropriating the ubile lands of the Ubiled States to be home-We realised the policy of appropriating the public lands of the Ubiled States to be homesteads for American citizens and settlers not aliens, which the republican party established in 18:2 against the persistent opposition of the democra's in congress, which has brought our great western domain into magnificent developement. The restoration of uncarned land grants to the public dom in for the use of actual serilers, which was begun under the administration of President arthur should be continued. We deay that the democratic party has ever restored one acre to the people, but declare that by the joint action of republicahs and democrats about lifty million acres of uncarned 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 fathurs to execute laws securing to settlers title to their holmesteads and with using appropriations made for that purpose to harrass innocent settlers with spies and prosecutions under the false pretense of exposing frauds and vindicating the law.

Applies of the territor-terminal contents and the contents of the territor-terminal contents and the contents of the territor-terminal contents are the contents of the territor-terminal contents and the contents of the territor-terminal contents and contents of the territor-terminal contents are contents.

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 ad-itted into the union. Pending preparati in for statehood all officers thareof 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. The refusal of the democratic house of representatives, for partisan purpeses, to favorably consider these bills is a willful violation of the sacred American principle of local self-government, and merits the condemnation of all just men. The pending bills in the senate for facts to enable the neople of Wishington, North Dakota and Montanna territories to form constitutions and establish state governments should be passed without unnecessary delay. The republican party pledges inself 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. 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 menance to free institutions too dankerous to be long suffered. Therefore we predge 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 statute book legislation stringent enough to divorce political from ecclesiastical power and thus slamp 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 cont per ounce.

to 1 c at per ounce.

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

OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

We expressly recomment that prompt action be taken it compenses in the electron of such legislation as will best secure the rebubility tion of our American unarchan marine and we protest against the cassage 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 to our shippards. • degreed in prenaring inaterials as well as these directly employed to our slapyards. e define a appropriation for the early rebuilding of air pavy for the construction of coast fortifications and modern ordinance and other approved modern means of defense for the protection of our defenseless harbors and eitles for the payment of just pensions to our soldiers, for necessary works of national reportance in the improvement of the harbors and channels of laternal coastwiser and ore an economic for the encouragement of the shipping interests of the Atlantic, Galiand Pacific states as well as for the payment of the maturice published. This policy will

policy of loaning the government's money without interest to "pet banks."

FOREIGN RELATIONS. roreign 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 organizytion for constructing the Nicaragua canal, a work of ytal 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.

Pacific Ocean. FISHERIES QUESTION.
We arraign the present democratic administration for its weak and unpatriotic treatment We arraign the present democratic administration for its weak and unpatriotic treatment of the fisheries question, and its pusilianimous surrender of all privileges to which our fishery vessels are entitled in Canadian ports under the treaty of 1818, the reciprocate marintine 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 conspictously 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 cilizens 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.

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 houest 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 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 all executive appointments, and all laws at varience with the object of existing reform leg-islation should be repealed, and that the dan-gers to free lustitutions which lurk in the pow-

er of official patronage may be wisely and ef-fectively 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 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 were the federal uniform shall become an inmate of an alashouse or dependent on crivate 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 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 berewith enun-

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the people.

ceived such testimonials from

Office of Iowa Soldier's Home. Marshalltown, Ia., Feb. 17, '88. PROF. STRASSMAN, -Dear Sir: -The glasses you furnished myself and wife when in Clinton, have proven in every way satisfactory, and we take pleasure in recommending your work and glasses to all who may be in need of safety and and comfort for your eyesight.

Very Respectively, Col. MILO SMITH, Commandant.

Mayor's Office, Marshallten,

November 3rd, 1887. Prof. Strassman has been in our city some six weeks or more, and as an optician has given the best of satisfaction both as to prices and quality of work, having treated some of the most difficult cases of the eyes with success and am satisfied you will find him a skillful optician and a gentleman.

Very Respectfully, NELSON AMES, Mayor.

Prof. Strassman, a distinguished optician, now stopping in our city, comes before us with the highest testimonials of skill and experience in his art, and I take pleasure in recommending him to my friends and the public who may be in need of his services, as one entitled to his confidence. J. WILLIAMSON, M. D. Ottumwa, Iowa,

New Eyes

The long felt want in this community for sight-restoring glasses is now supplied by the successful optician, Prof. A. Strssman, from Berlin, Germany, for

a short time longer at the Riddle house, The waste of valuable eyesight can be prevented, if not too late, by his correct mode of equalizing all mequalities of tho injured eyes. In his specialty, it is conceded that he is the head of the profession, and many of our best citizens, and physicians have been successful in obtaining relief by the use of his glasses:

Allen Beeson, Byron Drew. J. Vallery, jr., H. Boeck, Mrs. F. Johnson, Mrs. N. E. Sage, Mr. C. Nichols, Mr. Hodgett, Mrs. Levings, Mr. Hayes, Mrs. Nieman, Geo. Buckle,

Eli Sampson, Mrs. Rankin, Miss Young, W. Manker, Prof. J.B. Wittcomb Judge A. N. Sullivan Judge Chapman, Mrs. Benfer. G. W. Covell, Miss Laura Baker,

Dr. Schildknecht,

S. P. Vanatta,

W. H. Newell,

Mrs. P. Kessler.

C. W. Sherman.

Mrs. P. Kennedy,

Mr. Elson, Mr. Geo. Natterson, Mrs. W. D. Jones, Mrs. D. M. Jones. Mrs. Kate Simpson, Mr. J. C. Cummins, Mrs. P. L. Wise, Rev. F. W. Witte.

REFERENCES.

RED OAK. Dr E B Yonng, CF Clark, GK Powers, D B Miller, J B Reeves, Mrs J Seank, Mrs T H Dearborn, G W Holt, A C Blose, W an office at the Riddle House. He is do-ing an immense business throughout the J S Wroth, Rev McClure, Mrs Hesller, Mrs. Farrier, Manker, Rev McCullery, Mrs Stanley, R Wadsworth, Mr Marchholtz, Mr Jeffries, Rev Jagg, W Stafford, C W Schneider, Harvey Spry, C E Richards, David Harris, Mr. Isold, C H Lane, C M Mills, T H Lee. Wm Koehler, C J Lillijeberk, T M Lee, Geo L Platt, Mrs L Holyser, Wm Dubley, O Runnels, Mrs B S Porter, I H Hazarenus, Mr Broadby, failing vision, point out the cause and F A Carter, Mrs Fisher, Mr Stoddard, E O Shepherd, A McConnell, E A Brown. culiarly ground to suit every defect of Mr Gibson, Mr Fikes, Rev J W Hamilthe eye, which will aid in strengthening | ton, S P Miller, Mrs F C Clark, B E A Simons, J W Sauthin, Mr Van Alstine, L F Ross, Mrs Deemer, Mrs. Junkin, tem for the preservation of the human | Thos Griffith, I Sanborn, Geo Binus, Mr. Meyers, P. P. Johnson, and many others from the surrounding country.

CLARINDA,

Col W P Hepburn, ex-congressmen; Hon T E Clark, senator; Rev Snook, Dr Cokenower, Dr Lewellen, F W Harish, J S McIntyr, A S Baily, J D Jones, B W Foster, H C Beckwith, John Glaseby, O A Kimball, Mrs. Morsman, V Graff, Rev. Seay, Dr Van Sant, J D Hawley, T M Monzingo, Dr Millen, H Bedwell, Capt Stone, J H Stet, Hon Wm Butler, O N Hurdle, A T Clement. J M Crabill. Mr Newton, Mrs Shaul, Hon T E Clark, Mrs Loranz, Dr. Power, Rev Eddy, Raymond Loranz, A P Skeed, J P Burrows, Dr Barrett, Mrs Ells.

CRESTON.

President of First National Bank and President of Creston National Bank; J H Patt, Mr Donlin, Mrs Teed, Ed Derr, Rev Van Wagner, Geo Webster. Miss C Webster, Mrs Mary Eckert, Thos. McGrath, Ed Lewis, Dr N Turrey, Prof. Larrabee, Col Swall, Mrs W D Moore, W V McQuaid, J H Lichty, Mr Spurr, Dr Groves, Mr H Newman, Dr Dunlap, W F Patt, Rev F W Eason, Mrs M Sullivan, Mrs Laramore, Mr. Zallars, Mrs K Duane, Miss C Eoyer, R E Ewing, W M Lparr, Dr. Reynolds, Mrs H P Sawyer, Miss Mattie Muntz, C Hurley, D G Miller, N H Blanchard, Dr Schifferle, Mr B Hurley, Mr Hamman, Mrs A M Gow, Prof. Meyer, Dr Reynolds.

IOWA CITY.

Senator Bloom, Dr I F Hansit, Dr. Copperthwaite, Mrs Dr Lee, Messrs. Parvin, Kost, Mosier, F H Bradley, H H Jones, D Shireliff, p m Purely, Gen Ross, Warner, Mrs F J Cox, Hon P A Dey, Rev Porter, Prof Parker, Prof McClaire, Prof McBride, Prof N R Leonard, Prof. A O