

Current Topics

SEVERAL YEARS AGO MORRIS K. JESUP contributed \$50,000 to the American Museum of Natural History for the purpose of financing an inquiry concerning the East Arctic Siberian tribes. The American Museum co-operated with the Russian Academy of Science and their agents have recently made a report to the effect that the American Indian and the Asiatic Eskimo are related and that both originated in China.

THE QUIETEST AND YET THE MOST STUBBORN strike is reported from Bridgeport, Conn. A correspondent of the New York World relates that one year ago 100 men walked out of Parson's foundry. Seventy of these were iron moulders and thirty were their helpers. The contention relates to piece work. Since the day of the walk-out neither side has sought a conference looking to the termination of the strike. The foundry people have managed to keep running, but they have been sadly handicapped by inexperienced men. The strikers still maintain a picket whose duty it is to urge the non-union men to quit work. In many cases these appeals have been effective and the company has found it necessary to employ some new men every week during the past year. It is said that "both sides to the difficulty have lost money. Neither side has expressed a desire to state its case in the papers, as is usual in such matters, both appearing to be perfectly content to let matters stand as they are, no doubt with the feeling that each is right, and because talk would be useless. And on December 13, in Emmet Hall, the iron moulders celebrated the anniversary of the strike."

THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY WITH Cuba will be an interesting feature during the present session of congress. The president in his message has urged reciprocity and yet there are indications that his plan will meet with vigorous objection in the senate. There are some who are willing to grant a 20 per cent reduction on the duty laid on Cuban imports, but it is maintained by the Cubans that this will be of no advantage whatever and they plead for a more liberal reduction. Cuban tobacco men say a reduction of 50 per cent on raw material would be advantageous, but that they believe the better thing would be a uniform rate on wrapper and filler tobacco of 20 or 25 cents a pound.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING VISITORS to America is Dr. Adolf Lorenz of Vienna. He is a celebrated surgeon whose specialty is in the treatment of cripples. He came to this country in response to summons from one or two wealthy men who desired his services in behalf of their own children and wherever he has been he has given free clinics for the benefit of the poor. Dr. Lorenz's visit to this country has prompted an investigation on the part of surgeons in various localities as to the number of crippled children. In New York, for instance, the surgeons of Cornell university have examined 1,600 children. They were surprised to discover that among this number there were 100 having congenital dislocations of the hip, an affliction to which Dr. Lorenz pays particular attention and in the treatment of which he has been eminently successful.

AN INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF THE methods of Vienna's famous surgeon is given by Dr. V. P. Gibney in the December Review of Reviews. Dr. Gibney explains that Dr. Lorenz is one of several orthopedic surgeons who have made relentless war on all kinds of deformities and diseases which cripple a child. Dr. Gibney says that where permanent lameness comes in adult life the sympathy is not so acute as when it attacks a child in its earliest years. The appeal of the father and mother becomes truly pathetic, and it is not surprising that the best years of a man's life are devoted to the cure of these little ones. It is only within the last two or three decades that hip disease itself has been regarded as a curable malady. It is explained, however, that, after all, the large number of cases of disease involving this joint are not so relieved

that the functions of the joint are perfectly restored, and it is no wonder that thousands of children with stiff hips and shortened limbs are longing for the advent of this distinguished Viennese surgeon.

THE METHODS EMPLOYED BY DR. LORENZ do not involve cutting. These methods are described in Dr. Gibney's article in this way: "The non-bloody method means this: the forcible stretching of all the soft parts about the hip, sometimes even to the point of breaking the skin (which is rare), until the head of the bone can be brought to the place where the socket should be. If one can employ enough force to bring the head into this position, it naturally follows that a great effort is made to retain the bone sufficiently long for the formation of a socket more or less substantial. Many surgeons in this country and abroad have been able to accomplish the former, and the percentage of cures (by which is meant the retention of the bone sufficiently long for this socket to be serviceable) is just large enough to enlist still greater efforts. Now this great effort has been so persistent in the hands of Dr. Lorenz that his statistics furnish a larger percentage of perfect results. The stages of treatment are as follows: (1) The exaggerated position of the bone as related to the pelvis, extending over a period of from six to twelve months. (2) A less exaggerated position, wherein the thigh is brought midway between what is known as extreme abduction and the vertical line. This period extends over from three to six months. (3) The limb is brought into a normal position, when the fourth stage of treatment is begun—namely, massage, active and passive movements—until the function of the joint is made normal."

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IS EXPERIMENTING with a new and powerful explosive which is known as "galazit." An Associated press dispatch from Vienna says that "the explosive is the discovery of two Roumanians of Galatz—an engineer named Demetriade and a chemist, Jones. In the course of the experiments a cartridge exploded in a barrel of water threw the spray 20 feet high; another exploded in the stump of an old tree, buried several feet under ground, blew the stump to splinters and tore a great hole in the earth. Great results in the way of shattering iron were obtained by the inventors, and the government experts regard the new explosive as boding ill to all existing naval and military defensive materials. It is claimed that galazit can be transported without risk and produced at a low cost."

THE DEATH OF DR. JOSEPH PARKER AT London on November 28 removed one of the most distinguished clergymen of his time. Dr. Parker was a Congregationalist. He began preaching in an humble way in 1848 at the age of eighteen years. It is said that his first pulpit was a cross beam spanning a salt pit and that the pulpit he held at the time of his death was made of solid marble and cost \$1,500, the church building in which he preached, known as the City Temple, having been erected at a cost of \$350,000. He was a forcible and dramatic speaker and had a personal acquaintance which extended into all sections of the world.

SITTING IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT court at Richmond, Va., Chief Justice Fuller of the supreme court recently denied the injunction asked by John S. Wise, representing the negroes. Mr. Wise represented the negroes who were barred from voting by the new constitution. He asked for a writ of prohibition against the state board of canvassers restraining them from issuing election certificates on the ground that the election was illegal because of the disfranchisement of the black man. In passing upon the application Chief Justice Fuller said: "The rule heretofore entered herein is discharged and a preliminary order denied—this for want of jurisdiction. The writ is not sought in aid of jurisdiction nor does it appear that there is no other remedy. The proceeding is in effect against the commonwealth, which is in any view an indispensable party, and the matter being political, cannot be disposed of in such a proceeding." Regarding the matter of equity the decision was that a court of equity has no jurisdiction in such a case. Mr. Wise announced that he would carry the case to the supreme court and would file at least fifty suits of \$5,000 each against the members of the constitutional convention. These would be for damages alleged to have been sustained by negroes in be-

ing disfranchised. Mr. Wise further announced that he would go to Washington and institute proceedings to prevent the newly chosen congressman in one district from taking his seat, basing his protest on the ground that a number of voters had been disfranchised.

ALTHOUGH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY in its national platforms has repeatedly promised statehood to the territories there seems to be little hope for the passage of an omnibus bill granting admission to Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. In the last session of congress the delegates from each of these territories agreed to work for an omnibus bill or nothing. The house committee on territories reported favorably and a measure is now pending before the senate committee of which Mr. Beveridge is chairman. It is said that Senators Allison, Aldrich, Hale, Platt, Cullom, Lodge, Hanna and Beveridge are opposed to the omnibus bill, but that they are willing that Oklahoma should be admitted. It is believed that in spite of the agreement on the part of the delegates from these territories the result will be the admission of Oklahoma and the rejection at this time of the claims of Arizona and New Mexico.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES has reported a substitute for the house omnibus statehood bill. This substitute provides for the admission of one new state comprising the territory of Oklahoma and including Indian territory, the new state to take the name of Oklahoma. The bill makes no reference to New Mexico or Arizona and is intended as a substitute for the omnibus bill which was designed to admit the three territories by one measure. It seems to be taken for granted that this bill will pass and that the influences adverse to Arizona and New Mexico will see to it that the ambition of those territories is not realized.

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM OF 1896 HELD out the hope that the territories would be admitted; and no one could obtain from that platform the inference that any discrimination would be shown. Indeed, the opposition to the admission of Arizona and New Mexico does not seem to be entirely popular among the rank and file of republicans. The Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, while admitting that Oklahoma has the best claim of the three territories doubts whether it is worth while to draw distinctions at the present time. The Record-Herald says: "The fact is that the republicans are stopped by their own record from debating the matter, as if there were nothing to consider but the relative merits of the applicants. The standard of comparison is a historical one, which they have helped to establish, and, judged by it, all three are entitled to admission."

ACCORDING TO THIS REPUBLICAN AUTHORITY "argumentative refinements of the character of the population will deceive no one since republicans are not in a position to moralize." Referring to the republicans the Record-Herald says: "They took in Nevada and Idaho and Wyoming because they wanted their votes in house and senate, and for no other reason. It was a clear case of opportunism, and that is the policy which actuates them now. They are simply availing themselves of the chance to keep out two territories because the latter might strengthen their opponents."

OKLAHOMA HAS ALREADY A LARGER population than many of the states and it will come in with the largest population ever credited to a new state, having something in excess of 400,000, is a fact pointed out by this republican paper. New Mexico had 195,000 at the last census; Arizona, 123,000. Nevada, which was admitted in 1864, had only 42,491 in 1870 and 42,335 in 1900. Idaho and Wyoming, which were admitted in 1890, had 84,385 and 60,705, respectively, at that time, and have 161,772 and 92,531 now. Both these states had an average of less than one person to the square mile when they were admitted; all the territories seeking admission have a larger average.

THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ANTAGONISM to Arizona and New Mexico is purely political is conveyed by the Record-Herald and it says that the republican leaders would be "more worthy of trust if they would confess the truth, but even so they would not deserve support." In