

CURRENT TOPICS

DR. THOMAS W. LAUTERBORN of Morristown, N. J., is authority for the statement that walking is a sure preventive of appendicitis. Dr. Lauterborn says: "When a man is active on his feet, when he is doing considerable walking, there is no danger of his having appendicitis, for the reason that the abdominal and intestinal muscles are kept continually active, and so are in good working order all the while. The jolting given to a man's interior economy when he walks causes the muscles of the abdomen and the intestines to continually contract to offset the jar of his step, and thus they are all always in perfect condition. When the contractile function of intestinal organs is operative, the entrance to the appendix is always closed, hence the individual has no fear of appendicitis. On the other hand, when a man begins to take to the trolley car, the steam car and to the carriage in making his daily trips, he loses all that jolting which is necessary as a tonic to the muscular walls of his abdomen and intestines. So when we see a man begin to get flabby and pot-bellied, we immediately say that there is a good subject for appendicitis."

COMMENTING upon the Morristown physician's statement, the Des Moines Register and Leader says: "There are certainly ample statistics and deductions to support Dr. Lauterborn's theory. Appendicitis has increased to an alarming extent within the past decade. It has become almost a 'fad,' if disease and suffering can ever be said to be a fad. Hundreds of operations are performed for appendicitis today where one was a rarity a score of years ago. It may simply be an interesting coincidence, but appendicitis and the trolley cars have been companions in development throughout the careers of both. Dr. Lauterborn does not maintain that appendicitis is anything like that form of nervousness induced by the electric current through the car trolley, concerning which expert neurologists have been worrying the public in recent years. He does not lean toward the microbe theory. If horse cars had ever reached that stage of progress where they were as fast as a man on foot, appendicitis would have resulted just as it has in the electric car age. It's the riding; not the electricity."

IN SUPPORT of his theory, Dr. Lauterborn says that appendicitis flourishes in the cities, while it is comparatively unknown in the country, and the Register and Leader adds: "Men ride to work, ride home in the evening, sit in an office, sit at home; in a few years they are operated upon for appendicitis. Men walk the plowed fields, the country roads and the cow paths; they are healthy, happy and ignorant of appendicitis. It is only when they retire from the farm, are introduced to the trolley car and the automobile that they emulate their city-bred cousins and are operated upon. There is no nation on the earth more healthy than the English. Walking is a national pastime with them. Appendicitis is virtually an American disease. There is no nation which sends its city men, day after day, with such monotonous regularity, on trolley or steam cars, to and from work, as the American."

AN INTERESTING feature of the trial of United States Senator Burton of St. Louis was the instruction concerning majority rule given to the jury by Judge Adams. It is related that after the jury had retired and taken a vote, they entered the court room and were addressed by the judge who pointed out the great expense of a second trial and quoted from the opinions of the Missouri supreme court to show that in jury deliberations, the majority might properly rule. Some lawyers expressed the opinion that this instruction from the judge was clearly in error and may result in giving Senator Burton a new trial.

IF ONE is to believe the statements of the metropolitan newspapers the trust magnates are not afraid that the administration will proceed against them. A statistician recently said that there are now 444 large trusts in this country. Interesting comment on this subject is provided by the Boston Globe, a newspaper that supported the republican ticket in 1896 and in 1900. The Globe says: "In 1890, when the Sherman act

was passed, there were only a few trusts. The law, however, has been circumvented by the promoters of trusts, and today they control the leading money-making industries of the land. Although some of the trusts are not prosperous, their total capitalization has reached the enormous sum of \$20,379,162,511; therefore, it will be easily discerned that they are doing an active business at the old stand, in spite of all the much-praised anti-trust laws which the federal government has passed."

THE well-known writer on Wall street affairs, John Moody, has recently compiled a publication in which he asserts that 35 defunct trusts, with a capitalization of \$602,579,600, have been palmed off upon the public. Referring to these figures, the Globe says: "Even if these figures are not exactly correct, there is enough downright swindling suggested by them to raise the query: Is there not about as much if not more financial chicanery possible and practiced under combinations of capital as there was under the old-fashioned custom of competition in business enterprises?"

IT IS interesting to be told by this Boston paper that is in part responsible for the election of the republican ticket in 1896 and in 1900 that the trusts are the growth of the McKinley and Roosevelt administrations. The Globe elucidates as follows: "The seven greater industrial trusts, all New Jersey corporations, and, with the exception of one, the American sugar refining, all organized in present corporate form not earlier than 1899, are shown to have an aggregate capital of \$2,662,752,100, and to operate a total of 1,528 industrial trusts, 149 are New Jersey corporations. Thirty-four hundred and twenty-six plants are operated by the entire number, and their aggregate capital is \$4,055,539,433. Thirteen important industrial trusts, all but one organized in New Jersey, and all but three formed not earlier than 1899, are found to be in process of reorganization. The number of plants concerned in the readjustments is 334, and the aggregate capital \$528,551,000, making a grand total of \$7,246,342,533 capital involved in a total of 318 combinations."

IT IS further pointed out that in the group franchise trusts there are 1,336 plants operated, with an aggregate capital of \$3,735,456,071; in the "great steam railroad" group, 790 lines, with an aggregated capital of \$9,017,086,307, and in the "allied independent or lesser systems" group, 250 lines, with a capital of \$380,277,000, making a total of \$13,132,819,978 for the "franchise or transportation" trusts, and a grand total of capital of all trusts reaching the enormous figure of \$20,379,162,511.

IN CONNECTION herewith the Globe makes this interesting comment: "Meanwhile the Washington authorities practically acknowledge that they will not seriously injure any of the monopolies. All the conditions surrounding the trusts lead to the belief in financial circles that they are strong enough to take care of themselves in spite of the laws. It is even suspected that they feel that nothing detrimental to their interests will be attempted by the federal administration until after the presidential election. There may be a reference to them in the republican platform, but they will have plenty of time in which to concoct new schemes for their protection. They feel that the republicans have only been playing a halting part in the band-wagon crusade against them."

BOSTON is credited with being the city of culture, and yet many people will be inclined to doubt the correctness of the story sent out by the Boston correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald. The story is, however, interesting, and is as follows: "Norbert Weiner, nine years old, is ready to enter Harvard college, he already being master of several of the dead languages, higher mathematics and the sciences. He is the youngest student ever fitted for entrance to the college, and is a son of Professor Leo Weiner of Harvard. He says it is a pleasure to study and make chemical tests in a laboratory built for him.

Trouble with his eyes has forced cessation of reading for the present, but his mother reads to him an hour each day, except Saturday, which is his vacation."

THE merger distribution scheme as arranged by J. J. Hill does not find favor with E. H. Harriman. Mr. Harriman declares that he will appeal to the courts in defense of what he believes to be the right of the Union Pacific stockholders to receive Northern Pacific stock in return for Northern Securities stock, held by the Union Pacific system. Mr. Harriman and his associates are lined up against J. J. Hill and J. Pierpont Morgan. The Hill-Morgan people claim that the Union Pacific has no just ground for complaint because Mr. Harriman sold the Union Pacific holdings of the Northern Pacific stock to J. P. Morgan & Co. and not to the Northern Securities company. It is held therefore that Mr. Morgan alone has the right to object to the distribution. On the other hand, Mr. Harriman claims that the stock he transferred to J. P. Morgan & Co. was a mere formality. The New York correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "This distribution may be delayed for a time by injunctions, but the longer it is delayed the greater will be the burden of the Union Pacific, as it will then have to finance the payment of interest on the bonds based on its Northern Securities holdings and for which no return will be received as long as the Northern Securities holdings remain undistributed."

IT IS not known just what action the senate may take on the Burton case, although the opinion seems to be that nothing will be done until Senator Burton's case has been finally passed upon. There seems to be really no precedent for action in the Burton case. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "No senator ever was expelled on conviction of a crime, though members of the senate have resigned before action on charges. The first expulsion for any cause was that of William Blount, a senator from Tennessee from 1796 to 1799. A special investigating committee found him guilty of the authorship of a letter capable of various constructions, but which in his own mind, according to the letter, appeared to be 'inconsistent with the interests of the United States and Spain.' He was found guilty of high misdemeanor and a resolution of expulsion was adopted by a vote of 25 to 1."

IT IS pointed out by this same authority that for complicity in the Burr conspiracy, an action was brought to expel John Smith, a senator from Ohio, until he resigned April 25, 1808. Indictments had been found against Senator Smith in the courts of Virginia, but he was not convicted. When the resolutions for expulsion were presented to the senate the vote, after long debate, resulted 19 yeas and 10 nays. Two-thirds of the senate not concurring, he was not expelled, but about two weeks later he resigned. Several of the southern senators were expelled when their states seceded. Jesse D. Bright, senator for Indiana from March 4, 1845, to February 5, 1862, was expelled on the charge of disloyalty to the United States after it was shown he had written a letter to Jefferson Davis, president of the confederacy, introducing a Texan whose business was to dispose of "an improvement in firearms." Another case where a senator resigned without final action having been taken on charges brought against him is that of James F. Simmons, who, while a senator from Rhode Island, resigned in August, 1862, under charges that he had received compensation on government contracts.

IN HIS testimony in his own defense, Senator Burton said that in seeking to build up a private law practice in Washington, he was simply doing what most other senators have done. Washington correspondents say that Mr. Burton is not at all popular among his colleagues, and the correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The developments of the trial at St. Louis added nothing to Mr. Burton's popularity. His references to his colleagues were distasteful to them, and his allusions to their methods of increasing