

ished by Mrs. Lizzie Hoffman, of Anthony, N. J. She has worked on it day and night for ten years, and her handiwork has brought to completion a coverlid of silken patches in which there are 14,600 pieces, no two of them alike in texture or shape. There have been patchwork quilts made in all parts of the country for years, and some have taken just as much time to put together as Mrs. Hoffman's and have contained just as many pieces and perhaps more, but what makes her quilt distinctive above all others, is that every one of the 14,600 patches has been taken from the hat of a bride, and the collection has come from all parts of the United States, so that the bed covering represents just 14,600 weddings. It is a beautiful piece of work and the arrangement of the shades is not the least attractive part of the spread without considering the novel character of the pieces that make up the whole."

WRITING on "Our Enormous Pension Bill" in the World's Work, Robert Lincoln O'Brien relates some interesting stories. This writer says that a case is well authenticated of a man drawing a pension for deafness incurred in the service when his playmates remembered that this infirmity was so pronounced in boyhood that he always sat in the front seat at school, and was even called by them "Deafe." Of course, no one can say that this infirmity may not have been greatly accentuated by war service. The story of a man who applied for a pension for injuries received by "taking fright at a false alarm" has become classical. In the old Gulf States, where colored veterans and a few Northern people are about the only Federal pensioners, the desire to get at the Federal Treasury is no less strong. "I had a man come to me," relates an Alabaman, "to say that he wanted to get a general law pension for injuries really received from being thrown out of a buggy at Racine, Wis., ten years after the war. He acknowledged that the procedure was not quite regular, but he justified his course by saying that it was only a question of time when every Union soldier would get a pension, and as he might not live to see that day himself, he wanted to take time by the forelock by getting his share now."

IT IS further related by this same writer that there is a true story of a man who drew a pension for total deafness on the certificate of an examining board and was subsequently discovered in charge of a telephone instrument. One man who was a pensioner on the score of total blindness was found reading newspapers and doing cabinet work; another man, officially certified blind by the United States Government, was encountered in a jewelry shop engaged in delicate mechanical tasks with a magnifying glass stuck in his eye. A man drawing \$72 a month because "he required the regular aid and attendance of another person" on account of his disabilities, was seen industriously painting the side of a four-story warehouse, having drawn himself up on a twenty-foot ladder, handling both the ropes without assistance. While these cases are, of course, exceptional, their existence even in rare instances is proof of defects in the medical examination system.

THE trust issue was discussed in the Senate April 25th. Senator Bacon of Georgia made an interesting reply to a speech delivered by Senator Dolliver of Iowa. The Washington correspondent for the New York Herald says: "A letter written to Mr. Frick by Mr. Schwab while the Steel Trust was being formed was read by Senator Bacon to bear out his contention that under the operation of the Dingley schedules the manufacturers of steel in this country are selling their product abroad at a far lower figure than they are selling similar products to the home consumer. This letter showed that when steel rails were bringing \$28 a ton in the home market Mr. Schwab explained to his associates in the steel business that the American manufacturers were able to meet the English manufacturers in their own market at the cost of production there—\$16 a ton—and yet have a profit of \$4 a ton. American manufacturers could turn out their product at \$12 a ton and sell to the American purchaser at \$28 a ton, which was being done. This was declared to mean that the extra cost of production, the cost of transportation, and the tariff of \$7.80 a ton not only protected the American producers from the possibility of competition at the hands of foreign manufacturers, but enabled them to

charge an excessive and extortionate price, which the home consumer was compelled to pay."

LOVERS of goobers are face to face with a peanut famine. A writer in the Chicago Chronicle says that the South has furnished the peanut supply; but adds: "The spirit of latter-day commercialism has seized upon the South and threatens to sever the bond through which that section has contributed so greatly to the gustatory delight of the Nation. It appears that cotton and goobers thrive best in the same kind of soil, and the high price of cotton has caused Southern planters to devote almost their entire acreage to that staple. As the demand for cotton is increasing more rapidly even than the demand for peanuts, it is most probable that they will continue to discriminate in favor of the former staple despite its fluctuating value, and against the latter, notwithstanding the fact that the price always remains the same, five cents a bag, the country over. The effect that failure to cultivate the peanut will have upon the social relations of the masses, especially the juvenile element, can only be surmised, and any surmise will be fraught with dark forebodings. Necessarily the decline of the peanut will have a tendency to restrict the pleasures of recreation, foreshadowing as it does the doom of the gallery god and the degeneration of the circus into a hollow mockery."

A PROJECT is under consideration for the creation of a clinic in New York City where diseases may be treated by hypnotic suggestion. A writer in the New York World, referring to this plan says: "Such a clinic might serve a good purpose in cases of chronic alcoholism, this form of disease having shown itself readily amenable to hypnotic treatment. Dr. Lloyd Tuckey's statistics from various sources show its successful use. His own practice gives the number of cases treated as 93, with 75 cures. Milne Bramwell shows 76 cases with 28 cures (17 men and 11 women). Both observers record instances of "benefit" in addition to those registered as "cured." Tokarsky, of Moscow, states that he has treated more than 700 patients, including representatives from all classes of the community, and claims to have cured 80 per cent of those who wished to be cured and submitted themselves voluntarily to his treatment. He finds 15 to 20 hypnotic suggestions to be generally sufficient, but keeps the patient under observation for a year and does not reckon the case a "cure" until at least twelve months have passed without relapse. De Jong, of The Hague, has treated 41 drunkards in thirteen years, and reports 19 of them as cured; in some instances the cure has been illustrated by ten years' abstinence. Dr. Tuckey urges that alcoholic subjects ought to be given the chance of hypnotic treatment and points out the advantage this method possesses over confinement in a retreat. He finds most alcoholics are good hypnotic subjects."

AN INTERESTING senate document recently issued reproduces an article written by J. Arthur Hutton, vice-president of the British Cotton Growing Association. Mr. Hutton says: "The one solid fact which stares us in the face is that the present supply of cotton is insufficient to keep the spindles of the world fully employed, and the cotton trade has developed into a scramble for the available supplies. Such a position is the opportunity of the speculator, and so long as there is no material increase in the growth of cotton, so long will the user be at the mercy of the gambler. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary now to draw the attention of mill owners or of the operatives to the danger of the position. They recognized this fully last year if they had not done so before, but I think it is only within the last few months that the merchants and distributees have begun to realize that they too are to suffer. Nor do I suppose that even today it is fully realized by those who are engaged in the many subsidiary industries connected with the cotton trade that they as well are dependent on King Cotton, still less by others who will only feel the full effects of the disaster."

CONSIDERING the outlook for the future Mr. Hutton says: "That the present supply is insufficient we all must now admit, and where are we to look for an increase of supply? I am afraid not to the United States. The population of that great country is today about 80,000,000, and is increasing rapidly, and their own requirements of cotton goods, and consequently of cotton, are increasing in proportion. Although in North

America there is land enough to produce far more cotton than is grown today, there is not sufficient labor to effectively cultivate the 28,000,000 acres now supposed to be under cotton. Five years ago 23,000,000 acres provided 11,250,000 bales of cotton; today it is doubtful whether we shall have 10,500,000 bales from a largely increased acreage. I have been informed that many of the laborers have drifted to the towns, and however good the weather may be on many farms cotton has to remain on the trees until it is spoiled by the weather for want of labor to gather it."

IT IS pointed out by this same authority that the consumption of cotton in the United States ten years ago was about 2,500,000 bales. In the following five years it increased to 3,000,000 bales. During the last five years it has increased to 4,000,000. The consumption in the North has been practically stationary, and the whole of the increase has been practically in the South. Mr. Hutton concludes: "I do not think this increase will continue quite so rapidly in the next few years, partly because much of the surplus cheap labor has been absorbed and partly because the present high price of cotton can not fail seriously to check consumption; but I think that we can make up our minds that the United States will use more of their own cotton every year, with the natural consequence that if other supplies are not forthcoming Europe and the rest of the world will have to go short. The problem today before the world is where those supplies are to come from, and the solution of this problem is the raison d'être of the British Cotton Growing Association; and it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that the movement now started is one of the most important in the world's history. Similar associations are at work in Germany, France and Italy, while Russia is also endeavoring to supplement her supplies by cotton cultivation in her Asiatic possessions. The British movement however, is much more important, for the field to be covered is so much larger. Let us fully realize that on the success or failure of this movement the future of our great cotton trade depends."

THOUSANDS have read the little book entitled "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." It is claimed that the original Mrs. Wiggs is Mary Bass, living at Louisville, Ky. The Courier-Journal says that the original "Mrs. Wiggs" was brought before the Louisville police judge recently on the charge that "she had emptied a jar of dish-water and potato parings on the head of Mrs. Emily Smith of Hazelwood, Ky." The Courier-Journal says: "The battle of the cabbage patch was fought at the rear of the Bass domicile, whither Mrs. Smith had gone after repeated but ineffectual efforts, to gain admission at the front door. The explanation offered by Mrs. Smith was simple. Having read "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," her tender heart was moved by the simple story of the brave fight against poverty, going on so close to her door, and straightway she left her home in the placid environs of Louisville, and hastened to the rescue. Her sympathies were sadly ruffled by the inhospitable welcome which she had received, and the spirit of charity was transformed into a spirit of revenge."

THE unappreciative woman who, by unkind fate, has been brought into unsought notoriety under the cognomen of Mrs. Wiggs, explained her strenuousness in this way: "Sure an' yer honor, I won't stand for it no longer, that I won't. It's Mrs. Wiggs here and Mrs. Wiggs there, until an honest body don't have no time to rest. There's not a day goes by, sor, but some meddlesome body comes a putterin' around to see the 'cabbage patch.' Hiven save the mark. Do I look like a Mrs. Wiggs, yer honor, and sure there ain't no cabbage patch inside of two blocks from where I live. An' now here comes along this prying creature, with her swishin' petticoats and her shiny shoes, and nothing will do but she will see 'Mrs. Wiggs.'" Here the frate inhabitant of the cabbage patch designated the Mrs. Smith by a contemptuous gesture of her strong right arm. "Mrs. Wiggs, indade, sor. It ain't no wonder that I let her have my dirty dishwater. It's good enough fer the likes of her. I was happy, onct, yer honor," continued Miss Bass. "My little home it wasn't very big but it was good enough fer me, but here comes along somebody and puts me in a book, and now its all different. Sure this bein' famous ain't what its cracked up to be. They're just making my life wretched, yer honor."