# INDIAN CASES IN IOWA COURT

Celebrated Suits from Tama Reservation to Come Up in October.

TO DETERMINE STATUS OF MUSQUAKIES

**Most Backward and Reactionary Tribe in the United States—Claims for Damages Involve the Loss of Long Black Hair.**

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

DES MOINES, Aug. 6.—(Special.)—The celebrated Indian cases from the Tama reservation are now set for trial in the United States district court for the northern district of Iowa at the coming October term before Judge Shiras. These cases involve questions which do not often come before the courts in Iowa and some questions which appear not to have been passed on by the courts here or any place else. The whole question of the relationship of the United States government to the Indian tribes with which the government has made treaties will be entered upon and especially as applied to a case, as in Iowa, where the Indians, while maintaining a tribal government and relying on treaty rights for protection, do not live on any specific reservation, but own land in fee simple and are in a large measure independent of the government and of the state.

The status of the Musquakie Indians, or remnant of the once populous Sac and Fox tribes, which became merged nearly a century ago, is anomalous and of uncertain definition. When the treaties were made under which these Indians agreed to go to the Indian country of the southwest some of the leaders of the tribe protested and, as they were never satisfied in Kansas, they asked permission at the time they were sent to the territory to remove back to their former Iowa homes. As there was no government land in large tracts at that time they were given permission to return to Iowa on condition they would buy their own land and give up their annuities. This they did. They bought, with their own money, a big farm in Tama county, Iowa, right on the line of the Northwestern railroad, and by making additional purchases they now have a farm of about 3,000 acres. Originally the Indians placed the title to this farm in the governors of Iowa in trust for the benefit of the tribe, but this involved the state in more or less of trouble with the Indians and a few years ago the state gave control of the farm to the Indian bureau, so that the tribe might be brought under the general laws for regulation of Indians. Previous to this time, however, the annuities had been restored to the Iowa branch of the Sac and Foxes, at the instance of merchants and traders living in that part of the state, who wanted the profit from trading with Indians.

**Rebellious Old Chiefs.**

The Musquakie Indians in Iowa are noted as the most backward and reactionary of any of the Indians of the United States. They own a magnificent farm, which they cultivate in part or lease, and the rents from this, with the annuities, give them a comfortable income, but they maintain their tribal relations, practice polygamy in a modified form, live in tepees rather than houses, wear blankets and dress as did their ancestors and refuse to permit their children to attend school. To make it easier to enforce attendance at school one was established at the agency, for the United States has maintained an agent there ever since the annuities were restored. The old chiefs rebelled against this. They declared they would never submit to enforced attendance at school for the younger members of the tribe. Under the Cleveland administration Horace M. Rebok, now editor of a magazine in Chicago, was made agent and he undertook to compel attendance at school. He and the school superintendent entered upon a long and bitter contest with the old chiefs who were in rebellion. This resulted in several personal encounters and in the arrest and prosecution of some of the offenders. To overcome the objections of some of the chiefs they were formally deposed by the agent and a chief brought from Kansas, where a few of the Indians live, and he was put in the place of the chosen chief of this tribe. This but aroused fiercer resentment on the part of the Iowa band and for many months they were sullen. Another controversy was brought up and that was in relation to some old claims, and for a year or so the Indians refused to accept annuities until these old claims were disposed of. Only this summer has this matter been disposed of and in June last the Indians were paid. Their chiefs had made a journey to Washington to see the commissioner of Indian affairs and a temporary settlement was effected.

**Damage Suits Begun.**

The most important of the lawsuits to come up at the October term of court before Judge Shiras is one brought by Pa-Kee-ka-Ma-Que, chief of the Sac and Fox Indians in Iowa, by and through his next best friend, A-Saw-Wah-Cah-So, against Agent Rebok, claiming of him as agent of the United States government the sum of $50,000. The petition recites that the plaintiff is the chief of the Sac and Fox Indians, residing in Iowa; that these Indians are under tribal laws; that they are protected by treaties with the United States; that they are not citizens of the United States; that they are not subject to the laws of Iowa; that Agent Rebok, without warrant of law and in violation of the rights of the tribe, performed certain damaging acts between the years 1890 and 1897; that he willfully, unlawfully and contrary to the constitution and laws of the United States and the acts of congress, and also contrary to existing treaties with said Indians, abused and ignored their head men, officers and chief, and set over them a bogus or false chief of his own arbitrary creation, a renegade from Kansas, to-wit, one Push-E-Ten-Neke-Que, a step maliciously taken preparatory to the abuse of their tribal property rights, and further unlawfully took possession of the greater part of their lands, rents and profits thereof, while acting as such agent, for malicious and selfish and corrupt purposes and contrary to the constitution and laws, acts of congress of the United States and existing treaties with said tribal Indians, and unlawfully converted the rents and profits thereof to his own use and benefit." These rents are represented to be of the value of $36,000. The suit is brought for the benefit of the entire tribe. This suit was commenced last spring, but not until within a few days has it been possible to get service on the defendant, and, this having been done, the case has gone on the docket for a hearing. The Indians are represented by a firm of able attorneys and the case will be pushed for all it is worth.

**Loss of Long Black Hair.**

Another of the suits is of an entirely different sort, but at the bottom involves the same principles, with a few others added. This is the case of Ma-Ka-Ta-Wah Qua-Twa, or Black Cloud, against H. M. Rebok, former Indian agent, and W. A. Hunter, warden of the penitentiary at Anamosa. The petitioner says he is 49 years old, has always been a good Indian, was never accused of any crime save in this instance, where he was accused of violating section 5436 of the revised statutes; that Agent Rebok caused him to be arrested and convicted and sent to the penitentiary at Anamosa for two years, well knowing he had not committed any crime; that he was not amenable to the laws of the state of Iowa or of the United States, and that Warden Hunter unlawfully deprived him of his liberty, etc. He further alleges that the defendants, "well knowing that the plaintiff as a tribal Indian was innocent and not guilty of violating any United States laws or statutes, did maliciously and unlawfully humiliate, disgrace and disfigure the plaintiff by depriving him of and cutting off his long black hair that he had spent a lifetime in growing and placed him in disgraceful stripes, etc."

For this Black Cloud asks damages in the sum of $10,000 against Rebok and Hunter.

A similar case is that of Jim Peters, the tribal interpreter, against John Cone, sheriff of Linn county, asking $5,000 damages for alleged false imprisonment in the Linn county jail for six weeks. The same questions are involved as in the larger suit against Rebok and Hunter.

The peculiar thing about all these cases and which gives ground for the suits is the fact that the Indian agent and the superintendent of schools, in attempting to control the Indians and enforce attendance at school, resorted to the state courts and in some instance procured letters of guardianship for Indians. This resort to state authority was resisted by the Indians. In some minor suits brought by them in the federal court Judge Shiras has held that the Indian agent must derive all his authority from the general government and that the state courts can have no jurisdiction, at least in civil maters, on the Indian farm. It is upon this ground that the Indians claim that all the acts of the agent referred to were illegal, that the misappropriation of the rents was made and Indians unlawfully imprisoned. If the Indians make good their claims the Iowa delegation in congress will ask for immediate legislation affecting the status of these Indians in Iowa. The condition of affairs there cannot continue indefinitely. The Indians are a blot on the Iowa landscape and will continue to be unless there is some improvement in their condition. The suits will therefore have a state-wide interest and settle some questions upon which national legislation is likely to be needed.

**Hummelguard Not Guilty.**

Max Hummelguard, who was arrested on suspicion of having had something to do with the fire at Lauritsen & Andreason's restaurant, 1519 and 1521 Dodge street, has been released, the police having ascertained that they made a mistake in apprehending him. Lauritsen & Andreason deny the published statement that they were the proprietors of the United States restaurant at the time a fire occurred there.

# AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

**Special Committee of the City Council to Investigate Mud Creek Sewer.**

RESIDENTS OF ALBRIGHT COMPLAIN

**Figures on Live Stock Receipts for July Make a Splendid Showing—Dr. Johnson Goes East on Account of Sickness.**

A special committee composed of Councilmen Adkins, Martin and Johnston will investigate the complaints made about Mud creek sewer and will make a report to the council at its next meeting.

It is understood that the committee will be invited by the stock yards company to make a tour through the eight-foot sewer, which commences near the L street viaduct and ends just south of Swift's. As trips of a similar nature have been made by investigating committees a number of times in the past it is not thought that there will be any startling developments. It is asserted that enough water is turned into this sewer every day to keep it clean. Lye from the packing houses is also run through the sewer, but in spite of the quantities of water and the lye residents of Albright continue to complain about the stench which constantly arises from the creek.

Those who are interested in seeing this alleged nuisance abated will watch with considerable interest the report of this special committee. People living in the southern and western portions of the city are of the opinion that this stock yards sewer should be continued on to the river, but they do not think that the city should shoulder even half of the burden, as the creek is used almost exclusively by the corporations. The special committee will be called upon to report either for or against the voting of bonds for the continuation of the stock yards sewer to the river.

Referring to the communication sent in by the stock yards company in this matter a member of the council said: "All this talk about a grand jury being called to investigate this alleged nuisance is all bosh. If the legal officials of Sarpy county are in earnest in their desire to have Mud creek purified why did they not send a notice of some sort to the city. Their failure to do this is evidence that the city is not held amenable for the condition of the creek. The fact that notices were sent to the corporations goes to show that the blame, if there be any, is placed just where it belongs." Continuing, this official said that a bond proposition as outlined by a representative of the corporations would never carry.

**July Live Stock Receipts.**

Although July is generally considered to be a light month in the live stock market here the totals for last month show that a great deal of business was transacted. Out of 53,502 head of cattle received here 37,219 head were slaughtered here and 1,608 head were driven to the country. Of the 235,000 head of hogs received here 225,565 head were packed here. Sheep recipts numbered 92,000 head and 56,800 head were sent to the abattoire here, the balance going to feed lots in this vicinity. As compared with the same period of time last year there is now an increase in receipts of 124,280 head of hogs and 7,492 head of sheep. A decrease of 26,000 cattle is shown, but this, it is stated, is because of the scarcity of cattle and the disinclination of shippers to sell stock at this time. It is stated by those who have canvassed the situation that on account of the partial failure of the corn crop there will not be a very vigorous demand for feeder cattle this summer and fall. Ranchmen will, it is stated, hold their yearlings and 2-year-olds and ship only beef steers to market this fall.

**Public Light Committee.**

Since the reorganization of the city council August Miller is chairman of the committee on public lights. Mr. Miller has of late given considerable time and attention to the lighting question and he promises to make a report of the condition of the electric street lights now in service before long. It is rumored that proper reports about street lights being out are not being made and that the reductions in the lighting bills which should be made are not. Mr. Miller expects to cut down the lighting bill to a considerable extent before the end of the year by watching small leaks.

**Reorganized Committees.**

Under the existing organization of the city council Ed Johnston will have charge of the city's finances, while Fred Martin will act as chairman of the judiciary committee and use his blue pencil on ordinances which are referred to his committee. When matters pertaining to streets and alleys come up Dworak will be the person to see, as he is chairman of the committee on viaducts, streets and alleys. Owing to his previous experience in the council Vansant was given the chairmanship of the committee on fire and water, while August Miller will look after the public lights. President Adkins has charge of public buildings and grounds, and Miller will censor printing bills. It is thought that these chairmanships will remain unchanged during the life of the present council.

**Rev. Johnson Returns.**

Rev. Dr. J. A. Johnson, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, returned yesterday from a month's western trip. While away Dr. Johnson visited Portland and San Francisco and other points of interest. During his stay in San Francisco Dr. Johnson visited Chinatown and was quite interested with what he saw. He went with a party of nine and said that the experience was well worth the money required for guides. Upon reaching home Dr. Johnson received a telegram announcing the serious illness of his brother at Franklin, Ind. The doctor left over the Burlington at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon for the east and will not return to South Omaha until there is a decided change in his brother's condition.

**Slow About Walks.**

Although permanent sidewalk districts have been created by the council and this body has resoluted until it is black in the face there is no seeming effort on the part of taxpayers to lay permanent walks and thus comply with the provisions of the ordinance. Within a very short time the limit for property owners to comply with the ordinance will expire and then the city will proceed through the regular contractor to lay walks and charge the cost to the abutting property.

**New Resort.**

Colonel J. B. Watkins, secretary of the Pontoon Bridge and Ferry company, said yesterday afternoon that he had just concluded arrangements for the placing of a number of lights in the park on the Iowa side of the river opposite the Missouri avenue landing of the ferryboat. A bandstand is being erected and swings and seats will also be arranged for. Secretary Watkins thinks that the landings will be completed so that regular trips of the ferryboat will be commenced in about a week.

**Magic City Gossip.**

E. Lund has gone to Mobile, Ala., to look after business matters.

Mrs. E. B. Donaldson of Avoca, Ia., is here visiting Mrs. Miles Mitchell.

A son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. William Berry, Twenty-sixth and D streets.

Mrs. J. B. Watkins has gone to the mountains of Colorado to spend a couple of weeks.

Miss Lizzie Baugham of Sioux City is the guest of Mrs. Frank Spear, Twenty-fourth and I streets.

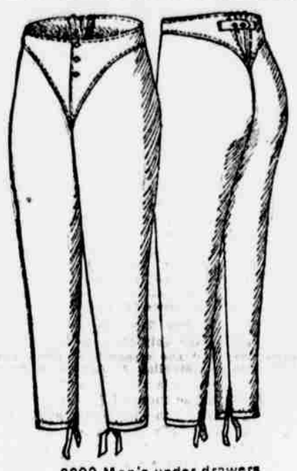
George H. Brewer writes from Norwich, N. Y., that he is enjoying his vacation, which he is spending with relatives.

Acting Mayor Adkins was busy yesterday signing warrants for the claims allowed Monday night by the council.

A petition has been presented to the council requesting the location of a fire hydrant at Thirteenth street and Missouri avenue.

Members of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal church will give a lawn social at the home of F. E. Sandwell, 726 North Eighteenth street, this evening. Refreshmen's will be served.

## Seasonable Fashions



3900 Men's under drawers 32 to 44 waist

Men's Under Drawers, No. 3900—Well fitting, correctly cut under drawers are conducive to masculine comfort, as well as appearance, and are still far better when made for the individual than when purchased ready to wear. For warm weather jean or muslin is correct; for winter use heavier wear, cotton flannel or flannelette.

The model shown is cut in the best possible lines and can be relied upon to give satisfaction. The leg portions fit snugly and are left open at the ankle to allow greater ease in slipping on and off, tapes being attached by means of which they can be held snug. The yoke is smooth and additional freedom is provided by the gusset, which can be enlarged or reduced in size by means of the strap and buckle, or buttons, as here illustrated.

To cut these drawers for a man of medium size 3¼ yards of material 36 inches wide or 4 yards 27 inches wide will be required.

The pattern 3900 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 38, 40, 42 and 44-inch waist measure.

**For the accommodation of The Bee's readers these patterns, which usually retail at from 25 to 50 cents, will be furnished at a nominal price, 10 cents, which covers all expense. In order to get any pattern enclose 10 cents, give number and name of pattern wanted and bust measure. Allow about ten days from date of your letter before beginning to look for the pattern. Address, Pattern Department, Omaha Bee.**

# NEW BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Translation of Popular Italian Novel of Neapolitan Life.

STORY OF A DRONE AND A DREAMER

**New Edition of a Popular Scientific Work on the Flowers of Field and Garden—News Concerning the Publishers.**

This has been an exceedingly dull week with the makers and sellers of books and very few new ones have come to hand. Only now and then a straggler puts in an appearance as if determined to be in ample time for the rush when the outing people will return from the seashore and mountain and when reading will again be in vogue. In the way of fiction the most important volume of the week is unquestionably "The Land of Cockayne." Although little known in America, Matilda Serrao is one of the most famous figures in modern Italian literature, many critics according to her a higher place than to D'Annunzio. "The Land of Cockayne," meaning the land of idleness and luxurious ease, the "Land of Cakes," is a study of life in Naples and deals with the lottery and its evil effects upon the people. The story is powerful and intensely dramatic and the characters are drawn from every grade of society. A delicate and beautiful love story runs through the tale, the love of a famous physician, a man of the people, for the daughter of a noble but impoverished house, whose father has wrecked his fortune and his mind in an attempt to win riches from the lottery. As a sensuous picture of Neapolitan life the story is vivid, fascinating, entrancing. In private life the author is known as the wife of Edward Scarfoglio, a Neapolitan journalist. Her talent seems to have been inherited from her father, who was also a journalist, one of that unfortunate group who suffered exile during the closing years of Bourbon sway in southern Italy. It was during this exile that the author was born in Patras, Greece, in 1857. For upward of a quarter of a century she has had an active experience in journalism, both in Rome and Naples, and to this training, no doubt, much of her vivid and graphic style is due, as well as the fact that she is the only one of the prominent living novelists in Italy who has equaled the writers of fiction in other countries in the prolific output of her literary work. Her recent visit to the "Holy Land" has resulted in a delightful volume, entitled "The Land of Jesus." It is to be hoped that this work will also appear in English. Harper & Bros., New York. Price, $1.50.

Nelson Lloyd has brought out a new work entitled "A Drone and a Dreamer." Mr. Lloyd will be remembered as the author of "The Chronic Loafer," a series of humorous sketches of drowsy life in an out-of-the-way Pennsylvania town. The scene of the present volume is also in Pennsylvania and the surroundings remind one of the localities in the former work and they are most vividly described. The people are good-natured and acute and also very comfortably situated. The plot runs along like a murmuring brook, so well has the writer done his work and the contest for The Girl is at once whimsical and carnest, the best man getting her at the last. It is a wholesome book, full of delightful situations and capitally planned and worked out. The author's style is excellently simple and his work is always well done. The book is one to stay with to the end and no one could possibly feel like doing anything else. J. F. Taylor & Co., New York. Price, $1.50.

It is not often that a scientific work reaches a sixth edition within as many years, but that is what has happened to F. Schuyler Matthews' "Familiar Flowers of Field and Garden." The earlier editions which brought both pleasure and instruction to a very large number of people were rapidly exhausted and to meet the steady demand the publishers have been forced to bring out a sixth edition. The author has taken advantage of the opportunity to bring the work down to the very latest date and at the same time has made some valuable additions in the way of photographs, showing the appearance of some of our most common wild flowers. Nothing could be daintier than the representation of some of the commonest wild flowers. People who take an interest in flowers and constantly find themselves wondering what might be the name of this or that blossom, should take with them on their outings a copy of this work. They would be surprised to find the amount of satisfaction that could be derived from it. The large number of plates makes it very easy to identify most any plant that one is liable to come across. The plan of the work is to consider first the flowers that open in March and April, then those opening in April and May, then those in May, then May and June; May, June and July; May, June, July and August; June, July and August; June to October; June, July, August and September; July to October; July, August and September; August to November; September and November. A systematic index gives the names, colors and localities of familiar flowers of the United States, including a floral calendar, and there is a separate index for localities. The work is most interesting, valuable and convenient; it is clear in statement and accurate in description, while the illustrations are admirably faithful and well brought out. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Price, $1.40 net.

**Current Magazines.**

A species of grape that has roots like potatoes, leaves like the wax plant and dies back to the ground in winter, is the subject for the serial chromo by Prang in Meehans' Monthly. It was discovered in Arkansas by Nuttall in the early part of the last century, and named by him vitis incisa. The popular natural history column treats of the food of squirrels in hard times, and we are told that robins and other birds are polygamous when there are not enough of either sex to go round. Carnivorous plants are treated of, and while arrangements for catching insects are conceded the various forms of pitcher plants are regarded as inexplainable. In the general gardening department much space is accorded to the destruction of insects and fungus diseases by the modern practice of spraying.

Bird Lore for August continues the helpful series of papers on "Birds and Seasons" in which the student is told just what birds he may expect to find, what he should study and what he should read during the month.

**Literary Notes.**

Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. announce that their list for the early autumn will include twenty-five titles, embracing eleven books of fiction, six juveniles, four works in belles-lettres, two gift books, one work in sociology and one collection of original verse. Fourteen of these books will be illustrated.

The American Illustrated Methodist Magazine for July begins with an article by James Main Dixon, descriptive of the reform school at Booneville, Mo., which the superintendent, Colonel Drake, formerly of Indiana, has established on an excellent basis, making it in very truth a "model reform school." The illustrations are numerous and attractive. There is a companion article, by Mrs. Susie Mathis of Memphis, Tenn., also well illustrated, which deals with a "Model Sunday School" in her city, of which Mr. Pepper is superintendent.

Little, Brown & Co. report that Mary W. Tileston's "Daily Strength for Daily Needs" has reached a total sale of over 200,000 copies. The book is made up of selections from the scriptures and of passages from various ancient and modern authors that reinforce the Divine thought. "These words of the goodly fellowship of wise and holy men of many times," says the author, "it is hoped may help to strengthen the reader to perform the duties and to bear the burdens of each day with cheerfulness and courage." That the book has fulfilled its purpose is attested by the constant demand it has met with.

Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co.'s books for the fall, which number twenty-five titles, will be especially noteworthy in point of illustration. Among the artists represented are some of the best known in the country—the Misses Margaret and Helen Maitland Armstrong, John H. Vanderpoel, Max F. Klepper, J. Carter Beard, Jay Hambidge and Will H. Drake being included. An ambitious venture of this firm is a large quarto work on rugs, which will be illustrated with full-page plates in the finest colortype process, reproducing exactly the most brilliant colors of typical and elaborately-patterned rugs.

The above books are for sale by the Megeath Stationery Co., 1308 Farnam St.

Megeath Stationery Co. 1308 Farnam St. Telephone 234.

**A Kimball Endorsement—**

After ample and careful examination of all the instruments now prominently before the world, we find a preponderence of artistic and mechanical excellence in favor of the Kimball piano. In the exacting requirements of perfect construction and in the deeper matter of tone in the service of the highest art, we find the Kimball to be the masterpiece of the human race to the present time. The piano thus endorsed by the collective genius and authorities of the world may be found in large variety

**A. HOSPE,**

Music and Art. 1513-1515 Douglas.

**These August Days—**

You shouldn't forget that your children are growing—and the way they grow now marks them for life—It's the most natural thing in the world for a child to turn in the toes when walking and it's a mighty hard thing to change nature when once it gets set—We've a new shoe for children that has a specially constructed sole that forces the foot out in walking so that the foot will grow into the proper position—The comfort of this shoe is something wonderful.

**Drexel Shoe Co.,**

Catalogue Sent Free for the Asking. Omaha's Up-to-date Shoe House. 1418 FARNAM STREET.

**The Kursaal Cafe—**

at Manhattan Beach, Lake Manawa, is gaining in popularity daily—The table d'hote dinners set by Caterer Balduff—at the reasonable price of 75 cents—are appreciated by hundreds of people who enjoy a good dinner—Parties are now formed nightly who go to the lake—enjoy a good swim—and are then served with an excellent dinner—such as Mr. Balduff only can serve—The hour for dinner is from 6 to 8 o'clock.

**W. S. Balduff,**

1520 Farnam St.

**MILLIONS OF WOMEN**

**Preserve, Purify, and Beautify the Skin, Scalp, Hair, and Hands with**

**Cuticura SOAP**

MILLIONS OF WOMEN use CUTICURA SOAP, assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and irritations, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Millions of Women use CUTICURA SOAP in baths for annoying irritations, inflammations, and excoriations, or too free or offensive perspiration, in washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes, which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers. CUTICURA SOAP combines in one soap at one price, the best skin and complexion soap and the best toilet and baby soap in the world.

**Complete Treatment for Every Humor.** CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle, CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, and humiliating skin, scalp, and blood humors, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

Sold throughout the world. British Depot: F. NEWBERY & SONS, 27 Charterhouse Sq., London. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.


# Fighting Hay Fever

**New Method Proposed for Securing Immunity**

Every season has its peculiar maladies. And one which finds many victims in the late summer and early autumn is variously known as "hay fever," "hay asthma" and "rose catarrh." The symptoms differ somewhat in different cases. The chief ones are a distressing nasal catarrh and a slight fever. Occasionally, however, the disorder takes the form of asthma and not infrequently it resembles bronchitis.

The belief is nearly universal among medical men, says the New York Tribune, that this disease is caused by the pollen of wild or cultivated plants. Roses and other garden flowers have been held responsible and so have new mown hay and golden rod. The majority of cases, however, have been attributed to a coarse, widely distributed weed, whose botanical name is ambrosia, but which is popularly known as ragweed. This is very abundant along roadsides and in fields and waste places in the latter part of the summer. The air becomes laden with the pollen of this and other plants and the pollen causes a vexatious irritation of the mucous membrane when inhaled by those who are predisposed to the malady in question.

Thus far the physician has found it difficult to cope with hay fever. A change of air is often prescribed, and perhaps is the most effective sort of treatment. A local Application of cocaine, which is snuffed up into the nasal passages, has also given more or less relief, the former plan is really running away from the cause of the trouble. The latter probably serves the purpose in view by deadening the sensibility of the nerves in the mucous membrane.

An entirely new line of attack was outlined in a recent issue of the New York Medical Record by Dr. H. Holbrook Curtis. A patient of his, who was employed in a big drug house, found that when she was obliged to work in the ipecac department she suffered from a violent "crying cold with asthma." But she had learned by experience that if she took a few small doses of a preparation of ipecac for several days before she was exposed to the drug in the performance of her duties the attack would be averted. A friend of hers had been similarly annoyed and found the same preventive agency useful.

Dr. Curtis acted on this hint subsequently, when he was called to deal with a violent case of rose catarrh in another person. The patient was a woman, and she suffered utter prostration when she caught the odor of flowers. Merely passing a florist's shop was sufficient to bring on a paroxysm. The patient belonged to one of the best known families in St. Louis, and she was the first for whom he attempted to secure immunity. To do so he administered a watery extract of flowers, both hypodermically and internally. He began by giving his patient an extract of rose and in two weeks she could endure that flower in her room. Then he tried violet and lily of the valley with equal success. A bouquet containing all three was kept at her bedside all of the time for weeks, and she was proof against its influence then and ever afterward.

Now, inasmuch as ragweed is believed to be more largely instrumental than other plants in producing hay fever, Dr. Curtis resolved two years ago to make some experiments with it. He employed a skilled botanist to secure a large quantity of the leaves and pollen of this plant. From these a tincture and a fluid extract were made, and samples were given to fifty or a hundred victims for trial. The remedy was to be taken internally only, the hypodermic practice having been abandoned entirely.

Dr. Curtis has some faith in the possibility of using this "liquor ambrosiae," or extract of ragweed, as a preventive as well as a curative. But he was not ready in time to experiment in the former direction last year. The reign of the ragweed pollen begins, he says, between August 12 and 20. Still, the beneficial effect on those who had already begun to suffer, and even on persons who had been sick for two weeks, was striking. The doctor prints some of the letters which he has received, and several are couched in terms of emphatic commendation. Summarizing the first thirty-four replies received, Dr. Curtis says that eighteen reported a complete recovery, four considerable improvement and twelve negative results. On the whole, therefore, he has felt encouraged enough to continue the experiment on a much larger scale this year.

He inclines to the belief that 60 per cent of the people whose fever is caused by ragweed can be rendered immune. He adds: "It seems reasonable to suppose that perhaps a tincture of golden rod or some other plant may be found efficacious in those cases in which the ragweed seems to have no appreciable effect. Exactly how great a palliative this treatment will prove will of necessity take two or three years' investigation to determine."

Dr. Curtis presents this subject to the readers of the Medical Record with modesty and he is not overconfident, apparently. He regards the question of the efficacy of his plan as still open and is frank enough to declare: "If the results I have obtained are not verified by others I may only say that greater men and more scientific observers have been misled by initial results that time did not substantiate."

The author of this new system of treatment refrains from theorizing about it. So long as he employed the hypodermic syringe and introduced his remedy into the circulation there was some analogy between his plan and the use of anti-toxins in fighting bacterial diseases. But this resemblance disappears with the abandonment of that method of administration. There is a suggestion, too, of the Hahnemannian principle in Dr. Curtis' idea. But what the public cares most about is whether this ragweed tincture will prevent and cure or not. The explanation of how it prevents and cures can be left to take care of itself at present.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