OMAHA DOCTOR WRITES BOOK

Dr. Millard Langfeld's Work Will Interest Both Physicians and Laymen.

DISCUSSES THE CAUSES OF INFECTION

Volume Intended for Nurses and Medical Students May Prove Popular with Others Battling to Destroy Disease.

A volume primarily intended for nurses, but which will be of general interest to physicians and students of medicine has just come from the press from the pen of an Omaha author. Dr. Millard Langfeld, profesor of bacteriology and clinical medicine, John A. Creighton Medical college, and bacteriologist of the Omaha Board of Health. While the book (Introduction to Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Including Their Cause and Manner of Transmission) is primarily for people dealing in a professional capacity with such diseases, the language and style are easily understood by the general public. An introductory note by Lewellys F. Baker, professor of chemistry at Johns Hopkins' university, strongly recommends the work to the class of readers for which it is intended and expresses the hope that it may lead others "to undertake sufficient practical work in the subject of bacteriology to permit them to apply in their various occupations the principles of this science so important in connection with medicine and with the nursing of the sick."

The scope of the book is indicated by the chapter headings, ten in number, namely, Cause of Disease, Bacteriology, Phenomena of Infection, Animal Parasites, Avenues of Exit of Infectious Agents and Parasites from the Body, Portals of Entry of Infectious Agents and Parasites into the Body, Portals of Entry and Avenues of Exit of Micro-organisms in the Various Diseases, Disinfectants and Disinfection, Collection and Examination of Secretions and Excretions.

Definition of Health.

Defining health as "that condition of the body in which all of its functions are normally performed, to the end that a feeling of mental and bodily comfort is experienced;" the author regards disease as a result of a rupture in the relationship of bodies to their surroundings which leads to disturbed functions, and to unusual subjective sensations and objective pneumonia. The causes of disease are declared to be mechanical, physical, chemical and animate. In differentiating infectious diseases four stages are commonly noted: An incubation period, a period of invasion, a stationary period, and a period of decline. The author says: "An infectious disease must be regarded as a battle to the death between the body, on the one hand, and an infectious agent on the other." The statement is made that infectious diseases are self-limiting, that is, tend to spontaneous recovery, due to the presence in the body of "antibodies," which consist of antitoxins, and bactericidal substances of which the latest discovered is "opsonin." This "opsonin" is normally found in the blood and can be increased at will. It sensatizes the infectious agents for easier destruction by the "phagocytes" or certain white blood cells which destroy these agents.

Modern Treatment.

"The modern conception of disease takes the position that recovery from an infection is always brought about either through the production of an immunizing substance by the body or through the introduction of the same from without," and Dr. Langfeld continued, "The use of antitoxin in disease marks the highest refinement of specific medication, in that an immunizing substance is injected into a patient which can be depended upon to counteract or neutralize a definite poisonous (toxic) substance; the body of the patient thus being relieved of the burden of producing antibodies, the immunity forced upon the body of the animal from which the antibody is taken being transferred to the patient."

As to contagious or communicable diseases, the declaration is made that they occur "when the microbe is readily communicable from person to person by mediate or immediate contact." Of all known forms of bacteria, of which there are hundreds according to Dr. Langfeld, only about forty are known to produce disease in human beings, the others are accounted beneficial, as they live on dead organic matter. The author then defines and illustrates different forms of bacteria and tells of factors necessary to their growth.

Effect of Bacteria.

Taking up the effect of bacteria on the system under the head, "Phenomena of Infection," five infectious agents in disease are enumerated: Microbes must be present in sufficient numbers; they must reach their portal of entry; they must be virulent; certain agents must be accompanied by one or more other microorganisms or foreign body; some diseases must be result of insect bite. The doctor declared that "every healthy person is by nature endowed with the means of combatting disease," but natural defense may be strengthened or weakened by surroundings. Environment, heredity and age are factors in determining predisposition to disease. Climate has great influence on diseases and microscopic agents of disease of ready adaptation to new environment are less sensative to change of climate than things of larger growth. In this lies the danger of introduction of tropical diseases into temperate latitudes.

The chapter on animal parasites makes disclosures startling to those not entirely familiar with such phenomena. Parasites which cause many diseases require two hosts, that is, presence in more than one body before fully developed; thus the parasite causing malaria and yellow fever comes to man from a mosquito; that of the African sleeping sickness from a stinging fly; that of the tapeworm from a flea.

"The source of every infectious disease is always another infectious disease," says the author; "that is, the infectious agent has come directly or indirectly from some other person, and in this connection, in the matter of the exit of micro-organism from the body in disease we have the key to the happiness of families, the prosperity of nations and to victory in wars;" and later continues: "In the disposal of sewage we are still barbarians, if not criminals, and the indifference with which the public views the pollution of the water supply by alvine discharges is a shame to our much-vaunted civilization."

Things to Be Avoided.

Dr. Langfeld disclaims against the use of human excrement as fertilizer of soil, saying that the practice is common to Chinese truck farmers and should be made illegal. No diseased person should handle vegetables or fruit which are to be eaten raw. The places in which the pickers live should be made sanitary. The possibility of carrying disease from distant points by means of rapid transit of perishable food is touched upon and a suggestion made for further investigation.

One chapter gives an epitome of all infectious diseases, giving cause, location of germ in body, its manner of entry and exit; how contracted and the disinfection.

Another chapter is perhaps the most important one in the book since it deals with disinfection and disinfectants, and another tells physician, nurse and laymen the best method of collecting and examining secretions and excretions for submission to experts for examination.

The peculiar value of Dr. Langfeld's book lies not alone in the fact that it treats a subject and elsewhere satisfactorily covered, but that it treats it in a manner free from the confusing scientific mystery that too often bars medical writing from the comprehension of ordinary people.

NEWS ASKS FOR A NEW TRIAL

Paper Asserts Dennison Verdict Was Given Under Passion and Prejudice.

Asserting the verdict awarding Tom Dennison $7,500 damages was excessive and that it shows upon its face it was given under the influence of passion and prejudice, the Omaha Daily News Saturday filed a motion for a new trial in the Dennison libel case.

In addition to the foregoing allegation, the motion charges three of the jurors with misconduct in drinking intoxicating liquors to excess during the progress of the trial, declaring that after the close of the day's session they would go immediately to a saloon and begin drinking. It also makes a general charge of misconduct against the jury and charges that certain of the jurors, not named, did not answer truthfully at their preliminary examination their real relations with the plaintiff. The court is alleged to have erred in excusing for cause jurors Harry Lawrie, Grant Leslie, E. G. Jones and William McMurray. The usual technical charges of error in law and in the instructions are also made.

The motion was filed just before the close of the February term yesterday afternoon and will be argued before Judge Estelle as soon as possible. In case the new trial is not granted the case will be taken to the supreme court and an attempt made to have the verdict set aside.

BEST BUSINESS FOR BANDLE

Results in Office of County Register of Deeds Have Doubled.

Business in the office of the register of deeds has more than doubled during the last four years according to a report just issued by Register Frank Bandle. In April, 1903, 782 instruments were filed in the office while last month the number was 1,676. In April, 1903, 410 deeds were offered for record while the number last month was 907. The steady increase in the number of deeds is taken to be a good measure of the increased business in real estate. The table made by Mr. Bandle showing the number of the various kinds of instruments filed in his office during April of 1903 to 1907, inclusive, is as follows:

April.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Deeds	410	463	455	616	907
Mortgages	175	224	240	292	386
Mtg. Assign.	24	28	27	28	25
Mtg. Rel.	128	129	161	203	245
Mech. lien	4	5	11	9	17
Miscellaneous	28	33	25	54	91
Certificate	7	4	25	6	3
No. of suit	6	..	..	..	2
Totals	782	886	944	1,208	1,676

A. B. Hubermann, 19 years at S. E. Cor. 13th and Douglas; 20 years direct diamond importer; sold at import prices.

WORK OF THE CLUB WOMEN

Mrs. Wood Pronounces General Federation Bureau of Information a Success.

ART COLLECTION VISITS MANY STATES

Educational Feature of Club Work in Great Demand—Memorial to Chairman of Educational Committee.

That the General Federation bureau of information is no longer an experiment is demonstrated by the increased demand made daily upon it and the numbers of letters of appreciation received from those who have found the bureau a help in time of need, says Mrs. Mary I. Wood, in charge of the bureau, in the May Bulletin.

Each day's mail presents new problems for the bureau and new features of its usefulness. Today a club in the Indian Territory desires an outline and reference books on the Victorian era of English literature; a Virginia club woman needs facts concerning child labor in the United States and the work of the General Federation industrial and child labor committee; a committee in the southwest is arranging the next year's work and asks for an outline on municipal art; the husband of a club woman in a western town desires proof of the usefulness of the Woman's club; a New England rural club must have help on home economics. Requests touching the Panama canal, antique furniture, relation of the home to the school, and the Japanese in California are in demand by as many applicants, while reference books are requested on colonial home life, moral education, the immigrant, home decoration, etc.

Tomorrow will bring an equal number of requests of a widely different nature, but of equal importance. The applications for study outlines probably outnumber any other, although the need of magazine references and bibliography form a very close second.

Loan Library.

At St. Paul a much-discussed question by those who were interested was the advisability of establishing a loan library for the bureau. Many of the best library workers felt that there was a doubt as to the feasibility of such a course, while others considered that no equipment of the bureau would be in greater demand. The decision was in favor of the loan collection; and very soon after the biennial a library of more than 100 books were contributed by sanguine persons, clubs and federations.

The experiment is successful. The expense of sending a book is not great. The recipient bears part, and often the whole of the expense of postage; and the club in a remote town, where a public library is wanting and public libraries are few, gets just the help needed, and grows accordingly. More books are needed, and more will be received. It would seem that there would be no question of the support of the bureau and the supply of its needs. Once demonstrate that a thing is needed and useful and the public rallies to its support. The General Federation intends that the bureau shall be of so much value to the club women of the country that that they can never afford to dispense with it.

Memorial to Miss Abbott.

The following memorial to Miss Mary Merriam Abbott, chairman of the educational committee of the General Federation who died March 23, appears in the May Bulletin:

The executive committee of the board of directors can express only in silent sorrow the loss every member of the General Federation must feel in the death of the warm friend and co-worker, the chairman of the educational committee. Through those who knew her daily personal life, surrounded with kindred requiring loving care, we shall learn of the happy, buoyant spirit, the broad view of life, and the broader tolerance of pettiness that could not touch her upward search.

The last intercourse of the executive committee with Miss Abbott was held in Chicago recently, where she gathered, at her bidding, the officers of the National Education association in conference, with representatives of six organizations of women, concerning educational interests of the nation. Every word she said in explanation of her far-reaching plans was listened to with absorbing interest.

In her memory, nothing would have seemed to her so happy as the successful result of this first meeting. Let us work with her thought, her enthusiasm, before us, until we make it a part of ourselves and carry her love of this beautiful world into action.

Report on Art Collections.

The art committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs makes a gratifying report of the traveling art collections sent out over the country under its auspices. One of these collections of American paintings has visited two towns in Utah, ten in Montana, fourteen in Minnesota, twenty-one in Wisconsin and seven in South Dakota. Another gallery has visited many towns in Nebraska, Kentucky, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, while still another has traveled through New England. These collections include work loaned by the foremost American artists and the cost to the club or town exhibiting is merely the transportation from the previous stopping place. Another gallery is to be sent out soon to comply with twenty-one requests from Texas towns and others from Oklahoma and Missouri. One gallery is now in Illinois going next to Kansas, every day until June having been engaged.

The committee requests that clubs desiring the collection next year send in their requests before the close of the club year, as the route can be more advantageously arranged if the list is complete. The exhibits have been of great educational value in the smaller towns especially.

Woman's Club Notes.

The May business meeting of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union will be held Wednesday at 2:30 o'clock at the Young Women's Christian association rooms.

Mrs. Adelaid Rood, Mrs. George Covell and Mrs. Fred Patterson will represent the Nebraska Women's Christian Temperance Union at the temperance conference to be held at Lincoln Thursday and Friday of this week.

DR. MILLER TALKING IN EAST

Well Known Omaha Democrat Gets Into New York Papers While Visiting Metropolis.

Omaha's pioneer citizen, Dr. George L. Miller, who constantly proclaims his democracy to be different from that of Bryan, has been making himself heard through the metropolitan newspapers while visiting in New York and vicinity. Dr. Miller had nearly a column in the New York Times to exploit his own political views and pay his compliments to Bryan, incidentally putting in a few words in championship of the railroads and throwing a small bouquet at Harriman. Among other things, he said:

Bryan is lecturing on everything on the face of the earth. He spends three weeks in China and writes a book telling exactly how to abolish the evils which fifty centuries of learning and civilization cannot cure. He's a thrifty fellow. All this talking over the country brings him in money, and keeps up his political machine at the same time. But until Roosevelt and he cease from running a race to radicalism there's no chance for the old party. Bryan's not a democrat. What have his wild theories to do with the basic principles of the party? I remember the times of Tilden and Cleveland, when a man hadn't to pinch himself to be sure if he was a democrat or not. The old party will endure through it all, and if we get beaten again next time, by 1912, perhaps, all this wild talk against railroads and corporations will have died down and we may get back to sound principles.

One of the treats of his trip, according to a letter from Dr. Miller, has been a pilgrimage to Princeton to confer with Grover Cleveland, whom he so much admires. The ex-president talked freely about old friends of mutual acquaintance, in which Omaha and Nebraska people figured conspicuously.

LETTERS FROM BEE READERS

Rev. John Williams Outlines His Views on Dog-Muzzling Ordinance.

Contributions on timely topics are invited from readers of The Bee. Communications should be written legibly on one side of the paper only and accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. Unused communications will not be returned. Correspondents are advised to limit their letters to 300 words or they will be subject to being cut down to that limit at the discretion of the editor. Publication of views of correspondents must not be taken to commit The Bee to their endorsement.

New Dog Ordinance.

OMAHA, May 4.—Editor of The Bee: It is doubtless of small importance, yet I always like to keep a straight record. Your reporter makes me to approve the muzzling feature of the new ordinance on dogs. I did not. I do not. The new ordinance is just the same in principle as the old one. It is simply curative to meet the decision of Judge Redick, who held the old ordinance void, because it conferred legislative powers on the mayor. I was opposed to the old ordinance. I am opposed to the new. But only because of the muzzling feature implied or expressed in each. That dogs and other animals should not be allowed to run at large, in a large city, to annoy or imperil the public is clear as the day. That the owners of dogs should be held to the strictest accountability for their animals is equally clear. But I do not see either the necessity or the humanity of ordering the infliction of the cruelty of muzzling dogs as an alternative to their being securely kept on owner's premises. The council might just as well order the hobbling of horses, or the dehorning of cattle, as an alternative to their being kept on the streets. The muzzle is a cruel restraint upon the dog, especially in the hot months of summer. It does not, it cannot prevent the annoyance of which more people complain than complain of danger from rabies; the annoyance of dogs running at large at the cost of gardens and plants and small shrubbery.

But now, sir, the law is passed, and so it is no use to waste time in complaints. As it does not compel people to muzzle their dogs, may I not ask the humane people of the city who own dogs to eschew the muzzle and keep their dogs securely confined at home, at all events for the next four months, where they can be regularly fed and watered, and have full power to defend themselves from their tormenting insect enemies.

It will be no use at all to ask irresponsible persons to refrain from muzzling their dogs. It is the easiest way to buy a 25-cent or a 50-cent muzle for their dogs, and let them run at large to annoy their neighbors and exposed to attacks of stray unlicensed, unmuzzled dogs, rabid or not which will have free course through the city, where neither policeman nor dog-catcher are to be found. I may add here, that if the dog-catching force is to be increased, as some of the councilmen suggested on Monday, the capacity of the dog pound will have to be increased two, three or four fold, or else the time during which dogs are to be held before they are killed will have to be correspondingly shortened. The dog-catchers are now taking up 250 or 300 dogs a month. That is very near the limit of the pound's capacity, under our present rules. JOHN WILLIAMS.

ELKS ARE DOING BIG THINGS

Take in New Members and Lay Wires for Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

The club rooms of the local lodge of Elks were taxed Friday night, the occasion being the initiation of new members. Ten were given the trip across the burning sands on the back of the goat, the new ritual being used in Omaha for the first time, and was pronounced by the members as being beautiful. After the business meeting and the initiation ceremonies a delightful banquet was served and the flow of wit was interesting.

The celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of Omaha lodge No. 39, Benevolent Protective Order Elks, which was to have been celebrated February 7, was necessarily postponed on account of the death of two members of the lodge. The season of lent followed, and it was decided not to take the matter up during that period. At the meeting on Friday evening last the matter was fully taken up and discussed.

With the intention of making it one of the most pretentious social affairs ever given b ythe local lodge it has been determined to hold a stag social May 16 at the Auditorium, to which, as is customary, each Elk will have the privilege of bringing an invited guest, and in addition it is expected that one thousand business men of Omaha and South Omaha will be invited.

The use of the Auditorium for the function is made necessary because of the limited quarters available in the Elks' building, and the lodge has made a liberal appropriation of money to make the event a success. Competent committees have been placed in charge of the social features and a representative body of Elks will act as a reception committee at the Auditorium. The Auditorium committee, in appreciation of this social, will furnish the full and magnificent setting of the "Streets of Paris" as a stage background for the occasion.

The entertainment committee have a number of surprises under consideration for the amusement program, and the acts and "stunts" presented will eclipse former efforts along similar lines.

COUNTY FAIR GOES BEGGING

Not Sought by Country Towns and Will Go Back to King's Highway.

Because of the failure of any of the country towns to make a suitable bid for the location of the county fair it will, in all probability, be held in connection with the Ak-Sar-Ben carnival again this fall. The board of directors of the County Board of Agriculture held a meeting at the court house yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering the proposition of changing the location of the fair, but in the absence of any definite propositions no action was taken.

The request that the fair be separated from the fall carnival came from some of the outside members of the board and some time ago it was agreed to receive bids for its location for five years. Both Florence and Benson showed some interest in the matter and Benson sent a committee to several of the board meetings but the delegation was not prepared to make a definite offer so the board decided to do nothing looking toward a change in the present arrangements with the Ak-Sar-Ben authorities.

BLANCHE WALSH AT THE BOYD

Presents "The Straight Road," a Four-Act Play by Clyde Fitch.

TELLS STORY OF THE SLUMS OF NEW YORK

Faithful and Artistic Interpretation of a Play Which Has Some Strong Features Along with Some Weak Points.

Blanche Walsh in "The Straight Road," a play in four acts by Clyde Fitch. The cast:

Mary O'Hara	Blanche Walsh
Miss Thompson	Lida McMillen
Miss Lasmer	Beulah Thompson
Mrs. Finnerty	Cornelia M. Flood
Lazy Liz	Jessie Ralph
A Woman	Ethlyn Clemens
Bill Hubell	Charles Dalton
Douglass Alnes	William Travers
A Street Loafer	Harry LaGrange
A Policeman	Clement Hopkins
Servant at Miss Thompson's	William Wadsworth

Realistic almost to coarseness, rich in the portrayal of slum character, descending at times to the level of common farce comedy and rising at other times to heights almost sublime and tinged from beginning to end with the atmosphere of the bowery, this new play of Clyde Fitch's will meet with a variety of opinion from the theater going public. That there are weak spots in the play will hardly be denied and even the superb interpretation of Moll O'Hara by Blanche Walsh can hardly cover up some of the shortcomings of the play itself. It must also be conceded that there is strength and virility in some of the characters drawn by Mr. Fitch and the local color and atmosphere are true to life. The picture of bowery life is drawn so true that it is almost startling especially in the first act.

Story of the Play.

The story told by the play concerns the redemption of Moll O'Hara, a woman of the slums, worse than many of her neighbors because she has character and her badness is not the result of weakness, but of perverted strength. She has gone almost the limit through her cynicism when her heart is touched by Miss Thompson, a wealthy slum worker, who appeals to the mother instinct that asserts itself even in this drunken and abandoned creature. The result is Moll leaves her old life and revels in the glory of her redemption and the love of Bill Hubell, a barkeeper. The crisis in her life comes when she finds the man Miss Thompson is about to marry is a faithless roue and unworthy in every way. She resolves to save her friend from what must be an unhappy marriage. Her denouncement of the wretch is not believed by Miss Thompson, and finding it the only way to open her eyes she makes an appointment with him in her room and arranges to have Miss Thompson break in upon them unexpectedly. The plan works, but she is first discovered by her own lover, who renounces her as faithless. Miss Thompson also refuses to believe her guiltless, and abandoned by all her newly made friends she is on the verge of returning to debauchery when she is recalled to her good resolves by the picture of the virgin hanging on the wall. The play ends happily, however, in the good old-fashioned way.

It is in the third act that the power of the play is developed. This is the act in which the revelation is made to Miss Thompson at so great cost to the reformed girl. It is also just here that the weakness in the development of the plot is seen. The element of suspense is almost lacking in the scene because of the rapidity with which the situation is developed. Moll O'Hara, after being renounced by her lover, plunges headlong into her resolve to go back to her old life, and then no less precipitately changes her mind when her eyes fall on the picture of the madonna. The audience is hardly given time to get itself into full sympathy with either situation before the change comes. Besides soul crises are hardly passed even by persons of strong character in such a precipitate manner.

Character of Contrasts.

Aside from this defect the play has much merit, and in the hands of Blanche Walsh the character of Moll O'Hara is given an interpretation little short of marvelous. The versatility of Miss Walsh's talents is proven, if proof were required, by the contrast between the first and the third acts. She approaches her situations conservatively and with a naturalness that marks her work as wonderful. In the first act her fidelity to truth makes her portrayal of the character of Moll O'Hara the unredeemed, little short of disgusting but she is no less effective in the tenderness of her love for the crippled child, Mike Finnerty, or for her brawny bartender lover.

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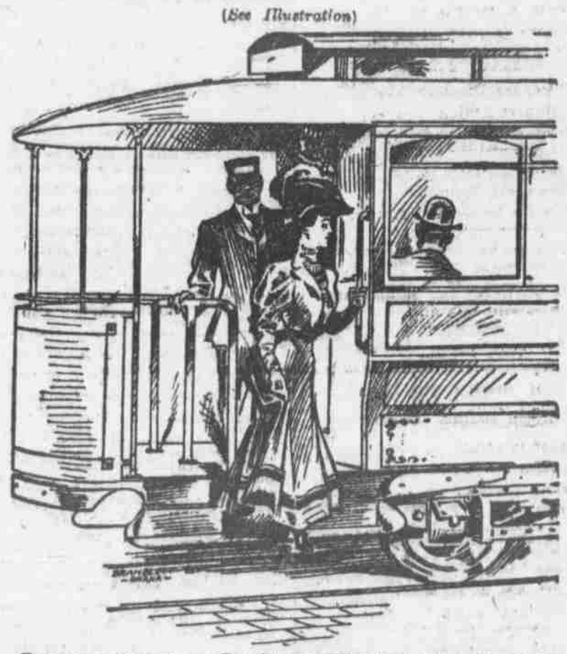

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