

# On Swearing Off

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## "Flu" Epidemic Caused by New Germ Says Creighton Professor Bacteriology

Germ in No Way Connected or Related to Past Scourges Except in Parts of Body Affected, Says Professor Stevenson—Advises Going to Bed to Avoid Complications.

"Spanish Influenza" is the subject of an article in the December issue of the Creighton Chronicle, by Holland N. Stevenson, professor of bacteriology and surgical pathology, college of medicine. While Professor Stevenson, like the majority of medical men who have discussed this disease, makes no effort to explain its origin, he gives some very interesting facts as to what the epidemic has done and how it should be treated. The article follows:

During the past few months the country has been traversed by an epidemic of large proportions termed the "Spanish Influenza." This name is as good as any so far proposed, for it implies a disease of the air passages somewhat similar to previous epidemics but caused by an unknown micro-organism. The similarity of this to previous epidemics of influenza is merely in the way it is spread and in the parts of the human body affected. It is, however, gradually being demonstrated that the germ causing the disease is in no way connected with any of the one of past influenza epidemics.

Reached States in July. In the latter part of July and in the early part of August cases of "Spanish Influenza" began to appear in the ports along the Atlantic coast. There is no doubt that this outbreak was identical to the epidemic that had been in progress in Europe. From this time on the epidemic gradually increased in proportions and spread from one community to another until it had practically traversed the country by the end of October. In comparison with other epidemics the spread was quite rapid and in general the more closely populated districts suffered more severely than the atmosphere. These are minutes that remain suspended for some time. It is easy to see how one individual having the germ of the disease in his mouth or throat can involuntarily place the organisms where others can acquire them. This implies a more or less intimate contact with those who are sick, especially with those in the early stages and accounts for the severity of the epidemic among thickly populated communities.

Caused by New Germ. It might be well in this connection to say a few words about the causative agent or germ of this epidemic. One thing can be definitely said. The micro-organism which is giving rise to the epidemic is not the one that has caused previous epidemics of influenza. It is an organism that has not been definitely classified as yet but which is closely related to the pneumococcus, the germ of ordinary pneumonia, and the streptococcus, the germ of erysipelas, rheumatic fever and many other conditions. This has been brought out in the recent articles on the subject as well as by our own work in the epidemic.

In the great majority of cases the individuals who have contracted this disease have developed at one time or another a certain amount of pneumonia. The prostration has been great and the recovery very slow. The time it takes for the disease to develop after exposure varies and has been given as from one day to a week.

Go to Bed Early. The use of vaccines prepared from the germs isolated from cases of "Spanish Influenza" as a preventative measure is a question on which there is little data up to the present time. It can be said, however, that if such a vaccine is properly made it will do no harm and there is considerable chance that it will prevent the disease or so protect the individual that if he does acquire it, his case will not be serious. Many of these have been prepared in laboratories where the epidemic has been investigated and so far as known there is no choice between them.

From many conversations with members of the medical faculty concerning the treatment of cases of "Spanish Influenza," one point stands out most prominently. The earlier an individual thus afflicted goes to bed and stays there the lighter is his case. The person who attempts to keep on his feet and work it off is foolish and stands a chance of acquiring a severe case and also serious complications of which Bright's disease is not uncommon. The person who goes to bed as soon as he has an increase in temperature, in the large majority of instances will have a light case and infinitely reduce his chances of permanent injury from the complications of the disease.

## Man Who Swore Off and---

By A. E. Colorado was "wet" when I lived there, else many of the amusing incidents which are still fresh in my memory would never have occurred. The one which I am about to relate took place in a small but prosperous city among the Rockies, which then supported 13 saloons.

For many Sundays Willard performed his duties in a most satisfactory manner. The Methodist church congratulated themselves on having secured his services and the other churches bemoaned their decreased attendance, since the excellent Methodist music attracted almost every church goer who was not bound in conscience to favor some other persuasion with his presence. Couldn't Stop Playing. It was a beautiful Sunday evening in the early autumn. Doors and windows were wide open to let in the balmy mountain air and to let out the beautiful music. The song service over and the prayer finished, Willard started the usual voluntary while the collection was taken. The first indication that something was wrong came evident when, the silver contribution plates having been carefully replaced in the pulpit and the collectors having taken their seats, Willard disregarded the usual sign to stop playing. The minister's eyes, until at last their patience was exhausted. He came west, determined to begin life anew.

a little and then struck out into a popular song. Patriotic airs followed, a medley with a little ragtime. When his fingers touched the opening chords of "The Old Oaken Bucket," he sang the words in a rich, mellow voice, following with "Home, Sweet Home" and "Love's Old Sweet Song." By this time the church was packed to the doors. Every seat was filled, and people, many of whom had not been to a religious service for years were standing in the aisles and vestibule, listening eagerly to a concert such as few of them had ever heard. The player was surpassing himself in his performance. An idea dawned in the mind of Deacon Wise. He arose and searched out the old contribution boxes. They passed them around and brought to the pulpit such a quantity of nickels, dimes, and quarters, as had never before been taken in one collection. Merges Into Grand Opera. Still Willard played. From the last old song he merged into grand opera, and the minister turned pale with apprehension. A few classical selections, great compositions of the old masters, followed, and then, in a voice a little thick, Willard accompanied his final effort, the hymn "You'll Be Home Again, My Dear," in which the whole congregation, rising, joined. Before he finished, the minister's son noticed that the organist was swaying a little in his seat. He stepped quickly to his side, taking the precaution to draw behind them a curtain which was so hung as to screen the player when desired.

## Next to His Very Best Girl Soldier Boy in France Loves Big, Fat Chocolate Cake

New York, Dec. 28.—"Just imagine your boy, lonesome and cold, coming up from the strange, drizzly streets of Paris, all unexpectedly finding a cup of steaming tea or chocolate and a thick slice of home-made cake, and a group of women from home. Can't you picture his happiness?" The speaker, Mrs. Ralph Stern, who has just returned from Paris and is now visiting relatives here, after an absence of five years, is the first Jewish welfare worker to return to the states.

time he was in the hospital he had received no pay and he was afraid to take things because he couldn't pay for them. When finally he was convinced that he could eat his fill of cake and have all he wanted to drink, and help himself, too, to the cigars, piled on the tables, his joy was inexpressible. You see everything served at 41 Boulevard Haussmann is free.

## American Swimmers

Water sports for women have attained such popularity in the past few years and "mermaids" have developed rapidly, both individually and as a class. There are already more than a dozen girl swimming stars belonging to this country.

# The Abandoned Room

BY WADSWORTH CAMP

CHAPTER XL Bobby's Vigil. "He's told me nothing," Katherine answered. "I came back to the corridor; I heard everything you said."

His words, Bobby felt, overcame a L'rier of emotion. They heard Paredes and Doctor Groom on the stairs. "What's this?" the doctor rumbled as he came up.

empty chair, where a little while ago Silas Blackburn had covered, moustached snatches of his fear—"I'm not dead! I tell you I'm not dead! They can't make me go back—"

guard the broken door, but be sure and lock the other one." The two officers went upstairs with Bobby. Graham followed.

ing the closets and glancing beneath the bed and behind the furniture. "There's no one," he said, preparing to depart. "I tell you there's no chance of a physical attack."

His unimaginative mind cried out: "I tell you you'll find nothing here to find, nothing to learn." "Just the same," Graham urged, "you'll call out, won't you, Bobby, at the first sign of anything out of the way? For God's sake take no foolish chances."

Newcomers Are Timid. The newcomers, when they first come in, are a bit timid and afraid to take the things that are offered them. There was one boy—Brooklyn lad, who had been wounded and sent to the base hospital in Paris. One day when he had recovered he wandered into our headquarters. He saw the "mogen double and white double" he sat down and the refreshments hesitated, because money. During all the