

DECREASE IN TYPHOID FEVER AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SHOWN BY REPORT FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

2309 cases of typhoid fever in Pennsylvania during 1922, and 380 deaths from the disease, are the lowest figures on record since the organization of the State Health Department. In 1906 24,471 cases and 3,917 deaths from the disease were reported. In 1910 there were 13,835 cases and 1892 deaths. 1470 died of the disease in 1913 and in 1917 there were 6150 cases and 986 deaths.

"As a factor in Pennsylvania's death rate, typhoid fever can be reduced to the place now held by that one time dreaded plague, yellow fever meaning, it can be eliminated," said Dr. J. Moore Campbell, chief of the Division of Communicable Diseases, State Department of Health.

"21,662 less cases of typhoid fever in 1922 than in 1906—a period of 12 years—proves that with continued effort it may eventually be counted among the extinct plagues of mankind," he continued. "Progress in the elimination of typhoid is largely due to an improvement in public water supplies, sewage disposal methods, safe milk, and sanitation in general. The earlier rapid decline in the number of cases and deaths from the disease may be accounted for by the application of the above methods to those millions of people who are grouped in our largest communities. Much, in the same direction, has been done for the smaller communities, but the eradication of typhoid fever can only be expected when rural sanitation has approached, or equalled that of the cities and towns.

"At times it has been necessary to force the individual to protect himself and others; rigid quarantine had to be maintained, and it took some communities a long while to recognize the importance of a pure water supply. The same ground is now being covered to secure standard milk protection. No community, no individual, is safe from typhoid fever while there exists breeding spots and carrying facilities for the typhoid bacillus."

The 1922 report of the State Health Department shows a lessened incidence of other contagious diseases, especially the so-called children's diseases, as shown by the following table:

	1921	1922	decrease
Chicken pox	21850	19112	2738
Diphtheria	20794	10617	10177
Mumps	20942	7255	13707
Scarlet fever	24065	16397	7988
Whooping cough	15921	10757	5164

348 less cases of tuberculosis were reported in 1922 than in 1921, the total number for 1922 being 6035.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND BETTER LIGHTING.

Lighting engineers are said to have reduced illumination to an exact science, to be able to provide artificial light suitable for all our needs when daylight illumination is denied us. This is a bold statement, deserving of challenge by every possible means, for if it is true, the layman is indeed culpable for not taking greater advantage of the achievement of these technical men.

Statisticians tell us that nearly a quarter of all the accidents which occur in our natural work-a-day life are directly or indirectly chargeable to poor illumination.

Figures show that annually 100,000 men are incapacitated for an average period of a year because of accidents attributable to defective lighting, and some seventy-five fatal accidents occur daily from the same cause.

Our production capacity in all lines is said to be reduced by 15 to 20 per cent. by the fact that our mill and factory hands are forced to work an hour or two daily under inadequate illumination and millions of dollars' worth of material, labor and power are thrown away annually because work is carried on under such unfavorable conditions.

If this is all preventable, or susceptible of marked improvement, the layman is guilty of a neglect, more reprehensible than any specific offense against civilization the world has ever seen, for not taking full advantage of the means provided of avoiding such waste.

It costs so little to find out that it will be a sad commentary on the present generation if the engineers' claim is permitted to go unchallenged much longer. To challenge is to demonstrate its fallacy or truth by actual trial.

METHODIST OLDER BOYS' CONFERENCE.

Bishop William F. McDowell has called an older boys' conference for Methodist boys of Central Pennsylvania, from 16 to 20 years of age. It will be held on March 16-18, in Harrisburg, Pa., in connection with the sessions of the annual conference to be held in Grace church, Dr. Robert Bagwell, pastor, with Bishop McDowell presiding.

The general plans for the boys' conference are to give these young men a vision of the whole program of the church; show them their relation to it, and train them to take hold of definite tasks. There are 258 charges in the conference. Every charge may send one boy. This boy is selected by the fellows of his age and becomes their delegate.

The special features of the conference will be a joint session with the preachers, Laymen's Associations, and the boys; the visit to the State capitol; the father and son banquet and the Sunday service.

The conference is promoted by the conference board of the Sunday schools, 211 Dauphin building, Harrisburg, Pa.

FARM NOTES.

Corn grows best on a heavy soil, or on soil rich in organic matter. Fields which produced a good crop last year, may, with proper fertilization, be put in corn again this year. Old soils may be plowed up and any soil areas not needed for hay or pasture can be used for corn.

Idle fields grown to weeds, but otherwise fertile and tillable, as well as land taken from tillage and lying idle for real estate purposes, may be used. Corn will do well on almost any soil that is well-drained and moderately fertile. It is not so well adapted to either a light sandy soil or a heavy sticky clay, though when plenty of organic matter is present it can be grown on such soils.

The best time for planting corn varies with different localities, from the first to the end of May. The depth of planting should be from one to three inches, depending upon the soil type and condition of the seed bed. Fields with loam and clay loam soils, in good till, and with sufficient moisture to start germination, need be planted but one to two inches. Fields with light sandy soils, inclined to be droughty or in poor till, should be planted two to three inches deep.

Corn is sown in rows or in hills. The rows should be about three feet apart with the kernels planted at intervals of from nine to fifteen inches. Hills are marked about four feet apart each way, with three to four kernels to the hill. The greater the fertility the thicker the rate of planting. Three to five timely cultivations are usually needed to control weeds, conserve moisture and promote nitrification.

In the small garden it is better to figure on three or four short rows of corn rather than a single long row, because in the latter plan the wind is likely to blow the pollen from the tassels away from the stalks in a single row, in which case the ears will not be properly fertilized and the corn will be small and poorly filled out.

Cherry trees are especially suited to backyard gardening, because they need little pruning or spraying and are surprisingly hardy. The sour cherry, of which the Early Richmond and Montmorency are the two best sorts, will flourish even on a city lot under the most adverse conditions. Some desirable sweet cherries are the Lambert, Napoleon and Black Tartarian. Birds and small boys are the worst enemies of the cherry.

Planning the garden, laying it out to scale on a sheet of paper, is a big help, especially for small gardens, where there is some uncertainty as to the space available for this or that variety.

Make the plan fairly large, using a sheet of tough wrapping paper, which will stand much handling and outdoor reference, and keep all your notes on the plan. A record of planting dates, fertilizers, crop yields and other data will make a valuable guide for next season's work.

One of the most gratifying developments in the home garden is to have things sprout in nice straight rows. There is no excuse for zig-zag plantings, and rows with unequal distances between them. The use of a line stretched between stakes will insure accuracy. Without such a guide it is virtually impossible to make straight furrows.

The shape and slope of the garden plot will influence the direction of the rows, but whenever possible it is best to run the rows the long way of the garden. Cultivation is made easier, particularly if a wheel-hoe is employed, as there are fewer turnings to be made.

Strong, rapid germination depends largely on the manner in which the seeds are embedded in the soil. They must be thoroughly embedded—surrounded and covered with soil, without being compacted, though a slight compaction is better than loose sowing, which leaves the seeds partly exposed to the air by means of cracks and open spaces.

For this reason soil that is well pulverized—broken up into fine particles, free from clods and lumps—make the best seedbed. Furrows in such soils are easily opened and are easily closed with the seeds well covered.

Avoid as much as possible raising the same vegetables in the same places year after year. Shift them about, if only from one side of the garden to the other. Rotations foil the insect pests, avoid diseases, equalize the consumption of plant food, and improve the soil generally by varying its mechanical condition.

It is sometimes argued that vegetables can be bought just as cheaply as they can be raised. If a garden has been only half productive, due to neglect, poor soil or other causes, this is true, of course. Remember, however, there is a certain quality about home-grown vegetables that can never be purchased from your grocer, regardless of price. He can never supply you with peas, corn, beans and such like which have the crisp, fresh flavor of your own vegetables, picked a few hours before meal time.

Then again, if last year's garden was a first effort and proved disappointing, it does not follow that another effort will prove equally disappointing. It may have been that your soil was not right last year, as few soils are when planted for the first time, and that it has been much improved by last season's cultivation and will bear nicely this year.

In addition to using manure on the garden this spring, it would be well to broadcast acid sulphate on the garden after plowing or spading and work it into the soil by harrowing or raking. Use one pound to fifty square feet. Also keep on hand a little nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia to help stimulate growth during the summer by using it as a top dressing to the plant or row.

The number of hogs for market next fall depends upon the number of pigs saved during the farrowing season of March and April. A high percentage may be saved if careful feeding is practiced before and after the sow farrows and if clean, warm, well-ventilated quarters are provided for the young pigs.

SOUND THEIR DANGER SIGNAL

All Beavers Understand Warnings Which is Conveyed to Them by Their Fellows.

Although sometimes found in pairs beavers are essentially gregarious animals, and, like many inoffensive creatures of that habit, they have a danger signal understood by all the members of the colony and a peculiar odor for keeping them in touch with each other, writes R. I. Bocock, F. R. S., in Conquest.

A suddenly started beaver promptly dives, and, as it goes under, it gives the water a resounding slap with its tail, which warns other beavers withing earshot that danger is afoot. Down they all go into the depths, leaving no sign of their presence apart from the ripples on the surface of the lake or stream. The odor which keeps the community together comes from an oily fluid discharged from a couple of large glands beneath the root of the tail. This substance, known to the Greeks as "castorium," was at one time in demand as a perfume for man's delight and as a panacea for his ailments. To this day hunters use it for bait, knowing that a beaver will fearlessly enter any trap that smells of it.

BIRDS FLY ACROSS ATLANTIC

Number of Recorded Instances of Feathered Folk Being Seen and Shot in Great Britain.

The London Zoological society has a record of all birds observed in Great Britain and the British coasts that are not indigenous to the British isles, but have flown thither from the Continent. In England it is said that naturalists, ornithologists, lighthouse keepers, masters of vessels, coast guardsmen, farmers and country gentlemen report strange birds that they observe and always give the date and circumstances of their observations.

This list, it is said, reveals many strange happenings. Birds native to Eastern Siberia and China, North Africa and the Arctic regions have been observed in Great Britain, but, of course, this is quite rare. There are, however, a number of recorded instances of American birds crossing the Atlantic and being seen and shot in England.

Now and then birds that are not strictly migratory gather in enormous flocks and sweep over several hundred miles of country. The cause of this action is a mystery to the students of bird life.

Dancing Egg of a Bug.

Shasta county, California, is the land of wonders, according to the Los Angeles Times. The latest is the dancing egg. It is laid by an as yet undetermined insect on the leaves of oak trees. Masses of these eggs cling to the under side of the leaf and as they advance toward maturity they drop to the ground and dance about.

By holding an oak twig containing any number of eggs to one's ear a crackling sound may be heard like the splitting of electric sparks. The shell contains a tiny grub, working for release.

When laid on a table these eggs bound about and spring into the air, sometimes to a height of sixteen inches. They are particularly active in the early morning.

This latest insect novelty takes rank with the sulphur bug, which is at home in the red-hot roaster piles.

Early Days in the Caribbean.

Usually one thinks of the battle for naval control of the Caribbean as an Anglo-Spanish battle, but the French also took a hand in it.

Francis Russell Hart, in his "Admirals of the Caribbean," gives a chapter to Admirals de Pointis and Du Casse, who took a fleet to the West Indies in 1697 and made war upon both the Spanish and English. They actually took and sacked Cartagena, displaying a creditable moderation in their looting.

Mr. Hart insists that except for the fighting done by Morgan, Vernon and Rodney, the Potomac would now be the northern boundary of Latin America instead of the Rio Grande.

Queer African Idols.

Very odd in appearance is a group of African idols recently brought to the United States by a missionary. They were carved by natives of Nigeria. One of the group, "Ifa," a queer-looking image with a high-crowned hat, was the principal deity of Nigeria when the missionaries began their work there. Besides "Ifa," the collection includes an odd-shaped club, feared by the natives as the god of thunder and lightning. Another is a brass image, "Oshubgo," a mystical feminine deity who rules over a society of fanatics. In contrast to these, the missionary secured several crucifixes carved from ivory by Christianized natives.

India's Beautiful Tower.

Among the wealth of beauty and magnificence in and about Delhi, one of the most wonderful sights is the Kutub Minar, said to be the most nearly perfect tower in the world. It stands ten miles outside the city in the midst of a vast pile of ruins which tell of Delhi's greatness when it was the largest city of India. The Minar soars 238 feet above the plain. Its sandstone sides are deeply fluted, and shade from purplish reds through pink to orange in the topmost of its five balconied stories.

WILL BE LARGEST TELESCOPE

Canada Soon to Have Record Instrument for the Investigation of the Heavens.

Canada is to possess the largest of all telescopes. It will have a mirror 120 inches in diameter. It has already been cast, and is now being ground and polished. The latter task is expected to occupy at least five or six years.

The largest existing telescope is the 100-inch instrument at Mount Wilson, in California. It took four years to grind and polish the mirror, and in doing so over a ton of glass was removed.

It is the wonderful success of the 100-inch telescope that has led Canadian astronomers to make the plunge and sink £60,000 in a 10-foot mirror. The new telescope will be set up in an observatory on the Pacific coast of British Columbia.

It will make a star appear 300,000 times as bright as the eye sees it. The number of stars seen throughout the entire sphere of the heavens by the naked eye is about 5,000. The 120-inch instrument is expected to reveal at least 400 millions, or a million more than can be seen by any other existing telescope.

APPEALS TO LUST FOR GOLD

Term "El Dorado" Lures Today as It Did When Spaniards Sought Fabulous Wealth.

The name El Dorado is Spanish for "the gilded." The term applied first to a South American king said to cover his body annually with gold dust and bathe in a sacred lake, then to a fabled golden city, and finally to a fabled country abounding in an almost inconceivable degree in gold and precious stones.

The legend, the origin of which has never been satisfactorily explained, took many variant forms, while the mythical king and his equally mythical dominions were shifted with the utmost facility from one part of the continent to another. The story fired the imagination of the gold-hunting Spaniards, who expended vast sums in sending out exploring parties, most of which returned dejected by privations, fatigue and disease. The name has since been applied to any place abounding in gold or in opportunities for acquiring sudden wealth, and more to a county in California and a city in Colorado.

Old Women as Brides.

A private expedition recently penetrated into the northwestern part of Australia and made some valuable discoveries in regard to the natives and the natural resources of the country between Broome and Wyndham. The trip was made by a man and wife who had been warned of the risk which they were running in entering the country which was infested by unfriendly natives. The latter were found to be suspicious but not hostile, and the strangers soon became on intimate terms with them. They found some very strange domestic conditions existing. For instance, the old tribesmen monopolized all the young women and some old warriors had several young wives and the young men were compelled to be contented with old women for brides.

Was President for One Day.

Senator David Rice Atchison of Clay county, Missouri, claimed the unique distinction of holding the office of President for one day. Being president pro tempore of the senate from 1846 to 1849 and again from 1852 to 1854, Senator Atchison was for one day legal President of the United States, since Gen. Zachary Taylor, successor to James K. Polk, was not sworn in until Monday, March 5, 1849, and the terms of President Polk and Vice President George M. Dallas had terminated by limitation at midnight Saturday. Senator Atchison was very fond of humorously urging his claim to having been President for one day. He said he slept most of his term. Of course, there is nothing on record to show that he drew any salary as President.

Price of Success.

Success worth naming is eternal vigilance, and if our aim be a selfish one it will still leave us bankrupt in the end. The man whose wish to grow rich is so strong that everything else goes down before it, will find himself a pauper in the things that matter most, when he has time to look round. The friends he ignored have formed other ties; the love that might have crowned him he had no use for, and now his home is empty of all save strangers, who care little whether he lives or dies. There is no loneliness so complete, so bitter, as that which we fashion for ourselves; gratified ambition is a poor thing to keep one warm when winter comes and old age is creeping on apace!—Exchange.

British Guiana.

The physical geography of the three Guianas is much the same. Along the coasts are flat, swampy tracts, with fertile soil. Beyond this the land rises to undulating savannas, behind which are mountainous regions covered with almost impenetrable forests. Vegetation is remarkably rich and luxuriant. Sugar, coffee, rice, cocoa, and fruits are cultivated. The forests yield fine timber of several kinds, also rubber, oil, balsams, gums, tonka beans, and nuts. The plumage of the birds is particularly brilliant. Gold and diamonds are produced.

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A United States Senator, from a southern State, recently introduced a bill appropriating \$10,000,000 to buy nitrate of soda to be sold to farmers at cost. If the government is to buy fertilizers, why not machinery, gasoline and everything else that the farmer uses. Then take a step further in socialism and take on the railroads, mines, manufacturing plants and farms, to be operated for public benefit.

Is there a farmer in Centre county who wants the government to own and operate his farm, with all the production to be placed in one common fund for equal distribution to all, including the lazy and incompetent? Does he care to pay such a price for the privilege of buying fertilizer even below cost?

We think not. What the farmer needs is a foreign market; not idle talk and futile legislation.

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