

POISON IS TAKEN FROM A VIPER

Operation on Most Poisonous of All Snakes.

VALUABLE SERUM FURNISHED.

Scientists Obtain a Supply of the Most Deadly Known Poison From Snake Captured in Wilds of Brazil With Great Difficulty—One-third of Teaspoonful of Poison Was Obtained.

New York (Special).—For the first time in 80 years and the second time in the history of the science of medicine an operation for the extraction of venom from the deadly lancehead viper, said to be the most poisonous of all known reptiles, was performed at the Bronx Zoological Park.

The operation, which was directed by E. W. Runyon, of this city, through whose efforts the snake was captured and brought to New York, was a complete success and as a result science once more has a plentiful supply of the serum which has been found almost invaluable in the treatment of extreme cases of insanity and also of many of the malignant diseases.

The extremely powerful nature of the lancehead's venom can be no better described, probably, than by the declaration of one of the scientists who witnessed the operation. When the perilous task had been completed and the precious fluid had been carefully weighed and found to be less than a third of an ordinary teaspoonful in quantity, he announced that the supply was ample to meet the demands of the world for at least half a century.

He explained at the same time that this would provide for the most widespread use of the serum in all the malignant diseases such as typhoid and scarlet fever and diphtheria. So powerful is the action that it is prescribed only in the most minute quantities, the largest portion commonly used containing only one ten-thousandth of a grain. From that point the titration continued down to a point where figures would be useless in attempting to describe it. The operation was the culmination of years of painstaking trouble in the course of which many obstacles which appeared almost insurmountable were finally overcome. So great is the dread of the reptiles among the natives around the headwaters of the Amazon, where it is to be found, and among sailors who know its dangerous character that it was with the utmost difficulty that a specimen was captured and brought to New York.

Those who participated in the operation were Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles at the park; Dr. St. Clair Smith, one of the leading homeopaths of the country; Headkeeper Charles B. Snyder, of the reptile house, and Dr. Runyon.

Those who had gathered around the table expecting to see the deadly viper brought into the room securely caged were thrown almost into panic when Headkeeper Snyder appeared at the head of the passage way bearing the writhing monster at arms' length on a piece of slender wire. They were reassured a moment later, however, when the snake had been placed upon the table, his head cleverly pinioned and Dr. Ditmars seized him in a firm grip.

Holding the reptile close to his body, with the head pointing outward, Dr. Ditmars gave the signal. Keeper Snyder thrust into the snake's mouth the receptacle which he had prepared to receive the venom. It was glass of unusual strength and the wide aperture at the top had been covered with a piece of medicated gauze and securely fixed in place. When the receptacle was at a point less than half an inch from the viper's nose there was a lunge forward so quick that the eye scarcely could follow it, the mouth was thrown open, the lips which covered the cruel fangs were curled back, and with a snap the fangs tore through the cloth, the jaws closed sharply and the poison, enough to kill a thousand men, spurted harmlessly into the glass.

The snake will be kept in captivity, and if he survives it is likely that other operations will be performed from time to time, and the future supply of the venom made secure; possibly for centuries.

41 KILLED IN COLLISION.

Sixty Are Injured in Crash Of Australian Trains.

Melbourne, Australia (By Cable).—In a collision of two trains from Ballarat and Bendigo respectively, at Braybrook Junction, about eight miles from Melbourne, forty-one persons were killed and sixty injured.

The Bendigo train, with two heavy engines, crashed into the rear of the Ballarat train.

Five cars of the latter train were wrecked. The wreckage took fire and was almost completely consumed. Many of the bodies were unrecognizable when recovered.

The Bendigo train suffered but little damage, but the two engines were piled on top of the rear coaches of the other train.

Terrible scenes followed the accident, many of the injured being caught in the wreckage, and with difficulty rescued from the flames.

It was a long time before doctors and nurses arrived on the scene, and as a consequence intense suffering prevailed among the injured.

TWO MORE BODIES FOUND.

Number Of Those Lost In Chelsea Fire Now Known To Be 15.

Chelsea, Mass. (Special).—The number of lives known to have been lost in the fire of April 12 was increased to 15 by the discovery of two more bodies.

One was found beneath a pile of bricks in a cellar in Watta Street. Its sex could not be determined. Miss Annie Murphy, who has been missing since the fire, lived at the address.

EIGHTEEN STUDENTS ARE SHOT IN GUATEMALA

Ringleaders in the Conspiracy Against President Cabrera.

Guatemala City, Guatemala (By Cable).—President Cabrera himself is authority for the statement that 18 of the ringleaders in a conspiracy against him already have been shot to death, and that probably more executions will follow.

President Cabrera, against whose life an attempt was made by students, received the representatives of the various powers and made a lengthy statement to them that he had unearthed an extensive conspiracy against him that led up to his attempted assassination. He declared that 18 of the leaders had been executed by his orders, and that the death penalty would be meted out to others already in the hands of the military.

Among these are the men who were imprisoned a year ago, having been implicated in a plot to assassinate the President. They were sentenced to death after their arrest, but the sentence had not been carried out. President Cabrera said that he had proofs that a majority of these prisoners were implicated in the new attempt against his life, and that they would be executed without delay.

Although there is a surface tranquillity here, conditions really are serious. The military is in control of the city and a partial suspension of business has resulted. The revolutionary feeling is strong in many quarters and there are those who will not hesitate to go to any length or face any danger in their efforts to make away with the President. Cabrera, for this reason, has been seen but twice or thrice in public in the last few months.

An attempt was made to assassinate President Cabrera last April, and arrests to the number of about 150, or those said to be implicated in the plot, were made. Several of the arch conspirators committed suicide and 19 of the others were sentenced by court-martial to death. The latter included two Mexicans, one Spaniard, two Italians and one Belgian. The representatives of the powers later interfered in the carrying out of the death sentence, sending an energetic protest against such summary punishment to President Cabrera.

Later a large number of the minor offenders were pardoned and released from prison, and although the Supreme Court of Guatemala confirmed the death penalty on all those sentenced for the attempt on Cabrera's life, the sentence was not carried out.

WASHINGTON

Secretary Taft will leave the United States for Panama on April 30, spending three weeks on the journey and at the isthmus, and returning by May 20. The cruiser Prairie will probably be placed at his disposal for the journey. According to the present arrangements, he will sail from the port of Charleston, S. C.

The Daughters of the American Revolution authorized the national board of management to make negotiations to secure funds, by means of a loan or bond issue, necessary for the completion of Continental Hall.

The House Committee on the District of Columbia reported to the House a bill prohibiting labor in shops, stores and factories by children less than 14 years old.

The National Academy of Sciences accepted Dr. Ira Remsen's invitation to hold its next meeting at Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary gave a hearing on the National Civic Federation Bill to amend the Sherman Anti-trust Law.

Members of the House were urged to use their efforts to secure the removal of the tariff from print paper and wood pulp.

A fraud order was issued against the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Seattle Railway Company, incorporated in South Dakota.

Milton D. Purdy, assistant attorney-general, was nominated by the President to be United States Judge at Minneapolis.

A court of inquiry has been appointed to determine the responsibility for the accident to the cruiser Tacoma.

Rear Admiral Samuel W. Very was retired and Capt. William S. Cowles was promoted to a rear admiral.

The bill to create an inland waterway commission was considered by the subcommittee of the Senate.

The President signed the bill for the reorganization of the medical department of the Army.

Plans have been recommended for bonding the memorial hall of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to raise enough money to complete the building.

It was declared in the House that it is constitutional for the national government to acquire land in the States for forest reserves when such acquisition is an aid to navigation.

A bill providing for the erection of a monument at Abingdon, Va., to the memory of Gen. William Campbell, a King Mountain hero, was passed by the Senate.

Papers are being prepared at the Department of Justice for the prosecution, under the Anti-trust Law, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

Formal orders were issued placing Rear Admiral C. M. Thomas in command of the Atlantic fleet on May 9 immediately after the review at San Francisco.

The pension appropriation bill reported to the Senate carries \$163,063,000, an increase of \$12,184,000 over the amount appropriated by the House.

WHOLE TOWN BURIED BY A LANDSLIDE

Over Thirty Lost in a Canadian Village.

MOUNTAIN FALLS WITH A ROAR.

The Hamlet of Notre Dame de Salette Is Overwhelmed by an Avalanche of Earth and Snow, Loosened by the Spring Rains—Catastrophe Occurred at 5 in the Morning.

Buckingham, Ont. (Special).—Half the little French hamlet of Notre Dame de Salette, 16 miles from here, on the Lievre River, lies buried under a sliding mountain and at least 30 of its small population are known to have perished.

The hamlet has no telephone or telegraph and neither is it on a railroad. Meager bits of news of the disaster came in by messenger from the physicians and other rescuers who were hurried there when the first calls for aid came at an early hour.

The river Lievre winds at the foot of the hamlet and a mountain towered behind it. Spring rains for days past have been melting the snow and ice on the mountain side and streams have been coursing down the river. At 5 o'clock A. M. just as the little hamlet began to stir for early mass, part of the mountain started to slide toward the river. It tore a path of death and destruction for its way, and those who were not killed when their homes were engulfed were left buried under the mass of rock and earth.

Camille la Pointe's house stood first in the path of the avalanche. He and his family of 11 are known to have perished. Eight others, whose names have not been obtained, are known to be missing, and in the panic the rescuers are attempting to find definitely how many more are missing.

Mrs. Desjardins' cottage also was swept away, and she, with her two children, a domestic and a hired man, are known to be buried in the landslide.

De Salette, like many hamlets of its kind, rambles into gardens and little fields on the mountainside, so about half of it was not in the path of the avalanche. The sliding mass rushed with a roar and spread fan-like over part of the place and dumped itself in the swollen stream at its foot.

Cut off from the outside world, messengers were dispatched to Poupere, the nearest hamlet. Those who arrived first estimated that at least a dozen houses were crushed in the path of the landslide.

Buckingham was appealed to, but the flight of the messengers across the spring roads was slow. Those first on the scene found De Salette in a panic, with the uninjured ones packing their belongings for flight. The first messengers to Buckingham ordered 25 coffins to be sent to De Salette, and all the physicians of the town were hurried across country with rescue parties.

Landslides along the river are common each spring with the rains and swollen streams. The Lievre at De Salette was a torrent 50 yards wide. Occupants of the houses on the west bank felt the ground slipping and made a rush for safety but were carried into the river.

PICKED UP BY A TORNADO.

Man and Wife Carried A Mile And Baby Dropped In A Road.

Bancroft, Neb. (Special).—A cyclone swept through Cummings County and into Thurston County and three people are known to have been killed, a number injured and a number of houses destroyed. Telegraph and telephone wires are down and reports are slow in arriving.

The tornado struck the house of John Mangelson, near Bender, Neb., and then swooped up into the air, taking the wreckage of the house, and both Mr. and Mrs. Mangelson. Both were killed, their bodies being carried a mile.

POSTAL DEFICIT \$15,000,000.

Officials Attribute It To Increase In Salaries.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Figuring on the basis furnished by the returns for the first two quarters, the deficiency in the Postoffice Department for the current fiscal year will exceed \$15,000,000.

The net deficiency for the first six months of the current fiscal year is estimated at \$7,616,545, against \$4,963,202 in 1907. In the corresponding quarter of last year there was a surplus of \$1,742,145.

Postal officials attribute the deficit largely to the general increase in salaries allowed during the year in the service.

FIRE THREATENS TOWN.

Raymond, Miss., Burning And Communications Cut Off.

New Orleans (Special).—A special to the Picayune from Jackson, Miss., says that a serious fire threatens to destroy Raymond, Miss., about 15 miles from Jackson.

Raymond appealed to Jackson for fire-fighting apparatus, but before aid could be sent a second message arrived stating that help would be useless because the water supply had been cut off.

Mrs. Shelley Killed By Gas.

New York (Special).—Mrs. Mary Catherine Shelley, a well-known vocal teacher, was found dead from the effects of illuminating gas in her apartments, on West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street. In a letter found by the coroner Mrs. Shelley said she had been contently unhappy for the last two years because of family troubles and misunderstandings. Mrs. Shelley was 58 years old.

REFUSES TO BE TRIFLED WITH

President Aroused By Proposed Naval Bill.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—President Roosevelt will veto the Naval Appropriation Bill should the Senate, as did the House, fail to make any appropriation for the two battleships which are authorized in that measure. The prompt announcement of this fact to Senate leaders is regarded as responsible for the announcement by Mr. Hale that he would propose an amendment appropriating \$7,000,000 towards the construction of these ships.

The President stated his position on this point with equal emphasis and suddenness upon learning that the bill, as passed by the House was simply a "paper" provision for naval increase. Authorization of the ships was made, but no money carried to make the provision effective. Such legislation as this, the President made known to his numerous congressional callers, was a travesty as to effectiveness, as well as making all the earmarks of legislative legend. He intended to make ridiculous his campaign for the greater navy.

Hale Takes Warning.

That the President's quick and vigorous action is to be effective is evidenced by the action of Chairman Hale, of the Senate Naval Committee, in announcing that at the proper time he will propose the \$7,000,000 amendment. As to his threat of veto, the President made it plain that, should the wisdom of Congress result in the passage of a bill providing for no naval increase whatever, he would have no ground on which to veto the measure. Any attempt at what he regarded as a travesty on legislation by authorizing but not appropriating for ships he declares he will defeat by the exercise of his constitutional power of veto.

There is not the slightest indication that the President has ceased his fight for four new battleships, according to the evidence of senators who talked with him. Senators who are with the President in his fight on this proposition admit that a careful survey of their strength in the Senate gives but a vote of 26 in that body in favor of the President's naval program for four ships.

Significance is attached to this poll of the Senate in that it is said to show a loss to the President of some of his heretofore staunchest supporters in that body. Senator Lodge is understood to have quit the fight for the full naval program advocated by the President and to have given his reasons personally to the President for so doing. The loss of the influence of the Massachusetts Senator is regarded as responsible for the weakness shown by the poll, as it is believed by those favoring the program that had the President's senatorial supporters entered the fight with the vigor he has evidenced his desire in this direction might have been realized.

Naval Academy Professors.

The Senate made generous increases in the salaries of the instructors at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. The revised salary list is as follows: Professor of physics, \$3,600; professor of mathematics, \$3,000; professor of mechanical drawing, \$3,000; professor of English, \$3,000; professor of French, \$3,000; professor of Spanish, \$2,000; three additional professors, respectively, of English, French and Spanish, \$2,600; five instructors, \$2,400; four instructors, \$2,160 each; 10 instructors, at \$1,800 each.

WEDDING RING KILLS DUCK.

Gold Band Found In Its Claw Lost 25 Years Ago.

Meriden, Conn. (Special).—In dissecting a duck to learn the cause of its death, Fred Pragman found a wedding ring which his wife lost nearly 25 years ago.

Mr. Pragman believes he lost the jewel while playing with her baby in a swing suspended from an apple tree on their farm in Yalesville. The tree has since been cut down, and this spring Mr. Pragman plowed the ground for the first time.

The duck that died fed with others in the loose earth and was probably attracted by the ring, which was still bright.

Pays \$484,000 For Picture.

Rome (By Cable).—It is Reported That J. Pierpont Morgan Has Purchased Raphael's Famous "Le Vierge de St. Antoine de Padova" for 2,550,000 Lire (about \$484,000). It Will Remain in Italy and Probably Will Be House in the Aldobrandini Palace.

Northern Pacific has ordered 500 refrigerator cars.

Bankers believe that the American gold which is going to Paris is being sent on to Berlin.

Wheat jumped 2 cents or more a bushel and yet the granger railroad stocks were strong.

Warwick Iron and Steel directors declared a regular half-yearly dividend of 3 per cent.

Hereafter the Lake Superior headquarters will be in Philadelphia instead of New York.

"Things are a little better and there is more inquiry for materials," said a prominent Philadelphia steel man.

One man has been buying Marsden for three months and he seems to have known exactly what he was doing.

A decline in iron prices and in some steel products does not seem to affect the quotation for United States Steel.

Gross revenue of the Cunard Company for 1907 amounted to \$12,496,371, a gain of \$1,146,291 over 1906. Net profit increased \$8,006.

300 PEOPLE REPORTED KILLED IN CYCLONE

Over a Score of Southern Towns Wrecked.

FOUR HUNDRED ARE INJURED.

A Terrific Windstorm Sweeps Through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama—Loss of Life Occurs Chiefly Among the Colored Population—Their Cabins Are Destroyed and They Are Buried Under Debris.

Atlanta, Ga. (Special).—A wind of cyclonic proportions swept over portions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, leaving a trail of dead and injured. The number of killed is estimated at 150 and the number of injured at about 400.

Most of the dead are negroes. Perhaps a dozen white persons were caught in falling buildings and either fatally injured or so seriously disabled as to require medical attention.

The loss of life was chiefly in the quarters of colored persons, where the wind destroyed their cabins, burying the occupants in the debris, or in the farming sections of the country, where trees were uprooted, telegraph and telephone poles torn up and general destruction became an encre to a storm which swept with almost tornado fury through the country.

New Orleans and Mobile were cut off from wire communication with the outside world for several hours and the telegraph companies report wires down in all directions.

The Wrecked Towns.

* In Louisiana it is estimated that a score of small towns were destroyed or partly wrecked. They include Amite City, Arcadia and Independence, Bell Grove, Melton, Lorman, Pine Ridge, Quitman Landing, Fairchilds Creek, Purvis and Lumberton, Miss., are reported seriously damaged by the storm.

In Alabama, Dora was the chief sufferer. This town is also known as Bergen. Four or more persons were killed, among them the wife and daughter of Section Master Moore. Fifty persons at the lowest estimate were injured.

Those most seriously hurt were hurried to hospitals in Birmingham, Ala. One woman, a Mrs. Cully, died on the train. Two other members of this family were seriously injured.

At Bergen cars were blown from the railroad tracks, and considerable other property destroyed.

Reports also say that the storm struck Albertville, Ala., and destroyed nearly the entire northern portion of the town. A cotton mill was blown down, the storm ranging northward, doing much destruction to life and property. An unconfirmed report from this section gives the death list as from 30 to 35, with scores of persons injured.

State Militia Sent.

A special train was sent from Birmingham carrying physicians and a firm of State militiamen to the district. Aid is also pouring in from all other directions.

From Meridian, Miss., comes a report that Mrs. John Minniece and her child were killed outright and John Minniece was seriously injured, while a number of other persons were hurt, and there was considerable destruction of property.

Richland and Lamourie, La., were struck by the storm and nearly a fifth of their population injured.

Winchester, Miss., a small town, is reported wiped out, though only two persons are known to have been killed.

Natchez, Miss., reports 60 are known to be dead in the Northern Louisiana storm. Hundreds of plantation cabins are reported destroyed in this section.

Mobile reported nine dead in Hattiesburg, Miss., but this has not been confirmed.

Churches Demolished.

At Mason, Tenn., the Methodist Church was blown down, and the parsonage adjoining that structure destroyed. The Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches were both practically destroyed and several houses were blown down.

In Memphis the wind reached a velocity of 60 miles an hour. It uprooted shade trees, blew down telegraph and telephone wires and forced in plate glass windows.

Richland and Lamourie, La., which are close together in Rapides parish, were apparently struck by the same tornado. Richland has 500 inhabitants, while Lamourie is much smaller.

At Baxter, Miss., about a dozen buildings were damaged, among them a wooden school house in which there were about 50 children when the storm began. Teachers realized the peril in time to get the children into places of safety. The wind lifted off the roof of the school building and then blew down the walls.

At Amite, a small town in South-eastern Louisiana, the dead are estimated by physicians at from 25 to 50. Correspondents on the scene, however, assert that not more than a dozen were killed, but that so many suffered fatal injuries that the list will reach 25.

Doctor Killed By Lightning.

Galveston, Texas (Special).—Dr. Wallace Rouse, aged 36 years, lecturer and demonstrator at the Medical College of Texas University, was instantly killed by lightning while fishing.

Suspends Two Officers.

Baltimore, Md. (Special).—Mayor Mahool temporarily suspended J. Arthur Wickham and James H. Marine, two of the commissioners for opening streets, who, it is alleged, formed a combination of the Maryland Paving Company in awarding contracts. The charge of "graft" relates to the contract for paving North Avenue, between Payson and Twelfth Streets, work to cost approximately \$140,000.

SECRET SERVICE MEN IN SCANDAL

Used as Spotters in a Navy Divorce Suit.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—A connection of affairs has been unearthed by Representative Tawney, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, that indicates that there has grown up in Washington in the past 10 years a national police system that suggests the days of Napoleon and Fouché. The Secret Service, which was originally provided for solely to prevent counterfeiting, has apparently of recent years been made a secret police whose uses have been as varied as they have been delicate.

It appears from the records of the Secret Service that certain high officials of this government have not scrupled to descend to using the Secret Service to gather testimony for a divorce suit. It is known that not long ago the testimony on which proceedings for divorce were instituted, in which a naval officer was named as co-respondent, was obtained by members of the Secret Service. The naval officer has been dismissed from the service, but the divorce suit is still pending.

Secrets For Cabinet Officers.

It appears from the records of the Secret Service that this bureau of detectives, whose sole duty under the law is confined to preventing counterfeiting, has been drawn upon by almost every department of the government for police work. According to the records, the State Department has during the year employed 7 of these men, the Navy Department has had 4, the Department of Justice has had 61, the War Department has had 3, and even the Department of Commerce and Labor has had 3 Secret Service men in its employ. No details have been furnished as to the nature of the work of these men, but there are some ugly stories of shadowing that has been done by the government's secret police. It is even intimated that some Cabinet officers have in their possession "dossiers"—that is to say, complete police reports of the movements of subordinates who have been watched night and day by Secret Service men, and whose every movement from the instant they have left their desks has been shadowed and reported to their chiefs.

Whatever occasion there may be for the use of detectives in assisting the government to ferret out crimes, the use of the Secret Service men for this purpose is wholly unauthorized by law. Under President Cleveland the practice grew up of detaching Secret Service men to guard the President, a practice which has grown, until President Roosevelt has Secret Service men at his heels all day, a system of surveillance which President Roosevelt knows would prove absolutely useless in an emergency, and to which he has always objected most strongly. The fact that President McKinley was assassinated, although supposed to be protected by Secret Service men, first aroused in Congress a disposition to have these men confined to the sphere of their legal work, and this feeling has grown in proportion, as it has been discovered that the men have apparently become a system of federal police spies.

Congressmen Shadowed.

Chairman Tawney, of the Appropriations Committee, as well as Speaker Cannon, have always strongly opposed the growth of this federal police. Whilst the Sundry Civil bill was being prepared the committee had before it Assistant Chief of the Secret Service Moran, and from him they have learned the conditions that now exist. It appears that whenever a department wanted some secret detective work done it applied to Chief Wilkie, of the Secret Service, who then detached some of his men from his own payroll and turned them over to the department that wanted them, and the men were paid from the contingent fund of that department. This, it appears, is a proceeding wholly outside the law, and it is very probable that the Sundry Civil bill, when it is reported to Congress, will contain some very stringent provisions confining the work of the government's detectives to the duties prescribed by law.

NINE BLOCKS BURNED.

Blaze Wipes Out Business Section Of Richmond, Vt.

Richmond, Vt. (Special).—Nine business blocks in the town of Richmond, 15 miles from Burlington, were wiped out by a fire that started just before midnight, and was not controlled until about 2:30 A. M., causing a loss estimated at \$100,000. Help was called from Burlington.

The blaze started in Sandusky's drug store, on Main Street, a two-story wooden block, and was checked at the Bellevue Hotel, on Depot Street, after destroying that structure.

The cause of the fire is not known.

Drowns Herself And Baby.

Trenton, N. J. (Special).—Mrs. Claudia Smith, wife of a farmer residing near Yardley, Pa., walked into the Delaware River with her baby in her arms, and both were drowned. Mrs. Smith had been ill for a long time, and it is supposed she committed suicide while despondent. She was forty years old and the mother of eight children.

300 Held For One Murder.

Lublin, Russian Poland (By Cable).—The murder of a policeman was followed by the arrest of 300 workmen in local factories. The police found stores of arms, ammunition, and melonite bombs.

Big War Ships For Russia.

London (By Cable).—The Russian government, according to a trade journal, has ordered five war ships from a firm of Clyde shipbuilders. Each one is to be larger than the Dreadnought.