CHARLES S. PARNELL.

THE BRAINY LEADER OF THE HOSTS OF HOME RULE.

Something of His Home Life and His Career as a Politician—The Inquiry Into The London Times Letters That Is Going On in London.

The long expected hearing of the Parnell commission was begun, and as far as can be judged at this distance, London is in a state of temporary insanity. If Americans were not familiar with these local manias, caused by war excitement or political campaigns, they would stand amazed at the fury which seems to possess the British metropolis. During all the long contest between the Stuart kings and their opponents London was the stronghold of liberalism, the very citadel of the Whigs. It is now the headquarters of Toryism.

A sad feature is added to the case by the fact that Mr. Parnell is really a dying man. Not that death is to be expected soon; but he is tortured by a cruel internal malady which was at first thought to be an obscure form of lung disease, but is now pronounced cancer of the stomach, the cough being only sympathetic. There is a hereditary trouble in the family of which the record is saddening but interesting. Like Grattan, Curran, Mitchel and many other Irish patriots, Mr. Parnell is really of English blood. He is an "Irishman" only in the sense that Dean Swift was, in the sense that Tertullian and the Hellenes of Cyrene and Appolonia were "Africans."

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Something over 200 years ago the Parnells went from Congleton, in Cheshire, to Ireland, and several of them became eminent. Thomas Parnell took high rank as a poet; one of his sons became a judge and married into a noble family; but it was not till the latter part of the Eighteenth century that any Parnell gained a title. John, who represented Bangor in the Irish parliament, was made a baron, which was not particularly creditable to a man in those days; but Sir John Parnell remained steadfast in the Irish cause in those stormy times. The struggle, as all students of Irish history know, resulted in the "Union"—that is, Lord Cornwallis, who was sent to govern Ireland after his disastrous failure in America, succeeded in destroying the Irish parliament, the act from which Irish politics took their color from 1800 to 1848.

CHARLES S. PARNELL.

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The second Sir John Parnell was also a patriot, and it was upon his motion in the house of commons that the Pitt ministry was thrown out, on the accession of William IV. In 1841 he became a member of the house of lords as Baron Congleton, and soon after became violently insane and committed suicide. His uncle, an Episcopal minister, also died insane. The brother of the second Sir John Parnell was grandfather of the present noted leader, and was of a melancholy temperament. In his son the same peculiarity terminated in consumption. His wife, mother of Charles Stewart Parnell, is an American woman, and seems to have acquired the family tendency to melancholy. On this, the western continent, consumption and gastric troubles are unhappily too common for any reader to need an explanation of their close connection with prolonged and hopeless melancholy.

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So much has Mr. Parnell occupied public attention in the last dozen years that it is a surprise to learn that he is but 43 years old, and that during the stirring American era of 1860-65 he was winning renown at Cambridge as a pugilist rather than as a scholar. Probably because he knew his hereditary tendency he early became a devotee of active sports, and few in the college excelled him. On one occasion a party of students were out "on a lark," and a burly "college beadle" attempted to capture them. The others fled, but Parnell "put up his dukes," and there was a very pretty contest between brute strength and boxing skill, in which the "beadle" was badly worsted. Like a true Briton, he acquired a high respect for his young antagonist; the case was not hardly pressed, and the college authorities imposed a heavy fine in place of expulsion.

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Parnell's ancestral home, Avondale, is in the loveliest dale of County Wicklow, under the shadow of the far famed Wicklow mountains. All around are the heights where the Irish insurgents of 1798 took their stand and for a time baffled the British troops. There the brave Miles Byrne and his little band kept the red coats at bay after all the rest of Ireland was crushed; and in his youthful life among these scenes and study of their history Mr. Parnell absorbed his intense enthusiasm for Irish liberty. The Parnell mansion is plain and modest, but surrounded by some of the most romantic scenes in Ireland; and but a few rods from the door flows the clear and rippling Avon.

The main hall of the mansion is a museum of Irish antiquities and mementoes, old flags, pikes, spears and other curiosities. Among these and in many other places in the house are some of the many illuminated addresses presented to the owner in Ireland and America. It is a trifle odd, too, that he should be an "Irish landlord;" but he has a good estate, well stocked with blooded cattle, and employs also about 250 men in his quarries and other works. His personal works are conducted with business energy and precision, and with his tenants he puts in practice his most extreme land reform doctrines. While at Avondale and not engaged in superintending his works he lives in almost complete retirement. For general society he has little taste, but has a few personal friends to whom he is warmly attached, and toward whom he acts in the spirit of the motto inscribed on the large flag in his hall, a memento of the "volunteer days" of a century ago: "Velox et acer et fidelis amicis," meaning, "Swift and sharp and faithful to friends."

Bicycles for English Soldiers.

The bicycle force that has been organized in connection with the English volunteers recently had its second field maneuvers, the first having been held at Easter. Rainy and disagreeable weather embarrassed the troops on each of these dates, but the result of the turnout has been very satisfactory. On the recent trials the men covered about 100 miles in forty-eight hours, fighting, scouting and camping by the way. There were seventeen officers and seventy-seven men out, made up of representatives of a number of the leading volunteer regiments.

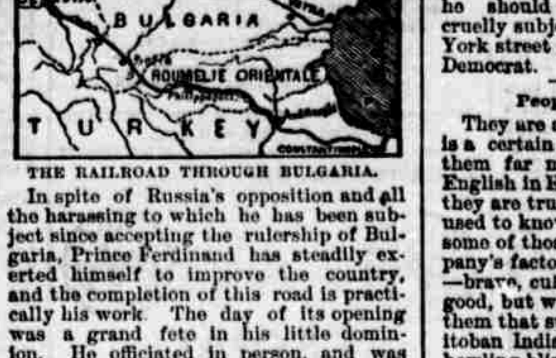
The force was divided into two bodies, one retreating and the other following it. At frequent intervals the retreating force made stands at bridges and other eligible points of defense, and the pursuers were compelled to halt, dismount, send out a skirmish line and perform all the other preliminaries of attack, as though in active war. It was found that two or three men left behind by the retreating body could make a show of force at a bridge that would greatly delay the advance of a pursuing force, and then could mount and swiftly ride away under cover of a hedge and escape to the main body. This ability to fight and run away with greater facility than the ordinary infantryman is one of the chief points urged by the bicyclers in favor of the new "arm." It is said that scouting and reconnoitering parties mounted upon bicycles could do much more effective work without risk of capture than men on foot.

In these maneuvers, although the retreating force numbered but three officers and twelve men, they succeeded in delaying the pursuers so that it took them three hours to cover a distance easily made in less than two when no obstacles are interposed. Three of the retreating force dallied too long at a bridge, and were ridden down and captured by a detachment of the enemy. There were no other losses. The chief difficulty experienced was due to the number of parallel roads occasionally converging that ran through the country traversed. The retreating party had to keep scouts constantly ahead picking up the lay of the land and bringing in reports, to protect themselves from the danger of being flanked on some of these roads and cut off entirely at a converging point. In a country with one good main road and but few side roads the success of a bicycle corps in obstructing the passage of an enemy would be much greater. Bicycles have not yet been introduced in the British regular army, but if their success among the volunteers continues, it is expected that a similar corps will be organized in each regular regiment.—New York Sun.

STEEL BISECTED BULGARIA.

Direct Rail Communication Between Paris and Constantinople.

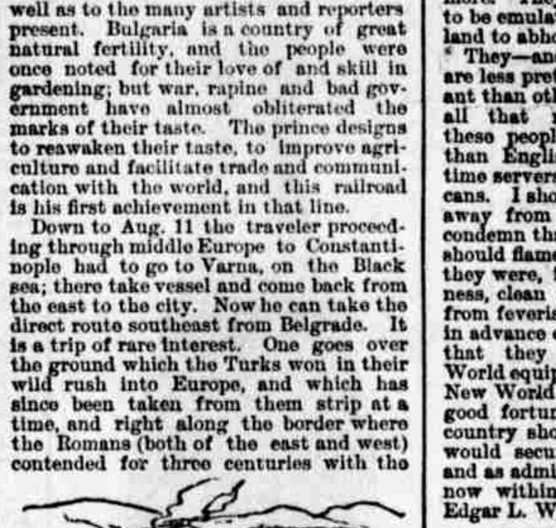
The railroad through Bulgaria is completed, and now one may ride on a coupon ticket from Paris to Constantinople, through south central Europe, and take in the places most noted in the recent wars and complications growing out of the so called "Eastern Question." For some time past the railroad has extended from Constantinople westward and northward to the border of Bulgaria, and from Belgrade on the Danube down through Servia; but there was a great gap in Bulgaria, the Turks opposed the completion of the line and the internal troubles of the small principality long delayed it.



THE RAILROAD THROUGH BULGARIA.

In spite of Russia's opposition and all the harassing to which he has been subject since accepting the rulership of Bulgaria, Prince Ferdinand has steadily exerted himself to improve the country, and the completion of this road is practically his work. The day of its opening was a grand fete in his little dominion. He officiated in person, and was especially gracious to the French engineers who had designed the route and directed the work, as well as to the many artists and reporters present. Bulgaria is a country of great natural fertility, and the people were once noted for their love of and skill in gardening; but war, rapine and bad government have almost obliterated the marks of their taste. The prince designs to reawaken their taste, to improve agriculture and facilitate trade and communication with the world, and this railroad is his first achievement in that line.

Down to Aug. 11 the traveler proceeding through middle Europe to Constantinople had to go to Varna, on the Black sea; there take vessel and come back from the east to the city. Now he can take the direct route southeast from Belgrade. It is a trip of rare interest. One goes over the ground which the Turks won in their wild rush into Europe, and which has since been taken from them strip at a time, and right along the border where the Romans (both of the east and west) contended for three centuries with the



THE FIRST TRAIN.

Goths and their wild successors. First traversing Servia to Nische, its second capital, and eastward to the border; then Bulgaria through Sofia, the capital; then Turkish Roumelia through Vakarel, Bellova and Philippopoli, the traveler enters Turkey proper near the historic city of Adrianople, and thence down to Constantinople. On the return he can take the water route through the Mediterranean.

PICTURES OF VICTORIA.

The Queen and Her Grandchild—They Lead All Others in English Papers.

A very large percentage of the pictures published by the illustrated papers of England represent members of the royal family, or events in which they take part. Examination of a file of any one of these journals would bring to light a never ending series of "The queen receiving an address from the borough of" so and so; "The Prince of Wales laying the cornerstone of" such and such a building; "The queen's visit to" one or another shire; "The Princess of Wales at Lady" watsername's garden party, and so on. In a recent number of The Illustrated News there were forty-six cuts all told; of these nineteen were of the queen; some place made momentarily famous by her visit; or of the casket containing some address delivered to her by somebody.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALEXANDER.

The most interesting one of the lot was, however, the frontispiece of the number which is here reproduced reduced. Its full title as printed in The News is "The queen and her grandchild, Prince Alexander Albert of Battenburg; from a photograph by special command by Messrs. A. and G. Taylor."

The most interesting peculiarity of the picture is that in it Victoria resembles very closely that Mrs. Kent who excited a transient interest in New York some months ago by her claim that she was a member of the house of Hanover and had been defrauded of her rights by a "confusion of babes" when she was an infant.

He Was No Night Hawk.

"Young man," he said sonorously, "are you ever abroad in the early morning when the great orb of day rises in all his majestic and brilliant glory?"

"Well—er—yes, sir, sometimes," replied the young man, "but I generally try to get to bed earlier than that."—New York Sun.

The catheral at Strasburg, which is perhaps the only purely Gothic monument on the continent, was finished in 1275. The first stone was laid in 1015. The tower, finished in 1439, is, without contradiction, the highest bit of masonry which exists in Europe. Its height is 426 feet.

The Care of Domestic Animals.

The family cat is regarded with far greater respect in England than America. Every householder in New York, when he packs off for the summer, leaves the cat to live in the streets. The consequence is that during the hot weather the cats of the Empire city cry aloud and shout; they wail in anguish to the earless moon in moans "most musicall, most melancholie." They make night hideous for callous hearted man, who ignores their affection and rejects their companionship. Among cranks, commend me to the animal loving crank. He is a bit weak headed at times, but softness of heart is quite compatible with strongness of mind. Whether the Baroness Burdett-Coutts was cranky or not as a connoisseur in husbandry she shows admirable judgment in the care of animals. And her care for them when they cease from age or malady to be serviceable beasts of burden entitles her to public homage. At Holly Lodge, her beautiful suburban home at Highgate, she keeps her worn out horses, donkeys, cattle, dogs, cats and other pets in well tended pastures and stables until they die. And she visits them with the regularity of a doctor, sparing nothing that can give them comfort. Others here and there do the same.

I have seen pedigree cattle with famous names and records living in luxury to a grand old age, and I have also seen poor folks' broken down horses and pets kept in country quarters at an expense they could but ill afford. "The merciful man is merciful to his beast." What of New Yorkers and their cats? If they sneer at the bare idea of imitating the example of those who have established a home for cats in London, let them do something better. For a very small fee the Londoner who locks up house to go a-holiday making can have his cat properly cared for until the family return. This is common humanity and common sense. If the wealthy New York houseowner cannot afford to keep his cat all the year round, he should have it killed rather than cruelly subject it to the horrors of New York street life.—New York Cor. Globe-Democrat.

People of New Brunswick.

They are a splendid people here. There is a certain dignity about every one of them far more striking than with any English in England. And what is better, they are truly kind hearted and polite. I used to know, a quarter of a century ago, some of those grand old Hudson Bay company's factors; and fine fellows they were—brave, cultured, chivalrous, gentle and good, but with a roaring sort of way with them that suggested the entrancing Manitoban Indian summer with a lurking, howling blizzard element beneath. These are like them. Climate has had to do with it; true culture of brain and brawn, more. They are near enough to the states to be emulative; far enough from England to abhor incivility.

They—and all New Brunswick folk—are less pretentious than we; more tolerant than others of their nationality. In all that makes sociologic distinction, these people are immeasurably better than Englishmen, and infinitely less the time servers and snobs than some Americans. I should say they had got further away from the England we profess to condemn than many of us whose cheeks should flame for our cockney apings; that they were, in moderation, level headedness, clean culture, and in the freedom from feverish ambitions and vanities, far in advance of most of our communities; that they possessed the best of Old World equipoise and conservatism, and of New World virility; and that if by any good fortune of diplomacy or war their country should become our country, we would secure a fine bit of possession and as admirable a class of people as are now within our farthest boundaries.—Edgar L. Wakeman's Letter.

A Non-Transferable Railroad Ticket.

A young railroad man of Atlanta has come to the front with an invention in the way of a ticket that will bring him fame and an enviable bank account. It is simply this: The purchaser of an iron-clad ticket is not to be required to write his name or make any formal declaration as to his intention in regard to the ticket. Nothing of the kind. The agent who sells the low rate round trip points his little camera at you while he gives you your change. It records the image of the purchaser in an instant. The agent pulls out the slide, rubs his chemical sponge over the sensitized paper and—there you are. In the upper left hand corner of the ticket he pastes that picture, puts it in under a stamp that embosses the edges, and unless you can find somebody that looks enough like you to risk the chance of a return on your image the ticket will carry the original purchaser and nobody else.—Atlanta Constitution.

Plant a Lombardy Poplar.

Professor Asa Gray observed that the reason which lies at the bottom of the general belief on the continent of Europe that lightning strikes the Lombardy poplar trees in preference to others is coming to light. Green herbage and green wood—sappy wood—are excellent conductors of electricity. A tree is shattered by lightning only when the discharge reaches the naked trunk or naked branches, which are poorer conductors. An old fashioned Lombardy poplar, by its height, by its complete covering of twigs and small branches, and their foliage, down almost to the ground, and by its sappy wood, makes a capital lightning rod, and a cheap one. Happily no one can patent it and bring it round in a wagon and insist upon trying it. To make it surer the tree should stand in moist ground or near water, for wet ground is a good conductor and dry soil a poor one. It is recommended to plant a Lombardy poplar near the house and another close to the barn. If the ground is dry the nearer the well the better, except for the nuisance of the roots that will get into it.—Boston Budget.

Ahead of the Ring Thieves.

"I have no doubt that the jewelers in this city lose $10,000 or $15,000 a year from ring thieves," said a John street jeweler a few days ago. "The ring thief is usually well dressed and respectable in his appearance. He calls for several trays of rings, and while he is talking to the clerk manages to steal a ring. It is impossible to refuse to place a tray of rings before a customer, so I have hit upon the following scheme: Through each row of rings I run a steel rod; these rods are attached to an iron frame, with hinges at one end and a lock at the other. When a customer wishes to look at the rings I hand out this rack. When necessary, I can take off any ring by unlocking the frame. This has proved a great saving."—New York Sun.

The First Commercial Advertisement.

An English antiquarian has been delving among old newspaper files and has discovered what he says is the first commercial advertisement ever printed in a newspaper. It appeared in The Mercurius Politicus, of London, dated Sept. 30, 1658. It runs as follows: "That Excellent and by all Physitians approved China Drink called by all the Chineans Teha, by other Nations Tay alias Tee, is sold at the Sultaness Head Cophee House, in Sweeting's Rents, by the Royal Exchange, London." At the date of this advertisement tea had been used in England about forty years, but the price was extremely high, often reaching £20 per pound.—Chicago Herald.

Likes to Be Accurate.

Slithers always likes to be strictly accurate. Upon a recent occasion he was asked the age of his baby, and immediately replied, "Six weeks and thirteen days, thank you."—Harper's Bazar.

Decrease of Indians.

A recent official publication estimates the average annual decrease of the Indians at nearly 2,000. Their present total number in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, is about 245,000.

The stern of a departing ferryboat is more polite than that of other boats. It always returns a bow.—Syracuse Christian Advocate.

A broken eye glass may well be called a woful spectacle.

CHINESE ODDITIES.

THE EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY THE ADVENT OF A FOREIGNER.

Watching the Pale Faced Traveler at His Meal—Remarks of the Almond Eyed Bystanders—Hotels and Eating Houses—Beds and Furniture.

I called them good humored, but a stranger would not think so, if he saw them for the first time. On the contrary, the state of things seems to be bordering on a riot. The amount of energy that lies latent in a Chinaman, waiting to be developed and manifested by a discussion of cash, is simply incalculable. As we coolly regard this throng of half dressed, yellow colored people, we see chance acquaintances who have run against one another for half an hour, screaming their loudest, with distorted countenances and violent gesticulations, apparently threatening immediate death to those who differ from them. It seems incredible that the subject is of no more importance than whether a sack of potatoes or basket of fish shall be half a farthing more or less.

Imagine our coming suddenly into such a crowd in a short serge jacket and big sun hat, under which is a pale face and beard. If the place is one where foreigners are occasionally seen, they will look up, say "Hwan-kui" (foreign ghost), and after a few moments resume their employment as though we were not there. If, however, foreigners are almost unknown in those parts, we know perfectly well that we shall have no peace except such as we can secure by means of a little maneuvering. Sometimes the landlord appears pleased to receive us, but now and then he seems to think we take up too much room, with the crowd who stand round to look at us. It is very entertaining to observe how excited such a crowd often becomes by the advent of a foreigner, and how rapidly the news spreads to neighboring houses that a "foreign ghost" has arrived. Mine host stands and threatens terrible things, which he has not the smallest intention of carrying into execution. For half an hour he will shout and gesticulate, entreating the untutored herd to remember the proprieties and not crowd in so much upon the foreign gentleman.

A FOREIGNER AT HIS MEAL.

The point of greatest interest is always reached when the traveler begins his meal. He has carried with him all he wants with the exception of rice, potatoes, hot water and one or two other things. The laying out of plates, knives and forks is a great mystery. Much questioning goes on as to the way of using them. They beg to know the reason why we prefer to employ a man to carry all our apparatus for dinner, instead of using their bowls and chop sticks. The spoon and fork, apparently made of solid silver, greatly astonishes them, and the traveler is ready enough to own that they are not silver at all. When we lift our food to our mouth, many hands move in a similar way, as they say quietly to one another, "Look! He is doing like this!" Standing so closely around our small table that we feel inconvenienced, we entreat them to give us breathing room while we dine, and afterward we will talk to them. Many voices break forth with pleasure at our speaking to them. "The foreigner speaks our words," says one; "Yes, let him eat," says another; "Stand back, you man without propriety," says a third, whose zeal for good manners is evidently due only to his desire to secure a front place.

At such a time one is almost always questioned in the same way. The most trivial and ridiculous questions are asked. The inquiries they make of a foreigner are such as they commonly make among themselves. How far is it to your ancestral home? Are your venerable parents living? How many sons have you? Was your linen made in China or in England? How do you get it so white? How are marriages arranged among the foreign children? What is your income?"

A little mild banter is much appreciated by the crowd, but brings out a more rapid fusillade of questions. In the country places about Amoy I have been asked very frequently, "Where is the country where the people have one leg?—one arm?—one eye?—and where there are only women? Have you seen these lands?" What the origin of these notions is it is hard to say. Perhaps some Chinese Baron Munchausen or Dean Swift wrote a burlesque book of travels, which has in the course of time been accepted as authentic by a people who have for so many centuries stayed at home.

INNS ON THE GREAT ROADS.

In China every traveler carries his bedding with him; in the daytime it helps to pack the cart, or is laid, by way of saddle, upon the ass. The traveler may count himself fortunate if he can find in some Mutual Prosperity or Heavenly Union hostel a tolerable room in which to rest. On the great roads, and the recognized stages, the inns are pretty sure to be decent, but elsewhere they are often wretched.

In those of the better sort there is generally an eating house or tea shop on one side of the large door leading into the yard. The shop faces the street, and is connected with the cook house and private rooms of the landlord. At this end, too, are the rooms occupied by the carters and others. Passing through the great door, the visitor finds himself in a large unpaved yard with buildings all round it. On one side are, perhaps, six or eight guest rooms, little boxes about twelve feet square, with paper in place of glass for windows, doors which do not fit, and through the openings of which wind and dust find their way.

A very rickety old chair and an equally decrepit table are the only furniture, the bed being simply a brick or mud platform filling nearly half the little room and raised about two feet from the floor. Underneath it is a flue, into which, in cold weather, dry grass or other fuel is pushed and fired, the heat and smoke passing in a zigzag line just under the surface of the couch, and finally escaping up a vent in the wall. Other fireplace there is none; and if, as often happens, the chimney should be foul the warmed bed is but a poor compensation for smarting eyes and partial suffocation. But there are other rooms sometimes at the top of the yard, and it is always an object to secure them, as they are a trifle larger and cleaner and probably in better repair. The charges are moderate, from 100 to 200 cash per night—about 25 cents—with extras for food and gratuities to servants.—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

Mountain Climbing for Invalids.

Oertel has extended his advocacy of mountain climbing, as a curative agency, to other forms of heart disease besides such as are dependent upon or associated with corpulency—namely, to all forms of "weak heart," and also to valvular defects. For this purpose he prefers resorts surrounded by mountains, on the sides of which graduated walks, of increasing difficulty, and extending up to between three thousand and four thousand feet can be mapped out. "It is by no means a matter of indifference how you walk up these ascents. It is to be done in a strictly prescribed manner. The hills are to be ascended slowly, and the pace must be as even as possible, with no talking and no interruptions. This may not be attainable at first, but it is the end to be aimed at.

"Then the pace and the breathing must, in a sort of way, keep time; with one step the patient should make an inspiration and with the next an expiration; both acts should be equal and regular in length, neither longer nor shorter than the step. One foot is raised with the beginning of the inspiration and put down as it ends; the other foot makes its step, in the same manner, with the expiration. These precautions must be minutely observed, or palpitation and difficulty of breathing will be induced. The patient may lean on a stick, but he must not pause often in his walk; but he may rest for half an hour or an hour after the completion of one of the appointed tasks. The cure will be slow and gradual, requiring great patience; it should last from four to six weeks, and it may have to be repeated several times in the year."—

TESTING DRINKING WATER.

Unsatisfactory Results Which Are Sometimes Obtained—Remarkable Tests.

We are giving more and more attention to the purity of drinking water as it becomes more apparent that infection of almost every kind travels by water. It becomes of the highest importance to know whether the tests usually resorted to for the detection of organic impurities are trustworthy. If dangerous impurities slip past these tests, they afford no protection against the transmission of disease germs. The Sanitarian prints a paper by Dr. J. A. Tanner, of Boston, giving results of some of his experiments in this direction, which may almost be called startling.

Dr. Tanner declares boldly that the chemical processes relied upon for testing water are "as apt to condemn a good water as they are to commend it, and to commend an impure water when they should condemn it," and his statements go far to support his theory. For example, if 5 per cent. of milk or any beef extract be added to a gallon of distilled water the processes will condemn it as impure because it contains organic matter. Add a few million of disease germs to a gallon of distilled water and none of the processes will discover them, because the quantity of organic matter is not large enough. Yet the one mixture is entirely harmless, and the other, if we accept the germ theory, is dangerous. The combustion process relies upon the proportions found of carbon and nitrogen; the ammonia process upon the presence of free ammonia and albumoid ammonia; the permanganate process upon the amount of oxygen required to oxidize the organic matter. All of these tests are extremely delicate, and a slight inaccuracy is enough to cause an impure water to be rated as pure, or the opposite.

The fact that they disagree wildly in their results with the same water is enough to shake faith in all of them. Dr. Tanner shows this by reference to the investigation conducted by Professor J. Mallet for the national board of health some years ago, with which he was connected. Nineteen samples of natural water, believed from actual use to be wholesome, were examined by these processes. They agreed that ten were potable and three were not, but as to six, or one-third of the number, they disagreed totally. Then nineteen samples were taken of "natural waters which there seemed to be fair grounds for believing have actually caused disease." But only four of these were rejected as unwholesome; as to nine, or one-half, there was no agreement, and six, or one-third, were pronounced wholesome by all the processes. Then twenty samples were taken of natural water of doubtful but suspected character, and as to these the results were really more unfavorable than as to the waters known to be dangerous.

The most remarkable of all the tests were with twenty samples of good water, to which were added various pollutions, such as sewage from various sources, black vomit and like offensive and poisonous substances. Only eight of these samples, less than half, were condemned by all the processes; as to nine the reports did not agree, and three the processes actually concurred in pronouncing good. Water, to which enough of a weak mixed sewage from a large public sewer had been added to create, it was believed, serious danger of typhoid, was pronounced to be of "great organic purity" by two processes, and "good" by the third. A larger admixture of the same sewage, as much as 5 per cent. was pronounced of "medium" quality by two processes, and "bad" by only one. Even more striking examples could be given. Yet the same processes condemned as impure the Lake Drummond water from the Dismal swamp, which is in part the water supply of Portsmouth, Va., and the Cochituate of Boston, simply because of the presence of vegetable matter contributed by leaves, roots, etc.—New York Tribune.

Progression in Car Brakes.

Every year has shown progress in perfecting the comforts and safety of the railway car. In 1849 the Hodge hand brake was introduced, and in 1851 the Stevens brake. These enabled the cars to be controlled in a manner which added much to the economy and safety in handling the trains. In 1869 George Westinghouse patented his air brake, by which power from the engine was transmitted by compressed air carried through hose and acting upon the brakes of each car in the train. It was under the control of the engineer, and its action was so prompt and its power so effectual that a train could be stopped in an incredibly short time, and the brakes released in an instant. In 1871 the vacuum brake was devised, by means of which the power was applied to the brakes by exhausting the air.

A difficulty under which railways suffered for many years was the method of coupling cars. The ordinary means consisted of coupling pins inserted into links attached to the cars. There was a great deal of "slack," the jerking of the train in consequence was very objectionable, and the distance between the platforms of the cars made the crossing of them dangerous. In collisions one platform was likely to rise above that of the adjoining car, and "telescoping" was not an uncommon occurrence.

The means of warning passengers against standing on the platforms were characteristic of the dangers which threatened, and were often ingenious in the devices for attracting attention. On a New Jersey road there was painted on the car door a picture of a new made grave, with a formidable tombstone, on which was an inscription announcing to a terrified public that it was "Sacred to the memory of the man who had stood on a platform."—Scribner's Monthly.

Using Second Hand Tin Cans.

Economy may be the secret of wealth, but there are cases where it does not pay to economize too closely. A method is in use, and has been recently patented, of using again old tin cans from which peas, lobster, salmon and other edibles have been removed. The practice may prove a pernicious one, and the cans should be relegated to the furnace and rolling mill before being again used for canning food. At best, cans are never preserved, after the food has been removed, in a very clean condition, to say the least, and the acid contained in the food often causes poisonous compounds, when combined with oxygen of the atmosphere.

The old cans are, it is stated, collected in the "revamping" establishment, the damaged top removed, and the cans thoroughly cleansed. If this statement be true, there may be no objection from a sanitary point of view, but it is doubtful if cans can be cleaned short of removing the entire coating of more or less oxidized tin coating with which they are covered, thus leaving some of the poisonous matter to contaminate the next food placed in the can.

After cleansing, the old bottom is punched to serve as a new top, and a new bottom soldered on from the inside, through the punched hole. It might be well for purchasers of canned goods to examine the construction of cans when purchasing, and promptly reject all goods likely to be in cases or cans that are "second hand."—Boston Budget.

Horses of the World.

Considering the very important roles which cavalry and artillery play in the art of modern warfare it is an interesting fact to know the total number of animals which the leading countries of the world can throw into the field of battle. It is equally interesting to know that the statistician in formulating his tables places the United States in second place. The following is the list, according to the late statistics furnished the war department at Washington:

Russia, 21,570,000 horses; America, 9,500,000; the Argentine Republic, 4,000,000; Austria, 3,500,000; Germany, 3,350,000; France, 2,800,000 and 300,000 mules; England, 2,790,000; Canada, 2,624,000; Spain, 680,000 horses and 2,300,000 mules; Italy, 2,000,000; Belgium, 383,000; Denmark, 316,000; Australia, 301,000; Holland, 125,000, and Portugal, 88,000 horses and 50,000 mules.—New York Mail and Express.

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S. G. AHERN, Dubois, Dodge Co., Ga.

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I have been a terrible sufferer for years from diseases of the skin and blood, and have been obliged to shun public places by reason of my disfiguring humors. Have had the best of physicians and spent hundreds of dollars, but got no relief until I used the CUTICURA REMEDIES, which have cured me, and left my skin as clear and my blood as pure as a child's.
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GEO. CAMPBELL, Washington, D. C.

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