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GRIPPE DISEASE terms of every sort are always in the air. Normally healthy persons are attacked every day by the organisms of infectious diseases and are unaware of it.

Suppression of the flu germs and the home pie rules should be made simultaneous. MORRIS L. COOKE'S ACHIEVEMENTS THE record of Morris L. Cooke, who is being mentioned as a candidate for Federal director of electrical power development, is a thoroughly potent endorsement of his fitness for the post.

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STILL BUNGLING Many Coal Trembles Are Due to the Inactivity of the National Fuel Administration THE local branch of the fuel administration is congratulating itself on its success in putting into the cellars of the householders 45 per cent of the amount of coal that will be needed this winter.

On its face this is an excellent showing. But the percentages covering the whole city will not satisfy those householders who have had their orders in since April and have been unable to get the coal they need now. The fact that many families have two-thirds of their coal does not relieve those families which have none.

The trouble can be traced back to blundering in the plans for distribution. Mr. Garfield ruled that not more than two-thirds of the amount needed could be delivered this summer. The local administration called upon the householders—not a few of them, but on every one—to get the two-thirds in their cellars while they could, because there might come a time when they could not get coal.

One would have thought that a group of officials who knew that only 25 per cent of the year's supply was ever in the cellars on October 1 in past years would have known that it would be impossible to put 66 per cent of the coal needed in the cellars before that date this year.

This blundering is merely a sample of the inefficiency which has characterized the fuel administration from the moment that Mr. Garfield was appointed. The attempt was made last year to keep the price down when the cost of production and distribution was increasing almost every week.

This year the mine workers have been allowed to leave the mines by the thousands and enter the army and the navy. Yet, in spite of the decrease in the number of men employed, there has been an increase in production. But the increase has not been adequate to meet the increased demand for war industries and for the growing population.

This relative shortage, combined with the unintelligent system of distribution, is responsible for much of the trouble. This newspaper has said time after time that there is need for a Schwab in the fuel administration. That need was never more imperative than today.

Professor Garfield is allowed to bungle along, and his subordinates follow his rulings with childish literalness until the situation becomes acute, when they are forced to abandon such erroneous decisions as the two-thirds allowance, which ought, in all common sense, never to have been made.

The task of production and delivery of coal is difficult at best, but it is not beyond the capacity of American business men. There is no real justification for satisfaction with the way the task has been accomplished, either here or in Washington.

It may be a hard job, but it's a worse one than this blundering influenza has a nasty way of bringing a fellow to his knees.

WAR NAMES FOR STREETS AS SERIOUSLY as it ever thinks of anything, New York is thinking of renaming a few of its most important thoroughfares to commemorate the glories and achievements of its greatest year of American history.

Broadway, too, might properly be given a new name. Musical comedies have made it present nomenclature a term suggestive of clarettes, champagne, chorus girls and forty-dollar luncheons. The virtuous pioneer in Manhattan is disposed to fear Broadway, which is, as a matter of fact, altogether harmless.

It is a good idea, this, of renaming American streets to keep the memory of some of our greatest hours green. Some thoroughfares in Philadelphia are named in honor of inconspicuous citizens long forgotten. They represent an abject failure of civic imagination. A street is a permanent thing. There is no reason why

through its name, it should not serve to keep future generations mindful of the great deeds and aspirations and places of the past. Fashions at large in New York usually spread. Why should we in Philadelphia not be as ready as the Manhattanites to put a gracious and imaginative note in street names?

The best way to ensure surrender days, one of which has been so keenly enjoyed this week, is to support the Liberty Bonds that will grip them.

DAMASCUS REDEEMED THE fall of Damascus is the inevitable consequence of the great victory won by General Allenby between Nablus and the Lake of Galilee. No battle of modern dimensions appears to have been fought outside the walls of the most ancient of all cities and the largest metropolis taken by the Allies throughout the war.

It now remains to be seen whether the beaten Turks can reconstruct an army of sufficient strength to hinder Allenby's triumphal progress to Aleppo. Delay in the crisis is the most the Sultan's generals and their discomfited Teuton mentors can hope for.

Damascus, a city of a quarter of a million people and capital of Syria, is the key position throughout the whole country. It is the terminus to a vital spur line to the Mediterranean port of Beirut and the starting point of the Moslem-built Hedjaz railway to Medina. Northward runs the railroad to Aleppo, where the still uncompleted line to Bagdad branches off.

Railroads are trump cards in the Palestine campaign. Allenby holds them. His control of the Hedjaz route means that the Sheik of Mecca, who proclaimed himself caliph of the new kingdom of Arabia about a year ago, can practically substantiate his independence. Syria and Arabia, whose inhabitants have hated the Ottomans for centuries, thus escape simultaneously from the Turkish yoke.

The comparatively mild winter climate of Syria renders it fully possible for the victorious British to reach the angle in the Mediterranean where the coast turns west within the next month or so, provided Turkey holds out that long. The important port of Alexandretta and the railway center of Aleppo in Allied hands would not only mean the splitting of Turkey's Asiatic domain, but would completely make of the Berlin-Bagdad dream an "imsubstantial parent fad."

It is indeed conceivable that the "Eastern Question" so far as it concerns Germany, will not come up at all in the peace conference. Allenby is settling it with strokes as swift as mercury.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the birth of two marshals—Foch and Hindenburg. We have a notion that the former, with characteristic French courtesy, felt like wishing the latter many returns of the day, but we seriously question any reciprocal sentiment.

It is to be assumed, of course, that Germany arranged for the strategic collapse of Bulgaria, the strategic flight of Ferdinand to Vienna, strategic riots in the streets of Berlin and the strategic thrashing which she is getting on the west front.

St. Quentin blends so subtly in the cornucopia of victories that its individual "bouquet" is almost lost in the pervasive perfume of triumph. Every time a new flower of success is picked an innumerable public fixes its delighted gaze on the next one.

Wilson's New York address differed in one essential from most of those that have preceded it. The President stood on this occasion at the kings that hide behind the thrones as well as at those that sit on them.

In a way we must thank Ludendorff for our present exultation. If he hadn't advertised the Hindenburg barrier as his life line there wouldn't have been half so much delight in pulling it away from him.

The Turkish re-enforcements who vainly struggled to relieve Damascus have almost certainly gotten as far as the first syllable, "Damas." It is interesting to note that the German Vice-Chancellor, Von Payer, and Bulgaria quit at just about the same time. The Dutch newspaper, Tyd, forecasts a new and much humbler German peace offer, but there's little use in getting excited over it until we have something more substantial than Tyd hits.

WHAT SOLDIERS READ By Frank Parker Stockbridge

HE WAS a young Italian, a soldier in the American Army. He had been wounded, but now he was well enough to help in the domestic work of the big base hospital not far from New York city. There is a free public library in the hospital, one of the many libraries established in army and navy camps, transports and hospitals by the American Library Association.

NOT all soldiers read the classics, but they all, or nearly all, read something. Most of the foreign-born want to read books in their own language and books to learn English. Every library in the camps and hospitals supplies these needs.

THE greatest demand for foreign-language books is for French, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Italian soldiers. About the stiffest request the Library Association has had so far was for the "Arabian Nights" in the original Arabic. A professor in Columbia University was approached to, and before long the homesick soldier from the far east got the precious book of stories his heart craved.

THE Librarian Association, which furnishes books and librarians for all army and navy camps in the United States and France, Italy, Switzerland, on all transports and navy vessels, and even in the prison camps of Germany and Austria, is doing a good deal for the foreign-born soldier as of the American.

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THE GOWNSMAN

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ALLEGRO

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THE READER'S VIEW POINT

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Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Indian summer is a term loosely used to describe a short stretch of relatively sunny weather in autumn in the eastern and central United States.