THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE-TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1896;



By DUFFIELD OSBORNE. Author of "The Spell of Ashtaroth."

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Professor Fournier was the leading buthority on pathology when I was a young man. He lectured at the Ecole de Mederin, and I was one of the many students whose privilege it was to profstudents whose privilege it was to prof-it by the enormous fund of knowledge he had accumulated, and the trenchant clearness with which he could communicate it.

The youth who sat next to me was a from my mind German, named Herman Toedt-a tall, a recollection graceful boy, with a remarkably hand- of objects 1 some face and manners that were un-exceptionable. There was not a trace of these were in him of that rude coarseness which what I had exki him of that rule coarseness which is often found in his race-not a shade of that aggressive conceit which seems to characterize most Germans since the Printeo-Prussian war. No, Toedt was always jolly, always pleasant, always deferentially, though never servilely, deferentially, though never servilely, and looked up to him, not excepting and looked up to him, not excepting testion, christened him "Toad." Even with pride; more than one had inti-mated that he would bring high credit to the school, and I finally believe there was not a person in the world who to the school, and I finally believe there was not a person in the world who disliked him excepting Professor Four-nier and myself. does not be able, a phonier and myself.

The way I came to know that Four-nier felt as I did was one night at a cafe. I was sitting at a table with two friends, while Toedt was the cen-tradiction of the second to contain a very poor neg- S crait Things, However, I was becaused two friends, while Toedt was the cen-ter of an admiring circle just beyond. It was then, as it is today, the fash-ion among some of the youngsters in Paris to take up all sorts of radical fads, and this party happened to be

"What is human life" cried Toedt. his handsome face flushed with boy-ish enthusiasm. "Would any of us hes-ish out a sacrifice an animal's, his own or another's to advance the cause of science or humanity? Why, then, should we criticise a poor wretch who in the path of human progress?" If was gone ere 1 had time to think, but, as 1 sat with the Guinea-pig be-fore me, 1 began to wonder whether my master had not acted with design and intended either to ph me in the way of suspecting, or, at least, to prepare me, in a measure, for some coming an-

"Gentlemen. am sorry to hear no other reason for his not leaving the you talking such eriminal non-could dispose of it himself.

CAFE cle of would-be social reformers. I looked at Toedt.

A peculiar expression was just dis-

And so you call this Professor Roent-little French doctor, who looks about twice as old as he is, and seldom falks "Pardon me, monsleur, but he is and infant in sele.

"Pardon me, monsteur, but he is an infant in science. There has been that discovered, beside which his photo-graphs of skeletons are nothing-things so strange that the world will hardly suffer them to be whispered. Listen, and I will tell you of an ad-venture of my own-of truths which I alone of living men, know. You are discreet, and it is not well that such a secret should die."

trol my eyes for the instant I had stood in that threshhold, and it was equally impossible, however I might to banish

> and bable EL .

the proposition. "Furthermore," he continued, "are

heretofore been diagnosed by the fac ulty.

"Do you recall those cases at Montre-

membered the three or four cases he referred to and that their described symptoms had closely resembled those of the disease now ravaging Arteull, I called his attention, however, to the

smiling faintly. "I confess I had forgotten that Toedt was at Montrevault," I said.

disease there

RAILROAD NOTES.

For several days past the traffic managers of the transcontinental lines have been discussing arrangements for the reorganization of the Trans-Contin-ental association, and it is stated much progress has been made. The new as-sociation will probably go into opera-tion April 1, and every line will con-tinue a member until Jan. 1, 1897, when they may withdraw on giving ninety days' notice. By the new agreement the old subsidy of \$72,500 a month will be restored to the Pacific Mail Steam-ship company, for which the Pacific Mail company will give up to the railhave been discussing arrangements for Mail company will give up to the rall-roads room for 600 tons of freight con-signed to New York on each ship it sends out from San Francisco. The Panama Railroad company will receive is per cent, of the subsidy and the Pacife Mail company the remaining 45 per cent. The companies represented in the conferences are the Southern Pa-cilic, the Atchison, the Union Pacific the Great Northern, the Pananta and the Canadian Pacific railroad compa-tions.

The committee of the New York Produce exchange has been notified by the board of managers of the Joint Traffic association that it has postponed the hearing on the discrimination against New York freight rates to March 28. The association needs the extra time to secure all facts possible from the South-ern roads, in whose favor two and three cent differentials exist, and to dis-cover how far these differentials could be reduced without bringing on serious internal dissensions.

A Chicago dispatch says: Chairman John W. Midgley, of the Western Freight association, in a circular letter, shows conclusively that secret rate cutting has been and is now being prac-ticed, not only through business from the west, but on local business. Com-plaints are made that in the territory extending from Marshalltown southwest to St. Joseph. Mo., there has been for several months a serious disturb-ance in the grain rates. A disagree-ment has for some time past existed in the vicinity of Des Moines, and a committee of traffic officials was ap pointed to adjust the same, but it failed to do so, and referred the subject to the executive officers of the interested roads, and Mr. Midgley asks them to meet on March 25 and give the matter their attention, and at the same time take up the question of rates south-west of St. Joseph at stations upon parallel and competing lines.

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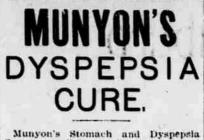
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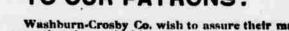
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extolling anarchy. "What is human life'" cried Toedt. Guinea-pig. "May I ask you to have this animal

upon by a clear, sharp voice, familiar me, in a measure, for some coming an-to us all: I nouncement. The more 1 considered, the surer 1 became that there could be

Convinced of this, I ventured to make

As I glanced up I saw Prof. Four-nier leaving the cafe. Passing their table unobserved, cause; but I was rather surprised to he had evidently discover that all symptoms of death overheard Toedt's speech, and had shot this Parthian shaft into the cir-cle of would-be so-the formula to the so-the formula to the so-the took out the brain, stomach and in-

testines and proceeded to subject them to a thorough analysis.

This work employed me several days, but I found absolutely no sign upon which to base the barest suspicion of the use of any known drug. There seemed to be no escape from the dilem-ma that either Prof. Fournier was the most accomplished toxicologist ever known or that the Guinea-pig had died from purely natural causes. During the time occupied in these ex-periments, the professor had not al-luded to the subject, though 1 purposely allowed him to observe my employ-ment. Some days, however, after I had reached the end of all the means of like gout. investigation at my command and was absorbed in what seemed a hopeless attempt to deduce a conclusion, he came to me while at work in the labora-

self iay among a little nest of hills which afforded fresh cool air and a

nies

prospect at once attractive and salu-brions. It had been selected, therefore, followed by others, until owners for their summer homes. These had been followed by others, until the place now contained a large number of magnifi-cent residences surrounded by well laid out parks.

Such a population, of course, attract-ed the usual quota of tradesmen, mechanics, and so forth, and an active and fourishing town had resulted from the desire of a few manufacturing magnates to have their pleasures some-where near their business interests.

where near their business interests. It was scarcely a month since this charming stot had given birth to an epidemic which bade fair to more than . decimate its population, and which had utterly baffled local and extra-local professional skill. No one seemed to know how it had originated, and, worse but no one had formed any method of

know how it had originated, and, worse yet, no one had found any method of fighting it that promised, much less ac-complished, the most modest success. This was the situation when, on the morning following our conversation. Prof. Fournier and myself took our seats in the compartment which had been especially reserved for our use, and saw Paris dron behind us as the

and saw Paris dron behind us, as the train rattled out into the country. For a while we sat in silence, which was first to break.

"Have you followed especially the accounts of this Arteuil epidemic?" he asked.

"Closely," I said, bowing. "Have you noticed the curious fea-tures connected with it?" "I hardly know what you refer to,"

I replied, impressed by the seriousness of his manner. "It is, of course, most remarkable in this epoch that a disease

unknown to the faculty should sudden-ly break out and rage within such cirumscribed limits." "Ah! you are approaching the point 1 wish to make." he said, eagerly, "Have you not observed something very remarkable about those limits?"

I stopped and thought for a moment. T stopped and thought for a moment. Then I seemed to catch his idea. "Why, yes," I said, "now that you speak of it, it is remarkable that the disease has seized upon and confined itself to what should be the most

healthy town in the entire province. It must come from something in the water supply." I added, with sudden

conviction, "You follow me in part." he con-tinued, "but if you had considered the reports a little more closely you would not have drawn your last conclusion You would have noticed that not only was the disease confined to the health-

iest town, but that it was practically lest town, but that it was practically confined to what ought to be the healthiest portion of the town, Look at the list of deaths. It is not B -, the draper; J -, the butcher, and C -, the plumber, It is M. de L -, C—, the plumber, It is M. de L—, owner of the chemical works at C—, It is Mile, G—, only daughter of M. G—, general manager of the P— print mills, or Mme, D— and M. Jules D—, wife and youngest son of the junior partner of V— & D—, the great silk mnufacturers. Will you give me any cutional explanation of this me any rational explanation of this

phenomenon?" "I shook my head, deeply puzzled by

you positive that the disease is new?" "Certainly not." I hastened to say. "I cannot for a moment presume it to be. I merely said that it had not

"He is at Arteuil, too, is he not, fight-

vault two years ago?" he asked. With something of an effort I re-

fact that the Montrevault cases had not been seen by any but second-rate country practitioners. "Do you include your classmate Toedt in that category?" he asked



Gentlemen. am though with more Sorry to Hear You constraint in their Talking Such Crimit ing Such Crimi- tones. "Ah! and so our nal Nonsense."

stands in the road. Well, the chariot may run over him," he said. Even Toedt, however, could not restore assurance to the party, so demoralized were they by Fournier's blow

A few minutes later they broke up.

Several years had passed. I had received my degree from the Ecole, but had not entered upon the practice of medicine, being employed in certain chemical and physical researches which had deeply interested me, and in which, I may say, I had gained som

slight repute, ; One day I was surprised and complimented to receive a letter from Pro-fessor Fournier, in which, after stating that he had observed my progress with deep interest and commendation, he ended by proposing that I should enter

his private laboratory-perhaps the

his private mean best equipped in France. To be known as Fournier's assistant was almost to become famous, and you may believe I accepted promptiy. Then followed the happiest years of my life. Only a small portion of my fine was taken up in work for my mas-ter, while facilities which I could never worded were placed at my dis-ter, while facilities which I could never the of my pri-ter while facilities which I could never when of my pri-

the form of a regret that the professor did not put more upon my shoulders, and one day I ventured to take him to task for his assumption of detail from

which I stood ready and willing to re-

He sat silent for some minutes. Then

reliance upon your honor, discretion and ability."

Not in the least." I hastened to say, "Had I done so I should not have spo-ken as I have." my hand.

ken as I have." Fournier smiled and nodded. "My dear friend." he said, laying his hand upon my shoulder. "Believe me, I have a weak and unmanly fear of ridicule. I am pursuing a line of ex-periments so remarkable in their pres-ent revelations and so supendously strange in their possible results, that, you would simply assume that I was taking leave of my senses. I do not wish better to keep silent until I can lay the whole matter before you supported by wridence which no man of science can gainsay.

After this it was impossible for me after the store of the store of the store the store the store store store store the store to be store store the store store store to be store store to be store st

to be a store-room where he kept new material and old junk, on he was en-Then, cudgeling my brain. I recalled that had frequently seen him mount-ing the stair, carrying instruments of Aaged in secret investigations, than 1 ng the stair, carrying instruments or parts of instruments, often of strange shapes, but which my general knowl-edge told me must have been designed for electrical work. I was also quite positive, from similar observations that photography bore no small share in his asperiments

The photography bore no small share in his experiments. Meanwhile his secrecy increased. He now habitually entered or left his sanctum bearing on his arm a covered basket, from which on one occasion I heard the plaintive mews of an im-prisoned dat. This surprised me more

tory. "Doctor," he said, placing his hand familiarly upon my shoulder; "are you minded to take part in a little ad-venture that lies before me?"

"With the greatest of pleasure in the world," I exclaimed, "I will not conceal from yau," he continued, seriously, "that there is con-

siderable danger involved." 'You are going to face it "' I quiered.

He nodded. "Then I see no reason why I should not." I said, "unless you would intimate that I possess less courage than

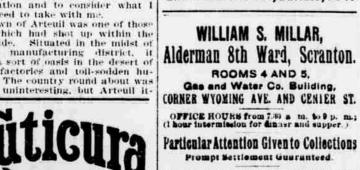
yourself.' You see I was young and inclined to be over-sensitive in those days. "Not at all," he replied, kindly,

would hesitate to accompany you exclaimed.

"No," he said, and then, after a short pause, "but 1 am not sure whether 1 want you-

"That is altogether a secondary con-sideration," I cried, galy. "Permit me he said: "I hope you do not doubt my entire b announce that I am going. When do we set out?"

"Tomorrow morning," he replied, absently, but at the same time grasping A few moments later he left the



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Seek the Best Prof. Fournier inclined his head "He is a brave fellow," I continued, "and his experience, under the circumstances, must be invaluable." "He does not succeed, though, any Have Nothing Else. better than anyone else," remarked Fournier, "It's a curious thing, too," he added, half to himself, "that all the It Pays. victims at Montrevault were members of the family of Count de G----, the late minister of war. This epidemie Write the Principal of the State

is certainly an aristocratic complaint for information about that excel-He relapsed into silence with these lent and popular school. wards, and, as they had given me much food for reflection, 1 did not try to renew the conversation. Half an hour later, he broke suddenly in upon my \$500 in Scholarship Prizes Just Offered thoughts with a remark to the effect that labor troubles seemed to have de-cidedly increased since the death of Count de G---- and the cessation of

Count de G---- and the cessation of his stern repressive measures, As he spoke, a sudden light seemed to flash through my brain; a thought too dreadful to be even put into words. (To Be Continued.)

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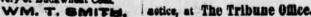
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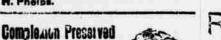
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