

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 23, 1899.

The announcement in the Philadelphia papers, gleefully caught up by the Times, that ex-Lieutenant Governor Watres has forgotten the obligations he is under to Senator Quay and to the Republican organization and has allied himself to the Wanamaker insurance, could not be confirmed yesterday at first hand, owing to Colonel Watres' absence from the city. In the lack of such confirmation we desire to give to our fellow citizen the benefit of the doubt.

The Water Question Again.

THE letter of Mr. W. W. Scranton, published elsewhere indicates that there are two sides to the water question, and, in fairness, the public should consider both sides. We have had a number of general assertions on the subject; the president of the gas and water company presents details and figures. Are these details and figures correct? Has he told the truth? If so, then he should receive credit accordingly and the misinformation which they touch upon should cease.

The question, in a nutshell, is simply this: Is the rate now charged to large consumers under the water system a fair or an unfair one, all the circumstances considered? The injustice of a comparison between Scranton and Buffalo, for example, or Scranton and Detroit, is apparent when we take into account that Buffalo and Detroit have water in abundance at their doors, needing for utilization only a pump and a pipe; whereas, Scranton's water supply has to be gathered in the hills, stored in costly reservoirs several miles away from the points of distribution, and then delivered over a scattered city area.

The Dewey Home Affair.

IN THE FIRST place, a mistake was committed in proposing a popular subscription for a gift home for Admiral Dewey. If the American people want to provide official residences for the ranking officers of the army and navy—a very appropriate thing to do—let them do so in the ordinary manner, through an appropriation of money by congress. This will put the control of the buildings in permanent hands and do away with the fluctuations incident to the ebb and flow of popular excitement.

The second mistake was made when Admiral Dewey accepted this gift. That it was not a spontaneous offering of the people was shown in the hostile manner in which the subscriptions came in. There were thousands of admirers of the admiral throughout the country who thought that the gift was in bad taste and who did not, until his assent was announced, believe that the admiral would accept it. Their unwillingness to contribute was not born of stinginess nor lack of appreciation of the admiral's services but of the belief that the passing of the hat was not the proper way in which to acknowledge and reward the heroism of a servant of the republic. The admiral himself realizes this when it is too late.

A third mistake was committed when the admiral transferred the ownership without the knowledge or consent of the donors. It is true that the motives of his action have been shamefully misjudged and that no man or woman in decency had the right to imagine the things which many men and women did imagine concerning this matter. It is also true that under the law the home was his to do with as he saw fit. But there is a higher law of good taste which forbids the turning of a gift into a gift without the donors' approval and the explanation of the admiral shows that he did not pay to this canon of polite society the respect which a good many of his friends and admirers think that it deserved. He was, to be sure, only a bluff sailor man, held captive by a passion of the heart; and this ought to excuse him, as undoubtedly it will.

The lesson of these errors, which Dewey and the people share about equally, is that no man is perfect and that spasmodic popular excitement is something very much to be discouraged in a republic. The whooping up of a man until he is a god and then the throwing of him down until he is a skeleton are phases of American hero worship which might readily be dispensed with. The substantial reasons why Dewey should be honored are the same today that they were when he first dropped anchor in New York harbor. The difference is the public's attitude is simply a registration of the public's own assiduity.

General Lawton evidently proposes to keep Aguinaldo's government in the saddle during the balance of the term.

The recent trouble with citizens and the negro troops that garrison military posts in Texas reveals the folly of distributing regulars in a manner to put negro soldiers in southern localities. The war department officials should realize that it is almost impossible to cause the average citizen of the south to regard the black man with toleration, and when the latter is to a certain extent clothed with

authority trouble is almost certain to result if whites and blacks are forced to exist in the same neighborhood on terms of equality. This should not be, but it is.

Until the election results have been settled it will probably not be necessary for the Kentucky moonshiners or vendetta promoters to exert themselves in order to supply the popular demand for excitement in that state.

Currency Reform.

HERE SEEMS to be general agreement among the prophets at Washington that the next congress will take at least these steps in the direction of currency reform: 1. A declaration in favor of a single gold standard of money. 2. A provision requiring that greenbacks received at the treasury in exchange for gold shall be withheld from circulation unless redeemed with gold. 3. An amendment to the national banking law permitting banks to issue notes up to the par value of the bonds deposited to secure them, and permitting the establishment of national banks with a capital of \$25,000 under certain conditions.

These steps do not represent all the progress that our wisest statesmen think should be made. They do not go to the bottom of the difficulty as revealed in the recent monetary stringency in New York city where, since July 1, over \$200,000,000 has been withdrawn from circulation, mostly to assist in the movement of western crops, leaving business in New York adversely affected. The third step would, indeed, relieve this situation to some extent by enabling banks to increase by ten per cent, their emergency circulation; but it is doubtful if this margin of increase would be sufficient, especially in a time of exceptional exports, when the demand for money to assist in the movement of merchandise is extraordinary and liable to tempt the holders of money to squeeze those who must have it in order to protect themselves from commercial ruin. The need of a more elastic currency, one which will expand and contract automatically in union with the fluctuations of business, will remain after the foregoing programme shall have been inaugurated, and although it will not be so urgent as it is today, it will be sufficient to prolong the agitation for currency reform until an ultimate adjustment shall be reached.

But in politics half a loaf is better than no bread. At the present time, viewing conditions as they are, the steps mentioned above seem to be all that can be taken. They represent a decided gain over the situation of 1894, when the Cleveland administration had to sell bonds to pay current expenses, while the treasury was being pumped dry by means of the "endless chain." The amount of money in circulation today is the largest that it has ever been in the history of the United States. On Nov. 1 it was \$1,962,716,148, or \$25.60 per capita, estimating the population at 76,700,000, the treasury estimate. This is a larger per capita than circulated during the height of the paper inflation period of the civil war. The top notch of that period was reached in 1865 when, with gold at 140 and 142, the per capita circulation was \$20.57. The present per capita of \$25.60 is on the gold basis, every dollar of it being interchangeable for a gold dollar or its equivalent and for that reason good the world over at face value minus the ordinary cost of exchange. The only trouble today is that, in spite of our enormous circulation, the volume of the country's business is increasing so rapidly that either more money must be provided or, what is equal to the same thing, better facilities must be arranged for the transfer of money from places of reserve to places of active investment. To do this is the mission of currency reform.

Miss Anthony talks on the Roberts case like one afflicted by complications of dyspepsia and Laura Jean Libbey.

Drawing the Lines.

IT IS ANNOUNCED on good authority that the recent request of our government for written assurance from the governments of Great Britain, Germany, France and Russia that American trade shall not be discriminated against in the parts of China that have come under their control has not elicited the ready responses which were to have been expected considering the nature of the verbal assurances of diplomatic representatives of these governments. From this list Great Britain must be excepted. Whether her formal response has been received in writing or not we do not know; but there are equivalent assurances leaving no room for doubt as to the permanent openness of the British door into China.

The disposition is said to prevail in European capitals, especially at Paris and St. Petersburg, to regard this formal request by the United States government as in the nature of presumption. These capitals recollect that the United States has been strongly protectionist in its domestic policy; they forget that our tariff rates have been uniform to all comers; there have been no invidious discriminations. The "open door" as applied to China does not mean that we demand special favors or exemptions but only that we shall have the equal treatment in Chinese ports guaranteed to us under our treaties with China. We simply say to the European powers that if they wish to dismember China they must do so on condition of respecting China's conventions with the United States; if they will not agree to this fact and just condition then they must face the possibility of armed intervention in China's protection.

The position of the American state department is understood to be firm in respect to the proposition that the legitimate trade rights and prospects of the United States must be protected to the limit. The negotiations now in progress have not left the cordial stage. But before the French and Russian foreign offices hear the last of the matter they will probably hear some good, keen Anglo-Saxon telling them just what the United States will stand and what it will not stand in; and the state department will

have behind it the whole force of American public opinion.

Admiral Dewey will please bear in mind that he will be remembered by the American people as the hero of Manila, and not as the target of a few hoodlum critics who seem desirous of conducting his domestic affairs.

Estcourt and Lady Smith are now as difficult to reach by wire as the original Hobson girl.

PERSONAL REGISTRATION.

Editor of The Tribune—Sir: I have read with much interest the letter of Attorney Hannah and your editorials thereon on the conditions of municipal government in this city and in general. This subject seems to be attracting attention all over the country mainly perhaps because it is the only one that is not so generally understood. I cannot quite agree with Mr. Hannah's conclusion which you apparently endorse that our laws are good enough if enforced. It seems to me that the municipality should be made self-sufficient and wherever it shows weakness should be promptly patched.

One source of trouble is the assessment of voters system. The assessor interviews the lady of the house and registers its entire contents—transients, aliens, minors, non-taxpayers and all. In the hotels and boarding houses people are registered as voters who are in the city only for a week or possibly for a day. These people are all sought out by the assessor and many if not most vote at the primaries and at the polls for they are on the registry and no questions are asked. The expatriation lists show that they have not paid their taxes and even in such cases the wards as the Ninth their numbers amount to 20 per cent of the active voters (and in some other wards to 50 per cent).

Now these people have no interest in the city and the system should be changed. In every town of more than 2,000 inhabitants the voter register personally, showing his tax and citizen papers and giving his political faith for the benefit of the party caucus. This would avoid the contests which cost from \$250 for two years in the counties to \$100,000 for county treasurer. The custom of electing all Democrats on boards in strong Democratic wards should be forbidden by law. The ward lines should be revised and equalized after each national census; there is no sense in neutralizing a ward of 2,000 voters by one of 175. The introduction of voting machines will be an advance toward a better economy. If the board is reduced to two, of course these things cannot supply the want of an educated and honest electorate. This sort of thing is the only way to get the best of the present machinery. Yours, C. E. Chittenden.

Scranton, Nov. 22.

THE BOER FLAG.

From the Sketch. The standard under which the Boers are now fighting is exactly that of Holland—bars red, white and blue—with the exception of an addition of an upright green bar where the flag is joined to the staff. The flag of the Orange Free State also betrays its Dutch origin. In the center, where the Union Jack figures in the English ensign, appears the Hollanders' tricolor on a field of white and orange bars. This flag is indeed for it is said to be the only one in the world in which orange appears as a color.

PERSONALITIES.

General Fitzhugh Lee, when asked about Cuba, from which he has just returned, replied "Cuba is a smile of the sea." Thomas A. Edison will treat by his new electrical process the ore from the Ortiz gold mines of New Mexico, which he has just bought for \$3,000,000. In Bishop Marston's sermon on Long Island 40,000 members will spend the last four months of the year in prayerful observance of the closing century.

J. Gordon Wright, his Dutch origin, Scotland, has succeeded the Rev. Dr. William Wright as editorial superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible society. The Agricultural department has asked Professor Harry E. Hilsner of the University of California, to conduct a series of irrigation investigations in California. Frank Thompson, of the Cape Parliament, says that the country around Mafeking is the most deadly of all for horse sickness, and that during December and January the Boers will lose 50 per cent of their horses.

Dr. E. Dana Durand, assistant professor of economics and administration in Stanford university, has obtained leave of absence for a year or more in order to do some special work for the industrial commission now in session at Washington. Miss Alice Serber, of New York, the first woman granted the privilege of practicing in the United States District court, is a Russian by birth, and did not know English until her marriage. She, however, speaks without a trace of accent.

Colonel Baden-Powell, the veteran South African warrior, is an excellent officer, a good sportsman, an inimitable entertainer and a bit of a literary swell to boot. He went through the two Malakka wars, and gained experience, honor and no wounds.

M. Pia-Makhitbol, preceptor of the young Prince Chakrabon of Siam, who is at present studying in St. Petersburg as a member of the corps diplomatique, has been appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Siam at the Russian court.

The 15-year-old son of Commandant Cranje, of the Transvaal army, fights at his father's side. The only son of Myndee Wolmarana, and two sons of State secretary Beka, Judge Bill, ex-Judge Ewell and several sons of members of the Cape parliament, are fighting on the Boer side.

Mrs. Yanaga, who is the mother of the Duchess of Manchester and of Fernando Yanaga, having spent the summer in Europe with her daughters, another of whom is Lady Lister Kaye, is now in New York. Mrs. Yanaga, who has been her custom for years, pass the winter months on her plantation in Louisiana.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Lillian Pauncote, daughter of Sir Julian Pauncote, the British ambassador at Washington, to Robert Bromley, a son of Sir Henry Bromley. Mr. Bromley and Miss Pauncote were favorites in Washington society. Mr. Bromley was a member of the embassy for several years. Lord Edward Cecil, the soldier son of the premier, is with Baden-Powell in Mafeking—a place that must be just now one of the warmest spots in the whole world. He was Lord Walsley's aide-de-camp when he was in command in Ireland, and made himself very popular in Dublin society.

Lieutenant Franklin Schley, son of the admiral, has been appointed adjutant at the Columbus, O., barracks for two months before leaving for Manila. He is said to have his father's high forehead, and firm, determined chin. He is small in stature, erect, and well built for a man of his size and age, being now in his thirty-fifth year.

Clement Scott, the famous dramatic critic, says he comes to America because in London he can no longer sign his name to his articles; because the English press is muzzled; because dramatic criticism is permitted in America; because the American drama is free and vigorous; because the American stage is not tied to the shoestrings of society.

YEAR'S WORK AT THE HAHNEMANN

SET FORTH IN THE REPORT OF MRS. M. H. HOLTGATE.

During the Year Treatment Was Given to Three Hundred and Three Patients and of These Two Hundred and Eighteen Were Indigent Cases—The Change from the Blair Property to the Present Location. Training School for Nurses Has Been Very Successful—Work That the Officers Have Done.

Following is the full text of the admirable report made by Mrs. M. H. Holtgate at Tuesday's annual meeting of the Hahnemann hospital:

A second milestone has been reached in the history of the organization around which our interest centers at this time. From this vantage point we look backward over the achievements of the past year, as well as forward upon a field where there is invitation ever for a larger investment of time, interest and means. As experience in the work progresses a larger field of usefulness is entered upon which is capable of indefinite expansion when the restrictions of lack of space and funds are removed. The dreams of valiant ambition are being realized, and you at the first annual meeting, have not all been realized, but it has been proven that they were not Utopian.

Increasing confidence is felt that, as deeper insight into the needs of the undertaking is gained, hearts will open to make possible such an equipment of the hospital as will be productive of the highest results in the science of medicine and surgery where homeopathy is so rapidly gaining ground.

CASES TREATED.

During the year treatment was given to three hundred and three patients. Of these 55 were private and 238 indigent cases. One hundred and eighty-six were indigent cases, and 52 were private. The surgical cases numbered 113 and the medical 104. Four deaths occurred, of which one was private and three charity cases. Nineteen operations were performed, 19 major and 50 minor ones. The total number of days that treatment was administered was 6,315. The highest number of beds occupied at any one time was 25. Six births occurred and the mothers thus making use of the maternity ward have appreciated to the full the advantage of receiving the nursing, care and convenience not obtainable in the humble homes from which these inmates came.

When two months of the second year had passed it was found necessary to secure the services of a resident physician and Dr. J. L. Peck was called to the position. His thorough preparation and the large experience in the management of the Metropolitan hospital of New York have enabled him to render most efficient and skillful service in the conduct of the institution and he has now the confidence of directors and brother physicians.

It was no longer found necessary to have so large a force on the visiting staff and the number now on duty, including the house physician, is eight. These have been devoted in their attendance upon patients and have worked harmoniously and unselfishly for the interests of the cases. Owing to a large number of critical cases being admitted, it has been need of the most delicate and skillful care being administered. Time will be taken to mention but one of the many interesting cases. There has been a great deal of congratulation of late over the success of physicians in skin grafting and in this respect our hospital has been no exception. It was not disease alone that was arrested during the stay in this city of a patient from a western city, but he has become a living illustration of the words of George Eliot, "Character is not cut in marble; it is something which grows and changes and may become diseased as our bodies do, and may be reared and healed."

HOSPITAL MOVED.

Owing to the uncertainty of tenancy of the Blair property, which was on the market for other disposition, it was removed to other quarters was necessitated and the house of Mr. W. W. Scranton, at the corner of Linden street and Monroe avenue, was secured for the purpose. The novel experience of removing household effects, occupants of hospital wards, and medical and surgical supplies sufficient to stock a small dispensary, and all this was accomplished without accident or discomfort to the sick ones. Although divested of the usual accompaniments of a home, the moving certainly possessed unique features of its own. In the matter of making all desired changes and equipping the building for its peculiar needs, Mr. Scranton was most kind and deserves and receives the gratitude of all concerned.

The numerous duties of the superintendent are still discharged by Miss Grace Smith, who labors as assiduously for the success of the work as when the moment first fell upon her shoulders. Her efforts are characterized by the greatest devotion and conscientious application.

The nurses' training class now numbers eight members but will be lessened by two, who tonight complete the requisite course. It is with a feeling of pride and satisfaction that these young ladies are sent out from these walls to enter upon their life work for if they bring to the application of their calling the same earnestness of purpose and fidelity to duty that have characterized their period of training they can but inherit success and win words of approval. In the absence of the superintendent, and at other critical junctures they have demonstrated their ability and reliability.

A valuable adjunct to the completion of their education has been the establishment of a diet kitchen. It may not be the model one dreamed of one year ago, but certainly is equipped with all the necessary conveniences and plays an important part in the hygiene of the household.

LECTURES ON COOKERY.

Here was recently delivered a valuable course of lectures on cookery by Miss Satche, of Philadelphia, a pupil of Miss Rorer. There has been no diminution of interest, or faithlessness to responsibility on the part of the attentive presence, Mrs. H. M. Boles, but, on the contrary an increasing expenditure of kindly attention and loving provision for the welfare of all concerned. From this source come the dainty furnishings and appointments of the room of the superintendent which she has delighted her on the day of removal into the present home and which have been a source of satisfaction since in the moments of rest from the heavy exertions made upon her.

The treasurer, Mrs. Henry Belin, jr., has had to cope with the needs of an increasing household, as well as the expenses attendant upon changing an abiding place, in addition to the vexed question of wear and tear, and the replenishing of exhausted supplies and furnishings. Her efforts have been met with promptness and wise forethought. In this department she has been ably assisted by Mrs. E. S. Oakford, chairman of the purchasing committee, who has used great discretion and economy in the matter of securing the greatest return for any investment.

Mrs. A. M. Decker, chairman of the house committee, has faithfully and regularly given of time and interest in the

supervision of her department where the duties are manifold and exacting. Mrs. C. H. Welles and her faithful band of workers have met regularly to pursue their task of keeping the supplies of linen, bedding and garments in a state of repair as well as replenishing a constantly depleted stock; 258 new garments were made and very many old ones repaired. Added to this Mrs. Welles has discharged the duties of chairman of the nurses training class. Mrs. C. B. Derman, of the religious committee, has after the manner of most successful helpers for the religious services that have been held from time to time.

PLENTY OF READING MATTER.

Through the efforts of Mrs. J. A. Price, of the library committee, and the kindness of other friends, there has been no lack of reading matter to while away the hours of convalescence. Since the resignation of Mrs. P. P. Christian, Mrs. F. L. Peck has acted as chairman of the library committee and with an assistant for each month, has secured appealingly desirable for each Sunday throughout the year, and through the kindness of other friends the most interesting and helpful for the mid-week dinners.

These contributions of dainties have been greatly augmented by regular and generous supplies of ice cream from the Lackawanna Dairy company, which have been much appreciated by all the members of the household. But from no source has come more cheer and forgetfulness of sorrow surrounding than from the exquisite beauty and delightful fragrance of the floral gifts from the Boles conservatories, G. R. Clark and other thoughtful friends. From the first named source came also an increase in the funds of the treasury as the result of admitting the public to these treasure houses of the floral kingdom. A goodly sum was also realized from the share of the proceeds of the Shakespearean reading by Mr. Walter Darrach. The thoughtful management having shakled itself as to the need and usefulness of the hospital in our midst made an appropriation, which, although much appreciated, was all too small for the many uses it was desired to put it to.

The ministries and benefactions of an interested public have played an important part in the carrying of the financial burden that ever attaches itself to an effort to relieve the destitute and needy ones. The management has been particularly fortunate in having in the members of the advisory board men of large experience in public interests, and students as well of matters concerning the world's weal.

While the directors of Hahnemann hospital wear none of the outward signs of organized effort, if they have in any small measure contributed toward bringing about this improved condition they have labored "wisely and not in vain."

FALSE SYNTAX.

Said the teacher to the grammar class "To which our boys belong." "The horse and cow is in the field." "Now, what in that is wrong?" "The cow and horse is in the field." "Spake one in manners versed;" "Because, you know, 'tis more polite 'To mention ladies first.'"—Life.

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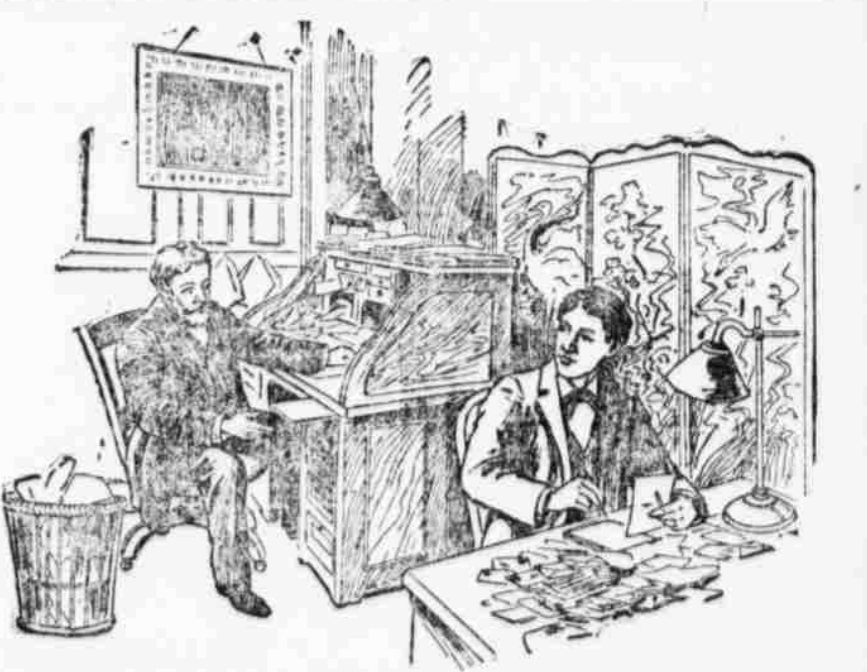
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MEDICAL ADVICE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK DAILY PAPER.

DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT. Here is a letter from "Constant Reader," who wants to know if flashes of light before the eyes are dangerous. Has been informed that they are caused by a disordered stomach.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR. They may be. Catarrh of the stomach most frequently causes them, and if that is what ails "Constant Reader" a Ripans Tabule will give prompt relief, and a course of them according to directions will remove the difficulty. Sometimes, however, the trouble is caused by diseases of the eye or of the nervous system and kidneys. When of this sort it is of serious import.

A new style pocket containing the Ripans Tabule in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some of our stores for five cents. This new pocket must be selected for the hour and the moment. Our stores of the Ripans Tabule are for sale by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the Ripans Tabule Company, No. 15 Spruce Street, New York—for a single carton (one tabule) will be sent for five cents.