

THE GREAT PLAGUE OF LONDON.

How a Hundred Thousand Lives were Swept Away in 1665, and De Foe's Account of It.

The news of the breaking out of the plague in Russia recalls the terrible outbreak of this scourge in London during the year 1665, of which the celebrated De Foe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," is reported to have left the following account:

"The face of London was strangely altered—I mean the whole mass of buildings, city, liberties, suburbs, Westminster, Southwark and altogether. For, as to the particular spot called the city, or within the walls, that was not yet much infested; but in the whole, the face of things was much altered. Sorrow and sadness set upon every face, and though some parts were not yet overwhelmed, yet all looked deeply concerned, and as we saw it apparently coming on, so every one looked on himself and his family as being in the utmost danger."

"London might well be said to be all in tears. The mourners did not go about the streets, indeed, for nobody put on black or made a formal dress of mourning for the nearest friends. But the voice of mourning was truly heard in the streets; the shrieks of women and children at the windows and doors of their houses when their nearest relations were perhaps dying or just dead were so frequent to be heard as we passed the streets that it was enough to pierce the stoutest heart in the world to hear them. Tears and lamentations were seen almost in every house, especially in the first part of the visitation; for toward the latter end men's hearts were hardened, and death was so always before their eyes that they did not so much concern themselves for the loss of their friends, expecting that themselves should be summoned the next hour."

"The necessity of going out of our houses to buy provisions," continues De Foe, "was, in a great measure, the ruin of the whole city, for the people caught the distemper on these occasions one of another, and even the provisions themselves were often tainted—at least I have great reason to believe so; and, therefore, I cannot say with satisfaction what I know is repeated with great assurance, that the market people and such as brought provisions to town were never infected. I am certain the butchers of Whitechapel, where the greatest part of the flesh meat was killed, were dreadfully visited, and that at least to such a degree that few of their shops were kept open, and those that remained of them killed their meat at the Mile-End and that way, and brought it to the market upon horses. It is true people used all possible precautions. When any one bought a joint of meat in the market they would not take it out of the butcher's hand, but took it off the hooks themselves. On the other hand, the butcher would not touch the money, but have it put into a pot full of vinegar, which he kept for that purpose. The buyers always carried small money to make up any odd sum that they might take no change. They carried bottles for scents and perfumes in their hands, and all the means that could be used were employed. But then the poor could not do even these things, and they went out at hazards. Innumerable dismal stories we heard every day on this very account. Sometimes a man or woman dropped down dead in the very market, for many people that had the plague upon them knew nothing of it until the inward gangrene had affected their vitals and they died in a few moments. This caused that many died in that manner in the streets suddenly without any warning. Others, perhaps, had time to go to the next hulk or stall, or to any door or porch, and just sit down and die, as I have said before. These objects were so frequent in the streets that when the plague came to be very raging, on one side there was scarce any passing by the streets but that several dead bodies would be lying here and there upon the ground; on the other hand, it is observable that, though at first the people would stop as they went along and call to the neighbors to come out on such an occasion, yet afterward no notice was taken of them. But, if at any time we found a corpse lying across the way and not come near it, or, if in a narrow lane or passage, go back again and seek some other way to go on the business we were upon, and in those cases the corpse was always left until the officers had notice to come and take it away; or till night, when the bearers attending the dead-cart would take them up and carry them away. Nor did those undaunted creatures who performed these offices fail to search their pockets, and sometimes to strip off their clothes if they are well-dressed, as sometimes they were, and carry off what they could get. It is scarcely credible what dreadful cases happened in particular families every day; people in the rage of the distemper, or in the torment of their rackings, which was, indeed, intolerable, running out of their own government, raving and distracted, oftentimes laying violent hands upon themselves, throwing themselves out of their windows, shooting themselves, etc. Mothers murdering their own children in their lunacy; some dying of grief, as a passion; some of mere fright and surprise, without any infection at all, others frightened into idiotism and foolish distractions, some into despair and lunacy; others into melancholy madness. In some the swellings were made so hard that no instrument could cut them, and then they burst them with caustic, so that many died raving mad with the torment and some in the very operation. In these distresses, for want of help to hold them down in their beds or to look to them, some laid hands upon themselves, as above; some broke out into the streets, perhaps naked, and would run directly down to the river and plunge themselves into the water, whenever they found it. It often pierced my soul to hear the groans and cries of those who were thus tormented. This running of distempered people about the streets was very dismal, and the magistrates did their utmost to prevent it; but as it was always in the night, and generally sudden, when such attempts were made, the officers could not be at hand to prevent it; and even when they got out in the day, the officers appointed did not care to meddle with them, because they were all grievously infected, to be sure, when they came to that height, so they were more than ordinarily infectious, and it was one of the most

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Orchard and Garden Notes. To renovate old orchards, and to convert trees that now bear worthless fruit into profit, in all the older States there are orchards that are worthless, the varieties, probably "natural fruit," were never of any value, or if originally good kinds, they are, from starvation, by constant cropping of the ground, and neglect of pruning and every other care, now practically useless. Before attempting to renovate such an orchard, it will be well to consider if it will pay. In many cases it will be cheaper to set out a new orchard and convert the trees into firewood. If the trees are of good kinds, it will be folly to graft them over. Pruning, scraping, and more than all, manuring, are the needs of such an orchard, and if the trees are still sound, renovation will pay. Sound trees of poor kinds may be grafted over, but grafting will be of little use, unless accompanied by good culture. Merely changing the character of the tops of the trees is not sufficient. Renovation in all cases must begin with the soil. A good dressing of manure, turned under by shallow plowing, is the one thing needful in renewing an orchard. As to pruning, where large branches are to be removed, the best time is after the severe winter weather is over, and before the buds swell in spring. The limbs should always be sawed—never chopped—off, the cut smoothed with a drawing knife, and covered with thick paint or melted grafting wax. How and where to prune cannot be told until one has the particular tree before him, as each tree will need a different treatment. Long-neglected trees are likely to have the heads much crowded, and the first need in such cases, is thinning, taking out especially such branches as cross and interfere with others. Sometimes shoots have pushed out far beyond the rest, and need to be cut back; it may be that for some cause the growth has run to one side, and the tree is lop-sided. Only the general direction can be given, secure an open, well shaped head. Scrapping and cleansing. The best preparation that we know of for removing old bark, moss, and lichen, is good home made soft soap, made from lye or potash. Thin this with water, so that it may be laid on with a whitewash or other brush. Then, in one of those moist, thawing times that occur late in winter or early spring, paint over the trunks and large limbs with the soap, putting it on freely. The later rains will do most of the work, but before spring opens, it will be well to go around with the scraper—an old, short-handled hoe will answer—remove whatever loose bark remains. Pruning omitted last fall, should be attended to now as soon as the weather will allow. Grape vines need the first care, and should be pruned long before the buds begin to swell. Currants and gooseberries start early, and should be pruned early. Preparatory work in the way of trellises and other supports may be attended to and the materials got ready. In the family garden, the best support for raspberries is a single wire strained between two posts at the ends of the rows, and we think that the best grape-vine trellis, is that with horizontal slats four feet apart, with upright wires where needed.—American Agriculturist.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Fashion Notes. Chip will be more fashionable than straw this summer. Full aprons with a drawing string are made for little children. New seal rings have mottoes and symbolic designs instead of crests. Bonnets in the shape of turbans are shown by New York milliners. Nets of silver wire and enamel flowers are pretty trifles for dark-haired girls to wear. Bracelets and rings of black enamel are worn simply to set off the hand and wrist. Plain gros-grain ribbon with flowers outlined in gold threads is a pretty novelty. Fancy camel's hair will be worn for spring suits in light tints thickly covered with different designs. One of the most beautiful dresses recently seen in Europe was of rose-tinted satin with a tunic of English point lace draped across the front with garlands of "ooclets" and beather. Light summer silks, which will be much employed for street suits, have chinchilla stripes, or narrow clouded chine stripes set close together on brown, cardinal, garnet, blue and other colored grounds. Pretty aprons may be made for little girls by taking a straight piece of yard-wide cambric, cutting spaces for armholes, and facing the neck for a drawing string. The only trimming needed is a ruffle in the armhole. Clinging dresses are going slowly, but surely, out of fashion; tied-back dresses have entirely become things of the past. They have recently earned a bad name from the fact that investigation has proved that many of the women drowned at the wreck of the Princess Alice owed their utter inability to help themselves, or to sustain themselves when help was given them, to the fact of their being encumbered with the tight-clinging skirts, which held them down.

Some of the new fashions are of transparent gauze or crepe; on this is painted a female figure wrapped in draperies, which seems to be standing in the midst of a snow-storm. The snow-flakes are made of fine particles of ostrich feathers or marabout, which are put on between the two thicknesses of the gauze. The sticks are of mother-of-pearl carved to represent frostwork. Embroideries of fine jet are still very much used; long vests reaching to the knees glisten with fine cut beads in closely-worked designs; Mme. Nilsson recently appeared with a black dress thickly covered with blue jet, the sleeves of tulle also embroidered to match. Many black dresses for evenings of silk or velvet have tulle sleeves covered with embroidery of fine jet beads. There is an increasing tendency toward the fashion of wearing small hoop skirts; they are almost imperceptible, but they are worn by ladies who wish to keep the short walking-dresses from touching the feet. In Paris there is a regular adoption of tournures, which are worn to give breadth to the back of the dress and to support the habit-backs of coats, and they also form an important part of the support and under-decoration of a train, which requires a "balayage" and founces of some dimensions to make it take the right shape.

How to Become Gracel.

The Young Woman's Journal thinks a refined, graceful manner can be acquired by any woman. It says: "The best grace is perfect naturalness. Still, you must study yourself, and form your manners by the rule of that art which is but a carrying out of the law of nature. But if it is your nature to be forever assuming some unpicturesque, ungraceful attitude, pray help nature with a little art. If you are stout, avoid the smallest chair in the room, and be sure you sit on it, not to lean back in it with your hands folded in front of you just below the line of your waist, especially while the present fashion lasts. If you are thin, do not carry yourself with your chin protruding and your spinal column curving like the bowl of a spoon. Do not wear flimsy materials made up without a ruffle, or puff, or flounce, to fill up the hard outlines of your bad figure, so cruelly defined by the tightly pulled-back draperies. Study the art of dress. We once knew a very plain woman who dressed so tastefully that it was an absolute pleasure to look at her. If you have been moping until you are sick with the thought of your own hopeless ugliness, be up and doing. Forget your disappointments, forget the past and the sneers of your own family over the mistakes that you have made."

Why is the nose put in the middle of the face? Because it's the center.

There is a superstition prevalent in Yorkshire, England, that mint will not grow in the garden of a house in which the husband is henpecked.

A Sick Senator. The excessive corpulence of a certain United States Senator has long been the talk of editors and critics from the pens of Washington correspondents. Few persons have suspected that his obesity was a disease, and liable to prove fatal. Yet this is the sad fact. Excessive fatness is not only a disease in itself, but one liable to generate other and more serious ones. Chemistry has at last revealed a safe, sure and reliable remedy for this abnormal condition of the system in Allan's Anti-Fat. Distinguished chemists have pronounced it not only harmless but very beneficial to the system, while removing the diseased condition. Sold by druggists.

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