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Mrs. T. W. Lee, Montgomery, Ala., writes: "Some years ago I was inoculated with poison by a nurse who infected my babe with blood taint. I was covered with sores and scars from head to foot, and in my great extremity I prayed to die. Several prominent physicians treated me, but all to no purpose. The mercury and potash which they gave me seemed to add fuel to the awful flame which was devouring me. I was advised by friends who had seen wonderful cures made by it, to try Swift's Specific. I improved from the start, as the medicine seemed to go direct to the cause of the trouble and force the poison out. Twenty bottles cured me completely." Swift's Specific—



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### The Appendix Scare.

It is remarkable how our forefathers managed to live "long and happy" in their ignorance of the vermiform appendix. Perhaps, like the X-ray, this appendix is the creation of modern science, or the need of modern surgery. Certain it is, says the Atlanta Constitution, that this vermiform appendix, or the knife of the new surgeon, has largely curtailed the pleasures, if not the duration of life. We are in mortal dread of berries, grapes, figs and small seeded vegetables, lest that useless appendix or the ready knife of the surgeon will "do us up." Which is which? I confess I am in considerable doubt. But one of the profession, Dr. Hutton, appears to attach more blame to the knife than to the appendix. He may be right. He ought to know; I don't. I do know that the knife is fearfully fatal. This eminent and experienced Dr. Hutton gives some very cheerful encouragement to those chronic sufferers with supposed appendicitis in the Medical Record from which I quote: "This paper is a protest against the current surgical theory and practice that all cases of appendicitis must be split open. This protest is based on 27 years' experience as physician and surgeon. . . . My experience is that appendicitis, and all other bellyaches for which men now operate, are promptly amenable to proper medical treatment. I can recall 100 cases treated with symptoms of this malady, . . . but I have never yet met a case of it which I felt it my duty to cut, or which terminated fatally. . . . I shall cite other unimpeachable practitioners who share my views, that medical treatment avails in this malady, one showing 49 out of 51 cases, successfully treated—being more than 96 per cent. My treatment for appendicitis is free colic and soda purgation, supplemented by hot applications, to be followed by a saline if action is too slow." Perhaps it would be well to forget the vermiform appendix and let science and surgery fight it out in their own sweet way.

The meanest man in Illinois lives at Centralia, reports a state exchange. He put a large porcelain egg in the nest of an ambitious hen, and found that the eggs she had afterward laid were increased in size; then he put a goose egg in the nest, and the aforesaid hen laid an egg just as large. He was so well pleased with the scheme that he put a whitewashed football in the nest and waited results. When he went the next time to search for eggs he found one as big as the football, but no hen in sight; securing the egg he saw engraved on it by hen photography these words: "I'm no ostrich, but I have done my best." Later he found the hen inside of the egg.

Frederick Remington has this to say in Collier's Weekly about Maximo Gomez: "He has a curious head—a very interesting head. It is fierce and warlike, and brown and mustached and goateed, and altogether Spanish-American, which does not mean 'white man.' His profile is a triangle with the jaw as a base. From his looks I should say his was not a great brain. So far as we know, he is a man of one idea— which happens in his case to be a very good one; and there is the force in the base of that triangle which has carried that one idea as far as the blood and iron and horseflesh of Cuba could carry it."

Two hundred men have refused to work at cleaning Brooklyn streets because they did not wish to wear the "white wings" uniform. They were hired under a new system and all of them are Americans. They say they will not clean streets until the legislature changes the law that compels them to wear white wings. "We are men," they say, "not monkeys." Great efforts were made to have the strikers reconsider their action, but with no result.

A woman who has a perfect horror of handling dirty money asserts that she not only has all her silver washed, but her bills as well. They are put in a basin of lukewarm soap-suds, rubbed gently and dried by pressing with a warm iron. In this way she is always supplied with bright silver and crisp new bills, that she can carry in her pocket with no danger of contracting disease in their handling.

In his eagerness to get the job a contractor took the mail route between Warren, a town in Monroe county, Mo., and Monroe City at such a low figure that he will have to pay his subcontractor or \$30 a year more than he gets from the government. He will enjoy this privilege four years from next June.

A Chicago authority has discovered, according to his published statement, that for a man to munch peanuts whenever a craving for tobacco is had will speedily rid him of the desire to use it. The question then rises, what will cure him of the peanut habit?

A Pennsylvania trolley company has had to pay a young man \$1,200 because its electricity got into a barbed wire fence near the track, and when he took hold of the fence to climb it he couldn't let go until his arm and hand were shriveled.

It is reported that when the Kansas legislature adjourned the other week, detectives were at all the doors to prevent members from carrying off furniture and other movables in the chamber.

### Microbe Nightmare.

A New York woman who had purchased a pair of gloves was given three one dollar bills in change. "Do it up in paper, please," she said to the salesgirl. The request was complied with, and the wrapped-up bills were put in a pocket-book. "Some persons are microbe mad," said a physician in explaining the incident. Many have it so bad that they will not even pick up a pin, because it has been said that all sorts of disease germs can be collected under their heads. Dread of microbes is a common form of hypochondria. I can sympathize with a person who does not like to see a woman with a bundle of dirty clothes for washing get into a public conveyance, but there is no use in going to extremes. Ever since the researches of Koch and Pasteur have attracted attention the number of microbe maniacs has steadily increased. Take any morbid-minded person and give him a little insight into bacteriology, and the result is sure to be disastrous. He shakes in terror at the first little symptom of real or imaginary derangement."

A New York young woman contracted to marry a minor on the condition that he should upon attaining his majority assign her \$5,000. He agreed to this, and carried it out, but the marriage didn't take place. But, before the assignment was made, the young swain contracted debts which he could not meet. Then the sheriff went after him, but could find nothing to attach but the marriage agreement. He attempted to have it annulled on the ground that the ceremony had not been performed. The supreme court couldn't see it that way. It took the ground that it was a promise which the law recognizes and will enforce, because it regarded it as a contract in which the young lady was still willing to do her part.

What is expected to be the fastest craft in the world is under construction at College Point, L. I. It is a yacht 75 feet long and designed to run 40 knots, or over 45 miles an hour. The fastest vessel now afloat is the English torpedo boat Turbinia, with a 35-knot record. In the new flyer reliance for speed is placed upon a 1,000-horsepower carbonic gas motor, the engine having three cylinders, with a working pressure of 2,000 pounds to the square inch. The weight of the machinery will be 6½ tons, or less than a tenth that of steam machinery of the same power. But a single screw, two-bladed, will be used. Fuel for the carbonic gas is stowed away in pipes. Its weight is one-fifth that of coal.

An Ottumwa (Ia.) man who served as a private soldier in the Fiftieth Iowa last summer writes to a Keokuk fellow-soldier as follows: "Things are changed now—very changed—from those days at Jacksonville. Then I served as a humble private and bore all the hardships, while men were over me as officers who wore shoulder straps and ate good food. To-day I am sitting at my office desk, with a comfortable roll of bills in my pocket and a fine bank account. Out in the street in front of my window Maj. —, then my commander, is up a pole, mending an electric light wire, while across the way Lieut. — is taking into a house a can of coal oil from his delivery wagon."

Doctors are swift to avail themselves of the expedients made possible by the progress of invention, says E. S. Martin in Harper's Weekly, that when an X-ray picture is to be taken of a New York patient the physician no longer finds it necessary to fetch a large electric battery from his office, but simply telephones for an electric cab, and as it stands at the door runs out a wire from the sick room and borrows the electricity he needs from its storage battery. That is beautiful, and recalls the ways of the primitive milkman who drove his cows to his doors and squeezed out each family's allowance in the housekeeper's presence.

W. C. Andrews, who perished by fire in New York a few days ago, was fond of new inventions, and his fortune was chiefly due to a device for using coal screenings as fuel. His advice was to "save every dollar you can get and invest in street railways, steam, heat, electricity, compressed air—anything that has to do with the development of the city." His plan to extinguish fires with steam is regarded as visionary, though he made some interesting demonstrations.

Just 50 years ago this spring the country was wild over the discovery of gold in California, and companies of men were forming over the whole United States to start for the new El Dorado. Some went by Cape Horn, some by Panama, but most went overland. These in after days were the forty-niners. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, but it was not generally believed until Polk confirmed it in his annual message.

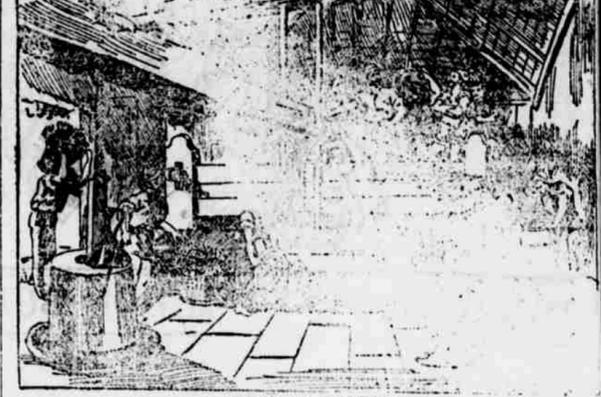
Secretary Wilson is determined to discover if a human being can live comfortably in the coldest portion of Alaska, and has sent there to experiment in gardening Prof. C. C. Gorgensen, a Dane, who is an expert in northern agriculture, and who will start a station at Sitka.

A fire in Elkton, Md., lately destroyed a will by which a young lady of that town had been disinherited by her father, and she got his property all right.

### Scenes in Portugal at the Rio Porto Vineyards.

MAKING THE PORT GRAPES TO THE WINERY, ON THE HEADS OF MEN AND WOMEN NEAR THE VALLE DE MENETLE WHERE THEY ARE DUMPED IN THE MASSING VATS TO BE TRODDEN FOR PORT WINE.

The rugged hills with projecting rocks of brown stone and shale containing a large quantity of iron, make it impossible to use wagon here hence the grapes have to be carried to the treading vat or large as they are called, and some are large enough for twenty persons to tread, which is done to music furnished by the proprietor.



**ALRED SPEER,** the Pioneer wine grower of New Jersey whose Burgandy rivals the world, imported the Port Grapes years ago, and planted vineyards in the Passaic Valley in Passaic county, New Jersey, is identical to that of Speer's New Jersey Vineyards are situated in the Passaic valley below the mountain, where grapes are carted to the winery in the town of Passaic where they are mashed between rollers made of rubber, which do not break the seeds and made into wine. These grand wines of Speer's that have mellowed in flavor in the course of years of ripening, are the choicest wines in this country and can only be obtained by paying a price that is higher than new wines from western vineyards. Mr. Speer deems it necessary for a healthy wine that it be allowed years to mature in wood to get rid of its coarse parts; with this object he keeps his wines several years in fumigated cellars and frequently racks before bottling or offering for sale. The reputation of Speer's wines as a valuable medicinal and family wine extends around the world. Grocers and Druggists sell Speer's Wines and Brandy.

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