

GERM FEAR IS A CRAZE.

PUBLIC FRANTICALLY DEMANDING DEVICES FOR PROTECTION.

The Antiseptic Fad is a Feature of the Twentieth Century—Millions of Germs Destroyed Daily, but Science Finds New Millions.

Germ fear is a feature of the 20th century, declares the New York Tribune. There is an antiseptic or germ destroying craze. The public, or a part of it awakened, at last, to the existence and the peril of germs, demands—a little too frantically, perhaps—germ protection.

In response to this demand there are offered to the public many strange and ingenious devices. The object of these devices is the prevention of all such diseases as arise from the swallowing of germs, or their touch, or their inhalation. Thus:

There are on the market money scoops—silver instruments of pocket size—wherewith to handle unsterilized coins.

There are germicide doormats. These, being stepped upon in the right spot, emit a spray of highly volatile fluid that is supposed to render harmless the millions of disease germs gathered on the shoes amid the dust and mud of the cities.

There are wind veils, for men no less than women, to be worn over the mouth and nose as a preventive of the inhalation of germs.

There are fumigating attachments for letter boxes. These, on being compressed, are guaranteed to sterilize the recipient's mail before he touches it.

There are hanging tabular baths for hallways. The ends of canes and umbrellas, dipped in these baths, come forth clean of germs.

There are aseptic communion cups, with tiny rotating brushes that wash the cups' edges as they pass from one communicant to another.

There are generators that sterilize carpets, walls, clothing, books, etc.

There are pocket lamps that emit a germ killing vapor. These are for the cleansing of cups at public drinking fountains and for other such purposes.

It may be doubted if so great a fear of germs as all these devices indicate is altogether sane. But it is at any rate, a fear that does more good than harm. Between the general sanitary conditions of the present and the past the contrast is amazing, and in the bringing about of that contrast the public fear of germs plays its part.

In one of the London hospitals they still preserve as a relic a bed 14 or 15 feet wide. In that bed in the past a dozen patients would lie side by side, one with consumption, another with smallpox, a third with typhoid fever, and so on. It is different today. Today contagion and infection are guarded against as thoroughly as thieves are guarded against by misers. And still these precautions increase. Every month, every week, some new preventive of the spread of disease is devised.

And there has sprung up the germ hunter—the health faddist—who hunts germs as a sportsman hunts game. Innumerable are the weapons wherewith the germ hunter seeks his prey. A good place to examine these weapons is a surgical instrument shop.

A surgical instrument dealer, on being asked to exhibit his various germ destroyers, pointed to a doormat. It was like any other doormat of rubber, only a lemon shaped rubber bulb was attached to it.

"What," said the visitor, "is that bulb for?" "I'll show you," the dealer answered. He stood upon the mat and he compressed the bulb with his toe. Immediately a silver colored mist arose. For an instant he stood in this mist ankle deep. Then, as quickly as it had arisen the mist disappeared, leaving the man's shoes and the bottoms of his trousers quite dry.

"Did you notice that spray of volatile fluid?" he said. "Well, that was a spray of germicide, or disinfectant. This is a patent germicide doormat. This mat cleans your feet when you come in from the mud and dust."

"A remarkable mat," said the visitor. "Does it sell?"

"It sells well," the other answered. "All germ killing devices sell well in this age. This is the age of germ fear."

He took from a case an armful of glittering objects. They were of glass and silver, and their shapes were strange.

"All these instruments," he said, "kill germs or ward off germs. I will explain them to you."

He pointed to a small silver scoop.

"That is a money scoop," he said. "A number of health faddists carry scoops in their pockets. They know that the average coin has on it about a million germs—germs of consumption, of smallpox, of typhoid, of diphtheria—and therefore they will not touch a coin with their fingers until it has been sterilized. When you give them change they receive it in their scoops instead of in their hands. Thence it goes into their sterilized purses, to be thoroughly fumigated at home. I know three men and two women who use these money scoops. The scoops are made of silver and they cost a dollar apiece."

He took up a tiny lamp—a lamp with two wicks that rose out of a cake of sulphur. In the middle of the cake of sulphur there was a vial of transparent fluid.

"This is a pocket fumigator," he said. "You take the stopper from the vial and light the two wicks, and thereupon a vapor deadly to every kind of germs arises. The pocket fu-

NEW WAY TO TELL TIME.

This Clock Will Show the Exact Hour and Minute in Figures.

Samuel Powers Thrasher of New Haven, Conn., has an invention that bids fair to make Yankee clockmakers green with envy. In fact, Mr. Thrasher proposes to tell time in figures the same as we read on the time tables of every road in the country. No longer would he have us say it is "quarter of 3" or "half-past 2," but as we look at his invention he proposes and insists that we must say 2:45 or 2:30. In the twentieth-century hustle and bustle this proposal seems likely to meet with more than mere approval. Mr. Thrasher proposes to reconstruct the familiar face with which Father Time has been wont to remind us of the passing hours and do away entirely with the quaint old dial with its Roman numerals. In use from the middle ages and likewise take away the old clock's hands. Instead of pointing the way and letting us figure out the time for ourselves, Mr. Thrasher's new timepiece will tell us in plain figures at a glance just what time it



Clock That Shows Time in Figures.

is. It will be no more trouble to tell the hour the minute and the second than to read the A B Cs or see at a glance in the time table the hour and the minute. Any one with eyes and the ability to use them can tell time and a mere comparison with a time table and a knowledge of figures and the ability to read them will be the only essential to know the precise moment when a train is supposed to arrive or depart or any event is to take place.

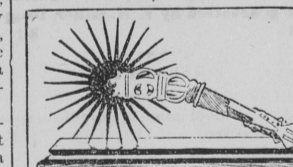
Three sets of figures, one each for the hours, the tens and the units of minutes revolving on separate rolls with measured accuracy and appearing in a given space at the proper time, give us the hours and minutes of this wonderful new clock. A pointer constantly traveling in a half-graduated circle tells the exact seconds. The pointer and the rolls interlock and the whole is impelled by a device which is simpler than the simplest clock mechanism ever made which seems impossible to get out of order and never needs winding.

To Grow a Miniature Forest.

It is quite possible for any one to own a forest of miniature oaks, which may be grown even without the aid of soil. In order to rear a miniature forest procure a shallow dish and cover the base of it with moss and an inch thick. Then set a number of good acorns in rows about two inches apart, and a perfect little forest of oak trees can be raised. The moss must always be kept very moist and the acorns will begin to grow in the spring.

A Singular Chilean Spur.

The photograph here shown is taken from one of a pair of beautiful Chilean spurs in the possession of A. M. Robinson of Birkenhead, at one time a resident of Chile. They were taken to England, however, in 1826. The rowel is seven inches in diameter and has the sounding "ring" dear to the Chilean "jinete" or rider. Spurs of this kind are seldom worn now except on high-days and holidays.



Loneliness Drove Him Insane. Some time ago a Russian lady died in Paris, France, and bequeathed a sum of \$40,000 on condition that a mausoleum was erected over her grave and inside was to be a small chamber, in which the aspirant for the legacy was to take up his residence night and day for twelve months, and watch by her tomb. A man was found who accepted the post, but was unable to endure the mental strain and loneliness and he is now confined in a lunatic asylum.

A Two-Sided Flag.

The strangest flag under which men ever fought is that of the Macedonian insurgents. It is red on one side and black on the other.

The black side is intended to be symbolic of the iniquity of Turkish rule, and should the Macedonians ever gain independence or autonomy, the flag would be changed.

Girls War on Mosquitoes.

The Leap Year Girls' club of Beverly, Mass., have undertaken a crusade against mosquitoes at that place. They will administer a coat of coal oil to two ponds near Beverly. The girls in some way figure that mosquitoes may interfere with the purposes of the club.

FINANCE AND TRADE REVIEW.

CROP CONDITIONS.

Corn Growing Rapidly—Wheat Harvest Interrupted by Rain.

In Iowa and in the principal corn States eastward of the Mississippi river corn has made good progress and is well cultivated, rapid growth being generally reported. Rapid growth is also reported from Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, but in these States cultivation has been hindered. A large crop is practically assured in Texas, but drought has impaired the outlook in the central and east Gulf and south Atlantic States.

The progress of wheat harvest in Kansas and Missouri has been interrupted by rains, but this work has proceeded without interference east of the Mississippi river and is now in progress as far north as the southern portions of Illinois and Indiana and Virginia and Maryland. Some losses and much are reported from Nebraska and Missouri, and dry weather has hastened maturity in Michigan, but elsewhere the crop has advanced, favorably, well-filled heads being generally reported. In California harvesting continues with light yields in most sections, and in Oregon and Washington heads are filling nicely.

While the general condition of spring wheat is somewhat less promising than previously indicated, the outlook continues encouraging in the spring wheat region east of the rocky mountains, the least favorable reports being received from Iowa. In portions of these Dakotas the crop is weedy, but in these States and in Minnesota it has made good growth and the early sown is beginning to head. On the North Pacific coast the prospects for spring wheat have been materially lessened by dry, cool weather and recent frosts.

Oats continue promising in nearly all districts. In some of the most important oat states, however, the crop is heading short, with less favorable prospects than previously indicated. Harvest has begun in Southern Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

While a fine crop of grass is promised in the States of the Missouri valley, recent dry weather in portions of the lake region and Middle Atlantic States has materially checked its growth.

MARKETS.

Table with multiple columns listing market prices for various commodities such as Grain, Flour, and Dairy Products across different locations like PITTSBURGH, BALTIMORE, PHILADELPHIA, and NEW YORK.

Table titled 'Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg, Cattle' listing prices for various types of cattle.

Table titled 'Hogs' listing prices for different types of hogs.

Table titled 'Sheep' listing prices for various types of sheep.

Table titled 'Calves' listing prices for different types of calves.

Trebizoned. The city of Trebizond is one of the most important cities and ports in the Black Sea. It is about 480 miles from Constantinople and 100 miles from Batoum. It is the port of entry as well as the distributing point for the interior, viz., Erzerum, Bitlis and Van, and for the caravan route to and from Persia.

American Goods in Asia Minor. Articles of American manufacture which are finding a market in the islands of Asia Minor are cotton goods (sheetings, gray drills, canvas and calicoes), hardware (carpenter's tools, locks and nails), timepieces, cheap jewelry, agricultural implements, machinery and windmills, sewing-machines and various novelties.

Hitching a wagon to a star is slightly different from hitching an automobile to a member of the chorus.

Curious Phenomenon.

A curious phenomenon has been noticed in the tropics that can never be seen at higher latitudes. A mining shaft at Sombreret, Mex., is almost exactly on the tropic of Cancer, and at noon on June 21 the sun shines to the bottom, lighting up the well for a vertical depth of 1,100 feet or more.

WITS permanently cured. No fit-or-uncure-vans after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer, 571 Arch St., Phila., Pa. Dr. R. H. LINSK, Ltd., 581 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

The United States leads all countries as a consumer of coffee.

Dowager Queen Margherita of Italy has a lace handkerchief worth \$10,000.

H. H. GREEN'S Sons, of Atlanta, Ga., are the only successful Dropsy specialists in the world. See their liberal offer in advertisement in another column of this paper.

Gold is being electrolytically refined in the Philadelphia mint.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c. a bottle.

The mileage of the railway system of Mexico now aggregates 10,078 miles.

Jamsure Pisco's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—Mrs. THOMAS ROBERTS, Maple St., Norwich, N.Y., Feb. 17, 1899.

China has at present about 800 miles of railroads.

On a tombstone at the head of a grave in one of the dog cemeteries in Paris is this inscription to the memory of a brave St. Bernard: "He saved the lives of forty persons and was killed by the forty-first."

Catarth Cannot Be Cured. With LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease, Catarth is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarth Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surface. Hall's Catarth Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarth. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, price, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

One morning four-year-old Margie had pancakes and syrup for breakfast. After she had eaten the cakes there was some syrup left on her plate, and she said: "Mamma, please give me a spoon; my fork leaks."

The anniversary has just been celebrated in Berlin of the day when, in 1832, the old law forbidding anyone to smoke in the streets was repealed.

ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE
For Hot, Tired, Aching, Swollen Feet.



Shake into your shoes. Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder. It cures painful, smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing nails, and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Makes tight or new shoes easy. A certain cure for sweating, callous and hot, tired, aching feet. 30,000 testimonials. Try it today. Sold by all Druggists and Shoe stores, 25c. Don't accept a substitute. Trial package FREE. Address, **Allen's Foot-Ease**, Le Roy, N. Y., U. S. A. Genuine bears above signature.

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