

South's Crusade Against Pellagra.

Spread of the Dread Malady of Mysterious Origin Causes Alarm—Case Found in New York—More Than 500 Found in South Carolina Alone—The Damaged Corn Theory.

The physicians of the South have a new enemy to deal with in pellagra, a disease which has never appeared in this country until recently, but which has prevailed for a long time in Italy, Roumania, France, Spain, Corfu and Upper Egypt. It has often been reported in other European countries besides those mentioned, and is occasionally heard of in India, Africa, Mexico and South America. At least one case has been discovered in New York, according to Passed Assistant Surgeon C. H. Lavinder, of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

The spread of this disease in the Southern States has been rapid and alarming, and has been the subject of several conferences and conventions of physicians in the last few months. In spite of the generally accepted theory that the dreaded ailment comes from eating spoiled maize, it is the opinion of a great many physicians that its origin is still a mystery. All are agreed that determined efforts must be made to stamp it out in the South.

Dr. Lavinder, in an official report made to the Government after an exhaustive study of the disease abroad, says that the literature on the subject in English is very meagre and unsatisfactory.

"More or less recently," he says, "there has appeared in the Southern States a disease which is possibly true pellagra, and there is reason for believing that perhaps this disease may be quite prevalent, but unrecognized. Since it is of a serious nature, and epidemic in character, knowledge concerning it is becoming of much importance to the American physician, and more especially to the practitioner in the Southern States."

Dr. Lavinder summarizes the symptoms of the disease as follows:

"Pellagra is both an endemic and epidemic disease, which occurs in those who feed on spoiled maize, and is characterized by an erythema of the skin, digestive disturbances and nervous disturbances. It may terminate in such serious conditions as grave cachexia or insanity; it is periodic in its manifestations, and usually appears with the beginning of spring, ameliorates during summer, and ordinarily in winter the symptoms disappear to such an extent as often to give the false idea of recovery. So long as the cause persists, however, it reappears each year.

"The disease usually begins with gastro-intestinal disturbances, followed shortly by the erythema of the skin, and in a brief while there is more or less involvement of the nervous system. It is a slowly advancing toxemia, the brunt of which, in the end, is borne by the nervous system, and each annual recurrence leaves a deeper and more indelible mark on the mental and nervous condition of the sufferer.

"The symptoms are divided by most authors into three periods or stages. Many other divisions have been suggested. None seem entirely satisfactory. The division into three stages, while artificial, is convenient and is generally adopted. Such a division has no reference to the length of time the malady has existed, but is based largely on the intensity of existing symptoms. A patient may have suffered from pellagra for many years and still remain in the first stage of the disease; whereas another, in a much briefer period, may advance to the third stage.

"The disease is essentially chronic, although an acute (or florid) type is usually mentioned by writers on pellagra. Small space seems to be devoted to any description of acute types, however, and one is left to infer that the acute disease does not differ in symptomatology from the chronic, but that it is simply far more rapid in its evolution.

"The most important conference on pellagra in this country was that held some months ago under the auspices of the State Board of Health of South Carolina at the State Hospital for the Insane. The transactions of the conference, including all the papers read, have just been issued by the State Company, printers, Columbia, S. C. Many of the addresses had been reprinted previously in the Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association.

"At this conference the disease was discussed in all its aspects, and every effort was made to dispel the mystery surrounding its origin.

"The contribution of Dr. John McCampbell, Superintendent of the State Hospital at Morganton, N. C., is important. He says: "I suppose that no one any longer seriously doubts the existence of pellagra in the South. Sufficient and indisputable evidence has been brought forward to establish this fact beyond peradventure. It will be noticed further that practically all reports of cases have been made within the last eighteen months, indicating that it has made its appearance in recent years, since it is not at all likely that the medical profession would long overlook or fail to diagnose a disease so distinctive in character and so fatal in effect.

"The question naturally arises, Why this invasion? So far as I am able to determine, practically all authorities on the subject attribute the disease to the use of damaged corn as an article of diet—that is, corn

which has undergone some change, probably putrefactive or fermentative, since sound corn never produces it.

"Now it is well known that corn and its products have always figured largely in the diet of the people of the South, perhaps more so in the past than at present, yet there was a comparative exemption from pellagra until recently. Granting that the disease is with us, and probably of recent appearance, and that it is due to the ingestion of damaged corn, we, in our prophylactic efforts, would naturally look to the quality of our corn and determine, if possible, why it contains this toxic substance.

"It has occurred to me, and hence my theory, that our present manner of harvesting may have something to do with it. Under the present-day methods of intensive farming it is a very common practice to cut the corn, stalk and all, at the ground, often in a state of immaturity, in order that the ground may be planted with some other crop, usually wheat or rye, and this corn is packed wet and possibly green in a shock, where conditions are favorable for fermenting and heating, and possibly the development of the products would give rise, when eaten, to the disease.

"Further confirmation of this theory is found in the fact that in Italy, and especially in the Lombardy and Piedmont districts, the hot-bed of pellagra, the manner of harvesting corn is somewhat similar to that now prevailing in this country, inasmuch as owing to climatic conditions, it is necessary to gather corn in a partially green state, or at least in a condition necessitating further drying; and I understand the Italian Government has issued special instructions for this procedure, recognizing that it was from a faulty curing process that the poison developed."

Dr. J. H. Taylor, of Columbia, S. C., summarized the following points against the maize theory:

"The cultivation and extensive use of maize antedates by about 200 years the appearance of pellagra in Italy.

"There are extensive regions today where pellagra is rampant, but where corn is neither grown nor eaten, while, on the other hand, there are large areas where this cereal is the principal article of diet, with all its fungi and bacteria, but pellagra is unknown.

"The disease shows a tendency to spread slowly but widely, and independently of maize cultivation and maize theories.

"It attacks chiefly persons of the rural districts, and seldom those in towns, though both use maize as a staple article of diet; and, again, of individuals in the same household, living under identical food conditions, often only one is attacked, the others remaining absolutely free of symptoms.

"If due, as claimed, to a toxin, then children should, as in ergotism, be most often attacked. On the contrary, the adult is by great odds the principal sufferer from pellagra."

Dr. J. W. Babcock, of Columbia, S. C., who was a classmate of ex-President Roosevelt at Harvard, says:

"We have reported 187 cases, the distribution of which indicates that the disease prevails in nearly every county in the State (South Carolina). Making allowance for possible duplication of cases in the reports received, and considering the number of physicians who did not reply, we believe a conservative estimate would place the number of cases of pellagra in South Carolina at about 500."

Safety in Eminentence.

"Even in case of an accident," says the Philosopher of Folly, "the man who has climbed the highest is bound to fall on top of the heap."

FUN OF GLOUCESTER FISHERFOLK

Lead a Strenuous Life. Yet Have Plenty of Good Hearty Diversion.

To be leader of the Gloucester fishing fleet is no small honor. The vessel which has taken the first place on many a trip to the Grand Banks has recently been sold, and with the independence of the "Pride of Gloucester" has departed. A newspaper line or two bearing the intelligence, modestly tucked away among the more prominent paragraphs of daily doings suddenly opens a vista in the mental view of the reader, and his thoughts go out, as it were, in the long sea-wake of those stanch little vessels and their sturdy crews. It is a strenuous life these fishermen lead, full of dangers and tragedies, yet it has a bright side, for wherever a group of lively New Englanders work together in the open there is sure to be plenty of hearty fun. A. W. Dimock, writing in the Outlook, gives a glimpse of the humor of these Gloucester fisherfolk.

These fishermen are not story-book sailors. When I was seelack no one was amused. I was coddled and cared for, and plenty of fruit and sympathy administered.

The men were intelligent and with a good sense of humor. A careless



England's exports to Argentina last year were larger than its exports to Brazil and Chile combined.

Every employe in the Bank of England is required to sign his name in a book on his arrival in the morning, and, if late, must give the reason therefor.

Concrete itself is very old. The concrete stairs of Colchester and Rochester castles still show the marks of the incasing boards; the dome of Agrippa's Pantheon, which is 142 feet in diameter, is of concrete, and fragments of concrete buildings are found in Mexico and Peru.

French walnut growers in the neighborhood of Grenoble have formed an association to maintain the reputation and guarantee the quality of the walnuts commonly known as "Grenobles."

There are 157,000 models in the Patent Office which are about to be lodged in the National Museum. Many of them are of historic interest. They will be under the care of the Commissioner of Patents.

The University of Breslau has made an arrangement with an insurance company whereby each student pays thirty-cent cents twice a year to be insured against accidents occurring in the line of duty.

Dr. Charles Perrier, in an article based on observations made in French penal institutions, says that criminals are for the most part of medium height. Thieves, he says, he found to be almost exclusively of small stature and beggars nearly always of medium or slightly under that height. "It is seldom," he says, "that a fully developed beggar can be found in a large frame."

New York City has more than 10,000,000 electric lights in its streets.

The magnetic needle never points exactly north in New York City. The nearest it ever gets is about four and one-half degrees west of north, and from that to nine degrees west. It was in its most easterly position in 1803, and will attain its most westerly position about 1923.

Weather records show that September is New York City's most pleasant month. In thirty-nine years September has had one-fifth more pleasant days than any other month, and more days of balmy air than any of the others can claim, notwithstanding the reputation of May.

Clock For Hotel Guests Only.

A New England man tells of an elderly citizen of a New Hampshire town who long bore the reputation of being the meanest man in the country. This old chap was the proprietor of a hotel, the rules whereof provided that everything should be kept under lock and key, the result of which was that no hanger-on could get his hands on a newspaper, a bit of hotel stationery, a free wash, or, in fact, anything free at all. To cap the climax the old man one day came in and posted the following notice above the only clock in the place: "This clock is for use of hotel guests only."—Detroit Free Press.

Glory.

How many metals make the bronze of Corinth? Insults on boards or on paper, the spot of ink or charcoal or mud, the dregs of heart, of mind and of body, the dirt of calumny, all these, under the sun, dry, harden, turn unto bronze solid and brilliant—a pure bronze, which is called glory!—Catalpe Mendes.

Commissioners' Statement

OF THE Finances of Jefferson County For the Year 1908.

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING 1902, 1904, 1905, 1906 AND 1907.					
Year, District and Collector.	County	Poor	Bond	State	Dog
1902—Polk A. L. Lockwood	\$ 3.54	\$ 4.41	\$ 3.82	\$ 1.98	\$ 5.56
1904—Barnett W. A. Wallace	175.23	87.50	44.07		29.00
1905—Barnett W. A. Wallace	130.04	35.95	25.95	17.16	9.30
1905—Brookville John H. Shick	123.82	70.17	70.17	123.06	23.17
1905—Clover N. A. McLaughlin	164.99	55.49	55.49	27.79	4.95
1905—Polk A. L. Lockwood	31.27	23.92	23.76	14.08	9.35
1906—Barnett W. A. Wallace	182.92	49.44	19.75	21.42	8.30
1906—Oliver J. W. Geist	26.21	36.46	22.45	5.71	22.00
1906—Pinecreek John Hatten	66.98	39.99	21.90	8.05	37.40
1907—Barnett A. L. Lockwood	56.23	57.36	19.74	9.40	8.50
1907—Barnett H. L. Agnew	82.48	24.12	8.89	9.00	7.00
1907—Henderson J. W. Haag	216.17	73.96	24.15	23.18	14.04
1907—Oliver J. W. Geist	246.53	110.92	35.37	10.63	12.00
1907—Polk A. L. Lockwood	117.87	19.20	12.97	12.27	12.00
1907—Polk A. L. Lockwood	153.43	51.10	17.04	3.10	5.92
1907—Reynoldsville Wm. Copping	404.09	103.48	25.76	11.17	9.80
1907—Summersville O. S. Wampler					
1907—Snyder C. M. Prindle	17.14	8.10	1.61		
1907—West Reynoldsville W. B. Stauffer	17.80	6.83	1.35		1.00
1907—Worthville S. P. Wonderling	1.91				
Total outstanding 1907 and previous:	2287.80	877.51	440.77	250.49	223.73

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING FOR 1908.

Year, District and Collector.	County	Poor	Bond	State	Dog
Barnett H. L. Agnew	\$ 10.27	\$ 6.88	\$ 8.61	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
Bell G. W. Graffius	469.39	90.65	112.25	9.15	38.50
Big Rock J. W. Geist	178.36	35.92	17.75	12.10	10.10
Brookville G. W. Neison	216.91	43.95	18.88	29.70	19.00
Brookville E. G. Heasley	822.01	164.43	83.66	96.03	13.00
Clover J. D. Hetrick	142.52	29.98	14.61	3.00	3.50
Eldred Martin Disque	23.25	6.41	32.99	3.18	3.00
Falls Creek D. C. Smith	490.15	97.72	49.35	7.25	10.00
Gaskill G. A. Keller	162.90	30.57	13.56	26.47	24.00
Henderson J. W. Haag	4.13	31.71	3.31	3.65	3.77
Henderson J. W. Haag	84.33	17.82	8.04	12.34	44.00
Knox O. C. Stewart	464.41	99.92	47.43	10.44	64.99
McCormick W. D. Wachob	1626.68	267.70	104.29	33.77	128.00
Oliver J. W. Geist	482.92	103.29	51.33	27.09	29.50
Perry S. L. Stewart	150.29	69.32	31.40	3.40	15.50
Pinecreek John Hatten	448.48	90.42	45.31	9.44	32.50
Polk A. L. Lockwood	236.65	47.52	23.76	5.44	14.00
Polk A. L. Lockwood	131.87	26.11	12.00	12.27	12.00
Punkatowney, 1, 2, 3, 4 H. McHenry	2163.10	437.94	320.27	257.31	45.50
Punkatowney, 5, 6 Jns. S. Lockard	812.66	161.94	82.39	34.62	38.50
Reynoldsville Wm. Copping	1328.26	263.42	131.51	91.24	43.00
Reynoldsville F. Weber	512.32	103.24	50.73	27.09	28.00
Snyder C. M. Prindle	420.61	84.60	42.12	11.43	63.50
Summersville O. S. Wampler	62.96	12.23	6.00	2.40	2.00
Spokaneville J. W. Geist	22.44	6.07	3.00	3.00	3.00
Union G. C. Aaron	152.60	34.20	15.95	3.00	17.00
Warsaw R. W. Wells	872.77	174.25	87.33	23.88	42.00
Washington J. J. Sterrett	533.35	104.18	52.69	32.26	39.50
West Reynoldsville F. Weber	194.11	39.77	12.42	3.00	3.00
Winslow Amos Strouse	2119.15	474.53	238.50	8.76	92.00
Worthville S. P. Wonderling	21.36	4.53	4.8	7.75	5.50
Young F. C. Haag	845.04	198.24	104.04	7.54	115.15
Total amounts outstanding for 1908:	16923.30	3352.00	141835.67	1025.40	1100.91

Receipts and Expenditures for 1908.

RECEIPTS.		STATE TAX OUTSTANDING 1908.	
Amt. in Treasury January 1, 1908			1,025.40
Amt. 1908 taxes to date	2,741.65		
Outstanding tax, 1907 and previous	7,952.90		
Taxes 1908	613.83		
Seated tax lien record	12,107.58		
Interest on unsecured bonds	2,846.23		
Hotel licenses	1,065.00		
Redemptions	368.51		
Com. costs and interest	2,700.00		
Returned tax	147.63		
State personal tax returns	7,162.99		
Jury fees	29.00		
Miscellaneous receipts	47.46		
State for Primary Election, January, 1908	1,636.69		
State for Primary Election, April, 1908	1,949.07		
Temporary loan	10,000.00		
State for Agriculture	812.65		
State for Forestry	50.00		
Rent from John W. Walker	512.00		
Rent for noxious animals	512.00		
Amt. due Treasurer, exclusive of Treasurer's percentage as may be legally determined	3,204.79		
Total	\$102,580.62		

Receipts and Expenditures for 1908. State tax outstanding 1908.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Amt. due for bridge, Forest county	49.60	Assessor's bills	4,525.54
Amt. due for bridge, Georgia Sand Stone Co.	303.42	Auditors' pay	282.00
Amt. due from ground rent, Brookville borough	40.00	Allegheny County Work-house	495.00
Amt. due from state, rates	1,112.00	Auditing Reg. and Pro. accounts	50.00
Amt. due from state, forest Bros	1,009.11	Appropriation to G. R. Memorial Day	220.00
Total	\$ 23,117.86	Blank books and stationery	910.34

LIABILITIES.		EXPENDITURES.	
Amt. due on Forest Hill bridge (Toby Creek)	1,949.00	Assessor's bills	4,525.54
Amt. due on Melzer stone work (Forest Hill bridge)	548.78	Auditors' pay	282.00
Amt. due on Allen's Mills bridge, Rogers Bros.	500.00	Allegheny County Work-house	495.00
Amt. due on South Penn bridge, Punkatowney	7,579.00	Auditing Reg. and Pro. accounts	50.00
Amt. due on salary of A. B. Stewart, Atty.	250.00	Appropriation to G. R. Memorial Day	220.00
Amt. due on forest Bros	982.95	Blank books and stationery	910.34
Amt. due on miscellaneous bills	4,143.24	Blank Association Com. fines	327.50
Amt. due Treasurer, exclusive of Treasurer's percentage as may be legally determined	3,204.79	Building school houses	1,901.20
Assets over liabilities	3,661.00	Bridges and bridge repairs	24,292.59
Total	\$ 23,117.86	Burial of indigent soldiers	550.00

Receipts and Expenditures for 1908. Poor Fund.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Amt. in Treas. last settlement	1,206.86	Backsmithing	34.50
Outstanding tax, 1907 and previous	4,391.48	Barial expenses	92.00
Unsecured tax lien record	8,939.52	Commissioners' pay	200.00
Seated tax lien record	75.87	J. N. Kelly	200.00
Interest on unsecured tax	10.15	E. N. McGaw	200.00
Carriage haulage, Petras	1,454.00	Disinfectant	6.25
State aid for nine months	2,556.63	Drugs	131.44
Exoneration of tax	2.34	Freight and hauling	30.70
Rent for houses on Co. Home farm	42.00	Feed	37.70
Fines	20.38	Flour	551.57
Amt. recd. for produce on county farm	36.80	Fertilizer	351.98
U. S. Dept. Commerce & Labor for transfer of inmates	42.86	Fuel and oil	953.02
Total	\$ 31,434.25	Coal	227.75

EXPENDITURES.		ASSETS.	
Hacksmithing	34.50	County tax outstanding, 1907 and previous	2,287.80
Barial expenses	92.00	State tax outstanding, 1907 and previous	2,204.49
Commissioners' pay	200.00	County tax outstanding, 1908	16,923.30
J. N. Kelly	200.00	Total	\$102,580.62
E. N. McGaw	200.00		
Disinfectant	6.25		