

The political situation in Europe continues to grow darker.

The Japanese eat more fish than any other people in the world. With them meat eating is a foreign innovation, confined to the rich, or rather to those rich people who prefer it to the National diet.

The farmer who is feeding his wheat to his horses should, in the opinion of the Courier-Journal, hold both his wheat and his horses until he digests the fact that wheat will be wheat in the world's markets during the year ahead of us.

The new warships are a credit to the Nation. Recently the Philadelphia made the run from Rio de Janeiro to Callao, a distance of 5000 miles, in twenty days and eighteen hours, without stopping anywhere for coal. This was a speed of 242 miles a day and a continuous run of twenty-one days without stopping at any coaling station.

A poor old man, who once was a well-to-do merchant in Wisconsin, and likewise was of much State renown as a public speaker of force and persuasiveness, has been taken to the almshouse in Baraboo, weak in mind and poverty-stricken, and past eighty years of age. "The poorhouse is hospitable when all other friends fail," is the comment of the New York Times.

Doctor J. T. Boyd, of Indianapolis, has added his voice to that of Lieutenant Totten, and declares that the end of the world is at hand. In support of his theory, he says that the British Chronological Society, composed of noted scientific men, has arrived at the same conclusions as those reached by Lieutenant Totten and himself, and that all prophecy points to 1899 as the date of final smashup.

Some idea of the enormous proportions the business of hotel keeping has assumed in this country may be gained, declares the New Orleans Picayune, from the fact that there are in the United States upward of 50,000 hotels, exclusive of what may properly be termed inns and taverns, and what are commonly known as apartment-houses, although the latter are in many instances conducted as hotels, in that they have a common kitchen and dining-room.

Deer and bears are reported to be more plentiful now in the "great woods" of Oxford County, Maine, than at any other time during the present generation. These woods extend, in a belt from four to six miles wide, from Dixfield away up into the untrodden wilderness of Northern Maine, and much of the area has seldom been visited by sportsmen. Driven from the hunting grounds about Rangeley Lake the game took refuge in these woods, and have multiplied there unmolested.

The New York News observes: Now the surgeons have cut out a man's spleen, and yet he lives and has red blood, and will, it is said, recover. No one has ever known absolutely what is the office of the spleen. The organ is not a vital one, but is often much diseased and very painful. The operation to remove it is technically called splenectomy. Many years ago a writer in Chambers's Miscellany contended that the spleen was the manufactory of the white blood corpuscles. If that were so, the red corpuscles in the veins and arteries would have soon faded in vividness in the patient, Athlete Short, of Yonkers. Are the spleen and the vermiform appendix, which are declared to be useless, left as hints of the evolutionary process? Was man differently constituted when they were useful to him, instead of being as now unnecessary? Who can say?

George Vanderbilt is one of nature's queer freaks. He is the least known of any of the enormously wealthy men of New York. He must be worth at least \$35,000,000, but he might walk the length of the entire city without being recognized by half a dozen persons. He has never been prominent in any public movement. He has never attended a public function where crowds of people congregate, and when he goes to the theatre or to the opera he hides himself in the rear of a box, says the New York Herald. Young Vanderbilt has many fads. First of all he is a bookworm and is in a way a woman-hater. Formerly he was rated as being, next to John Jacob Astor, the wealthiest young bachelor in the United States, having \$1,000,000 in his own right and control for every past year of his life. Now, as John Jacob Astor is a husband and father, George Vanderbilt stands at the head of his class alone.

The creation of money order offices in the small postoffices is advocated by the Springfield (Mass.) Union on the ground that such offices would greatly facilitate the transaction of business in rural neighborhoods.

A business man of Canada, of an enterprising nature, has established a "floating bank" on Kootenai Lake, Canada. It is in a steamer which journeys from place to place along the lake; thus enabling its owner to supply the inhabitants of the lake villages with banking facilities.

Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes says that the largest elm he ever saw was in Oxford, England, and measured twenty-five feet in circumference. There was an elm of about the same size in Springfield, Mass., some years ago. The Doctor estimates the life of the American elm at between 200 and 300 years. If any survive to be 300 years, he thinks, it is as wrecks, liable to go to pieces in the first heavy storm.

The method of harvesting wheat on the great bonanza ranches of the Dakotas is said to have amazed the foreign Agricultural Commissioners at the World's Fair. To clear up 640 acres of wheat in one day with 150 hands and forty-five harvesters is a feat which has been paralleled in California, Nebraska and other big Western grain States, but it is doubtful, thinks the San Francisco Chronicle, if any part of Europe can show such rapid work.

Life insurance companies are becoming the holders of enormous masses of capital, notes the New York Tribune. Statistics made public at the last meeting of the National Association of Life Underwriters show that the companies taking no account of assessment corporations and societies, hold assets to the value of \$850,000,000, that they receive from policy holders about \$175,000,000 a year, that their gross income is nearly \$220,000,000 annually, and that they pay about \$100,000,000 annually to the insured in the form of death losses, surrenders and dividends.

Though most people are equipped with thirty-two teeth only, the Shah of Persia appears to be more amply provided for, as we are told that he has just had his fortieth molar extracted. The phenomenon is thus explained. The first time his Eastern Majesty suffered from a decayed tooth and had to have it removed his loyal subjects offered him as a solatium a number of presents amounting in all to ten thousand gold sequins. Having thus discovered a new source of supply for his privy purse, the Shah, whenever he feels the want of those little presents that help to maintain the glow of friendship, causes the fact of his having another bad tooth to be proclaimed by a flourish of trumpets in all parts of his empire, and the presents begin to pour in.

Great Britain has undertaken another great enterprise in Africa, which will probably have an immense effect in the extension of its empire and the civilization of the dark continent. It is to erect a telegraph line from Alexandria, in Egypt, directly through the heart of the continent to Cape Town. The preliminary surveys have already been made. The line will traverse Egypt, the Soudan, the region of the great lakes, and the East Africa Company's territory, German East Africa, the Portuguese possessions, Mashonaland, Khama's country, Bechuanaland, the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Cape Colony. Contracts have already been signed for constructing the line for more than half the distance, and work is being rapidly pushed, so that the whole is expected to be in working order early next year.

The Atlanta Constitution says: Congressman Brosius, of Pennsylvania, is a man who has a vivid recollection of his experience during the war. He came near losing his life in the fight with Pickett's forces at Green Plains. He was one of the 300 men who charged across a wheat-field, a third of a mile in width upon a Confederate rifle pit and of the number only 125 came out alive. The Confederates waited until the storming party was within twenty-five yards of the pit and then they opened deadly fire, he tells. Brosius, who was a boy of nineteen, stopped to pick up a wounded comrade, and as he did so a rifle ball pierced his shoulder, shattering the blade and making him a cripple for life. He still carries a memento of that day in the shape of a pocket diary, which he wore in his vest. There is the mark of a bullet in it that would have gone through the young soldier's heart if it had not been stopped by the book.

THE SAMARITANS.

UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT VIENNA.

Its Object Was to Teach Methods of Giving Efficient Aid to Injured People—How the Work is Done.

THE Samaritan Congress which recently assembled in Vienna was the first international convention of that body, which was originally started at the instigation of Professor von Esmarch, of Kiel, the inventor of bloodless surgical operations. The underlying theory, upon which Professor von Esmarch has built the system which he has exposed to the criticisms of the public at this con-



CARRYING AN INJURED MAN.

gress, is that the vitality of the patient should under no circumstances be impaired or exhausted and that the natural strength existing in the person at the moment of the accident should be kept at its normal condition, as far as permissible under adverse circumstances, and thus made to act as one of the elements in recovery. The professor, according to the New York Herald, acts upon the conviction that an accident, however severe it may be and whatsoever may be its final outcome, does not at the instant rob the injured of all his strength; he argues that it is the suffering consequent upon the accident that weakens and that this suffering is hastened and perpetuated in a great measure by delay in giving to the injured parts the attention and relief they require. This argument led the professor inevitably to the position that the quicker relief is forthcoming the longer will the strength remain with which to battle against the depressing tendency of the wound or injury, and to extend this aid and to educate the people up to the knowledge of extending this aid is the preliminary step in the groundwork of his system.

The Vienna Samaritan Society's establishment, like that of Berlin, is governed by the same strict discipline prevailing in the fire department of every great city, and is not unlike it in its various stations located in the different sections of the town. All those stations are connected by wire with each other and with the residences of competent physicians, some of whom are constantly within reach of an alarm sounded upon their call wire. So, too, are these stations open at all times to those who may want re-

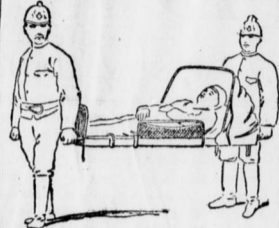


TAKING UP A PERSON WITH BROKEN LIMBS.

lief from slight injuries not sufficient to require the use of an ambulance, and there is at the same time a force of men ever ready to respond to demands from the outside. Aside from the superintendent of the stations the force consists entirely of volunteers, men whose heart is in the work and who find satisfaction in relieving suffering humanity. An exception, however, to many volunteer organizations, this one is so thoroughly and admirably under control that the participants are always at their post when required.

In large cities the leading causes of injuries are: Being run over by cars and wagons, falls in buildings in the course of construction, at fires and unforeseen accidents in stores and mechanic shops; furthermore as the consequence of excesses in drink,

inattention in handling electric wires, etc. In smaller towns and mining districts the principal causes of injury to life and limb are explosions, falls from



VIENNA STREET SAMARITANS CARRYING MAN IN A HAND CART.

great heights, etc., and in the agricultural districts railroad collisions, floods, lightning and accidents caused by vicious animals.

According to the rules laid down by Professor von Esmarch and adopted by the Berlin and Vienna Samaritan societies the very first qualification for one who intends to become a volunteer is that he should be able to move and otherwise handle an injured person so as to cause the least amount of pain and give the least discomfort. When three or four men are available two should make it their sole duty to lift the injured, while the third or fourth should raise entirely independently the wounded head or limb and steady it with the utmost care, seeing that it receive no new shock or wrench, for on the tender treatment by these assistants much depends, as they have it in their power to do greater damage than the most delicate care on the part of the other two will offset. The first act of the Samaritans when called to attend an injured person is to see that the patient is laid perfectly flat upon his back and that the bleeding is stopped. Then, one man stationing himself on the right and the other on the left of the prostrate figure, the one on the right side passes his right arm beneath the back of the patient, the man on the left passing his left arm in the same manner. After that each man places his disengaged hand under the upper leg of the patient, about midway between the knee and the thigh. The third and fourth Samaritans meanwhile gather the patient's arms in his lap and take in their hands the patient's head or limbs, be they wounded or not. Then the first two Samaritans grasp each other's hands beneath the patient and raise the body at a given signal, acting in perfect unison. It is preferable that instead of their hands a towel be used or a strap to better steady the body. The man attending the wounded parts must hold them as high as possible without contributing to the patient's discomfort.

In case of a great catastrophe, where a number of injured people demand looking after, two men, or even a single man, if he is strong enough, may perform the preliminary work in a similar manner as above described. In a case of asphyxiation, where no injured limbs need to be taken into consideration, the Samaritan must never wait for assistance from other volunteers, but remove the body as quickly as possible and in the best practicable manner from the scene of the disaster. If two volunteers are on hand one should grasp the body firmly around the waist, having the head, shoulders



TAKING UP A PERSON WITH BROKEN LIMBS.

and back against his own breast, while the second man takes both legs of the victim, and, carrying them in his arms next to his own body, moves briskly on. If the wounded person retains the power to do so he can greatly aid the rescuers by placing his arms around their necks while they carry him between them. The patient should under no circumstances be carried further than is absolutely necessary to take him out of danger, or else to a place where he may be transferred to an ambulance. Arrived there the body should be laid flat on a table, door, mattress or blanket, permitting it to be taken up at its ends and sides.

The bleeding must be stopped before removal is thought of, as already intimated. This is done by binding the wound or by holding the artery just above the bleeding part in a firm grasp. If the Samaritan is called upon to assist an asphyxiated or otherwise unconscious but not externally injured person he must observe the following leading principles: The head of the patient must be raised and breathing restored as quickly as possible. Only when the comatose condition is a consequence of loss of blood the head-rest is to be placed considerably lower than the feet, so as to induce the blood remaining in the body to run to the head and revive the functions of the brain. In all cases of unconsciousness it is necessary to entirely free the upper part of the body from clothing, especially the collar, necktie, suspenders, and, in case of a woman, the corset, waist and girdle. The strings and buttons of the undergarments above the hips should also be cut and loosened. The body is then to be placed on a table or any flat surface at hand, while a cushion or rolled coat is placed under the middle of the back to raise it. The legs should be bent at the knees, so as

to relax the skin over the abdomen. After this is done the Samaritan places his hands on both sides of the patient's abdomen, and, with a firm, hard pressure slowly moves his hands upward. This is repeated until the strength of the motion relaxes the air confined in lungs and it is heard forcing its way through the different respiratory organs. It requires a certain amount of practice to determine the exact strength of pressure desirable to use in this treatment, for if too great a power is exerted it is liable to cause some injury to the delicate internal organization of the human body.

If respiration fails to respond to this treatment then the services of an assistant must be employed, and while the pressure upon the abdomen is continued the assistant may place his hands on both sides of the chest, below the short ribs, and exert a steady pressure in order to help forcing the air from the lungs. The first natural breathing produced by these manipulations is announced by a deep sigh from the patient and a flushing of the face. If the face becomes again pale the Samaritans must renew their efforts with redoubled force. It sometimes happens that respiration is interfered with by the turning back of the victim's tongue into the roof of the mouth. In such a case the Samaritan will find it necessary to draw the tongue back into its normal place and hold it protruding slightly from the mouth while his assistant is working on the body. In case these methods fail in the desired result the arms



HOW TO PRODUCE ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.

should be repeatedly lifted above the head and brought down to the sides again; this must be done energetically and continuously to have effect.

Unless the patient is so crushed or mutilated as to be absolutely dead, Professor von Esmarch's rules require the Samaritan to work over a body in the manner described for two hours before giving the patient up as beyond recovery. So soon as consciousness returns the Samaritan gives the patient a strengthening draught of either black coffee, brandy or other stimulant. When a person is injured, but not unconscious, this stimulant should be given before the patient is taken from the scene of the accident.

How Nature Drives Out Disease Germs.

With every twenty breaths a human being inhales from eleven to 375 germs, together with a varying amount of inorganic matter. In a town, of course, the micro-organisms are much thicker than in the comparatively pure country air. Such foreign particles are mostly caught in the mouth, nose and upper throat or swallowed, while a certain number pass into the air tubes or lungs. But to drive out all intrusive germs and particles, nature has established a wonderful arrangement. The interior walls of the wind-pipe and bronchial tubes are lined with a sort of mosaic of tiny cells. Each of these cells stands on end and has a sort of beard of very small hairs at its extremity. This beard serves as a broom with which the little cell is constantly sweeping night and day. So long as a lie stays in the body these thousands of sweepers go on sweeping all foreign material up toward the mouth. In fact, they usually keep at it for a long time after death has arrived, being the last portions of the body to give it up and die.—Washington Star.

The Angry Tree.

The "angry tree," a woody plant found in Eastern California and Western Arizona, cannot be touched without it exhibits signs of vexation by ruffling its leaves and giving forth an unpleasant, sickening odor.

Fashion's Dragon Fly.

M. Worth must answer for it. It is his will that the young woman of high fashion shall go about in a wrap of lace and velvet that has a big jet dragon fly embroidered upon it, back and front. The sight of it brings to mind Mr. Walter Besant's wonder



FASHION'S DRAGON FLY.

at seeing real, live fireflies in the parks of Albany as he journeyed homeward from Chicago's Congress of Authors. "It always thought," he says, naively, "that fireflies belonged in Humboldt's cosmos and South America."—St. Louis Republic.

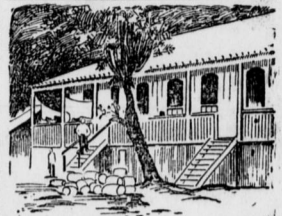
INDIA RUBBER.

HOW IT IS GATHERED IN BRAZILIAN FORESTS.

Gashing the Rubber Tree and Collecting the White Juice, The Operation of "Smoking"—The Rubber Trade.

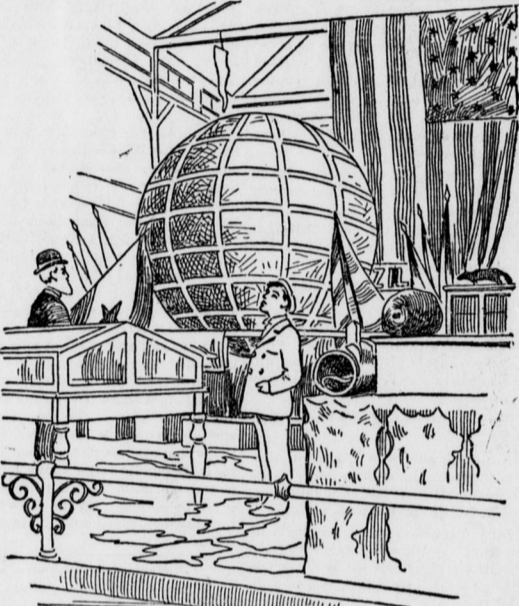
NEVER say that the twelve-foot globe in the Brazilian section of the Shoe and Leather Building is made of "India rubber." Call it Para rubber or Baron de Marajo, the Brazilian Commissioner, will make a correction. He will say that Para rubber is the best rubber in the world, and that all other rubbers are imitations. He will then lead the way to the enormous rubber sphere, which has its axis resting on the polished stump of a rubber tree, and will point out ten different varieties of rubber, each from a different river. The Baron is high authority on rubber and has all the simple appliances used by the seringueiro or rubber-gatherer for tapping the trees and collecting the milk. He also has the queer inverted vase-like fumatory or furnace, the wooden mold and nuts of the urucury tree, used as fuel for preparing the crude rubber. The seringueiro begins work about 8 o'clock in the morning. He carries

valued at 45,000,505,551 reals. The visitor to the shoe and leather building will find rubber boots and shoes everywhere but in the Brazilian section. Yet Brazil used to export rub-



HOUSE ON A RUBBER PLANTATION.

ber shoes by the thousands. Up to 1840 rubber was exported almost exclusively in the form of shoes. But the business dwindled, for crude rubber went out instead of the manufactured product. American, English, French and German manufacturers improved the method of manufacturing rubber shoes and asked for the crude rubber. This conditions of affairs lowered the exportation of rubber shoes, and, although in 1850 138,883 pairs were shipped from Brazil, in 1854 exportation ceased, and since then nothing but smoked rubber has been exported.



INDIA RUBBER BALL IN THE BRAZIL SECTION OF THE FAIR.

with him a little hatchet like a miniature tomahawk, and going along the estrada, a winding path through the forest, makes small cuts in the bark of the rubber tree. Under each gash he fastens a little tin or clay cup, to collect the white sap which drips from the trees until noon. Then he retraces his steps with a bucket or gourd and collects the sap from the drip cups. Some of the rubber gatherers prefer to work at night, and to collect the milk in the morning. The gatherers empty their buckets of rubber juice into a large vessel, and the work of smoking begins. This is done to harden the sap.

The furnace is set up in a hut or on a terrace, and a fire is built under it of the nuts of the urucury, a species of palm tree. It makes a dense smoke, which pours from the circular opening in the top of the furnace. The workman, sitting beside his fire, with a round wooden paddle dips it into the

Rubber for foreign trade is divided into fine, entrefine and sermany. The last variety is made from the residues of the coagulated sap that escapes from the cups and flows along the trees or drips to the ground.

Rubber was first brought to the attention of Europeans by La Condamine, a Spanish astronomer. In 1741 he arrived in Para on his return from a commission, on which he was sent with other Spanish and French astronomers for the purpose of making geodesic observations in order to determine the real form of the earth. He did not confine himself to star-gazing, for in several important scientific works which he published he gave European information of great value regarding the principal natural products of Brazil. One of them was rubber, which, up to that time, had been unknown to Europeans.—Chicago Record

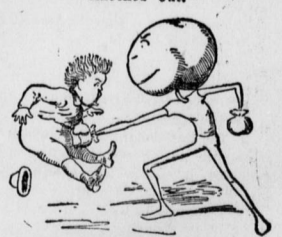
A Balloon Plant.

There is a very curious plant to be found growing in the vicinity of Oroville, in this State. The fruit is yellow and a little larger than an egg, and appears like an empty bag rather than a solid, though it contains a watery substance which evaporates or dries up when the fruit is full ripe, leaving a sort of gas inside the fruit which is lighter than air. This inflated, bag-like fruit slips back and forth in the wind till it finally breaks loose from its slender stem, sails up into the air, rising 100 or more feet and finally disappearing over the hill. Oroville (Cal.) Mercury.

Wild Flax.

There are three species of wild flax that have yellow flowers; the cultivated species, which has blue flowers, also appears as a weed quite frequently, the seeds being mixed with those of grains. All are annual, but some increase by suckers from the base of the stems, which makes them perennial, in a way. These weeds are easily killed if prevented from seeding by plowing in the late summer, by growing such crops as are cultivated, as potatoes, corn, or peas. The first two crops are the best for this purpose.—New York Times.

"Knocked Out."



The green apple knocks out the small boy with a hit below the belt.—Life.