

AS TO CHOLERA THIS YEAR.

It Exists in Many Countries, But will Not be in America This Season.

For another year this country may be regarded as safe against the cholera, says a New York paper. Up to the opening of the month of August it had not appeared in any country of western Europe, and the autumnal weather will prevent it from approaching the European ports with which New York is in communication. The Health Officer of the port, who made all preparations early in the spring for dealing with immigrants bound hither from the infected districts of Russia, believes that any danger which might thus be incurred has fled away, and, though the Jewish Russians are yet closely inspected upon their arrival at Quarantine, the inspection is rather for general sanitary purposes than for any apprehension of the cholera. Advice upon the subject have been received from all over the world by the authorities of the Marine Hospital service, and Dr. Wyman believes that it there ever was any ground for fear, there is not now the least. Dr. Roger S. Tracy of the City Health Department, when interviewed by a reporter, gave it as his opinion that there will never again be a cholera scare here like that of 1893, and that there is safety for the city so long as sanitary laws are well enforced and wholesome water is abundantly supplied. Even if a few infected immigrants were to reach Quarantine, there would be hardly any danger of the disease becoming epidemic, for the means of stamping it out are in the command of the governing powers. The health authorities of Germany, France and England are now confident of their ability to deal with it promptly and successfully. The Germans have this year had experiences even more satisfactory than those of last year, and have been able to guard their country by methods as scientific as they are easily applied.

During the present year, and up to this time, cholera has existed in European Russia, Arabia, India, China, and Japan. It is unfortunate that trustworthy statistics concerning it cannot be obtained from Russia, or from any of the other countries in which it exists, with the exception of Japan. It ravaged several of the western Russian provinces last summer; it did not entirely disappear last winter, and it has been epidemic since the early spring season. During the month of July it has prevailed largely near the territory of Austria, and also, to some extent, in the Vistula provinces, on the confines of Prussia. It is said to be of an unusually malignant type, and its victims are speedily carried off. In order to keep it out of Germany, the Berlin Government has established a "semi arid cordon" along the frontier, and all travellers from Russia are again this year, as they were last year, subjected to a most rigorous inspection. Austria also has made some provisions for guarding the border, but it is much less complete than that made by Germany, and there has been many cases of the disease in Galicia and Bukovina.

The cholera appeared in Arabia, on the borders of the Red Sea, early in the spring, brought there, as in other years, by the Mohammedan pilgrims from India to Mecca. Alarming accounts of its fatality were sent out in the spring months and up to June, but nothing has been heard of it for some weeks, and its ravages have doubtless been allayed. All the efforts made during the past two years by the International Sanitary Commission to induce Turkey to adopt the precautionary measures by which its baneful power might be checked have been unsuccessful.

From that part of India in which the cholera is nearly always epidemic there have been reports this year similar to those of other years. The permanent headquarters of it are in the valley of the Ganges, and it is from there that its infection is carried into other countries. It is only from the British East Indian records that any knowledge of the number of cases of it can be obtained.

There can be merely guesses as to the extent to which the disease prevails in China. In the despatches there are occasional references to its existence in the Liao-Tong peninsula and in the Kingdom of Corea, and there is every reason to believe that it has been very destructive in these regions. It was by the Japanese soldiers returning home from the Liao-Tong peninsula that it was introduced into Japan a few months ago.

From the trustworthy statistics that are kept by the Japanese authorities, it is learned that up to the close of July there had been 9,500 cases of the disease in Japan, more than one-half of which had proved fatal. This fatality may be regarded as part of the price paid by Japan for her victory over the Chinese, but the price was greater yet, for many of the Japanese soldiers who are yet in China have fallen under the disease. It has recently been epidemic over a large part of the Japanese empire.

In some other countries besides those here mentioned, including Mexico and Cuba, there have been cases of cholera during the year, but it has not been epidemic in any of them.

It has been estimated by good authorities that the average yearly number of deaths from cholera the world over is close upon a quarter of a million. It is now known that in Russia alone last year there were nearly 100,000 cases of the disease, about 45 per cent, of which proved fatal; but the ravages of the disease among the Russians are light as compared with that among Asiatics. Very likely it has been as widely prevalent in western Russia, eastern Austria, and Turkey this year as it was last year. The Governments of these countries do not desire that the accurate statistics of it shall be published, and the official reports given thereto to the world are always wide of the true mark.

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RIPPED BY A SWORDFISH.

Sport for Hardy Fishermen on the Margin of the Gulf Stream.

Not many days ago the mackerel fishing schooner Centennial of Gloucester scraped a costly and curious acquaintance with a huge swordfish in the waters off Cox's Ledge at the southeast end of the island. Mackerel were running lively and the Centennial's crew had done a great day's work harvesting plump, striped beauties by the acre with its mammoth \$1,000 ocean seine. At night the vessel was hove to, with her big seine boat, bearing the net, attached to the schooner and running free astern. The tired sailors slept soundly. None heard any unusual uproar in the night, not even the bow watchman, peering dead ahead through sea mists. At daylight, however, he noted that the heavy seine boat had been capsize, and that it lurched weightily on its thick towing line. He piped all hands on deck. Great was the regret and concern of all for the valuable seine the mainstay of their industry had gone overboard and was evidently lost. Gloomily, but quickly, the sailors riggited the boat and then they discovered that a swordfish had charged the boat and had driven his serrated saber plumb through its stout side. So terrific, indeed, had been his onset, that, apparently, he had flung that boat squarely out of the sea, twirling it in the air, like a shuttlecock, and it had come down bottom up and was partly submerged. The bottom of the boat is of solid planking, but the swordfish had driven his sword through it as easily, it seemed, as if it had been of paper. But after he had delivered the thrust the fish had been unable to withdraw his blade, hence with a mighty wrench he had shaken himself free from the craft, but his sword was broken. The point solidly fixed in plank and sheathing, protruded more than six inches above the bottom of the craft. The Centennial crew, of course, had no idea they would ever set their eyes on the lost seine again, yet not more than thirty minutes later the schooner Speculator, which had been fishing on the same grounds the previous day, hailed them, saying they had just picked up the Centennial's net. It was so badly torn, however, having been sliced in a score of places by the swordfish's jagged blade, that the Centennial fishermen started for Gloucester to have it repaired.

In the past five seasons two fishermen of Block Island waters have been mortally injured, and half a dozen others severely hurt by wounded sword fish, whose blades were driven through their cockle shells with the speed of a rifle shot. In one instance the sword went through the bottom of the boat—the crew did not even know that the monster was approaching them—slid through its middle seat of plank as easily as if it was pasteboard, and was buried more than two feet in the body of an unhappy seaman. The man survived his frightful wound for only a few hours.

In two other instances in Block Island waters swordfish have even attacked fishing schooners and smacks, and driven their sabers straight through planking three inches thick, the sword each time sharply broken, and the fragments remained so tightly imbedded in the opening it had made that no water leaked into the vessel. The swordfish season in these waters has been a wonderfully fine one. Big fellows have been harpooned in the past month in waters not more than ten or fifteen miles to the eastward of the island, though the greatest fishing is done along the margin of the gulf stream, thirty to forty miles southeast of here. In fact, swordfishing, thrilling and dangerous sport though it is, is a prime diversion of visitors to Block Island. There are not fewer than a dozen regular swordfishing boats here, whose owners earn a good living, and besides the sailing craft the trim steam yacht Ocean View cruises all the time on the swordfishing grounds. A dozen more active swordfishermen hail from Rhode Island and Connecticut seaports, notably a little fleet from Stonington and Noank hamlet.—N. Y. Paper.

Animals Understand Hygiene.

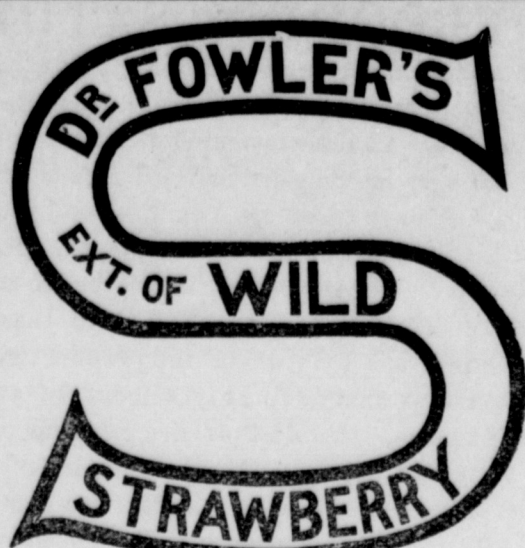
Enough is known of the nature of animal materia medica to excite interest and curiosity. There is abundant evidence that many species know and constantly make use of simple remedies for definite disorders, and at the same time observe rules of health to which only the highest civilization or the sanction of religious prescription complete man to conform.

It has been noted that the general condition of animal health, especially in the case of the herbivorous creatures, corresponds not inexactly with that of such tribes as the Somalis—men feeding almost solely on grain, milk, dates, and water, living constantly in the open air, moderate in all things, and cleanly, because their religion enjoins constant ablutions. Like them, wild animals have no induced diseases; the greater number do not eat to excess; they take regular exercise in seeking their food, and drink only at fixed hours. Many of them secure change of climate, one of the greatest factors in health, by migration.

This is not confined to birds and beasts, for the salmon enters the soft water partly to get rid of sea parasites, and returns to the sea to recruit after spawning. With change of climate, change of diet, and perfectly healthy habits, their lists of disorders is short, though they readily fall victims to contagious disease, just as recently numbers of the Hamran Arabs of the Sudan, as healthy livers and good Mussulmans as the Somalis themselves, friends, and fellow hunters with Sir Samuel Baker, perished of contagious fever on the banks of the Nile tributaries.—London Spectator.

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THE MISSING CARD.

Cook Swallowed It with A Chew of Tobacco and Won the Money.

When Denver was but a small place it was the rendezvous for many skilled players says the Philadelphia Times. There was a banker there at that time by the name of Cook who had an abundance of cash and who could handle the cards like an expert. Jerome B. Chaffee, at one time United States Senator from Colorado, with two or three others who used to play with Cook a great deal, concocted a little scheme by which they figured they could have a great deal of fun at Cook's expense, and at the same time get a champagne supper out of him. So Chaffee and his companions, who had plenty of money, and who had suffered financially by being caught in a good many jackpots that Cook had opened, arranged among themselves that the very next time they played with Cook they would show him a trick he would not forget in a hurry. The scheme was to open a pot, and it Cook stayed, to deal him enough cards to make six in all, and if he stayed on a pair he was to get four aces; then when the pot had reached a goodly size to call him, make him show his six cards, have the laugh at his expense, and after giving him back his money out of the pot, make him set up the champagne. It generally made Cook very mad to lose a pot of any considerable size, and they knew it they made this a large one his wrath would know no bounds.

The day at last arrived, when they were all together in Cook's office and Chaffee suggested a game of poker to while away the afternoon, which was a stormy one, Cook readily assented, little dreaming of the good time that was to be had at his expense. The cards were dealt and several hands played around, when at last Chaffee opened a jackpot on three kings. Cook played on a pair of jacks and called for three cards. He got four aces. It then dawned upon him that something must be up, but he did not quite grasp the situation. Chaffee called for two cards and bet the limit. Cook raised him, and they had it back and forth. The others dropped out after several rounds just to swell the pot. The betting continued until at last there was an even \$10,000 in the pot, when Chaffee called him and made him show down his cards. Cook threw four aces and a jack on the table and started to rake in the pot. The one who had dealt objected, stating that he saw Cook have six cards in his hand. The others at once insisted that they saw him have six cards. "Prove it, then," cried Cook. "I did not deal; you dealt, and if you gave me six cards, where are they?"

Chaffee and his companions at once inaugurated the most rigid search for the missing jack. They looked under tables, in drawers—everywhere a card could possibly get. They made Cook disrobe, which he did without objection, and subjected him to the most rigid examination, but the card could not possibly be found anywhere.

This was a stunner. Cook had not moved during the game and they were sure of the six cards, but where was the other Jack? At all events it was not to be found, and Cook asserted that he had but five cards and expressed the greatest indignation at their doubts, and hung on to the money like grim death. To say the would-be jokers were crestfallen would be putting it mildly. It was not so funny as they figured it would be. They went out and gave vent to their feelings by first swearing and then laughing at the way Cook had turned the tables on them. Cook, as he used to relate afterward with great glee, got the six cards all right, but, under cover of taking a chew of fine cut tobacco of which he was very fond, got the extra jack in his mouth, chewed it to a pulp and swallowed it, tobacco and all. He said he guessed he could risk swallowing a chew of tobacco and a little pasteboard for \$10,000, even if it did make him sick. At any rate he thought the other fellows were sicker than he was.

She Saved the Cadet.

There were hundreds of pretty girls from all parts of the country at West Point, participating in the recent festivities at the Military Academy. But the queen of them all was a black-eyed young woman from Michigan, whose health will be drunk at every army post where the young officers of 1895 are stationed.

Four marks against a cadet render him liable to dismissal. Despite the strict rules against smoking, some of the youngsters run the chances by slyly puffing cigarettes, and, having no pockets, carry them inside the bands of their caps. The last day of his four-year course found one cadet with three marks against his record.

On the walk in front of Officers' Row he met the charming young woman from Michigan, with the strictest of the tactical officers stationed at the Point. After saluting, as required, the cadet raised his cap to the pretty girl, and a cigarette fell to the ground at the tactical man's feet.

For a moment the cadet was almost paralyzed. A vision of dismissal at the last hour came upon him. The officer did not see the cigarette fall from the cap, but his eye lighted upon it at his feet.

"I shall be obliged to report you for smoking, sir."

The young woman saw the situation. "That is not his cigarette," she exclaimed. "Captain, you shall not report this cadet for smoking. The cigarette is not his, but mine. I dropped it. I know it is shameful for me to confess that I do such a thing as to smoke, but lots of us girls do it. You will not tell on me will you? I would not have it known."

The captain bowed promises. His honor as a gentleman compelled him to accept the young woman's word. Next day when his diploma was handed to the cadet she applauded him more than any one else. Perhaps this story will have a sequel.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Installment Plan.

Susanne Logier was a good actress but extremely stout. She was one night enacting a part in a melodrama with Taillefer, the original Pierre of "The Two Orphans," and this actor had at one moment to carry her fainting off the stage. He tried with all his might to lift the fat heroine, but she helped her little comrade by standing on tiptoe in the usual manner. She was unable to move her an inch. At this juncture one of the deities cried from the gallery: "Take what you can and come back for the rest."



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