THE ASIATIC CHOLERA AND ITS ORIGIN.

Symptoms of the Dreaded Epidemi -Professor Oswald Says That Death Results Largely From the Effects of Fear.

ESIDENTS in the volcanic regions of Spanish America, writes Dr. Felix L. Oswald in the San Francisco Chronicle, generally become converts to the theory that animals can foretell an earthquake, and many old soldiers confess a belief that death in battle casts its shadow before. Napoleon, in his conversations with Las Casas, for instance, mentioned that "General Dessaix was moody and thoughtful before the battle of Marengo. as if the gloom of his impending fate had already overshadowed his soul."

Similar premonitions seem to indicate the peril of certain epidemics. Smallpox and yellow fever appear to have no power over the constitution of some persons, while others are instinctively sure that they will be attacked and succumb to the contagion unless they can save themselves by timely flight. I remember the case of a New Orleans hospital nurse who was supposed to be fever-proof, but had a deadly horror of the grippe, the very disease to which she eventually fell a victim. In the case of some Eastern epidemics those warning instincts may have saved countless lives, since medicine is powerless to arrest the progress of the disorder after it has reached a certain stage of development. The history of Asiatic cholera, for instance, has emphatically proved the fact that prevention is better than cure. Remedial expedients, such as they are, at best can assist the progress of recovery after a powerful constitution has turned the scales of the crisis, but much oftener the apparent improvement is only a last flicker of the flame of life before its final extinction. By injecting the veins of a cholera patient with a saline solution resembling in its composition that of human blood, the trance-like lethargy of exhaustion can be broken for a few minutes, but in nine out of ten cases the patient relapses into a more and more irremediable torpor, till at last the worn-out energies of the system fail to respond to the most powerful stimulants. The skin becomes cold, the pulse feeble and intermittent, the patient's breath resembles convulsive sighs, and gradually subsides into mere twitches of the dia-The entire mechanism of life comes to a stop, overpowered by the superior vital activity of countless invisible foes.

Some of the theories advanced to explain the origin of cholera epidemics are absurdly and almost incredibly farfetched, such as the existence of an atmospheric parasite which at certain intervals (like the seventeen year locust) appears in countless multitudes, or the still more astonishing hypothesis of burgeon Knapp, of Mexico, who attributed the periodicity of the epidemic to a "planetary pestilence, caused by an increase of planetary attraction, and specially incident to the perihelion of Jupiter,

which occurs about once in twelve years. The only plausible feature of that nightmare is the circumstance that cholera of a specially virulent type has actually made the tour of the world in periods of almost exactly twelve years (1826, 1838, 1850, 1862, etc.), lingering about six years on its journey from Eastern Asia to Western Europe. That fact, however, has been accounted for by the twelve years' interval of the great mass meeting of Brahmin pilgrims at the shrine of Hurdwar on the Upper Ganges. "Thousands of Hindoos make the journey every third year." says a commissioner of the British Government. "Every sixth year the number is still greater, and once in twelve years an immense throng numbering more than three million people makes this long pilgrimage. Poor food, impure water, together with depressing climate conditions and the entire absence of sanitary precautions, result in the production of the disease well characterized as Asiatic cholera. There is more or less of contagion every year, but once in twelve years at the great pilgrimage it assumes such proportions that it extends beyond the limits of its original habitat and carries devastation to thousands of households in Europe and even in America. The bathing place of the pilgrims is a space 650 feet long by th irty wide shut off from the rest of the Ganges by ra ils Into this long, narrow-inclosure pilgrims from all parts of the country crowd together from early morn to sunset, washing themselves and their clothes, diving three times or more and then drinking of the holy water, while saying their prayers. Even during the festival numerous cases of cholera are admitted at the hospitals of Hurdwar, and when the vast concourse of pilgrims at last disperse they carry cholers in every direction over Hindostan. It attacks vagrants and traveling merchants, get

into Persis and so on into Europe.' The assertion that cholera can b communicated only by means of contaminated water and food seems to be disapproved by the inefficiency of quarantine regulations and of the precautions by which the natives of Western Asia try at least to retard the progress of the epidemic. On the appearance of the disease in any coast hamlet hundreds of families embark on rafts and drift along the shore till they find a spring offering

a chance for a refuge camp; in the hills fugitives crowd about the summit ridges and keep up fires with pungent weeds 10 fumigate their clothes and every morsel of food. On the upper Indus the smoke of these herb piles, which at the same time serves the purpose of signal fires, may often be seen rising from every elevation along a considerable extent of

the horizon. But in spite of such precautions the epidemic spreads, unmistakably transmitted by the atmosphere, since in more than one case it has been known to cross rivers after the removal of every ferry and after the shore dwellers had ceased to use the water for domestic purposes. As the grip is nothing but a specially malignant catarrh, Asiatic cholera is only a more than usually violent type of cholera morbus, and there is reason to believe the deadliness of the disorder is increased by the abundance of the fuel it

Tribute to the Minie Ball. The testimony of people who have been shot differs widely as to how it feels. I have heard more than a dozen members of Congress talk on the subject and have got as many opinions. The worst shot man now in public life is probably General Oates. He lost his right arm in front of Richmond in his twenty-seventh battle, having previously been shot through the right arm, then in the right leg, then in the left hip, then through the right thigh, then in the head, as premonitory symptoms of wha

"When a minie ball strikes you," he said, "it stuns you as if you had bee: hit at short range with a club or brick bat. Then the intruder gradually becomes hotter and hotter as if you had turned into a furnace of live coals. Then perhaps you mercifully drop into unconsciousness."

"It felt when I was hit," said Colonel Herbert, of Alabama, speaking of the matter to a comrade, "as if my shoulder seared with caustic; in fact, I never could get over the impression that the enemy were firing redhot balls."

He experimented with four of them during his service, and has reason to know just how they feel .- New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Light of the Future.

It seems hard to believe that in a very few years the incandescent lamp, which we now regard as, in many respects, an almost perfect light, will be regarded as crude makeshift, which mankind availed itself of while science stood on the threshold of the discovery of the perfect luminant. Mr. Tesla has shown in his experiments an ideal form of electric lighting which would transcend in luxury and convenience our present system of electric lighting by incandescent lamps as far as the latter transcends the oil lamps and tallow dips used by our near ancestors. Every drawing-room would become an electric field in a continual state of rapidly alternating stress, in which the occupants would live, experiencing no unpleasant effects whatever, while vacuous tubes or phosphor escent globes and tubes, without care or attention, would shed a soft, diffuse light, of color and intensity arranged to the most luxurious fancy. Mr. Tesla's watchword is that the phosphorescent glow is the light of the future; he hints at artificial auroræ spreading from the summits of towers of hitherto undreamt-of height, and he has, at all events, got as far as producing in the air at atmospheric pressure a glowing plane bounded by two rings about a foot and thirty inches in diameter respectively. Whether all his visions will be realized remains to be proved; there is no doubt that they are guiding him aright .- St. Louis Republic.

Dead Men's Clothes.

"What kind of clothes would you imagine net us the largest profit?" asked a well known tailor of a Philadelphia Record reporter. "Don't know, eh? Well, I'll tell you. Why, dead men's clothes, of course. You needn't stare. It's a fact, I assure you."

We would rather get an order from a dead man than from our prompest paying customer. You see, in the first place, we get better paid, because we have to rush th job through in a hurry. Then, too, a dead man never kicks about the fit, and never brings a suit back be altered.

"But the greatest saving is in the fact that the cicthes are not finished as ordinary suits are. A dead man, you know, has no use for pockets, so we don't put any in. We don't put lining in, as a rule. The man lies on his back in coffin, and the seams in the back of the coat are only stitched.

"Oh, there are lots of ways of saving in that kind of a job. Give me an order from a dead man every time."

A Useful Fish.

The Menhaden fisheries of the United States are getting to be quite important. Last year the total product of these fisheries, in oil and fertilizing material, amounted to \$2,000,000. The Menhaden is a species of the herring family, and they are especially abundant off the eastern coast of our country. The fish are very rich in oil, and the refuse furnishes valuable manure. It has a variety of names, being known as the Whitefish and Hardhead in Maine, Bony Fish and Mossbunker in New York, and Chebog and Pogy in other sections. - American Farmer.

RURAL BRAZIL.

CURIOSITIES OF LIFE ON SUGAR ESTATE.

How Planters and Their Families Pass Their Time-Queer Things to Eat-Windowless Sleeping Rooms.

ANNIE B. WARD gives an interesting account of a visit paid by her to an extensive sugar estate in Brazil. She says: We found a typical Brazilian manor

house and chapel, as essentially Portuguese in construction and arrangement as if they stood in some interior valley of Portugal, with traces of the Moors thrown in-a very large, square mansion. two stories high, with walls of plastered brick and overhanging roof of India red tiles, thickly coated with mold and parasitic plants. It is surrounded on al sides by a clumsy sort of veranda, or. more properly speaking, by a series of deep arched niches built into the walls. floored with brick and topped by lean-to roof of tiles. The tiny, unglazed windows are set close up under the eaves, as if the architect were as averse to fresh air as Noah must have been when he built the ark, and only the upper rooms are inhabited—that is, by humans. The ground floor is partly used for stabling and storage, but most of it - windowless, doorless and deserted-is given over to stray pigs, sheep and fowls, toads, centipedes, enakes and other wandering abominations. The great, bare unventilated rooms of the upper story seem to be more than sufficient for the needs of the family; yet the "guest chamber," to which I was conducted with a figu rative flourish of trumpets, had all its corners occupied by sundry piles of packsaddles, panniers of dried beef, odorferous casks of cod-fish, kits of mackerel and goodness knows what, and was as innocent of any sort of window or other aperture leading to outside air as of the ordinary toilet articles that most people consider indispensible. Windowless sleeping apartments are common throughout Brazil, even in some of the grandest but older palaces of Rio-owing, probably to the Portugese idea that night air is unwholesome. As in most country houses, the partitions are carried only about half way to the roof, so that the rooms without windows receive a modicum of light and air from the general supply of the house, so to speak, and whatever may

finctly audible in all the others. We arrived so late in the evening that there was time for nothing but enthusias. tic greetings before being shown to bed. or rather to hammock, for in this hot country bug-harboring couches and mattresses are not much in favor. Too much cannot be said in favor of the hammock in such a climate as this, being not only cooler and safer, but a much more tidy article of furniture than a bed, for these can be washed as easily as a sheet. The commoner varieties of snow white cotton, woven at home and quite durable, cost \$5 or \$6; others are srtiped or plaided with blue or red, with deep borders of crochet work, and sell from \$10 to \$20: and there are others, large, square, home woven of strong linen, with a half-yardwide border of hand-made lace, which are cheap at \$50. They last a lifetime and no bed covering is necessary, for one may wrap himself in the surplus width and utilize the lace for a mosquito netting. Speaking of the words boa noite (good night), I should add that they do not always signify the time for retiring. It is the quaint custom in most well-disciplined Brazilian families for all its members to bid each other good night as soon as the lamps are lit, as a reminder that evening has come. They may be sitting at dinner or entertaining visitors, but everybody pauses in the midst of conversation to exchange this salutation, and the children rise and kiss the hands of their parents, saying

be going on in one apartment is dis-

s bencao meu pai-"your blessing, father"—as in patriarchal days. At sunrise the family was astir and its female members flocked into our room en masse, ostensibly to bring the beforerising cup of coffee and bid good morning, and also, it seems, to curiously inspect our belongings, even trying on our shoes and experimenting with the toilet articles. Country coffee, by the way, is excellent though made in a peculiar manner. Some unbrowned berries and sugar are stirred together and then roasted in a covered pan, so that when the sugar melts and cools it is candied over the coffee grains. A spoonful of this is pounded in a mortar, put into a bag of coarse linen and boiling water is poured over it, cups being held beneath it to catch the drippings-and the beverage is ready. Coffee pots are not used, but each cup is thus made separately. Boiled milk is generally added in the morning, but never at any other time.

The usual breakfast hour in the rural districts is ten o'clock, and the menu does not vary much year in and year out. There is always angu-a sort of thin porridge-black beans stewed in lard, iried meat cooked with garlic and arinha or mandioca meal eaten raw or stirred into the angu, and perhaps by way of extra dishes for "company" there may be a lamb's head, a fowl smothered in rice or a lump of bacon boiled with cabbage. While the host and guests sit at the table the wife remains outside looking on, or eats at a separate table with the smaller children.

and later the house servants take their A GREAT NAVAL REVIEW.

Immediately after breakfast the serious occupations of the day begin-at least so far as the family are concerned, the servants having been at theirs since daybreak. The master of the mansion fees out for a stroll, about his own premises or along the highway, or to a game of cards, or a little cheerful gossip with the neighbors, for his overseers relieve him from all responsibility concerning affairs of the estate. The wife goes to her never-ending embroidery or mends her own, her husband's or children's clothing. The housework all falls upon the servants and, as a rule, she knows no more about it than the stranger guest. The children return to school, if there is any in the vicinage. I say returp, because in Brazil school sessions are a perpetual penance, beginning at six a. m. An hour's intermission is allowed for breakfast, but no other recess until the school day is over at three or

Dinner is usually served at four o'clock, like the breakfast, to the guests and male members of the family only, the wife and daughters as before, waiting respectfully outside or eating at a separate table. Everybody has two plates set before him, both piled to the outside rim, one with the inevitable stew of dried meat, the other with pairo. The latter is an unctuous sort of pudding made by mixing mandives with the highly greased and garliced broth in which the meat was boiled. . These constitute the main part of the meal. Besides, the centre of the table is perhaps graced with a dish of bacalao (codfish), which has been baked on embers or boiled in oil, flanked on one side by bowl of sauce for itself of oil or vinegar. mixed with Chile peppers and sliced garlic, and on the other side by a sauce for the meat made of broth, lime juice

and bruised Chile peppers. Everybody helps himself to the codfish (which is served in long, sha vinglike strips) and to the sauce with hi own knife and fork, if he has any; or if, as is often the case, those unnecessary implements are supplied only to the foreign guests, who are known to have singular habits, the rest assist themselves with the apparatus supplied by nature. It is done with neatness and dispatch in this way: Each selects with his fingers a strip of codfish, subdivides it by hand into smaller shavings, then takes it bit by bit and rolls it in the central dish of sauce. For the stewed meat, he scoops out a lump of pirao the size of a hen's egg with the ends of his fingers, puts it in the palm of his hand with a chunk of meat fished out of its broth, and with the fingers of the same hand, working with a motion known only to Brazilians, incorporates both into an elongated bolus, which he con vevs to his mouth and swallows in a way which, to say the least of it, is astonishing to those who witness it for the first

Dessert, if there is any, consists of bananas boiled or fried in lard or a curd cheese, with guava jelly, preserved potato or some other "dulce." After which black coffee and cigarettes are handed around and small glasses of rum and water. Before rising from the table each fills his mouth with water and after going through various suggestive contortions of cheeks and lips, squirt it broadcast over

Then comes a siesta, or period of repose. Between six and seven o'clock the ladies go out to pay visits, if the neighbors are near enough, and the husband goes for another promenade or game of cards or gentle gossip, and later everybody walks in the plaza, it there is one, till late at night. In some families a third meal is served, between eight and nine o'clock, but in rural districts that is the exception rather than the

Marvals of Jugglery.

Paul Clinquevalli, of Paris, is the acknowledged king of modern jugglers, He performs several seemingly impossible feats, the most remarkable being his famous "egg, plate and cannon ball" trick. He takes a thin china dish, s common hen's egg and a fifteen-pound cannon ball onto the stage. He first takes the egg and throws it fifteen or twent, feet into the air, catching it on the plate without fracturing the ega shell in the least. Next he throws the cannon ball high in the air and catches it on the plate without even as much as cracking the thin enamel on the chinaware. These marvelous feats are all performed without strain or effort, and with the utmost ease and certainty. The enormous disparity of weight, size and shape existing between these three objects makes the throwing of them from hand to hand with unerring certainty a most difficult task .- St. Louis Republic.

The Postman's Double Kneck.

No whistles are used by the carriers in London. Instead they use the postman's double knock, which is made by giving two distinct raps on the door. Every door is provided with a knocker, and the doors are always locked; even the dwellings of the very poorest of London's population are provided with their knocker and kept closed. There are no sky scrapers of tenements or flats. The houses are generally three stories, with one family on each floor. There are, perhaps, a few that have four stories, but they are very few. Of course this refers to dwellings only. They have large office buildings, such as are found in any city in this country .- Postal Record.

PREPARING FOR A BIG GATHER-

ING AT HAMPTON BOADS. the Different Governments That Will Send War Vessels-Grandest

Display of Modern Times. LREADY the naval authorities are beginning to prepare for the great naval review that is to inaugurate the celebrations honor of the Columbian year, next

The appropriation made by Congress (\$50,000) will not cover the expenses of nobilizing the fleet, let alons the excenses of maintaining it for several onths, on our coast, so Secretary Tracy will have to draw liberally from the regular naval appropriation for the running expenses of the navy. Invitations have been prepared for all the countries of the world to be represented at the international review. It is expected that all the maritime powers of the Southern Continent will accept.

"Over on the other side" the nations will watch each other. Of course Russia and Germany will send a fleet out of good feeling toward the United States, and if Italy properly honors the memory of her son Columbus she will send some of her ten-thousand-ton battle ships. The English navy, large as it is, s very well divided over the world, so it is not probable that she will send a very large fleet, and upon her action in the matter depends largely the action of France. It is understood that Japan is to send a cruiser, of which she has some ine ones, across the Pacific and around the horn to take part in the first international review held in the country that first visited Japan to secure a mercantile treaty, and that Turkey will unbend from her religious rigor enough to send over one of her fine war ships. This vessel will have a distinguishing feature that may be new to many Americans. As an article of the Mohammedan religion makes the bell sacred it cannot be used on board Turkish ships, as it is upon others, for striking the hours and sounding fog signals, and by a special suspension of the navigating rules a drum is

used instead. Of our own warships all the new steel ships will be in the review except the little Petrel, which is out in China, probably to spend the rest of her life there. Several of the ships now under construction will be in commission by that time, but it is doubtful if the big cruiser New York will be finished in time to participate. In case the Cramps do get her completed by March she will probably be Admiral Gherardi's flagship during the review. The Montgomery, Detroit and Machias will be in commission by that time. The other ships taking part will be the Baltimore, Philadelphia Charleston, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Miantonomoh, Concord, Yorktown, Bennington, Vesuvius and Kearsarge. If the regulation fleet formation is conformed with the sixteen vessels will form a fleet, with Admiral Gherardi as commander-in-chief; then there will be division of the fleet into two squadons. with a commodore or rear admiral in command of each; the subdivisions of the squadrons go under technical name of division and are composed of four vessels, then the divison is again divided into two sections.

When all the ships anchor in Hampton Roads next April it will be a grand array, and the visiting and wining and dining, the balls, parties and receptions will be something for officers to remember and tell of for years, while the din when all the ships salute some newcomer will dwarf a large-sized bombard ment. And an "officer of the deck" on any one of the ships will have to keep his eyes open for commanding officers pennants, signals and all the routine of warship if he does not wish to receive

the angry "benediction" of his captain. After the mobilization of the fleets at Hampton Roads they will proceed in company to New York harbor. In column at cruising distance, 400 yards, fifty ships, which number seems quite probable, will make a parade twelve miles loug, and by the time the last one has passed, the leader will be "hull down," only a patch of smoke or a light network of rigging. It is to be earnestly hoped that the review will be the grandest naval display of modern times. all calculated to increase the friendsh of the nations .- Washington Star.

A Spinning Fad.

The ancient and honorable art of spinning is to be revived in order that the fair women of society may find a new incentive to living in imitating the thrift which to their grandmothers was a subject of such genuine pride. A pretty woman seated at a spinning wheel wisting the flax between her fingers, as her perfectly slippered foot keeps the wheel in motion with a gently whirring sound, is always a picture, for it brings the hands and arms into fine play. Therefore, the new fad is to be encouraged, for, as it becomes more general one's mind will cease to be haunted with visions of the spinning scene in "Faust," and take ten degrees more pleasure in the private performance gotten up for the benefit of the select few nvited or voluntary callers at an infor mal afternoon reception. The idea in undertaking to learn the art of spinning is to weave a small square of linen, which, when decorated with a trifling amount of embroidery, is then reserved for a gift to the nearest and dearest acmaintance.-Picayune.

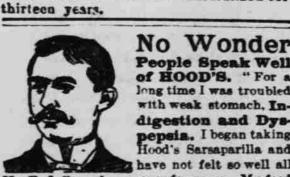
I notice that an amateur fisherman can tell just as big lies as a professional. -Texas Siftings.

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