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## The Commonwealth.

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| Fititor's Leisure ffours. |
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| observations of passing events. |


Some months ago The Commonweatri discused in this column the trequent forest fires caused by sparks from parsing railroad engines. It
was suggested that the ralroad authorities would A Wise Precaution. do well to "burn off" a strip along the railroad
tract something after the fashion tarmers used to burn around their fences to keep fires from sxeeping upon them. We are glad to note that along
the Scotland Neck railroad the precaution has been taken by burning a strip on etther side of the road wide enough to keep eparke from the en-
gines from setting fire to the woods. If all the railroads would do this, fires from engines would be less frequent and the furests would be so much bet-
ter preserved. We believe also that it would be economy for the railroads, tor doubtless many fires would be avoded for whic it would be right and
law suit and pay damages. Indeed, we believe it oflo
promer to pass a law that all ratiroads should "burn off" a safe strip along their tracks at least once every sear.
$\ddagger \ddagger \ddagger \ddagger$
Ir takes doubiequick observation to seep up with the gyrations of science. We are so impressed by the tollowing editorial paragraph in ths
See-Saws of Science. $\begin{gathered}\text { Richmond News-Leader : "Now another scientist, } \\ \text { aided by two other scientist, has come along }\end{gathered}$ See-Saws of Science. aided by two other scientists, has come along
and knocsed completely out of the box the theory of all the rest of the
scientits regarding typhot fever germs and sewage as a breeder thereof. Professor E. U. Jordan, of the Universty of Chicago, baeked by Protessor
Russell, ot the University-of Wiseonsin, and Professor Zeft, of the Northwestern University, who assisted him in the experiments by which he
reached his conclusions, testified in open court the other day that typhord germs could not live but two days in sewage polluted water, while they
could live ten days in pure water. His experiments proved, he asseverated, that pure water poliuted with sewage was in iteelf of poeitive value in
eliminating typhoid germs. It is apparent from this that the typnold germ is a very dansty sort of specimen, and the oisvious scientifio deduction
is that when he is discovered fn pure water the thing to do is to pollute mind you, he was called as an expert in a great interstate canal suit-no such cruel and annihilating blow has been given to pet germ theory since
some doubting rival German professor made a meal on Koch's cholera germs and telt better thereafter than he bad for a month."

| Cleanliness is to be recommended and commended under all circumstances. Some people, however, do not attach great importance to public <br> Public Cleanliness. cleanliness. The following from the Richmond fluential paper thinks of the matter: "New York has had an epidemic of pneumonia, and physicians say that it was due to the filthy condition of the streets. It costs a great deal to keep a city clean, but money spent in that direction is well worth the inyestment. Life and health are very precions, and nothing is so detrimental to health as filth. Unfortunately, many city residents seem to think of municipal cleanliness as a mere luxury. The cieaning of our streets is made a sort of incident in our municipal affare, and is not regarded by the majority as a matter of prime importance. But it is a matter of prime importance from every point of view. There is no surer mark of barbarism than filth, and no surer mark of civilization than cleanliness. Therefore, as a matter of decency and refinement, city cleaning is a matter of prime importance. A city that is clean and beautiful in appearance is a desirable place of residence, and, all things else being equal, will attract more visitors and more permanent residents. Therefore, from a business point of view, cleanliness is a matter of prime importance. But, above all, municipal cleanliness is necessary to good health, and if good bealth is not a matter of prime importance, we know not what is." <br> $\ddagger \ddagger \ddagger \ddagger$ <br> The Atlanta Constitution has been adyising the farmers of the South to plant for $12,000,000$ bales of cotton this year. It eays that planting for <br> Plant for 12,000,000 Bales. $12,000,000$ bales, however, is a different thing from gathering that much; but insists that the market will take a $12,000,000$ bale crop next eeason at highly remunerative prices to the farmer. Mr. R. Harris, of Pineville, N. C., replies to the Constitation through its own columns as follows: "Editor Constitution: I see you call upon the cotton farmers of the South to plant for $12,000,000$ bales of cotton for this year's crop. I for one doubt the wisdom cf this advice. It $10,000,000$ bales bring more money than twelve or fifteen million, where is the sence of trying to make the larger crop, when it means less provisions and more money paid out? If your wiee 'market forecasters' can convince the world that the next crop will be $12,000,000$ bales, if cotton does not go down to 7 or 8 cents it will not be the fault of the bear speculators. If the farmers of the South are wise they will not increase their acreage, but rather decrease it, and try to make more to the acre. The fact is, they cannot increase it materially with the :abor they have, for it was all they could do to gather the present crop, much less twelve or fifteen million bales. And notwithstanding the fact that the acreage has been increased for the last few yeare, the crop has decreased instead of being increased. What is the cause of this? One writer lays it to the deterioration of the seed, but this is manifestly absurd for the seed has been and is being improved. One canse is the unfavoiable seasons, but the main cause is the deterioration of the land. The cotton lands of the South have been in cotton so long that they have become exhausted of humus, and without humus in the sofl it is imposeible to make a full crop. If only commercial fertilizers are used and there ecmes a drought, they do more harm- than good, for if the soil is deficient in humus, they burn up the crop and carse it to shed its fruit. As I see it, the only way for the South to increase the cotton crop (where new land is not to be opened up) is to decrease the acreage, sow the poorest land in peas or some other crop that will give it humus, and concentrate their laber and tertilizers on their beet land." | Other nations are doing the same. The trade balance of the entire world may soon be affected if efficient remedies for the peat are not diecovered and used. <br> The weevil itcelf is an insignificant creature, a little gray snovt-beetle about a quarter of an inch long, but it breeds very rapidly, multiplies enormously in the course of a summer, and worke during the critieal period of its life absolutely protected from any application that could be made to the cotton plant. <br> Stowed away in old corn stalke, in clumps of grass, under the bark of trees and logs, and in all sorts of sheltered places, the weevil passes the winter. Promptly as the cotton plant comes up In the spring and early eummer the weevils come forth, fly to the plants, and as soon as the first "squares"-unknown bude-are formed they lay their eggs in them. The young grub hatehes and destroys the forming flower, eausing the square to drop. The grub changes to a pupa within the bud, and the full-grown weevil emerges soon after. <br> When such of the flowers as escape this first attack mature, and the cotton boll forms, it is also pieroed by the weevil's beak, an egg is laid, and another grub begins to teed on the interior of the boll, destroying all the forming cotton lint, reaching full growth and changing to pupa and emerging as a weevil. In this way the insects increase in geometrical ratio until by late aummer, they occur in countles millions; often hardly a boll matures. <br> A bale of cotton contains from four hundred and fifty to five hundred pounde, and in former days to raise a bale or a bale and a half of cotton to the acre in the best parts of Texas was almost a rule. Where the weevil has made its appearance, however, it is often difficult to ralse a bale of cotton on ten or even fifteen acres ot land. <br> AK INVADER FROM MEXICO. <br> The weevil came to Texas from Mexico, where, in certain places, it bad absolutely stopped the cultivation of cotton. It croseed the Rio Grande at Brownville, and was carried north IT KEEPS THE FEET WARM AND DRY. <br> Ask today for Allen's Foot-Fase, powder. It cures Chilblaing, \&wollem, Sweating, Sore, Aching, Damp feet. At all druggiste and shoes stores, 25 c. |
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CAUGHT BY THE GRIP. RELEASED BY PE-RU-NA.
Congressman Geo. H. White's Case. A Noted Sculptress Cured.


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| the State Agricultural College of Texashave been studying the insect, and try-Ing to find some means of fighting it |  |  |
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| it eould have been stopped and all thisdamage prevented by abandoning the |  |  |
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| ive section. Or, if the planters couldhave been induced to cut down and burn the cotton stalks in the fall, it is |  |  |
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| machincs. The most careful stuadies have been made of the life, history an |  |  |
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| habits of the insect. Experts have been sent to Mexico, to other portions |  |  |
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| its natural home,-for it is eyidently atropical species,-in the hope of beingable to find some parasite or natural |  |  |
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| enemy which might be introduced into the United States with beneficial effect. |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { IS THERE A REMEDY? } \\ & \text { Although no such parasite has been } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| found, and although no polsonous an-plication has been discovered which |  | chinatiocmaker |
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