VOL. XXX. NO. 7.

ELLICOTT CITY, MD., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1899.

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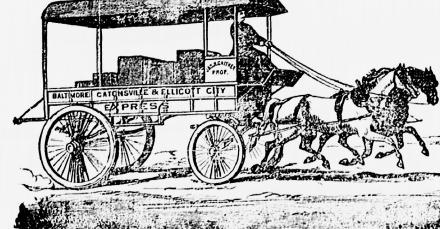
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IS EUROPE THREATENED?

Question Suggested by the Bubonic Plague In Vienna. The terror in Vienna which has followd the outbreak of bubonic plague there and the deaths of five persons in addition to that of Herr Barisch, who first contracted the disease from the careless handling of germs under cultivation in Professor Nothnagle's bacteriological laboratory, is pot without foundation in the possibilities of the disease, aside from the effectiveness in a highly civilized community of modern methods of isolation and antiseptic treatment. For the bubonic plague, which still devastates India and other oriental countries, is the same disease which for centuries periodically devastated Europe, appearing in England as late as 1665 and only retiring from the continent within the century. The earliest historical record of what is believed to have been the bubonic plague carries it back to 767 B. C. In 446 A. D. it invaded England, hard Iv leaving enough living to bury the dead, according to old records, and in the fourteenth century the whole world was swept by the worst devastation that has ever afflicted mankind, the black death, which in its main features resembled the modern bubonic plague, and in spite of certain differences, is believed to have been the same disease. In Europe 23,000,000 permons died of it between 1347 and 1350, and in Asia 25,000,000. Its last visitation in England, the "great plague" of London. in 1665, carried off 68,500 persons. In the seventeenth century a gradual lessening of the area in which the plague was prevalent began, with lessening frequency, too, in its outbreaks. In the eighteenth cen-

characteristics of the plague, but only affected a limited area Observations of the long intervals be tween previous visitations have, however. led some authorities to believe in the possibility of a recurrence of the disease in epidemic form in Europe. In general it is held that civilized conditions and the

tury it continued to retire, and in the first

third of this century it was confined in

gether in 1841, with the exception of an

outbreak in Ciscaucasian Russia in 1879,

which was regarded as having the chief

Europe to European Turkey, ceasing alto-

modern methods of care for public health prevent such a possibility The bubenic plague is a contagious fe ver, chiefly characterized by swellings, usually confined to the glands of the groin, armpits and neck, but in violent cases occurring all over the body, which after death are often of a dark color, thus excellence. "Every great man is a unique." giving the disease its title of black plague in some of its epidemics In some cases it begins with swellings, fellowed by a mild fever, with possible recovery inside of two weeks In its most violent form it is fol lowed by death within a few hours, preceded by a vomit of blood and without the occurrence of the characteristic swellings Of its origin, methods of transmission and cure little is known. It is believed to arise in clesely crowded communities

living in a moist, heated atmosphere in a condition of filth In sporadic cases it is not believed to be transmissible. In its epidemic form it fellows close association with the already infected, breathing the air affected by their effluvia, and handling their clothing. The disease is known to have been carried by rats, an epidemic among them having been followed by the

plague among men This is said to have been the case in the recent epidemic of the bubonic plague in India. - New York Sun

TO SAVE THEIR CREDIT. Winning Tricks That Have Ecen

Played by Merchants. The modern system of business makes is bsolutely essential for a man to be able to obtain credit, and his success in this re spect depends or his known integrity, which in business is merely synonymous with regular payment.

When a large business house has been for years in the habit of paying regularly on a certain day every month, the creditors would receive a shock if the money on one occasion were a few days late, and the reputation of the house for impregnable stability might receive some injury. It is therefore not surprising to hear

that tricks have been resorted to by the heads of big firms in order to avoid the In one case a firm which required a few

days extra to admit of their meeting their the quarries connected with the works of monthly liabilities sent out all their the new Alexander III Bridge over the checks in the ordinary manner, but by a pretended error they were left unsigned. By the light of two candles stuck into Of course they were promptly sent back empty bottles, which represented the footwith a letter in each case calling attention | lights of a very roughly improvised stage, to the omission. After a day's delay the the company of vagabonds were playing checks were again sent out with letters the "Misanthrope" of Moliero to an apapologizing for the mistake. But, to the preciative audience of the usual type of astonishment of the creditors, the checks | vagabonds to be found in such quarters. were again found to be unsigned. They The leader of the troupe had once been a were of course sent back again. Another director of a theater in the provinces, but delay ensued, but this time they were re- he had become bankrupt and fallen so low turned signed. About four days were in the social scale that he had become a thus gained, and the reputation of the firm | vagabond himself. The dramatic instinct, remained unshaken.

In a similar case a man pretended to be too ill to sign his checks, and, though usu- leading lady had once been a star in a ally most straightforward, he had to im- minor theater in Paris, and that was some to take a quantity of physic for an imag- was taken by a young scoundrel who remarkable suddenness when a large re- The play was in full swing when the po-

A story is told of a firm consisting of father and son in temporary difficulties. the director seemed to be that he had not They suffered much anxiety because they been able to ring down the curtain on his ould not meet a large bill on the day it

Great, however, was the joy of the son when a junior partner in the firm which held the bill came to say that his senior other day Harry Davis, a Bridgeport lad, had gone on the continent and had taken caught a huge but singularly deformed with him the key of the safe in which the cel. It was long enough to be knotted bill was locked. He asked for a check for about the fisherman's waist and as thick the amount of the bill, for which he would in places as a man's wrist, but in the midgive a full explanatory receipt, and he dle, where it should have been thickest, promised that the bill would be delivered, the eel was no bigger than a baby's finger. up in a week or two. the son, who was quick to see the drift of He scraped off the slime and brought to

possible, and said: "Father, go to Brighton at once."

He came back and heard the story out. circumstance, but his father had also left ord. own, and they did not know his address, and he could not take the responsibility of paying without the paternal authority.

Not Afraid of Thirteen. The Rev. B. F. Chapman of Andover, Conn., now 88 years old, is a living refutation of the 13 superstition. He was born on the 13th day of the month. He was 13 years old when his family made an

important move of his boyhood, and 13 years after that he was married. He is a member of a family of 13, and his wife was also so situated. She was born on the 13th day of the month, and had 13 letters in her name. Three of their five children saw the light of day on the same day of the month, and Mr. Chapman says in conclusion that he was born and probably will die in one of the 13 original states and in a county having 13 towns. When he came to Andover, the usher at the church showed him into pew 13, and he has sat there for 40 years. When he came to Andover, the postmaster offered him No. 13 ELASTIC ENGLISH.

How the Meaning of Some Common Words Has Been Changed. Professor Whitney says there has been less structural modification of the English language in the second half of the nineteenth century than in any other 50 year period of its existence. The vocabulary has been enormously enriched, but the skeleton of our speech has been only a little developed. It is with the vocabulary that Brander Matthews deals in his essay. He quotes Professor Lounsberry's remark: 'The purest of speakers use every day with perfect propriety words and forms which, looked at from the point of view of the past, are improper, if not scandalous." This is a fitting preface to a discussion of the changes in the vocabulary taking place at the present time, some of which are noted by Mr. Matthews in these words: Once upon a time to "aggravate" meant to increase an offense. Now it is often used as though it meant to irritate. Formerly "calculate," as in the sentence "It was calculated to do harm," implied a deliberate intention to injure. Now the idea of intention has been eliminated, and the sentence is held to be roughly equivalent to "It is likely to do harm." "Verbal" is slowly getting itself accepted as synonymous with "oral," in antithesis to "writ-"Lurid" is really "pale," "wan," 'ghastly," but how often of late has it been employed as though it signified red or ruddy or bloody? These words are specimens of the long list which is used by the ignorant or un-

> 'exasperate" or "irritate," for example, and pleads against recognizing such inaccuracies of speech as legitimate changes in the vocabulary. Another word mentioned by Professor Matthews is "unique." Sayshe: "Unique is getting to imply merely 'excellent,' or perhaps only 'unusual.' Its exact etymological value is departing forever." It is true that we see in print such expressions as "more unique" and "most unique.

> thinking, incorrectly, but which careful

writers use according to their proper sig-

nificance. The Tutor protests against the

carelessness which says "aggravate" for

as if "unique" were an adjective capable of being compared, but the tutor hopes that the case is not as bad as Professor Matthews represents it. "Unique" is a word of too great value to permit it to lose its strict significance. It comes from the Latin "unicus," one, only, single, and it means having no like or equal; unmatched, sole, unequaled, single in its kind or said Emerson.—Exchange.

How Gold Nuggets Grow. It is generally supposed that the nur of Klondike and other auriferous regions have been brought down by the rivers direct from the reefs in which the gold orig-

Many practical miners and scientific men, however, have long been of opinion that this cannot be the case, for no masses of gold of so large a size were ever found in the reefs themselves. They believe, on the other hand, that the nuggets have grown where they are now found, just as a crystal of salt will grow in a strong brine, but with so insoluble a substance as gold it was difficult to understand hove such growth could take place. Experiments carried out in Australia have shown that decaying vegetable matter will cause the deposition of gold from solutions of gold salts, but these salts are not known to occur in reefs.

The mystery is now solved. A Slavonic chemist named Zzigmody has just shown that gold itself can exist in a soluble form By acting on a slightly alkaline solution of a gold salt with formaldehyde and submitting the product to dialysis he has succeeded in obtaining gold in a colloidal condition, in which state it is soluble in water and may be precipitated by the addition of common salt.

It is probable that some of the gold in quartz reefs exists in this condition. It is washed out by the rain, carried away in solution by the rivers and deposited in the river gravels wherever there is anything containing salt to cause its precipitation. In the course of ages a large nugget may in this way be formed.-London Mail.

Beggars Acting Moliere. A good story comes from Paris about a descent made by the police on a crowd of vagabonds who had taken refuge in one of They came upon a curious sight. however, was so strong that he had formed a troupe among his companions. The pose on the doctor who attended him and 50 years ago. The part of the ingenue inary complaint. But he recovered with flourishes under the name of the Turco. mittance was paid in to his banking aclice descended and swept off the major portion of the company and audience to the police station. The main regret of most effective scene.

A Philadelphia Fish Story. While fishing in the Schuylkill river the On examination Davis found at the place Before the story had been quite finished of deformity something hard and metallic. matters, asked the creditor to wait a mool light a broad gold band—a wedding ring ment while he went to consult his books. -with the inscription: "Paul to May, He went to his father's private office, re. 1890. Mizpah." Evidently the eel in its lated the circumstances in as few words as i very infancy had either been caught, encircled with the ring and then returned to 'its element, or else the ring had been lost in the river and the cel had contrived He then said he regretted very much the somehow to get it on.—Philadelphia Rec-

A Millionaire Beggar. The wealthiest living professional beg-Before the continental trip was over and gar, Simon Oppasich, was in 1893 senaccess to the bill obtained the father and tenced to seven years' hard labor for person were able triumphantly to pay up .- | jury. He was born without feet or arms, physical defects brought him exceptional sympathy and cash. In 1880 at the age of 47 he had saved \$60,000, and in 1888 he had by speculation increased his fortune to \$125,000 in cash and some \$200,000 in Triest and Parenzo real estate. Since then he has quadrupled his wealth by trading on the bourse .- Paris Seems Natural For Them.

"I wish I was a warship," he said re gretfully, after opening and examining his salary envelope. 'Cause why?'' they asked with natural curiosity. "I wouldn't mind being docked then," he answered.—Chicago Post.

horse lawyer. Mr. Yeast-How did he get that name, magine."-Yonkers Statesman.

EPIDEMIC OF "JERKS." A Singular Affliction That Accompanied a

Southern Religious Revival. Religious history, so full of anomalies, nowhere chronicles anything stranger than this epidemic of "jerks." It began at Red River church in Robertson county, Tenn., about 1802 and spread thence in every direction. So did the revival wave, of which it was an accompaniment rather than a manifestation. If the influence. whatever it was, came with vigor, the most hardened sinner was not exempt. Sometimes it affected barely one foot; sometimes it took both; again it was one hand and the feet or the arms alone; some times the head was the seat of attack, and it drew violently from side to side with fixed features and glassy, staring eyes. Those who fought hardest against it fell prone, writhing, twisting, crying out with the pains of severe cramps. Those who

sat passive fell into something like a mild

catalepsy. Pious folk sang and shouted "Glory!" as they jerked. Frightened sinners laid hold upon the nearest stable thing and wrestled mightily to free themselves. It was no light matter to be thus at grips with "the power," as the simpler folk called this undefinable force. Dow, the preacher, tells of passing a camp ground some miles out of Knoxville and seeing upon the grounds 50 to 100 stout saplings, cut off breast high and made smooth for the jerkers. "The earth roundabout them was torn up as by horses stamping at flies or bulls in anger," he adds naively and goes on to say the jerk antidote is. of all conceivable things, dancing. Particularly for Christians the jerks were exquisitely painful, but as soon as the jerkers began to dance pain was banished, they became intensely happy, assumed a fixed upward gaze, as though looking into the gates of gold, and wore a heavenly smile. Sinners could dance away pain, but lacked the blissful exaltation. Sometimes they danced themselves into insensibility and came out of it weak, as if recovering from mortal illness. Godey's Magazine.

The Æsthete's Luncheon. A pale, aristocratic looking young man directly dressed and exhibiting a slight clerical stoop, stepped on board a St. Charles avenue car one morning, carrying in his hand a small book bound in green and gold and a somewhat larger rectangular package that seemed to contain papers. He took a seat quietly, deposited the parcel by his side, and began to read the book, which as he turned the leaves proved to be a volume of poems. The young man's appearance, his bearing and the ride all bespoke a refined and asthetic temperament, and the other passengers looked at him with furtive respect. Next to him on the seat was a fat woman carrying a fat baby. They belonged to a common type of healthy, homely, go as you please humanity, and occasionally the fat baby sprawled across its mother's lap and clawed at the rectangular package, to the visible annovance of the aristocratic young man reading the poems in green and gold. However, he continued to peruse the volume without | Surplus turning his head. Presently the fat baby made a desperate sally and seized the corner of the paper covering in its pudgy fist. The package dangled in air, unwrapped itself in two turns, and out dropped a thick ham sandwich, a piece of apple pie and three very large and knotty pickles. The passengers snickered heartlessly and the young man turned vivid red. He cast a murderous glance at the fat baby, spurned the debris delicately with his foot, and got off at the corner, trying to look unconcerned. "I think Herod was the finest character in history," he remarked to a friend on the crossing.-New Orleans

Times-Democrat The Woolen Industry In Japan. The wool weaving industry in Japan still in its infancy. There are only a few woolen mills in the country, and of these the Oji wool factory at Oji is probably the most important. This establishment works for six months in every year on material for policemen and jailers in all parts of the country and for naval and other government officers, while during the remainder of the year work is done or blankets and other articles for domestic use. This factory paid a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent per annum for the latter part of 1897 and at the rate of 10

per cent per annum for the first half of The raw material for this mill, which includes the wool from about 3,000,000 sheep, is practically all imported from India, Germany, France, England and Australia. Sheep raising has been attempted at Aomori, in Japan, and the wool from an experimental flock of about 300 sheep is consumed by the Oji factory. Although this experiment in sheep raising has been fairly successful, the country is so poorly adapted to the industry that it is not likely to become very important. - Manufac-

Eyes and Glazed Paper. A physician in Germany has made a study of the effect of glazed papers on the eyesight as compared with the paper mostly used in the earlier part of the century-of dull gray or blue color usually and coarse grained, so that thick letters had to be used by writers with quill pens or by printers on their slow presses. With the introduction, however, of oth with the introduction, however, of other fibers in place of rags paper received a smoother surface, steel pens could be employed and the pointing paper could tray. ployed and the printing paper could travel over quicker printing presses. The introduction of brilliant colors has involved a brightness of reflection contrasting greatly with the mild and soothing impression of former days-in fact, the highly glazed surface now in vogue and the variety of lights and shades presented are most try-The suggestion is made, therefore, that public inspectors of schools should order the use of sanitary paper for the eyes-

that is, such as has no glazed or highly

polished surface, the colors to be prefera-

in no case any brilliant or shiny colors .-

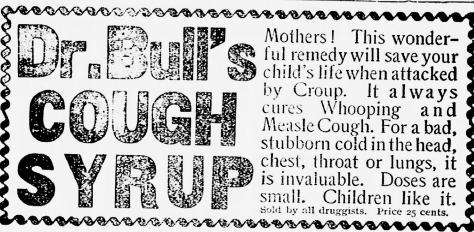
New York Tribune.

ble gray or light blue, but no white, and

Gilded Keys For the President. Mayor Moores of Omaha has sent President McKinley a pair of the gilded keys of the city which he presented to the distinguished visitors of last summer. Those for the president are larger than the others. On one is printed, "Omaha Welcomes the President," and on the other, "October 12, 1898." have cared for the keys," says Mayor Moores, "and therefore did not present him with a pair when he was here. When he visited my office, however, he caught sight of a couple of pairs that I proposed to give to conventions and expressed himself greatly pleased with them as the means of expressing our hospitality to our visitors. I considered, therefore, that it would be a nice little compliment for the city to present the president with a pair.'

Kicked All Around. A correspondence is being published in The Times on the subject of "French Feeling Toward Englishmen." A Mr. Jackson has written to that paper to re-

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letter box, saying that no one else would have it .- New York Tribuje.

do you suppose?

years at school in Paris. I was then kicked Comment is unnecessary.—London Truth.

peat that at Caen recently a student went for being an Englishman. Later I was transferred to a school in England, where

Mr. Crimsonbeak—They call him a one Britain. As a boy I was first for some "Because he's such a fine charger, I I was kicked for being a Frenchman.