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UNDER THE MOSQUITO NET.

"As I laye a-thinkynge."
Ingoldsby.

It is exceedingly gratifying to find that the proposal of the A. S. C. to introduce pigeon shooting on the club ground, is meeting with strenuous opposition. It will be simply disgraceful if the committee persist in their intention, and if the members of the club permit them to carry out such a retrograde step.

* * *

Surely the time has passed even in Egypt for fresh opportunities to be created for the practice of cruelty such as that involved in the shooting of innocent birds for gambling purposes, disguised under the name of sport. Even the few who defend the practice cannot deny its cruelty, and have nothing to urge in its favor, merely contenting themselves with comparing it with other undoubtedly cruel pastimes.

* * *

How on earth can cruelties practised in England or on the continent condone wrong done in Egypt? This, too, is not a question of the abolition of pigeon shooting at the Velodrome, but one of its institution at the A.S.C., a club mainly, though by no means entirely, supported by British residents.

* * *

And what steps are its influential patrons taking to protest against the course adopted by the club committee? Many have left Egypt for the summer vacation, but the names of many who have not yet gone will readily be called to mind, and it will be shameful if they permit this to take place without a word of remonstrance against the iniquity of the thing.

* * *

People seem somehow to be tongue-tied in Egypt, and to have so many diverse interests to study that they are afraid to open their mouths. Letters to the papers we get, but they are mostly written under *noms-de-plume*, and as a consequence do not carry anything like the weight they would if the writers signed their names. And in this case it ought not to require much effort to append one's name to a protest against cruelty to poor, defenceless birds, and wanton destruction of animal life. I hope to see within the next day or two a still more emphatic expression of opinion than that already made in the columns of the "Gazette."

* * *

It seems somewhat remarkable to find in a hospital report that it is claimed that the year 1904 has been "a year of advance," in consequence of the "marked progress in numbers" (of patients treated) that has taken place. After this one may expect to find prison or lunatic asylum authorities making it a matter of congratulation that the number of inmates shows similar "marked progress."

* * *

For the inference to be drawn is certainly that, like crime, disease is on the increase in this country. The hospital to which I refer is that of the C.M.S. at Old Cairo, whose medical mission seems to be attended with the same amount of success that generally follows missionary work when directed towards alleviating human suffering.

* * *

As for the main purpose for which missionary societies are established, the following extract from the report tells its own tale:

"Tangible spiritual results are few indeed, and were these our only guarantee of success, and were it not for the knowledge that results are in higher hands, it would be truly hard, having put one's hand to the plough, not to look back."

* * *

Nor is the C.M.S. in Cairo alone in its lament over its non-success in proselytising. Major-General Sir Alexander Tulloch, in a letter to the London "Times," quotes the following statement made by a medical missionary working among the mountains in the north of India:

"I have been at work now for 15 years. I do not believe I have made one sincere convert, but I have operated successfully for stone on over 1,000 natives."

* * *

It is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that an immense amount of good is done by foreign missionaries, but it is equally impossible to doubt that it is done in a very different direction to that generally understood to be the one intended by "the kind-hearted old ladies at home who so liberally subscribe (I quote Major-General Tulloch) to the conversion of the poor benighted heathen who bow down to stocks and stone." Had it not been for the openings that presented themselves for medical and educational work—opportunities of which the quick-witted Americans were not slow to avail themselves—foreign missions would have been in a far more hopeless position to-day than they are.

* * *

But the old original tale is told, and the pretence made that the real good done is only a secondary consideration, and thus the money for the support of missions is obtained under what, to speak plainly, are nothing but false pretences, and the old stock tales of "conversions" are as greedily swallowed now as they were when as a boy I attended the many missionary meetings to which my good mother took me.

* * *

But I used to do little sums in arithmetic, and sometimes was fairly staggered at the exceeding great cost of "conversions," and as my eyes became open to the misery and sin around me on every side, and the want of help at home, I somehow lost interest in foreign missions, feeling that the money they cost could be better spent in England, although it has been only recently that I have been able to estimate the cock-and-bull stories to which I listened in the days of my youth, at their true value.

* * *

Mr. Rudolph has rendered yeoman's service to the cause of humanity in the past, but he probably never helped the cause of truth and honesty more than by his letter in last Wednesday's paper. Nor did he err on the side of want of charity, for he could have made out a much stronger case than he did, and I should not wonder if there is a good deal of flutter in the dove cotes, not unmixed with anxiety as to what further revelations he may make as to so-called conversions of Jews.

* * *

"A Native of Upper Egypt" has also had something to say as to missions to Mohamedans, and altogether more than a little light has been thrown on mission work during the past few days.

* * *

A very valuable book entitled "The Principles of Heredity," by Dr. G. Archdall Reid, has lately been published, about which I hope to be able to write at some length when I have completed my study of it. Valuable as a medical treatise on a subject upon which hitherto no text books have appeared, the technical part of the work is small compared with the matter that the general reader can appreciate, and the concluding chapters, in which the subject is approached from the mental and religious point of view, are instructive in the highest degree.

* * *

The author makes frequent extracts from the writings of Professor James of Harvard University, whose recently published work, "Varieties of Religious Experience," is one that no student of the different phases of religious belief, emotion, and experience should omit to read. It is in the Ramleh Library, and perhaps is also obtainable at Cairo.

* * *

The volume consists of the Gifford lectures delivered at Edinburgh University in 1901-2, and it contains many very striking features, one of the most interesting of which is the discussion of the phenomenon of conversion. The views of so eminent a psychologist on such a matter are well worth studying, however disposed orthodox theologians may be to pick holes in them, and to dispute the professor's conclusions.

* * *

After an exhaustive analysis of religious experiences, which extends over nearly 500 pages, the professor asks, "Is the existence of so many religious types and sects and creeds regrettable"?

* * *

And to this question he answers emphatically "No," giving many very cogent reasons for this conclusion, which I regret I have not sufficient space now to enumerate. The high spiritual discernment of the author is evidenced all through the book,—a very rare thing in purely scientific literature,—which greatly adds to its value.

* * *

As I have not of late signed my full name to these notes, and, in this paper, have remarked on the necessity of signatures to personal expressions of opinion, I will append mine this week, although it is pretty generally understood that T. A. stands for

THOS. ATWOOD.

GREEK DEBT CONVERSION.

The rumours which have been for some time in circulation pointing to a conversion of the foreign debt of Greece are taking more definite shape. The process, it is said, will be similar to that employed in connection with the Turkish debt. As with that affair, a French syndicate has the matter in hand, and two of its members have been despatched to Athens to impress upon the Greek Government the advantages of unification. Terms are not likely to be arranged for some little time at least to come, but no doubt they will represent an improvement upon the present position, though in return for this something will have to be sacrificed in the way of further developments, and, as we know, the revenues of the country have been on an improving scale for a considerable period. British holders of Greek obligations are numerous, and it is to be hoped that they will insist against the interference with the powers of the International Commission, which was appointed in 1897-8. The Guaranteed Loan would, of course, be excluded from the scheme.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

RETURNS OF SHIPPING AND TONNAGE.

The returns of the navigation through the Suez Canal for the year 1904, as compared with those of the two previous years 1902 and 1903, show that the net tonnage for the past year increased by 1,494,547 tons as compared with that of 1903, and by 2,153,422 tons as compared with that of 1902. Notwithstanding the reduction of 50 centimes in the tonnage dues which took effect from the 1st January, 1903, the transit receipts during that year amounted to fr. 103,620,268, or only fr. 99,752 less than those of 1902, while those for last year amounted to fr. 115,818,479, and were higher than any previous year since the opening of the Canal. The increase in the tonnage passing through the Suez Canal during 1904 is owing to heavy shipments of wheat from India to Europe, and to the large quantities of coal consigned to the East, which latter exceed by about 500,000 tons the shipments during the year 1903, and which were, no doubt, principally for the use of the belligerent fleets.

The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 3,708 in 1902, 3,761 in 1903, and 4,287 in 1904, of which 2,165 in 1902, 2,278 in 1903, and 2,679 in 1904 carried the British flag. There has been an increase of 1,430,376 tons last year as compared with 1903 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 6,772,911 tons in 1902, 7,403,553 tons in 1903, and 8,833,929 tons in 1904. During the same period, the tonnage of German vessels has increased from 1,707,322 tons in 1902 to 1,773,265 tons in 1903, and to 1,969,661 tons in 1904.

The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage increased in 1904, being 63.2 and 65.9 respectively, as against 60.6 and 62.2 in 1903 and 58.4 and 60.2 in 1902. The percentage of German vessels and their net tonnage was 12.8 and 14.7 respectively, as compared with 13.1 and 14.9 in 1903, and 12.9 and 15.2 in 1902, while the percentage of net tonnage of the other maritime nations using the Canal in 1904 remained practically stationary as compared with the preceding year.

Of 3,289 merchant-vessels and vessels in ballast, of a net tonnage of 10,316,600 tons, passing through the Canal, 2,433 ships, of a net tonnage of 7,847,307 tons, were British, being fully 74 per cent. of the number and fully 76·06 per cent. of the tonnage; 356, or 13.8 per cent., were German vessels, whose tonnage was 10.5 per cent. of the whole; France, Holland, Norway, Austria-Hungary, and Italy combined furnishing a total of 10.5 per cent. of the vessels and 8.7 per cent. of the tonnage of the carrying trade to the East through the Suez Canal.

In the ten years 1891-1900, the annual net tonnage ranged from 8,698,777 tons to 9,738,152 tons, and the transit receipts from fr. 83,422,101 to fr. 90,623,608 The average of the net tonnage was 8,588,947 tons; and of the transit receipts fr. 80,006,013; while in 1904 the net tonnage amounted to 13,401,835 tons, and the transit receipts to fr. 115,818,479. The mean net tonnage per vessel, which in 1881 was only 1,517 tons, rose from 2,067 tons in 1891 to 2,926 tons in 1901, and amounted to 3,163 tons in 1904. During last year the Canal was used 63 times by steamers exceeding 150 metres (492 feet) in length or more than 18 metres (59 feet) in breadth, with a draught of over 7 metres 50 (24 feet 7 inches).

The mean duration of passage for all vessels navigating the Canal was 17 hours 48 minutes in 1903 as compared with 18 hours 8 minutes in 1904, while the percentage of vessels navigating by night amounted to 96.1 per cent. in 1903 as compared with 95.7 per cent. in 1904.

The percentage of vessels drawing less than 24 ft. 7 in. (7 m. 50 c.) was 83.3 in 1904 as against 84.9 in 1903, while that of vessels drawing more than 24 ft. 7 in. was 16.7 in 1904 as compared with 15.1 in 1903. Up to the end of the year 1901, the maximum draught allowed for vessels passing through the Canal was fixed at 25 feet 7 inches, and during 1904, 705 vessels, drawing more than 24 feet 7 inches, used the Canal, as compared with 566 in 1903 and 431 in 1902, representing a percentage of 11.6 in 1902, 15.1 in 1903, and 16.7 in 1904. Since the 1st January, 1902, the maximum draught allowed has been raised to 26 feet 3 inches (8 mètres), and during last year 145 vessels, or 3.4 per cent., took advantage of this improvement. During 1904 377 vessels passed through the Canal for the first time, of which 92 belonged to shipping companies whose vessels regularly use the Canal.

The number of troops carried through the Canal during last year amounted to 81,431 as against 80,583 in 1903, being an increase of 848. There was an increase of 7,092 British, 190 Dutch, 137 Russian, 109 Portuguese, and 341 American, against a decrease of 4,222 French, 1,296 Italian, 1,202 Turkish, and 18 German troops as compared with 1903. The number of civilian passengers amounted to 90,708 in 1904 as against 89,372 in the preceding year, being an increase of 1,436, while the number of pilgrims, emigrants, and convicts was 38,706 in 1904, as compared with 25,362 in 1903, or an increase of 13,344.

In the year 1870,26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the Canal; in 1880 the number rose to 98,900, in 1890 to 161,352, in 1900 to 282,203, and in 1904 it amounted to 210,849, as against 195,232 in 1903.

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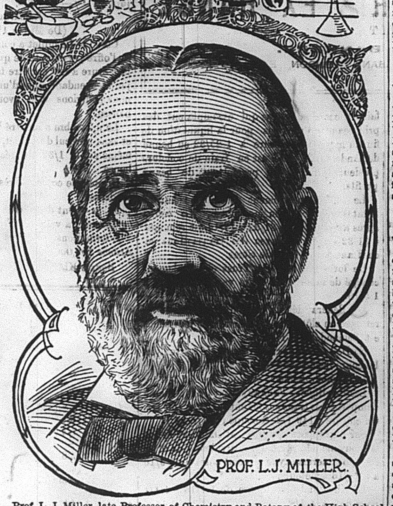
SO SAYS PROF. L. J. MILLER, CHEMIST.



Prof. L. J. Miller, late Professor of Chemistry and Botany of the High School of Ypsilanti, Mich., writes from 322 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill., as follows:

"As several of my friends have spoken to me of the favorable results obtained through the use of Peruna, especially in cases of catarrh, I examined it most thoroughly to learn its contents.

"I found it composed of extracts of herbs and barks of most valuable medicinal qualities combined with other ingredients, delicately balanced, calculated to tone up the system, restore the functions and procure health.

"I consider Peruna one of the most skillfully and scientifically prepared medicines, which the public can use with safety and success."—*PROF. L. J. MILLER.*

"Builds up the System."

Hon. Joseph H. Ridgeway, Secretary of the American Medical Association, writes the following letter from the Grand Central Hotel, St. Paul, Minn.:

"It is with great pleasure that I endorse Peruna as an honest medicine, competent to do all it claims. I have used it several times and know of nothing that cures so completely, and at the same time builds up the system.

Joseph Ridgeway.

"I have recommended it to a number of my friends and always feel that I do them a service for I know how satisfactory the results invariably are. I only wish every family had a bottle—it would save much sickness and doctor bills."—Joseph H. Ridgeway.

"Feel Better Than for Five Years."

Mr. James B. Taylor, Roberts, Ind., writes:

"I am at the present time entirely well. I can eat anything I ever could. I took five bottles of Peruna, and feel better now than I have for five years. I have doctored with other doctors off and on for fifteen years, so I can recommend your medicine very highly for stomach troubles. I take great pleasure in thanking you for your free advice and Peruna."—James B. Taylor.

"I Enjoy my Meals as I Used to."

Mr. J. W. Pritchard, Wolf Lake, Ind., writes:

"I am pleased to say that I have been cured of catarrh of the stomach by Peruna. I could hardly eat anything that agreed with me. Before I would get half through my meal my stomach would fill with gas, causing me much distress and unpleasant feelings for an hour or two after each meal. But, thanks to your Peruna, I am now completely cured, and can eat anything I want to without any of the distressing symptoms. I can now enjoy my meals as I used to do, and it is all due to Dr. Hartman and his wonderful medicine, Peruna.

"It has been one year since I was cured, and I am all O. K. yet, so I know I am cured."—J. W. Pritchard.

Dyspepsia is a very common phase of summer catarrh. A remedy that will cure catarrh of one location will cure it anywhere. Peruna cures catarrh wherever located. That it is a prompt and permanent cure for catarrh of the stomach the above letters testify.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

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Those wishing direct correspondence with Dr. HARTMAN and can wait the necessary delay in receiving a reply should address Dr. S. B. HARTMAN, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

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THE GERMAN ARMY.

The text of the Bill passed recently, which alters the method of recruiting the German Army, has just been officially published. Henceforward every German who is medically fit will have to serve seven years in the active army, from the age of twenty to twenty-seven and a day. He will then pass into the first category of the Landwehr, in which he will remain five years, and will then be enrolled in the second category until the 21st March of the year in which he reaches the age of thirty-nine. During the seven years of their active service the cavalry and artillery will have to remain three years with the colours, and the infantry two years. The reservists of all arms will have to serve eight weeks, at two different periods, and there are also alterations in the service of the Landwehr. At the same time, the numbers of the army are to be gradually increased, so that in 1910 the army will include 505,039 men, 25,000 officers, 85,000 non-commissioned officers, and 10,000 volunteers for a year. These figures do not include the marines, the gendarmerie, and the soldiers serving in China. In this manner the German army in 1910 will be increased to 633 battalions of infantry, 510 squadrons of cavalry, and 574 field batteries, while all the other branches will be proportionally augmented. It is evident that the policy of the Kaiser does not tend towards peace, for this enormous increase takes place at a time when the Navy is also being brought up to first-class rank, while on land the Russian army has been hopelessly defeated, and the stationary population of France make it harder every year to keep the army of the Republic up to its normal standard.

A DOG AND A TRAGEDY.

The story of the dog who recently caused the discovery of a tragedy at Bridgend by barking outside the house in which it occurred recalls a sensational incident that took place in Grand Canary a few years ago (says the "Chronicle"). A young American was murdered for his money in one of the Spanish inns near the harbour, and his fox-terrier was carried off to a plantation in the hills by one of the accomplices. Two whole years later the dog was brought back again to the town, and it immediately went to a certain spot in the road, tried to scratch a hole in it, and howled so piteously that it attracted the attention even of the Spanish policeman. This led to the discovery of its master's body and the final conviction of his murderer.

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All With Profit Policies effected on or before that date will be entitled to share in the Division.
The Company have already declared Bonus Additions to Policies to the amount of more than

SEVEN MILLIONS STERLING.

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ATHENS WATER SYNDICATE.

It is announced that a powerful London syndicate has been formed, supported by some of the most influential residents in Athens and the Piræus, to carry out a project for furnishing Athens with an improved water supply. Mr. Bailey-Denton, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Bailey-Denton, Lawford, and Symons, of Westminster, has left London with a staff to carry out the necessary preliminary work, which includes a survey from Athens to the proposed source of supply—a distance of about ninety miles. It is estimated that the entire involved will amount to over a million sterling.

REVOLT AGAINST PARIS MODES.

The National Assembly of Dressmakers, meeting at Chicago last week, passed a resolution protesting against allegiance to Paris fashions. They declared (says the "Telegraph's" correspondent) that the American woman is built upon a different plan from the French, and should have a style distinctively her own. The dressmakers declared that the time is approaching when Europe will look to America for fashion, and not America to Europe.

MANCHESTER'S HUGE DEBT.

Manchester has the largest debt of any provincial Corporation. The sums owing by municipalities with a population exceeding 400,000, after allowing for sinking funds, as at March, 1904, with the debt per head on the basis of the 1901 census were as under:—

Manchester	£21,519,000 debt p. head	£38 3 4
Liverpool	£18,859,000	„ „	£19 2-5
Birmingham	£15,113,000	„ „	£28 9-16
Leeds	£12,454,000	„ „	£25 2-5
Sheffield	£8,597,000	„ „	£19 7-8

A BROKEN-DOWN SYSTEM.

This is a condition (or disease) to which doctors give many names, but which few of them really understand. It is ruin, weakness—a break-down, as it were, of the vital forces that sustain the system. No matter what may be its causes (for they are almost numerous), its symptoms are much the same; the more prominent being sleeplessness, loss of prostration or weariness, depression of spirits and want of energy for all the ordinary affairs of life. Now, what alone is absolutely essential in all such cases is *increased vitality*—vigour—

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