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Why Not in Key West?

The state board of health will shortly advertise for bids for building a quarantine station at Fernandina, similar to the one at St. Augustine. It is to be hoped that said station if established will be well guarded.—Fernandina Mirror.

There is a costly quarantine station at Mullet Key in Tampa bay, when the proper place for it was Key West harbor. Why was it built there rather than Key West or Charlotte Harbor? Now they go to the other extreme end of the state, where there is but little danger of infection to build another. Ships coming to this country by the way of Key West bound for Charlotte Harbor have to go to Tampa bay to be disinfected. Is such a policy right? Why should a side station be built up by the money from the entire state and the natural place for a fumigating station, the place where its location would lessen cost and be a material aid to commerce, given the go by. When the Mullet key station was in process of erection it was claimed that it would be followed by one at Key West. This report looks as if it was deliberately made to hoodwink this place and keep down talk. If Dr. Porter is health officer for Florida and not for Tampa alone he must see how unfairly this place has been treated, and how the state board of health have deliberately tried to injure this port by forcing ships that would naturally seek this harbor go to a place three to five hundred miles out of their way.

The Pensacola News and the Leesburg Commercial, both sound democratic papers, favor the reduction of the legislature to forty members—ten senators and thirty representatives. The Capitol will vote on this motion. It is a move in the right direction, but there are too many men nearly starving for office to be very genuine of its success. The Sun favors five senators elected by the state at large, and fifteen representatives elected by districts. This will leave room for increasing representation as the population grows and the state gets richer.—Gainesville Sun.

A Plea For the Little Ones.

With summer heats come special dangers to the poor and the ignorant, dangers that are unknown in the cold season, dangers that do not menace those who have the knowledge of the laws of sanitation that comes with even moderate education. The little children are the greatest sufferers from these dangers. The babies are often housed all the long hot hours of the summer day in small, dirty, stifling rooms. Their brightness and vitality diminish as the sun rises higher in the heavens, and when illness attacks them they are not strong enough to resist, and presently they die after sufferings of which they cannot tell.

The parents of such children doubtless love them as much as more favored parents love theirs, but they do not know, and so the little ones perish. Movements are under way in many cities and good sized towns to help these sufferers, but in most cases those who have essayed to help understand the situation but imperfectly. They organize corps of physicians who shall treat the little sufferers gratuitously, and this is well. They get up fresh air homes—better yet. Sometimes they seek to train the mothers, and this is best.

How to do this work most effectively is of course a question yet to be solved, and undoubtedly the best solutions will vary in different localities. In some places the mothers may be trained by "instruction visits" made by women more fortunate in this world than those whom they would teach. In other places schools with weekly sessions disguised as "mothers' meetings" will be found more feasible. Whatever be the method employed, the instructions should be thorough, they should include the dress, the food, the surroundings and the care of sick babies. They should also be imparted in such a way as not to injure the self respect of the taught.

If some such plan as has been hinted at in the foregoing could be put into practical operation in the cities and villages of this country, it is likely that the "infant mortality" figures would be promptly and permanently diminished.

Nature's Way and Man's Way.

There are some exceptions, to be sure, but it seems to be a rule of Nature to hedge about her most bountiful gifts with dangers and difficulties. Thus the most fertile soil in the United States, the rich Mississippi bottom lands, is annually subject to destructive floods. Even now the planters there are contemplating of almost irreparable damage inflicted by the raging waters this year. But though they have often suffered in the same way before, these men have no notion of removing to safer sections of the country. It is so everywhere. Because the grape grows best on the slopes of Vesuvius, the Italian peasant plant vineyards almost to the edge of its awful crater. The fact that pearls are not to be obtained unless men take their lives in their hands and dive in deep and shark infested waters does not prevent the women of the race from having the milky globes for the adornment of their persons, and gold would be dug if it were twice as expensive as it now is to get it.

A Foreigner's Idea.

The correspondent of a prominent newspaper in France who has been sent to the Chicago World's fair to write up matters of interest has in one of his letters touched upon the contemplated meeting of the bankers of the United States in Chicago in September. The following is a translation of the part of his letter that relates to this subject:

The bankers of the United States hold a meeting or convention in Chicago this autumn. It is a society of all the banks, great and little, and financial institutions of the United States for cultivating the amenities of language and deportment.

The usual conversation of the fresher moneyed men of the woolly west (occident) is a la la. I am told, often quite shocking (in coup) to the more cultured financiers of New York and Philadelphia.

The language of the checks, the drafts and the wire messages is frequently ungrammatical, full of solecism and far from being comely if not.

The banker who keeps the store and sells the groceries—what they call the grub stake—in buckskin robe and sombrero will meet the banker from New York, from Boston, from Philadelphia in stove pipe (chapeau) habits and bow-tie. From the Indian Territory will come financiers in red blankets and cow rings and from the prairies and cotton belts the cashier and the paying teller in blue and dark jeans and straw hat. From Kentucky will come money changers in coonskin caps (a la Daniel Boone).

For some years a great professor in one of the universities of finance has been hired to teach the moneyed men the rudiments of their business. The professor has the knowledge, and the bankers have the money. What more simple?

Some of the bankers learn for the first time at these services with the professor that they have been taking interest whenever they discounted a note. Like our distinguished compatriot who was informed by Moline that for years he had been unconsciously talking prose, the members of the society are naturally delighted.

In some states when a loan is made the borrower returns the note. The professor will correct this.

To render these teachings more easily retainable a truly American idea is soon to be put in practice. A chair of poetry will be endowed in the university for an eminent man of learning and of great versatile genius, who will deliver himself in arranging the lectures of the professor who instructs the financiers into metrical rhymed couplets. "When call loans are cheap and low, then the gold abroad will flow," or "Dewdrops, the daybird, sits on a limb and makes the depositor look for him," etc.

The foregoing shows how a talented foreigner can scorn and enhance a naturally dry subject, although the extracts lose much in the somewhat imperfect translation. It may be remarked that the French are usually quite accurate as observers, Max O'Rell being a case in point.

The Swimmers.

If one were asked where the best swimmers in this country are found, he would probably reply, "On the Atlantic coast." Yet he would be mistaken. The swimming experts are those who learned the art in the interior states in fresh water. It is so much more difficult to keep one's self at the surface in fresh water that when the country lad, who learned to swim in the shallow little creek or river inland, comes to try his powers in the dense water of the sea he floats like a duck and distances the salt water boys without trouble.

It has been observed that the people of the south and southwest very generally can swim, while the greatest number of persons who cannot are found in New England. Why is it? One would hardly guess at first that the reason is a matter of climate. In spite of the fact that Newport and Bar Harbor and Old Orchard beach are on the New England coast, the waters of that coast are too cold for the swimmer to remain in them with comfort for any length of time. Hours of soaking do not seem to injure one in the warm waters of the gulf and southern Atlantic states, but in Maine and Massachusetts a little of it really goes a good way.

What we started out to say, however, was this: Learn to swim this summer if you do not already know how, whether you are man, woman, boy or girl. The drowning season is in full sweep.

"To the heroes of the early sixties," is the dedication motto of the beautiful and massive new building lately opened with martial ceremony and pomp to the public in Lowell, Mass. A touching as well as impressive portion of the dedication exercises came when F. A. Danbridge, a black man, rose and on behalf of the colored people of Boston presented for the memorial hall a fine bronze bust of General B. F. Butler. The Boston colored people had subscribed for and caused to be made this bit of sculpture in token of their gratitude to the general who first found a refuge in Union camps for the slave by pronouncing him "contraband of war."

The Geary Chinese law, though it may not be enforced in this country, is already doing its mischief in China, where our missionaries and merchants are established. If these are mobbed and murdered from time to time, as has already been done in some parts of the Chinese empire, no one need be surprised. In the province where American missionaries have one of their main strongholds an anti-foreigner society has been formed among the natives, violent tracts are circulated, and songs are sung appealing to the mob spirit among the Chinese to rise and rid their land of the hated white men.

Their state building at Chicago shows that Iowans have fine artistic taste as well as an eye to the main chance. It is beautiful. And Iowa is not going to suffer for want of letting the public know of her advantages. In conspicuous places in the tasteful interior are displayed such little items of information as the following: "Iowa leads in value of farm cattle. Number, 4,011,233; value, \$75,262,886. Other animals—number, 9,026,412; value, \$133,496,314."

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