

MAN'S AILMENTS.

LAWYERS WEDDED BY LAWYER.

Remarkable Marriage Solemnized by a Milwaukee Woman.

Due to His Departure from a Quadruped Position.

So Says a Scientist Who Has Made a Study of the Human Race—Some of the Changes in Our Anatomy.

An interesting paper was given at the three hundred and twenty-eighth corporate meeting of the Boston Scientific society by Dr. Cora Hosmer Flagg, the subject of which was the relation of man's evolution to his ailments. "It is a common idea," said the speaker, "that the human body is fixed and stable in its structure and marvelously adapted to its supposed uses for definite ends. But all the evidences from comparative anatomy, embryology and physiology go to show that the majority of our organs are combinations, rearrangements and compromises necessitated by the accidents of complexities."

Much of this instability is due directly to the mechanics of the upright position and to the fact that the body, with its quadrupedal ancestry, has not yet become perfectly adapted to its new position.

Every region of the body shows evidence of this maladaptation. Some structures are in a state of prostration; that is, they are tending to more perfect adaptation. Others are slowly retrogressing, some having even gone so far as to have gone wholly out of use, remaining only as vestiges.

The pelvis and the backbone find themselves with entirely different duties in man from their previous ones in the quadrupeds, so that here are especially marked differences. In the beasts the pelvis has merely to bear the weight of the end of the backbone, but in man it has all the weight of the trunk and the arms to sustain.

The result is that it has become completely bowl-shaped and is not yet completely adapted to all its functions, so that it is the origin of numberless inconveniences and diseases. In the same way the backbone in man has assumed two curves, one near the head and the other near the base. As another part of the adaptation there is the loss of some ribs and the shortening of the spinal cord, the latter being the result of the loss of the tail. These all mark weak spots in the human economy, each of which is known to be responsible for a number of the common ailments of man.

Many of the ailments quoted by Dr. Flagg were technical in their nature, but still there were quite a number, like the dwindling away of the tibia, that are patent to everybody. This bone, the smaller of the two in the human leg, is equal to its companion in animals and shares the work with it. But in man in his upright position it is merely accessory; it has lost strength and size, and, being in an exposed position, is subject to fracture. In the same way the position of the femur is so changed with reference to the body that the weight it must bear not infrequently results in fracture in its weak place.

So far as the viscera is concerned, they are nearly as well adapted to vertical as to horizontal position. Some weaknesses have, however, been developed, among which may be noted the vermiform appendix, which plays so prominent a part in modern diseases. In like manner the speaker went on to show how other difficulties are the result of man's erect posture. The heart, with a greater hydrostatic pressure, often fails under its burdens; the added pressure is responsible for varicose veins and similar troubles; the exposing of certain important blood vessels, like the arteries of the leg and arm, is a source of danger; canals which have their offices in the economy of lower animals become, through disease, sources of trouble, tonsils being a malady of such a nature. In the brain it is a noticeable fact that the diseases are more commonly among those convulsions which man has added to the previously existing brain of the animals, and those lobes in which lie the emotions or instincts common to nearly all animal life are quite exempt from disease. The more complex parts of the brain are affected; hence suicide, which is the result of thought, is common among the insane, while they will resist, as any animal would, attempts on the part of another to do them injury.—Boston Transcript.

Seeking for a "Clow."

The "clou," or great overshadowing feature of the forthcoming Paris exposition is yet lacking, and the management has so far vainly sought for it amid the myriad of practicable schemes broached by inventors and theorists and cranks and are still in search of new ideas and encouraging their presentation. An immense captive balloon, an enormous telescope and a 200-ton monumental clock are among the suggestions; as are also great panoramas of the world, a giant electric gyroscope, typical streets of each country, a palace and a thousand other schemes more or less visionary; but meanwhile the management is yet bewailing the great unfound "clou" which is to take in the coming exhibition the place of the Eiffel tower in the last.—Detroit Free Press.

Perry's Meteorite.

The huge mass of meteorite iron which Civil Engineer Perry, of the United States navy, has recently brought home from Cape York, Greenland, and which weighs about 100 tons, is believed by him and others to be a true meteorite, fallen from the sky at unknown time in the past. Alloys of iron and nickel sometimes occur in meteorites, and, curiously enough, Perry's meteorite consists of those metals combined in a proportion similar to that of the nickel-steel employed in making armor for the United States navy.—Youth's Companion.

THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED

Employment of Convicts Without Competing with Free Labor.

New Law in New York State Whereby Supplies for State Institutions Shall Be Supplied by Prisoners in Success.

The problem of how state convicts shall be kept at work without competing with free labor has seemingly been solved in New York state by the law which went into effect on January 1, of this year. This law provided that all state institutions, departments and political divisions should purchase all their supplies and articles of equipment from the prisoners if such could be manufactured there. Since the law went into operation requisitions have been received for over \$750,000 worth of goods, which guarantees the continuous employment of convicts. As it costs but \$500,000 annually to maintain the prisons, they are therefore made self-sustaining under the new system.

Speaking of the matter, Gen. Austin Lathrop, superintendent of state prisons, said:

"We are gratified with the result of the first year's working of the new system of convict labor and I shall so report to the legislature. None of the methods of employing convicts during my administration of ten years have been self supporting with the exception of the now one. An enormous amount of money will be saved to the state. Nearly \$500,000 worth of goods have been ordered from the prisons this year. Next year trade will amount to \$1,000,000. We sell at a price below that of the markets so that the books of the institutions themselves show a net profit in making purchases from us. We are certainly in favor of its continuance because it not only gives the 3,500 convicts in the state prisons all the work they can do, but it also makes a prison self-supporting."

This interview foreshadows the report of Superintendent Lathrop to the legislature on the workings of the present system of convict labor.

HUGE X RAY MACHINE SHOWN.

Prof. Trowbridge Produces One with a Force of 1,200,000 Volts.

The greatest X ray machine in the world was exhibited at Cambridge, Mass., the other night in the Lawrence scientific school of Harvard college. The new apparatus has the astonishing electric motive force of 1,200,000 volts, which is about equal to the voltage of 2,000 electric cars. It gives a spark 49 inches long, an achievement hitherto unknown.

Last summer Prof. John Trowbridge had a machine that gave a voltage of 600,000. This was one of the largest X ray machines ever built. Instead of being satisfied with this, Prof. Trowbridge decided to double its strength, and this he did by doubling the batteries and the condensers of the machine.

The condensers are charged in series, and by an ingenious mechanical device, consisting of a swinging frame, they are discharged in parallel upon the two terminals. There are 60 condensers, with a capacity of 20,000 each, giving a total of 1,200,000; the number of storage cells is 10,000. Prof. Trowbridge has proved that the length of the spark is exactly proportional to the voltage lengths over one inch.

WANT THEIR SHARE.

London Capitalists to Reach Out After Klondike Gold.

A dispatch to the New York World from London says: London capitalists seem to be resolved to share in the big profits anticipated from a rush to the Klondike next spring.

The Vancouver and Northern Shipping and Trading company, working in connection with the Canadian Pacific railway, with a capital of \$750,000, privately subscribed by six shareholders, purchased two old Cunarders—the Bothnia and the Seythia—and two cage mail steamers, as the nucleus of a fleet to run from Vancouver to Klondike ports, commencing on March 10.

Both ships are chartered for freight by Lipton, the millionaire provision merchant, for the voyage out, and he is said to have a scheme for building a new town, to be called Liptonia, near Skagway. This enterprise is understood to be the result of the visit to Skagway of Hon. James Burke Roche, who has just returned.

Bathed Deeply, But Came Up Dry.

Members of a class in Cambridge had been rather flippant in regard to some pompous authority and a fellow was eulogizing him. Said he: "You are probably ignorant, young gentlemen, that the venerable person of whom you have been speaking with such levity is one of the profoundest scholars of our age—indeed, it may be doubted whether any man of our age has bathed more deeply in the sacred fountains of antiquity." "Or came up drier, sir," was the reply of the undergraduate.

Curious Landslide.

A curious landslide occurred a few days ago in the village of Sattel, in Canton Schwyz. An inn situated by the side of the road which runs across the slope of a hill was carried, without sustaining any injury, 30 feet down the hillside, stopping just short of being precipitated in the river Steine. The road in front of the house, the garden, and all the immediate surroundings of the inn are intact. By the house were two large elms, and even these have in no way suffered.

The New Montreal Bridge.

The great bridge at Montreal, 7,000 feet in length, built to accommodate two railroad tracks, two trolley lines and two footpaths, is to be erected by American contractors and made of American materials.

Divorces in Great Britain.

In Great Britain last year 353 divorce suits were begun by husbands and 220 by wives.

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