TRAGEDY OF A PRINCESS.

They are manufacturing lunatics now for the greater honor of kingship, as if that trade was not naturally overburdened with disease. King Leopold, who made a reputation by keeping poor Carlotta in the strait-jacket all these years, though she is as sound minded as you or I, is at the head of the enterprise; its headquarters are the private madhouse Lindenhof, near Dresden.

There, in a shabby pavilion, attended by a single abigail, the unfortunate Princess Louise of Coburg is kept in close confinement. Legally dead, she is but a number in the economics of the vast establishment that makes a specialty of morphine and opium fiends and of victims of love's madness.

It's a house for incurables, and those entering leave hope behind.

With the exception of her doctor and of Fraulein von Debauer, her lady of honor in happier days, who refused to leave her mistress, this granddaughter of Louis Philippe is not allowed to see a sane person, and her days are spent in endless ennui, as she has neither sewing, horses nor other fashionable luxuries to while away the time.

Instead of concerts and grand-opera—the shrieks and yells of madmen marching in lockstep under her window, as did the guards of her uncle, the Emperor of Austria, only two years ago.

In place of the respectful staring of multitude and the flattering of courtiers—argus-eyed keepers, fitted out with revolvers and "bracelets" for emergency cases, and inflexible commands of physicians who know how to enforce obedience.

Grand dinner parties—yes, Her Royal Highness can still indulge in that privilege, nay, more, she must. She has a hundred raving females at table with her every day, all of whom, including herself, use spoons only, unless they prefer to employ things that were made before knives and forks were thought of.

The Louise who used to sup with a parquet of King's sons was the chicest dresser of chic Vienna; in Lindenhof her allowance for dress amounts to 30 florins a month. She was a devotee of literature. The foremost French writers of the day were her friends. She is allowed no books now save German milk-and-water affairs of the asylum library.

"Take my word for it, they will yet render her demented," said a lady of the Dresden court to me, whom Queen Caroline of Saxony sent to Lindenhof the other day to watch her relative from a distance. Her ladyship continued:

"As if the thought that father, mother, sisters, all her puissant relatives including every monarch in Christendom, have abandoned her, was not enough to unsettle the reason of a high-strung woman cradled in the lap of luxury and grandeur, and naturally of a loving disposition, the social and economic atmosphere of Lindenhof itself breathes a depressing, irritating spirit.

"It's a cheap house, and the unfortunates confined there, while not exactly paupers, are small people, whose lack of manners is aggravated, of course, by their menial condition. True the Princess lives by herself in a three-room garden cottage, but she cannot help seeing her companions and of mixing with them at meal time.

"The fare, too, is coarse, and the restrictions against the use of ordinary table necessaries must be particularly odious to a woman of taste and refinement such as Louise is known to be. In short, it looks as if Her Highness's relatives placed her in Lindenhof with the fixed intention of wrecking her intellect."

"Then you don't think she is actually insane?" I asked.

"She is as sound-minded and bright as ever," replied my colleague of Dresden. "While at the asylum I had occasion for a snatch of talk with the governess, Fraulein von Gebauer, and we spoke two or three minutes without witnesses. The faithful woman swore by all she holds holy that her mistress does not, and never did, exhibit symptoms of an unbalanced mind. 'I can truly say so'—these are her words—'for I have never left her since our return to Vienna.' At that moment one of the physicians came up, preventing further confidences."

Queen Caroline's ambassadress described the Princess as "radiant with health and good looks, though seemingly depressed in spirits." Remembering that insanity is wont to shine from the eyes of those stricken, she took particular pains to observe Louise's eyes. "There was nothing unusual about them," she says. "Her gaze was steady and kind, though searching at times as if she was trying to read in the faces of her keepers, and who would blame her? Fraulein von Gebauer says Her Royal Highness is forever afraid that new indignities will be heaped upon her.

"I saw her after an animated walk in the snow-covered park," continued the ambassadress. "Her cheeks were flushed, her complexion is of the fairest. She bears herself well, and was dressed daintily in the fashion of 1898. I asked the physician in whose care the Princess was given, how she spent her time? 'Walking, painting and reading,' he answered, 'there is nothing else to do.' 'She sees no society?' I inquired. 'No one is allowed to see her except by order of Prince Philip, her husband, and His Highness thinks it best to completely isolate the poor woman.'"

My Dresden friend added that Queen Caroline takes a deep interest in the affairs of the unfortunate Louise, but that will not make any difference in her fate. The unwritten law which says that "Kings cannot err," has a rider to the effect that: "Royal women who forget the marriage vow shall be adjudged insane," and it goes without saying that two crowned black sheep such as the King of Belgium and Philip of Coburg won't forego a shadow of the arbitrary power placed into their hands.

As father and husband respectively they have a right to avenge the scandal by which Louise threatened to eclipse their own reputation for profligacy when she eloped with Lieutenant Colonel Count Megleviteh, since disgraced, and incarceration in a madhouse is certainly the worst punishment that can be dealt to a healthy person. Besides, criticism is bound to stop at sight of the straight-jacket. If this Princess who threw conventionalities to the winds is a lunatic, what's the use of inquiring into the causes that led her astray? Why speculate on prenatal influences, on the effect of the debasing association with the man whom she had professed to love, honor and obey.

Courtly gossip has it that Louise will never again draw a free breath—not during the life of Prince Philip and King Leopold, at least. Her husband is 56, her father 63 years of age; she herself is past 42, and Princes are notoriously long-lived. Doctors being sure of ample reward, succeed marvelously well in prolonging their life by keeping diseases at a distance and by retrenching their vitality by means that only the mighty can afford. If it hadn't been for her sister Stephany, the Austrian Crown Princess's determination to marry her Hungarian Count, Emperor Francis Joseph might have interceded, but to-day it's an open secret in court circles that he has washed his hands of the whole business.

He is reported to have said that he has had enough of his Belgian Coburg relatives, and so angry is His Majesty with them that he snubbed the Princess Elizabeth, Stephany's only daughter, unmercifully when she made her debut at a recent court ball at the Hofburg. Elizabeth, who is tall and angular, wore a simple mull dress without ornamentation of any kind, and the grandfather was cruel enough to remark that she might do for a miller's daughter, but not for an Archduchess.

Louise's friends were likewise disappointed when they appealed to the King of Saxony, who, as Philip's liege lord, could, if he chose, command him to release his wife and seek redress in divorce. No one may gainsay that King Albert isn't just, even humane, but the fact remains—in matters of that kind all men stick together. Only a day after my friend returned from Lindenhof and reported to their Majesties on Louise's sad plight and her unimpaired mental condition, Prince Philip was received at court with extraordinary eclat, guard of honor, state dinner, gala opera and the rest.

"It's a wonder we didn't turn tigers," exclaimed Comte d' Artois, brother of Louis XVI., speaking of the "reasons of state" implanted in young royal minds. But don't we? Here we have a royal woman in her best years, beautiful, amiable and accomplished, who was certainly more sinned against than sinning. There isn't a King in Europe but knows her intimately; not one who hasn't danced and hunted with her; not one who hasn't at one time or another, admired her wit, her pretty face, and, indeed, pitied her for being married to that blackguard Philip. Yet when that same knave, backed up by his father-in-law, condemned her without trial, all those royal gentlemen, with one accord, leave her to her sad fate, though a word of protest from the most insignificant of them would suffice to secure her justice.

As James I. sat complacently in Edinburgh while his mother, Mary Stuart, was beheaded in England, so these Princes see one of their number immured in a living tomb without raising a finger in defense of their friend and relative.

I have read several letters written by Louise since her arrival in Lindenhof. How she smuggled them beyond the walls of her prison I don't know; maybe the address of the exalted personage for whom they were intended saved them.

The poor woman prays to be allowed to forego her rank and submit her case to the ordinary Courts of Law, at the same time promising never to interfere with Prince Philip's affairs after the divorce she craves for is granted. In one of these letters she says: "Your Majesty as well as my parents knew tens of years ago that my married life was a hell."

Louise was united toi the grandson of Louis Philipe when scarcely 17 years old, and almost from her wedding day was forced to witness most shameless conduct on the part of her husband. At last she could bear no more, and beseeched her mother to persuade the King to allow her to obtain a divorce, but Queen Marie, herself a terribly abused woman in her married life could do nothing for her. King Leopold wouldn't hear of it and took his son-in-law's part.

Finally continued domestic unhappiness led to disgraceful scenes, and on one of these occasions the Prince struck his wife in the face.

"Son of a pig sticker," Louise is said to have retorted, alluding to the Coburg-Kohays descent from a Hungarian cattle dealer named Cohen, "you have dared to maltreat a King's daughter."

The Prince thereupon called his hunter, made him fetch a riding whip, and before this and other servants whipped his wife until the blood ran from her face and shoulders.

"Subsequently I showed my scarred and bruised face to the King," the letter continued, "and mother and I implored His Majesty on bended knees to permit to sue for a divorce, but reasons of state again put in their non possumus and I was dismissed with much good advice."

So it went on, kicks and cuffs from the Prince, cold refusals to protect his daughter from Leopold, until finally Louise threatened to go before the Belgian Chambers unless a family council was called to sit on her case. The family council assembled at Laeken under the Presidency of the King, all Coburg Princes and Princesses attending. But they were evidently dominated, by Leopold, and after long deliberations decided against a divorce. Louise was told to return to her wife-beater husband without delay.

From that fatal day the life of Princess Philip of Coburg changed. The sad and pious woman of yore became the gayest of the gay, appearing on all public occasions in the most risque toilets and seeking the company of her husband's roue friends, whom she had once abhorred. All Vienna noticed the change and commented on it. Only the husband seemed not to see it. He wanted no grounds for divorce, for in that case he would have to give up the Princess's dowry, besides a considerable annuity, and, though Philip is immensely wealthy, he takes good care that no one but himself enjoys his money.

Here is Louise's own version of the scandal that led to her disgrace. "Determined to force my husband to dissolve our union," she writes to her royal friend, "I encouraged Count Keglevich in his attention to me, and one fine day went to his apartments in the palace, at the same time sending for the Prince. He maltreated me then and there and challenged Keglevich, but said that my plan for divorce had again failed, as he could prove that it was all a put-up job.

"After that I went to live with my sister Stephany, in Carlsbad, the Count attending us as master of the household. We, Stephany and myself, both tried every possible way to get Philip to consent to a divorce, and when all hope of realizing my sincerest wish failed I lost my head, and, in a moment of weakness threw myself in K's arms.

"The rest you know. Yes, I, a King's daughter, the descendant of a family that reigned over man for a thousand years and more; I, a devout Catholic and mother, became the mistress of that poor army officer. Yet I swear by all that is holy, I never loved that man, if, after my first false step, Philip had consented to dissolve our un-Christian marriage, I would have willingly blotted out from my life K.'s very memory. But that terrible obstinacy, bred by avarice, which induced His Highness to cling to an unloved woman for 22 years prevailed, and I sank lower and lower in consequence. To silence the voice of my conscience I plunged into a whirlwind of excesses; penniless as I was I became a spendthrift, and to play the spendthrift successfully I became a cheat. If in all this sad business one circumstance speaks louder than the other it's the fact that Philip took no notice of the affair with K. until my creditors began to bother him. Then all of a sudden his sense of honor was aroused, he placed me into an asylum for lunatics, cannot be held responsible for debt. 'They have no right to dispose of their fortune, or their body, they cannot ask for divorce.'"

The Princess's letter winds up as follows: "Ah, I wish K. could have made good his promise to kill me the moment I was in danger of falling into my husband's clutches again. But they anbushed him and I was carried to the sacrificing block like an animal condemned to die."

The financial questions which so largely enter into the unhappy Louise's life are ridiculously insignificant when considered from the standpoint of the modern multi-millionaire. In case of divorce Prince Philip would be obliged to pay back to his wife her dot of $200,000; her apanage of $6,000 per year, which the King of Belgium grants his daughter, would also revert to her.

As to the Princess's debts, of which so much fuss has been made, they amount to less than $350,000. Really it looks very much as if the charge of insanity had been brought to defraud Her Royal Highness's creditors. There is in particular, a certain Parisian diamond dealer who sues for half a million francs on notes made by Louise before her official disgrace. The Parisian says he gave cold diamonds for the amount, which diamonds Her Highness pawned to get money to pay an enormous hotel bill in Monte Carlo. These assertions were proved correct, but Philip, maintaining that his wife was insane when she signed the notes, tries to shirk the obligation of paying his frau's board.

To back up his demurrer, he has barricaded behind the breastworks of royal pretensions, claiming that ordinary law Courts have no jurisdiction. The case is yet undecided, but even if it goes against Philip, the creditors can scarcely hope to recover, seeing that he has it in his power to prevent his wife from testifying, for royalty still clings to the infamous contention that woman is more chattel than wife to her lord's pleasure without the right of appeal, save by the intervention of the husband's suzerain in this case Francis Joseph or King Albert.

From an officer of this Court I learn that the form of insanity charged against Louise is styled "loss of memory," certainly a most convenient vehicle for defrauding creditors, particularly as the latter have to take Philip's and his agents' word for it. The same courtier hinted that Louise's incarceration for the benefit of a certain royal exchequer would undoubtedly be permanent, like that of the hapless Carlotta of Mexico, who, though recovered from her mental troubles tens of years ago, is still treated as a lunatic and prisoner, in order that King Leopold, her brother and administrator may continue in the enjoyment of her fortune.

"Yet even in these matters there is a certain progress noticeable," continued the courtier, with fine sarcasm. "I need only remind you of the Duchesse of Ahlden, who was Sophie Charlotte of Hanover, wife of George I. of England, mother of George II. and grandmother of Frederick the Great.

"To revenge herself upon a profligate husband, she took a lover, as Louise did afterward. That lover, Count Konigsmarck, they murdered in cold blood, and then 'abolished her alive' by 30 years' incarceration in the moory solitude of Luneburg Heath, where she was made to suffer all the tortures of hell.

"Again, there was Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV. If it hadn't been for Parliament and the great Broughram, who defended her, she would have undoubtedly shared the Duchesse of Ahlden's fate. As it was, she lived and died an outcast, though nominally Queen of England. Her daughter, by the way, became the wife of Leopold I., of Belgium and the grandmother of the present Louise. What a plethora of moral degeneracy that poor woman numbers among her ancestors!

"There is still a more recent case. The father of Prince Albercht of Prussia, desirous of obtaining undisputed control of his wife's fortune of the Netherlands's large fortune, and being likewise eager to marry his mistress, Fraulein von Hasch, conspired with his master of the horse to ruin the Princess.

"The scheme succeeded. The family council not only decreed divorce, but imposed a penalty to the effect that Marianne must marry her repuied lover. This awful sentence was carried out, all protests from the unhappy Princess nowithstanding, and her own people, the royal family of Holland, looking on complacently.

"Of course the enforced marriage between the Princess and the gentleman hostler was a most unhappy one. Marianne scorned the cad who betrayed her and he took his revenge after the manner of his kind, whip in hand. In Kamentz, Silesia, where the couple resided, there are still many people living who remember seeing Her Royal Highness run half naked through the park and the castle's corridors trying to escape her husband's beatings. Marianne finally drank herself to death, but Prince Albert's successor died full of age and honors, a pensioner of the Crown of Prussia.

"After such examples, what hope is there for poor Louise?" asked the courtier.

BRITAIN'S GREAT BLACK ARMY

Three Hundred Thousand Men in the Indian Army.

The full strength of Great Britain's Indian army is 300,000 men, of whom 230,000 are native and 70,000 British soldiers. In addition to this military force, there are about 20,000 enrolled European volunteers, and a native police, officered by white men, nearly 200,000 strong.

Every regiment is divided into ten companies, each of which is usually made up of a different nationality—such as Goorkhas, Sikhs, Dogras, Pathans and Punjaubis. It is owing to this precaution that a combination of forces for the purpose of mutiny becomes almost impossible. The Goorkhas and Sikhs, whose loyalty is rated the highest, are, in some localities, permitted to constitute entire regiments by themselves.

The pay of the sepoy, or native soldier, is 18s. per month, with a gradual increase after three years' good conduct service. The pension system is particularly liberal, and is really the magnet which draws the native recruit. When a Sepoy soldier falls in action, his wives—and there are four of them—are all pensioned, as well as their young children. As regards the artillery branch of the Indian army, while men only are employed, both as commissioned officers and in the ranks, and the guns of all forts are entirely manned by Britons.

"Of the native soldiers the Goorkha is the best, and many English experts believe that he is the best soldier in the world.

CLEANING JEWELRY.

Old ornaments should be cleaned with alcohol, rubbed on dry, and then polished with a chamois leather. Silver arnaments are more difficult cleanse, and they tarnish again more easily. They should be boiled in soap and water for five minutes, and then put in a basin with the same hot soap and water, and scrubbed gently with a soft brush while hot. Rinse and dry them with a linen rag. Heat a piece of charcoal in the Dominoes stove, or a piece of brick, and put the ornaments on it so as to dry them thoroughly and cause every particle of moisture to evaporate. Unless this is done any moisture remaining on the silver will cause it to become cloudy or to assume a greenish hue. All jewelry, whether gold or silver, but especially the latter, will look much brighter if kept in boxwood sawdust and covered from the air to prevent tarnishing; it also dries it better than anything else after being washed. Pearls are stones with complexions, and require special treatment. They should be washed carefully in warm soap and water, and exposed as much as possible to the sun and air to dry them, and also to preserve their bloom.

HERALDING WHITE FLAGS.

A flag of truce is usually heralded by a trumpet sounding to arrest enemy's attention. On permission to pass being given the party is blindfolded and led to the commander of the outposts.

A Good Trick.

The parrot's determination to speak his set phrases under all sorts of circumstances often produces strange situations. The story is told of a sleight of hand performer who kept a parrot that he had trained to say, whenever one of his master's tricks had been finished: "That's a good trick! What's the next one?"

One day the juggler, being in a seaport town, gave his performance in a loft on one of the wharfs, which happened to be just over the place where a large quantity of powder was stored in kegs. The juggler was about to perform some feat which required the lighting of a candle. He lighted it and threw the match away without making sure that the blaze had gone out. The match, still burning, fell through a crack in the floor, and dropped into one of the kegs of powder, which exploded with great force, throwing the building into the air.

The parrot, who was blown up with the rest, did not stop until it reached the pinnacle of the topmast of a great ship which lay off the wharf. There he clung desperately, and looking down to the world below he called out in a shrill voice:

"That's a good trick! What's the next one?"

Clearly Proved.

Mrs. Bolivar heaved a deep sigh.

"Before we were married," she said, "you promised me that my slightest wish would be your law."

"Did I?" said Mr. Bolivar, in a tone of surprise.

"You said," continued Mrs. Bolivar, "that you would give up the club and not play poker any more."

"Did I, really?"

"You swore that you would give me whatever I wanted and that I might go to the seashore every summer and stay as long as I liked."

"Is it possible?"

"Yes. And you said that you would never take another drink and never flirt the least little bit, and now you do all these things and have not kept a single promise. It proves conclusively to me that you never loved me."

"I beg to differ from you there, my dear," said Mr. Bolivar oratorically. "Your premise is all wrong. Your reasoning is woefully at fault. Your statements prove conclusively that I did love you. In fact, I must have adored you madly if I told such whopping lies to get you."

And with this vindication Mr. Bolivar considered the argument at an end.—Kansas City Independent.

Tired Eyes.

A correspondent of Popular Science News tells of a party of Alpine climbers who, having spent five hours among the snows of the mountains, returned to their homes after dark. A great change had to all appearance taken place since the night before. Instead of being illuminated in the usual way, the place was supplied with green lights.

It took the travelers a little time to realize that they were suffering from Daltonism, or color blindness, superinduced by eye fatigue. The intense light caused by the sun shining upon the snow had for the time rendered them unable to judge of colors and given rise to their curious mistake. Three hours elapsed before the eyes regained their normal condition.

Chevreul explains that the eye cannot gaze long upon a given color without tending to become insensible to it. When the eye looks long upon a color, it should be rested by the complementary color. Thus an eye that has grown tired with green should be rested by red, which is green's complementary color.

Fresh Laid.

A lady who did not appear to be in a very good temper bounced into a certain grocer's shop the other afternoon.

"Is your father at home?" she asked of the small boy behind the counter.

"No'm," was the reply. "Anything I can do for you?"

The lady hesitated before remarking "I've called to complain about the eggs I obtained from your father this morning. He told me they were fresh laid, and"—

"Did he get 'em from the window?" asked the youthful salesman.

"Yes."

"Then it's all right, 'm—they're fresh laid."

"But I say they are not."

"You'll excuse me, 'm," said the youngster, endeavoring to be polite. "But I ought to know. They came in a crate yesterday. I unpacked every one on 'em an laid 'em there in the window only this morning. So I knows they're fresh laid, and that settles it."—London Answers.

The Coquette.

A coquette is a being who wishes to please. Alas! coquettes are too rare. 'Tis a career that requires great abilities, infinite patina, a gay and airy spirit. 'Tis the coquette that provides all amusements, suggests the riding party, plans the picnic, gives and guesses charades, acts them. She is the stirring element amid the heavy congeries of social atoms: the soul of the house, the salt of the banquet. Let any one pass a very agreeable week, or it may be ten days under any roof, and analyze the cause of his satisfaction, and one might safely make a gentle wager that his solution would present him with the lovely phantom of a coquette.

Women as Astronomers.

A venerable lady who died at Pan, France, eight years ago, provided in her will for a prize of $20,000 to be given to the person who will find a means of communicating with a star, Mars, for example, and receiving a reply to the communication. The prize money is held in trust. But the quaint bequest is a reminder, most substantial, of the interest that women of the present day take in scientific advancement. The number of women who contribute out of their private means to the maintenance of observatories and who equip poor but zealous astronomers for individual investigation increases every year, and at matter what thrilling revelations the astronomer may discover with his glass, his work is almost valueless to science unless subjected to mathematical proof. Now he photographs those views verbatim and preserves the plates, to be examined at leisure. The authorities at several observatories habitually exchange the photographs taken of the same stars and planets in order that comparisons may be made regarding their aspect from different latitudes. Thousands of such photographs are measured and computed in any single observatory during a year, and women do the work, laborious, patience-taking, but as necessary to the development of science as to growing a crop.

The most unique mathematical calculator of the gentle sex in America to-day is Mrs. Elizabeth P. B. Davis, who works at the government observatory at Washington. She has for a number of years, calculated the ephemeris of the sun for the Nautical Almanac, a publication of first interest to navigators and explorers. There are volumes and volumes of the Almanac bearing testimony to this woman's calculations. The advance sheets have to be got ready three or four years ahead of time to forestall the needs of those shops' captains who essay long experimental voyages and who may be away for years and deprived of such assistance. The woman calculator abortens the formulas, makes explanatory notes and does an amount of work involving much astronomical and nautical deduction, besides much proof reading of mathematical text-books. She is the wife of a seafaring man, who is often detailed on government missions, and the mother of two charming children, who have no reason to bewail their parents' devotion to science.

Many women computors are employed at the Harvard observatory, and among them four original workers engaged in making investigations with the Draper telescope under the direction of Mrs. Williamina Fleming. Mrs. Fleming is a native of Dundee, Scotland. Her responsibilities have steadily increased, and she conducts much important investigation, having discovered a number of variable stars and confirmed the discovery of several new stars to be accredited to her assistants, the Misses Leland, Maury, Stevens and Wells. Nearly all of the discussion of photographs taken at the Harvard observatory and at its minor stations.

Marguerite Palmer has done much computing in the Yale observatory bulletin of transactions. She has computed a definite orbit for the comet discovered by Maria Michel. Up to a few months ago Hannah Mace was assistant at the United States Naval Observatory. A woman, formerly chief computor at the Goodsell observatory, Northfield, Minn., is one of the associate editors of an astronomical monthly. Among the amateur astronomers who have private observatories is Miss Rose O'Halloran, of San Francisco, who makes a study of eclipses, meteors, variable stars and general aspects. Miss Dorothea Klumpek, of the same city, is one American woman who puts her energies to foreign service. She is now director of the bureau for the measurement of the plates of the Astro-Photographic Catalogue of the Paris observatory. Of the six women computors in the department, she is the only American, having become identified with the observatory in 1887, when she entered it as a student. Her advancement has been rapid, and her observations of the minor planets and of the Temple-Swift comet have been published in the French scientific journals. It was her remarkable thesis at the time of her examination in 1893 that first opened the way for the employment of women in the Paris observatory.

REPARTEE.

He, sentimentally—I wish I were a star.

She—I wish I were one, too!

He—May I dare to guess why?

She—Because it is known that every star is millions of miles away from the next one.

POSITIVELY THE LAST CHANCE.

Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., will after the insertion of this notice withdraw the very liberal offers, they have been making to send a 25 cent trial size, FREE, of their marvellous guaranteed Catarrh and Bronchitis remedy, "Catarrhozone." If you are a sufferer from any form of Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, Throat Irritation, write at once; it is positively the last time this offer will be made. Enclose 10 cents to pay postage, boxing, etc.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The forty-ninth annual report of the above company will be found in another column of this issue. It will be seen by the financial statement that the company has had a most satisfactory year's business. After payment of losses and expenses there is a profit balance of $118,642.60 on the year's transactions, a result which must be highly gratifying to the friends of the institution. Two half-yearly dividends will be paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and the reserve fund has been increased to $1,100,380.50. We notice in the report of the directors that they have established a branch office in London, England, under promising auspices. We congratulate the President, Geo. A. Cox, Esq., and the board of directors on the continued prosperity of the Western Assurance Company.

The estimated cost of the projected memorial bridge across the Potomac at Washington is from $1,000,000 to $2,100,000.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

It is a source of regret to all women that the Johns Hopkins University continues to exclude women from admission to its graduate courses.

Western Assurance Company

The annual meeting of shareholders was held at the company's offices in this city on Wednesday, March 7, 1900. The President, Hon. G. A. Cox, occupied the chair.

The following annual report of the directors, with accompanying financial statement, was read by the secretary:

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The directors beg to submit herewith the annual statement of the company's accounts for the year ending 31st December last.

The revenue account shows a satisfactory growth in premium income, and after payment of losses and expenses there is a profit balance of $118,642.60 as a result of the year's transactions. Two half-yearly dividends have been provided for at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, as well as an amount to cover depreciation in securities, and the reserve fund has been increased to $1,100,380.50.

Taking into account the fact that during the year 1899 the fire losses in the United States were exceptionally heavy, the directors feel that these results must be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

For some time past your directors have had under consideration the question of extending the agencies of the company beyond the limits of the North American continent, and shortly before the close of the year arrangements were completed for the establishment of a branch office in London, England, under what appears to be favorable auspices.

Toronto, 26th Feb., 1900.

Geo. A. Cox, President.

Summary of financial statement:

Total cash income	$2,569,741 50
Total expenditure, including appropriation for losses under adjustment	2,414,098 90
Balance	$ 118,642 60
Dividend declared	100,000 00
Total assets	$2,321,742 85
Total liabilities (including capital)	1,221,362 35
Reserve Fund	$1,100,380 50
Capital paid	200,000 00
Capital subscribed	1,000,000 00
Security to policyholders	$3,100,380 50

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said: It cannot fail to be gratifying to the shareholders, as it is to the directors and officers of the company, to note the evidence of the appreciation by the insuring public of the security offered by the Western to its policyholders which is afforded by the growth in the volume of business transacted—the total income for the year having exceeded, for the first time in the history of the company, two and one-half million dollars. It is still more satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the exceptionally heavy fire losses which have occurred in some of the chief cities in the United States—where the business proved generally unprofitable to the companies engaged in it—we are able to show as a result of the year's transactions a profit balance of $118,642. The experience of the year 1899 in Canada was exceptionally favorable, and the diminished fire waste in this country is certainly a matter for congratulation, while from our interests in the business of fire insurance. It is to be hoped that the introduction of improved fire appliances in our cities and towns, and the adoption of more substantial methods in the construction of buildings, will tend to a further reduction of the burden which the payment of some five million dollars per annum by insurance companies for fire losses in Canada imposes upon the community, for I need scarcely say that this has to be provided from the premiums collected from the insuring public. I desire to emphasize what I believe to be a fact—that it is only by adopting measures that will reduce this serious annual waste that any material reduction in the tax which the public pay in fire insurance premiums can be brought about, for it is only necessary to refer to the Government reports showing the income and expenditure of companies licensed to do business in the Dominion to prove that there has been, during the whole period covered in these returns, but a very moderate margin of profit to the companies at the rates and under the conditions which have prevailed in this country in the past.

In this connection it may not be out of place to refer to the fact that during the past year a number of new companies have come into the field, offering fire insurance at lower rates than those current with the old established offices. It will be interesting to observe whether these experiments will prove more successful than previous attempts which have been made to afford indemnity against loss by fire on more favorable terms than those which have been long engaged in the business feel safe in offering. While as insurers we may hope these new companies may be discovered the secret of combining cheapness with security, we cannot overlook the fact that the record of the fire insurance business in Canada during the past twenty years shows a loss of upwards of two million dollars of capital, which was invested in companies organized to transact business at what are termed "cut rates." We may at least feel assured that companies working upon these lines, whose entire cash assets are limited to fifty or sixty thousand dollars, are scarcely in a position to assume any considerable share of the many millions of liability which fire insurance companies are carrying for the protection of merchants and property-holders. Should it, however, it has been shown that, with due regard for the safety of stockholders and the security of policyholders, any material reduction can be made in fire insurance rates in this country, your directors do not feel warranted in advocating any departure from the policy we have been following for many years past.

But to return to the consideration of our business during the year under review, it will, no doubt, be interesting to shareholders to learn that the marine branch, which has been responsible in some former years for rather serious losses, has shown a profit upon the business of 1899, and that the prospect of this branch of business appears to be more promising than for some time past.

In our earnings from interest there has been a falling off, such as might naturally be looked for owing to the reduced rates obtainable, particularly upon the class of securities which are held by this company.

There is one matter to which I wish particularly to refer at this time. It is now with a year or half a century since the company commenced business in Canada. Some twenty-five years ago it completed its system of agencies throughout the United States, and I think I am warranted in saying that it is now established over the whole of the North American continent on a favorable footing, with an efficient force of trustworthy agents behind it, the agents working in its interests. Under these circumstances your directors have turned their attention to the consideration of the question of the desirability of following the example of the majority of the successful British fire offices, and embracing a larger field of operations than we at present occupy. The success of the efforts which are being made—happily with no small measure of success—to enlarge the trade relations between the mother country and her self-governing colonies, and to cultivate intercolonial business connections, we have felt that the present is an opportune time for making a similar effort to secure some measure of reciprocity in the business of fire insurance. As a practical step in this direction it was decided to establish a branch office of the company in London, England. This was opened on the 1st of December last, and placed under the management of Mr. W. B. McKie—a gentleman who, we believe, possesses all the qualities of a successful insurance manager. A Board of Directors has been appointed in London, upon which we have been fortunate in securing the following gentlemen to serve, namely: The Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, G.C.M.G.; the Right Hon. Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., and Mr. James Stevenson of Messrs. Grahams & Co., British and East India merchants, and I am pleased to say that we feel that we have every reason to be encouraged at the start which we have made in the chief metropolis of the empire and at the agencies which have thus far been established in connection with this new branch.

Mr. J. J. Kenny, the Vice-President, seconded the adoption of the report which was carried unanimously. The election of directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, resulting in the unanimous re-election of the following gentlemen, viz.: Hon. G. A. Cox, Hon. C. C. Foster, Hon. Robert Beatty, G. R. R. Cockburn, Geo. McMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock, J. K. Osborne and J. J. Kenny.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held subsequently, Hon. Geo. A. Cox was re-elected President and Mr. J. J. Kenny Vice-President for the ensuing year.

SALADA

CEYLON GREEN TEA

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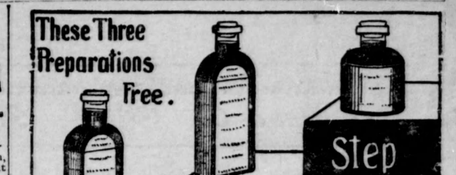

Consumption

Dr. Slocum, the famous scientist, whose lectures and demonstrations in New York and London this winter have astounded medical circles, has at last perfected his new system of treatment for the absolute cure of tuberculosis and all pulmonary diseases.

This triumphant victory over the deadly bacilli is far reaching in its effects, for their is no longer room for doubt that the gifted specialist has given to the world a boon that will save millions of precious lives.

Dr. Slocum's System of Treatment is both scientific and progressive going as it does to the very source of the disease and performing the cure step by step.

First Step.—Killing the life-destroying germs which invest the lungs.

Second Step.—Toning the entire system and strengthening the nerves—filling the veins with tingling new life.

Third Step.—Building healthy flesh and fortifying against future attacks.

The Slocum Treatment is revolutionary because it provides a new application for every stage of the disease. The failures of inoculation by Paris scientists are overcome by Slocum through progressive drug force. The diseases leading to consumption are also mastered so that once the bacilli are removed from the lungs there remains no other germ-breeding menace.

The Slocum System cures grip and its painful after-effects, dangerous coughs, bronchitis, and every known form of pulmonary disease.

It makes weak lungs sound, strengthens them against any ordeal, and gives endurance to those who have inherited hollow chests, with their long train of attending dangers.

To enable despairing sufferers everywhere to obtain speedy help before too late, Dr. Slocum offers.

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Simply write to THE T. A. SLOCUM CHEMICAL CO., Limited, 179 King St. West, Toronto, giving post office and express office address, and the free medicine (The Slocum Cure) will be promptly sent.

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Persons in Canada, availing Slocum's free offer in American papers will please send for samples to the Toronto laboratories.

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At Easter time you see the need of a fresh touch of paint on nearly all of your buildings.

Ramsay's Paints

give a freshness, a beauty, a tone, to everything they touch. Guaranteed for strength, durability, and economy.

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W P C 1019

New Jersey has expended $2,637,000 in making 440 miles of good roads. Massachusetts has spent $2,637,300 on 250 miles.

O'KEEFE'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF MALT

DELICIOUS AND NOURISHING. A LEADING TONIC.

LLOYD WOOD, Toronto, GENERAL AGENT.

The subscription list of the Dewey Arch Fund shows that the sum raised so far is less than $200,000.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box.

Seven counties in western New York received nearly $5,000,000 for their apple crop last year.

"Pharaoh 100." Perfumes, of Quality, Ogden Manufacturers.

Cardinal Gibbons will soon make his fifth visit to Rome, where he will be granted an audience with the Pope.

MONTREAL HOTEL DIRECTORY.

The "Balmoral," Free Bus Am. Plan. $2.50 up

Hotel Carslake, European Plan. Rooms from $1 a day up. Opp. G.T.R. Station, Montreal. Geo. Carslake & Co., Prop'rs.

AVENUE HOUSE—McGill-College Avenue. Family Hotel rates $2.50 per day.

ST. JAMES' HOTEL—Opposite G.T.R. Depot. Very Modest Prop. C. J. Dallaire. Fine-class Commercial Hotel. Modern Conveniences. Rates moderate.

Commander Egerton, the young naval officer who lost his life at the beginning of the war was an ardent cricketer. "That puts an end to all my cricket!" are said to have been his last words.

FOR SALE—140 ACRES OF LAND—frame bank barn and frame house, with young orchard; land in good state of cultivation; price $3,600. Apply Box 82, Paisley, Ont., if taken at once.

COMMON SENSE KILLS Roaches, Red Bugs, Rats and Mice. Sold by druggists. Drug, Jobb, or 341 Queen W., Toronto.

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