

FOR CLEAN FOODS.

Addressing the American Health Association in convention at Milwaukee, Prof. James O. Jordan of Boston, chairman, pointed out the need of protecting foods from contamination not only by dirt, dust, insect life, dogs and cats, but also from handling by human beings, says the Buffalo Express. He just has had in mind careless passers to whom the rules of cleanliness are practically unknown. The effort of the day, among civilized people is generally for clean food. Restaurants are sometimes accused of being less particular than they should be, but local health officials can keep them up to the standard or have them discontinued. If such power is not accessible by any health officer, legislation should provide for such an arrangement. Professor Jordan spoke also for milk, saying: "Less money spent on millinery and beer and more devoted to procuring clean milk will yield health dividends more than commensurate with the capital thus invested." It is hardly necessary for the individual to forego much beer or much millinery to provide clean milk. The task is the community's. Only one class of milk should be tolerated, and that, clean, reasonably rich, and delivered in cleanly vessels and vehicles.

Statistics are always more or less interesting and especially is this true of those statistics based upon the figures now being given out by census estimators and the government census bureau, says the Manchester Union. Aside from speculations as to the possible growth of one municipality or another, it is interesting to note the status of the native-born American in connection with the birth and death rates and even a most casual investigation will disclose figures little short of alarming. According to the estimates of competent authorities the population of the United States should be found this year to be in the vicinity of 90,000,000 souls. Deduct from this the immense flood of immigration which, since 1900, has closely approximated 9,000,000, and the increase in population meanwhile to have been something like 14,000,000, as far as native-born Americans are concerned. This is an increase of but six per cent, over the figures of the former decade, as against 21 per cent. for that just preceding. Thus it is seen that the rate of internal increase has fallen off fully fifty per cent.

The octopus is a creature of more or less dreadful reputation. And now a gentleman who modestly describes himself as "a genius and an inventor" comes forward in a letter to Major General Wood, chief of staff of the army, proposing to put the octopus idea into effect as a method of destroying an enemy's warships. He says he can construct a diving boat, with wings or extensions on the octopus principle. In a battle the boat would dive under an opposing vessel, come up underneath, wrap the wings around the craft, octopus fashion, and then sink again, carrying down the ship and drowning all hands. It seems delightfully, not to say tragically, simple. But the probability is that the scheme is much more likely to go up than the invention is to take warships down.

Apparently it is not safe for brides to giggle when the prospective bridegroom dislikes giggling—at least it is not safe until after the bridegroom has been "landed." Because his fiancée snickered when the two applied for a license at Taunton, Mass., the man in the case refused to have the marriage ceremony performed. Probably the girl had a fortunate escape. A fellow who is such a churl as that was not likely to make a very agreeable hubby, anyway.

An army of 700,000 children awaited the opening of the schools in New York city for the fall term. The census statistics recently given out showed that the big city is not suffering from race suicide, and the school returns emphasize that truth. But the fact that 50,000 pupils will have to be put on part time indicates that the authorities have not allowed sufficient margin for increase in the school population.

Mexico has unveiled a monument in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of its independence. But the best monument that Mexico has to show is its own condition at the end of the hundred years.

AN EASILY CONQUERED DISEASE

When cholera was last in Europe, nothing very definite had been learned as to its real nature. It was still regarded as a contagious disease, which was—and of any disease still is—the same thing as confessing ignorance as to how its infection passes from the sick to the well, and against it there could be used only general measures of sanitation and isolation. Even these were enough to keep the ravages of the epidemic, except in a few special centers of filth and ignorance, within limits small indeed in comparison with the dreadful mortality that used to follow the appearance of cholera anywhere. Now the malady is among those most thoroughly understood, and though not much progress has been made as to the curing of victims once stricken, the infection agent and the avenues of infection have been found, and the latter can all be easily and effectively closed to anybody who knows and will use a few simple measures of prevention, says the New York Times. He who eats and drinks nothing that has not been subjected for some time, at least, to the heat at which water boils—and nothing that has been contaminated between consumption and the application of the heat—will not have the cholera, even though people are dying of it all around him.

We are beginning to hear stories about mistakes in the census. Down east an old maid, in a moment of irritation, gave to the enumerator the name, age and color of her tomcat, and the cat's description has gone to Washington to be included in the census alongside the Adamses and Quincys. Out in Indiana a sensitive woman has hanged herself because she misinformed the census man, as to the company with which her husband is connected. If every bit of misinformation which gets into the census should lead to somebody's death, how busy the undertakers would be! And if Uncle Sam does include a few tomcats in his totals, nobody need complain except those who do not like cats.

How European countries train their diplomats is to be seen in the career of Nelidoff, Russian ambassador to France. Born in 1836, he entered the diplomatic service in 1855, when he was nineteen years old, and has been 55 years in the harness. No doubt his value as an ambassador was increased by his long training. It is only in recent years that this country has consistently followed the plan of keeping its capable men in service and promoting them as their abilities became apparent.

A new method of making physical examinations to detect the presence of tuberculosis has been demonstrated at Guy's hospital, London. The examination is made by the aid of X-rays, and shows tuberculous ravages in the lungs, it is said, at an earlier stage than they are revealed by the stethoscope. The X-ray is valuable for many purposes, but must always be used with caution, as numerous sad experiences have taught.

The big army maneuvers in France, participated in by 60,000 troops, have ended, and the experts are summing up results. Among the conclusions reached is one to the effect that airships are highly valuable auxiliaries in military service, and special mention is made of the work done by aeroplanes, which hereafter are to accompany armies and carry trained military observers. This means a new and important feature in the event of actual war.

The British are putting the letters "U. S. A." on mail intended for Union of South America. But the matter presents no problem except in theory. Mail so addressed will naturally be sent to these United States of America, and people writing to United South Africa who want their friends to get their letters will spell it out.

A Chicago doctor praised the simple diet of the Turk to the disadvantage of the mince pie and beans of New England. But he was a discreet man as well as a bold one; he said it in Detroit and not in Boston.

Women's dresses are to riot in color, but we hope the cost will not be so high as to force men to read the riot acts.

London advices report the anti-tip hotel in that city a great success. This is contrary to the recently reported German experience, but perhaps the German landlord was not so vigilant as the English one in enforcing the principle of anti-tipping. In the English hotel patrons who surreptitiously proffered tips have been served notice that if they would not abide by the regulations they would be obliged to go elsewhere.

It is officially announced that the seventh international congress on tuberculosis will be held in Rome, Italy, September 24 to 30, 1911. As the United States is to be represented by a committee of one hundred, probably the largest single delegation in attendance, it will be seen that this country is taking a prominent part in the world campaign against the white plague.

A New Jersey court has ruled that a man must be sober to be entitled to secure a marriage license in that state. Most of the middle-aged bachelors will contend that it is useless to expect sober men to apply for marriage licenses.

Students in Russia are arrested as terrorists. Some students have been heard of in this country who are eligible for the same treatment.

Human targets seem to be quite the rage for amateur marksmen these days.

That man who took sheets from a Pullman car because he was hungry cannot be regarded as an epicure.

Saving the babies is coming to be recognized as one of the country's most important industries.

How would it do for the government to provide our warships with the non-explosive kind of guns?

In New Jersey they are going to use moving pictures for the cure of the insane. In that case they will have to cut out what are called "popular" songs.

It's hard to tell which pursuit is attendant with the greater danger, aeroplaning or serving Uncle Sam in time of peace on a battleship.

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