

The illness of Prince George of Wales has given rise to a discussion on the subject of typhoid fever. It is said the Prince contracted the disease in Ireland, and the direct cause of it was his having eaten oysters from the Liffey, which is contaminated with the sewage of Dublin. If this should be proved to be a correct theory, it should put a stop to oyster fishing in those parts affected by the sewage.

We are drawing very near to the festive season of Christmas, but it is even more difficult than usual to realize the fact owing to the lateness of the season. It is particularly hard to make any seasonable comments worth reading, but our readers will not object to our wishing them one and all the best joys of the season. As our publication day falls on Christmas this year, the next *CRITIC* will not reach the majority of its readers until the festival is over, so we wish them now "A Happy Xmas."

Fire, life and accident insurances have become so well known to the public that the one strong prejudice against insurance of any kind has gradually given place to more sound business ideas of what insurance really is; but when any new feature is introduced its novelty at once strikes us as being a radical change in the every day order of affairs, and we intuitively ask ourselves, what next? A wealthy insurance company in Berlin now advertises to insure clerks good situations with a regular weekly allowance when not employed. The premium is moderate, and altogether the prospectus of the company is an attractive one, but we imagine that the company's agents will have to keep a pretty sharp lookout, or it may be called upon for weekly allowances more frequently than is anticipated.

The great and ever-increasing value of land in large and populous cities has a tendency to raise the height of buildings to an extent that is dangerous. The height of some people's ambition in this respect reaches the dizzy attitude of fifteen or sixteen stories, if not more, and so universal has this lofty idea become in some American cities that regulations have to be made to check its upward tendency. In Chicago twelve stories is to be the limit, but it appears that the city council, in framing this law, forgot to state the maximum height of the stories, so practically builders can still aspire to reach as near to heaven as they please. High buildings are considered to be detrimental to health because they darken the streets and impede the circulation of air; they increase the dangers from fire to life and property, and are not expedient in any way.

The world is by no means standing still in the matter of devising new, and it is to be hoped, improved methods of ocean travel. The latest theoretical improvement extant is the passenger "whaleback," the hull of which is constructed in the same manner as the steamers of that name that are being successfully used for carrying grain, and the passenger accommodation takes the form of a vast structure raised twenty-four feet above the hull, and supported on steel cylinders through which communication is had between the two distinct parts of the steamer. In theory this is delightful. There would be no smell of engines or steam, and the comforts of a modern hotel would make the passenger department very luxurious. The illustration, however, gives the idea of a very unsafe vessel, and until it has had a thorough test passengers will prefer to patronize the "old reliable" steamers. It is expected that a vessel constructed on the "whaleback" principle would make the voyage from New York to Liverpool in five days.

It is pleasurable news for Canadians to hear that Lord Dufferin has been appointed Ambassador to France in succession to the late Earl of Lytton. As a diplomatist, orator, administrator and author, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava has attained great distinction—distinction that is in a large measure owing to the co-operation of his brilliant and gifted wife, who stands pre-eminent in the aristocratic society of Great Britain as a hostess and entertainer. Lady Dufferin has just published her Canadian journal, which, while not possessing the attraction of as great novelty as her Indian journal, is so well written and full of life that it will be sure of equal, if not greater, success with the reading public. We have not yet finished reading it, but so far as we have gone there was no lack of interest, the chief charm being the unaffected style and the sweet womanliness showing through on all occasions. The continued diplomatic successes of this aristocratic couple—for Lady Dufferin deserves her share of credit—have attracted wide-spread attention, and much interest is taken in their movements. It may be of interest to our readers to know that Frederick Temple Blackwood, first Earl of Dufferin and first Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, was born in 1826, educated at Eton College, and succeeded his father as fifth Baron Dufferin and Clandeboye. He began his career as a lord-in-waiting on Queen Victoria in 1846. His diplomatic triumphs were begun in 1855, when he was attached to the Austrian mission. In 1860 he was British Commissioner in Syria, and entered the Cabinet as Under Secretary for India in 1864, becoming under Secretary of War two years later. In 1872 Lord Dufferin was appointed Governor-General of Canada, and his administration of that office showed him to be possessed of wonderful tact, persuasiveness and breadth of view. Since leaving Canada in 1878, Lord Dufferin has been British Minister at St. Petersburg, Constantinople and Rome, and also Viceroy of India. Lord Dufferin was created an Earl in 1871, since which time his peerage has been raised to a Marquisate. The latest appointments conferred upon him is that of Warden of the Cinque Ports, an office, according to Camden, which was originated in the reign of William the Conqueror. His appointment to Paris will no doubt serve to add further distinction to Lord Dufferin's career.

The royalty and nobility of Britain will be all excitement now over the approaching marriage of Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of the Prince of Wales and heir presumptive to the throne, to Princess Victoria Mary, only daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck; and all the subjects of Britain the world over will likewise take an interest in the nuptials of these two young people. The fact that the match has been brought about by mutual love, and that the marriage is gratifying to the majority of the British people—as a foreign alliance might not be—will do much towards continuing the good feelings that has always existed between the Wales branch of the Royal family and the nation. The relationship of the young couple is not near enough to prove any objection to this union—third cousins are not counted at all in some families—and the Queen is said to be delighted with the arrangement. Preparations are being made for the wedding to take place on the 10th of March. It will, of course, be an important event, and will be conducted with stately ceremonial. Among the general congratulations that will be showered on the youthful pair who stand in such close proximity to the Imperial throne of Britain, Canadians will not be behind in offering good wishes for their continued happiness.

The extraordinary mildness of the season this year seems to bear out the theory that winter will not set in until the water courses of the country are full. It is reasonable to suppose that while the superfluous moisture remains in the atmosphere we cannot have any severe weather, and this year water in the St. Lawrence, the great lakes and other main water courses of the land, is still low. It is also said that the first three days of December may be taken as an index to the winter. If this is so we will not have any cold weather at all, for the first days of this month were quite mild—except perhaps the first, which was slightly cold, and appeared to threaten snow, which did not come. On the other hand, wise folks say that hornets have built their nests high; that angle worms have burrowed much deeper than usual; and that these are unfailing signs of a hard winter. Authorities differ so widely on the subject, it would be safe to prepare for the ordinary cold of winter, and lay in a sufficient store of fuel to make the house comfortable. At any rate it is very pleasant to have the mild weather last as it has done, enabling all classes of people to make their holiday and winter preparations in comparative ease. Doubtless in a few days Jack Frost will pay us a visit, and make things look seasonable at Christmas.

Why people do not go to church is a question now being mooted in England, and very different opinions are given as to the reason. One man, singularly enough, does not go because sermons are too short. This fellow is in the minority, of course, for the ordinary and common-place mortal seems to prefer the sermon on homeopathic principles—"a sniff of next to nothing in a phial," as it were. The truth is, many people do not go to church simply because they do not want to. They do not enjoy the service, and having to live rather busy lives on the working days of the week, they prefer to spend their Sabbath either resting or enjoying their leisure day in any orderly manner they have a fancy for. This tendency of the people not to go to church, and the multiplication of churches continually going on, at first seem incompatible, but they are not really so. Few people will take the trouble to walk any considerable distance to church, and a very slight derangement of the weather serves to prevent those only partially so inclined from venturing out, therefore those who have the management of the churches in charge feel the necessity of supplying places of worship, if not at every man's front door, at least not far from it, so as to induce as large an attendance as possible. This accounts for the "missions" and other religious institutions of the day being so numerous, but if the people were inspired with genuine zeal, they would be amply content with central churches whither all the flock would repair at the proper times for service. It appears to be a case like that of Mohammed and the Mountain—if the people will not go to the churches, the churches are doing their best to go to the people.

The World's Columbian Exposition, which all the world knows is to be opened in Chicago in May, 1893, will be an event of great importance in many ways, and among other things it offers a splendid chance for a rising poet to achieve a considerable degree of fame. The subject is a large one, and if the divine effluvia should inspire any of the aspirants for poetic bays we may have added to the great national epics of the world an heroic poem relating the events connected with the discovery of America and the subsequent progress of civilization of the continent. The rich and romantic coloring of Spanish life and conquest, and the adventures of the pioneers of the new world, will lend themselves easily to the poet's touch. It is not without interest in this connection to notice that to a woman, Miss Harriet Monroe, of Chicago, has fallen the honor of preparing a dedicatory ode for the exposition. The ode is to be set to music, and will be sung at the dedication by an immense chorus. The part women are taking in the great fair is one of its most notable features. In all departments of art they are strongly represented, and the probabilities are that the exposition will prove conclusively that genius knows no sex. As to the forthcoming poet of the occasion, there is an equal chance for both men and women. The poetic instinct of hundreds will no doubt be stirred by the occasion, but few they will be whose productions will be remembered longer than a week or a month. The great poets of America are passing away; the greatest are already gone, and others are in the sear and yellow leaf and cannot be expected to tune their lyres again, and we are only waiting to lift a chosen few who shall prove their worth to the pinnacle of fame, which has places ready for them.

K. D. C. Restores the Stomach to Healthy Action.

K. D. C. Acts Like Magic on the Stomach.

K. D. C. The Greatest Cure of the Age.

K. D. C. The Dyspeptic's Hope.