

New Facts from Science and Life

"ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE," STRANGE DISEASE DUE TO A GRAIN FUNGUS

How the Climatic Conditions
Influence the Spread of
the Malady.

A disease as old as the Roman empire, yet comparatively unknown to the general public of today, is the strange malady called "St. Anthony's Fire." History records many glaring examples of death due to this disease, which results from eating ergot, a fungus that grows on grain.

Popular knowledge concerning these fungus growths is extremely erroneous, as they are usually regarded as seeds. The ergots are very dangerous, since they contain a poison which may prove fatal to either man or beast.

Epidemics of ergotism, as this disease is also known, indicate that climatic conditions influence the spread of the fungus. France, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland, and more recently the United States, have all suffered from plagues attributed to ergotism, the epidemic that visited France being particularly severe upon both animal and man. Of late the disease does not seem to be so serious as in former times.

In a contribution to the Scientific American Albert A. Hanson gives an interesting account of this malady, and tells how he recently received a package containing a number of peculiar, black, horn-shaped grains, accompanied by a request that the "seeds" be identified. The sender stated that the "seeds" contaminated a shipment of rye, and since they were new in the locality, he thought possibly a new weed might thus be introduced.

The so-called "seeds" were immediately recognized as being hardened fungal masses called ergots, hence they are in no way to be compared to seeds. The fungus which causes the formation of ergot grains is very widespread, says Mr. Hanson, "occurring in practically all parts of the country and attacking a large variety of grasses, particularly rye. Wheat, timothy, red-top and many of the wild grasses may be afflicted with the disease. An inveterate foe of the farmer who may have ergot in his fields. Such ill-founded theories as the degenerate seed conception of ergots should have no place in the mind of the up-to-date farmer, although this notion seems to be prevalent among farmers at the present time. Badly infested crops should never be used for hay, pasture or food; such a practice may prove exceedingly dangerous.

"If the disease has gained a foothold upon the crop, the field should be burned at once to destroy the pest. One has been reported as losing a thousand tons of hay because of the presence of ergot. It is possible that grasses growing in waste places may harbor the fungus, thus proving a prolific source of infection from year to year. Such waste places, of course, should receive the immediate attention of the agriculturalist.

The ancient name for the disease ergotism is St. Anthony's fire, a name rarely applied at the present time. It should be stated that the fungus is apparently becoming scarcer because of improved agricultural methods; but in regions such as the interior provinces of Russia little has been done to check the disease. The demand for ergot grains by the drug houses seems greater than the supply; the shortage is so acute that wholesale druggists are actually considering the advisability of cultivating the fungus."

Mr. Hanson says that he is not familiar with the effect which would be produced in liquors distilled from strongly ergotized grain, but that it is possible, however, if sufficient of such liquor is imbibed, a permanent cure for the liquor habit might result. The indications are that such a practice might end fatally. It should be stated that large single doses are necessary to prove of great harm.

"Surely the poisonous nature of structures which are common as ergot grains should be understood by all," Mr. Hanson continues, "and especially by the farmer who may have ergot in his fields. Such ill-founded theories as the degenerate seed conception of ergots should have no place in the mind of the up-to-date farmer, although this notion seems to be prevalent among farmers at the present time. Badly infested crops should never be used for hay, pasture or food; such a practice may prove exceedingly dangerous.

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"The word 'jazz' itself may be traced to Africa," says Mr. Kingsley, "and is common to the gold coast of Africa and in the hinterland of Cape Coast Castle. In his studies of the creole patois and idiom in New Orleans, Lafcadio Hearn reported that the word 'jazz,' meaning to speed things up, to make excitement, was common among the blacks of the South and had been adopted by the creoles as a term to be applied to music of a rudimentary syncopated type. In the old plantation days when the slaves were having one of their rare holidays and the fun languished, some West Coast African would cry out, 'Jazz her up,' and this would be the cue for fast and furious fun.

"No doubt the wild doctors and medicine men of the Congo used the same term at those jungle parties when the tom-toms thrummed. 'Curiously enough the phrase 'Jazz her up' is a common one today in vaudeville and on the circus lot. When a vaudeville act needs ginger the cry from the advisers in the wings is 'put in jazz,' meaning add low comedy, go to high speed and accelerate the comedy work. 'Jasbo' is a form of the word common in the vaudeville, meaning the same as 'hokum,' or low comedy verging on vulgarity."

"Jazz" music is said to be an attempt to reproduce the marvelous syncopation of the African jungle. In one tempo a third beat is interpolated. There are many half-notes or less and many long-drawn wailing tones.

When the pocketbook or wallet is placed in the protective casing, which is secured in the trousers by a pocket by means of a clip provided for the purpose, it is caused to ring alarm circuit by the force of gravity, or in other words by its own weight.

When the thief tries to "lift" the wallet of his intended victim may now be only a trap for you. And if you are caught by science's latest method, just blame that on a bright electric genius of New York city, one John P. Williams, who has recently taken out a patent on a remarkable electric alarm for pocketbooks and such, and intended to be carried on the person, so that when the ever-present thief attempts to remove the pocketbook or wallet from your hip-pocket, an electric bell kindly signals the owner that you can then presumably right about

face and nab your man—perhaps. This electric alarm actuating device, as described in *Electric Engineering*, is made separate from the pocketbook or wallet and it is provided with a switch on the exterior, so that the owner can open the electric alarm circuit, which is held normally closed, by means of a spring arrangement; then the switch is closed. Should the thief attempt to remove the wallet, the spring-actuated contacts will come together and ring the bell.

The inventor suggests two schemes, in one of which the bell as well as the battery is placed within the wallet, and in the other, which may be the more practical, the battery is placed in a separate container resembling a vest pocket, which may be worn in the vest pocket. In this case the alarm case is connected with the pocket holding the wallet or pocketbook, this wall containing two electrical

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Saturday for Drapery Bargains
See our east window. "Some Bargains."

The Store That Honesty and Low Price Built. All Goods Marked in Plain Figures. One Price to All.

Comfortably Furnished Homes---

People Live in Two Kinds of Places. One Kind Is a House, the Other a Home.

What Is It That Makes the Difference? Furniture or the Lack of It.

The House is a place where you hesitate to invite your friends. The house prompts you to seek outside sources for sociability or enjoyment.

The Home shows a happy gathering of a happy family. A modest meal is as enjoyable as a feast when the dining-room is cozy and attractive.

The living-room seems twice as comfortable when its furnishings are up to date and well chosen. Kitchen duties become a pleasure when conveniences and labor savers are close at hand.

These combined with medium-priced Draperies and Curtains, Rugs, etc., put the finishing touch to the Home Comfortable. All of which this store can supply for the least money possible.

GET A BUFFET
Replace the old service - worn piece now with one of these bargains:
\$38 Buffets, \$32.75
\$40 Buffets, \$34.00
\$48 Buffets, \$41.50
\$65 Buffets, \$55.00

Arm Chairs
will be sold for
\$2.88 Each
Rockers to match for \$2.98

EASY ROCKERS
Solid oak, Bradley leatherette covering. Six designs to choose from. Saturday morning only \$9.90

TOYLAND OPENS NOV. 15. CHOOSE YOUR TOYS EARLY.

KEENE BROS. LONDON'S BEST HOME FURNISHERS.

125-127 KING STREET.

EVAPORATOR TOTAL LOSS AT BELMONT

BELMONT, Nov. 7.—The Belmont apple evaporator was completely destroyed by fire which broke out about 7 o'clock tonight. The cause is so far unknown. All of the employees had left for the day.

The plant was operated by John D. Buchanan, who took it over in August. The frame building made such a hot fire that no one could go near it to fight the flames. About three or four tons of dried apples were consumed, in addition to a large number of green ones. The loss was estimated to be about \$2,000, of which \$1,000 is covered by insurance.

FALLS FROM WAGON AND IS INJURED

CANLACHIE, Nov. 7.—Mrs. Samuel Bailey, Lake Shore road, met with what might have proved a fatal accident when she fell backwards from a load of beets, striking on her head. She was unconscious for some time, but is fortunately recovering nicely.

Public is Warned against using Dangerous Hair Preparations

Recent research on the part of hair specialists reveals the fact that many dangerous and obnoxious scalp diseases are caused and rendered incurable by the indiscriminate use of dangerous hair preparations.

Chemical analysis proves that most liquid preparations for shampooing contain an excess of alkali (a harmful irritant) which eats its way into the pores of the scalp, reds the roots of the hair, thus causing it to fall out.

The surest, safest and easiest way is to make your own liquid. Buy a can of Valerol at any drug store. Dissolve one of the small packets into half glass of fresh water and you will have an abundance of pure non-irritating liquid that will remove itching of the scalp, itching hair and dandruff, also improve the natural color of the hair. Valerol being a concentrated form of soap suds will keep your hair from becoming greasy.

Heal Itching Skins With Cuticura

For free sample Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Tablets. Write: "Cuticura, Dept. K, Boston." All druggists.

LUX

Won't harm anything that pure water may touch—Won't shrink.

When in need of a purgative, do not resort to violent cathartics, but take the gentle, natural laxative—

Beecham's Pills

Largest Sale of any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 25c.

Specials in Casseroles

Just received, a very special value in Casseroles. We offer these at \$2.50

We also have a complete line ranging in price from \$3.00 to \$7.50

Ask to see those with pyrex lining. They sell \$6.50 and \$7.50

SERVING TRAYS.
Our Special Tray \$2.50
Other styles from \$3.00 to \$6.00

J. G. Steele & Co.
204 Dundas Street West, Phone 760.

AMHERSTBURG BOOSTS THE VICTORY LOAN

AMHERSTBURG, Nov. 7.—A mass meeting of citizens was held this evening for the purpose of boosting the Victory Loan. Addresses were given by Mr. Mayor Hough and Mr. Cooper of Toronto.

The employees of the Brunner-Mond subscribed the sum of \$2,500. It is understood that the company will be ordered by Mayor Binkley immediately on receipt of definite official word. Bells were rung and whistles blown this afternoon for a time.

READY FOR TONIGHT.
LAMBETH, Nov. 7.—Lambeth is arranging a bumper peace celebration for tomorrow night. There will be a big automobile parade and speech-making by Dr. George Roulstone, Col. A. E. Somerville and Pte. Gordon Spence, a returned soldier. Dr. Roy Roulstone may be chairman.

A Particularly Attractive Showing of Women's Winter Apparel

Styles which incorporate the best of the new modes. Tailoring that is carefully handled and fabrics that are unqualifiedly good. Smart and distinctive this array offers a comprehensive review of the new designs and colorings in women's wear apparel for every occasion. There are complete assortments of original designs that successfully interpret the most successful style themes of the season. There are fabrics that sparkle and scintillate with autumn attractiveness.

And the prices are the result of special merchandising efforts—fortunate purchases and close markings.

Coats

Made of all-wool velours, broadcloths, pompoms, beavers, silvertonnes, Salt's guaranteed plushes and many tweeds; all sizes. Specially priced..... \$21.50, \$27