

# Weekly Messenger

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## WINTER SUNSHINE.

Everybody is aware of cases of persons suffering from lung and throat diseases, as well as other troubles of the system, being sent from northern parts to Florida, Colorado, France and Italy, and is also aware of the sad fact that many of such invalids rapidly fade and die under the sun that was to heal them and in the air that was to give them new strength. Many, however, receive wonderful benefit from the change, but this fact does not free doctors from the thoughtless and unkind and unjust reflection that they send their patients away to die out of their hands. Yet physicians do without doubt often err in not knowing the climate best suited to particular conditions of delicate health, which is the cause of many lives being hurried to an end instead of being saved by prescribed changes of air. Dr. Levis has an article in a recent number of the magazine, "Our Continent," which, besides being an attractive description of South-west Florida, gives valuable hints to sickly people as to the conditions under which health is to be sought in winter. From a condensed summary of the article in question—"The Gulf Coast of Florida"—we take the information given below. "A climate, in the first place, where you can live much out-of-doors in the winter months is essential; whether it be a cold or warm climate is an after consideration. The first important condition is to get a clear and dry atmosphere. Sand or gravel must be underfoot, so that rainfalls and surface-moisture may quickly drain off, instead of being held, as in clayey soils. Pine forests in the neighborhood are good, with their resinous air. Few sudden changes of temperature, so that you can depend on the thermometer to avoid wide fluctuations. Equable temperature, small evaporation from the ground, pure unbreathed air, sunshine, wholesome food, agreeable occupations, these are the modern remedies for diseases of the lungs. It depends upon the constitution of the sufferer whether he shall find these in cold yet varying Minnesota, in the cold and bracing winter Adirondacks, in stimulating Colorado, which acts on most people like the excitement of strong coffee or in the more relaxing salt air of dry Jersey, and dry South-west Florida. Some pulmonary troubles of the congestive sort need to be relaxed. The feverish activity that would burn up like a charred candle wick in Colorado is quietly 'unwound,' so to speak, and suffered to run down in the warmer and delicious balminess of the American Italy, in the Punta Rasa region, Florida. The atonic patients who need to be stimulated and braced, who are languid, not restless, who have the loose cough that is eating out their strength, appear to need the colder dryness of the North and the stimulating West; but as all roads lead to Rome, so the explorers of Florida seem to find all conditions there." A strange fact brought out by Dr. Levis is that Jacksonville, Florida, has dryer air in the five cold months than can be found elsewhere, although some people call it damp. He gives figures to show that that place is over three and a half degrees dryer than the celebrated health resorts of Mentone and Cannes on the Mediterranean, over nine degrees above Atlantic City, New Jersey, nearly eight above

Breckinridge, Minnesota, and two and a half above St. Paul, in the latter State. The humidity of the Gulf coast of Florida, which some consider dampness, is not from the ground, but consists in the light vapor carried inshore by the winds blowing over the warm water surface of the Gulf. This difference between earth dampness and water dampness, the fogs that roll in from the sea and the fogs exhaled from low-lying lands, is worthy of note and should be taken into account in estimating the healthfulness of any locality. Beneficial as the climate of Florida may be, however, there are hundreds of invalids whom it might benefit who cannot find the means to go or stay there. For many such relief can be found in northern places, and it would be well if physicians everywhere took account of the health conditions of their respective neighborhoods, and if information could be easily obtained regarding the various climates existing in America and their natural effects upon different types of constitution. Abundance of air and sunshine is necessary to the preservation of the health of most human beings and indispensable to the support of the weakly. Pine woods near the seashore, with sand underfoot—the trees giving forth a healing savor while breaking the force of ocean winds, and the sand securing dryness—furnish natural health resorts that should be utilized by communities to which they are available. Glass-roofed sun galleries, where the more delicate can have shine and shelter together at all times, and stronger ones take refuge in violent weather, could easily be provided and cheaply maintained in connection with health hotels in suitable places. Winter health resorts are beginning to multiply in different parts of this continent, showing that Americans are coming to know that they have more salutary atmospheres than can be found under foreign skies in winter, as well as better provision against bad weather and cheaper facilities for resisting it. Much misery is being caused in Italy this season, by cold and rain, which is all the greater on account of the houses not being made for bad winters and fuel being much more expensive than in America. As has been said: "The stroller in Florence or in Rome, this year, has more need of a furred coat inside the house than even out-of-doors. The fireplaces are ridiculous; the fagots are expensive, the traveller's money rises up the chimney, his chills remain below. No such uniform steam-heating as the quietest hotel at Atlantic City or Cape May now can boast, favors the unhappy American in palatial apartments in Southern Europe." Aside from invalidism and health resorts, however, Americans do not take all the good they might out of their winters. Both sexes in the towns, and women particularly in the country, stay indoors too much, trying to keep themselves warm with big wood or coal fires that eat the life-giving properties out of the air. The old people should drive out and walk abroad more than they do, and the young people indulge to a greater extent in outdoor sports. The people of Canada and the extreme northern parts of the United States, apparently, are every year learning more and partaking more of the value of open-air recreation. The late carnival of winter sports in Montreal is like-

ly to be productive of much good in this respect, and communities having less constant weather suitable for sliding, skating and sleighing than the northern regions, may be expected hereafter to make the very best of such winter as they can get.

## CASUALTY.

A series of explosions at the Atlantic Giant Powder Works, Berkley, near Oakland, California, on the twenty-first of January, caused a loss of about twenty-six lives, nearly all of Chinamen, and a loss of property amounting to one hundred thousand dollars. The scene for several hours was one of great terror, as many buildings were in flames in the midst of large stores of powder and men dared not go near to put out the fire. An immense quantity of ice has been forced by high winds over Niagara Falls, filling the gorge below to a height of a hundred feet, and quantities have been thrown up on the shore causing heavy damage to buildings. James Labout, of Manor, Long Island, was frozen to death while going home at night on horseback, and the horse reached the stable with the dead rider still grasping the reins. Six men were lost from the fishing schooner "James A. Garfield," of Gloucester, Massachusetts, in a gale and snow storm while fishing on one of the Newfoundland cod banks. Their names were—Tom Morrison, of London, England; John McKinnon, of Prince Edward Island; Edward Brophy, of Prospect, Nova Scotia; John Whitman, of Guysborough, Nova Scotia; Andrew Dunn, of Gaspe, Quebec; and Charles Ray, of Portland, Maine. They had gone out in their dories to attend to their trawls just before the storm came up. A boy of eleven named Johnston Newell, at Watford, Ontario, was chopping wood at home and stepping backward came in the way of his brother's axe and received a wound in the back which caused death in a few hours. Five ladies were injured, one dangerously, while coasting at Winchester, Massachusetts, the sled having struck a post. A young man named Austin Crowley was killed and Mr. Richard Buckley, the head miller, dangerously injured, by the bursting of a chopping stone in a mill at Salem, Ontario. Mr. James McDonald, an esteemed resident of Valleyfield, Quebec, was instantly killed on Saturday last in a grist mill that he had lately started there, by being caught in a belt. A five-year-old boy named McKneef was run over by a bob-sled to which he had clung, in London, Ontario, and was hurt so that he died in an hour. The driver of the sled is said to have driven away laughing. A man named Besoroix was shot in the side by a comrade who was playing with a revolver, at Tweed, Ontario, and was hardly expected to recover. A heavy storm on the English coast has wrecked many vessels with a great loss of life. Nine negroes in Laurens county, South Carolina, ate a goose the other day which had been bitten by a dog supposed to be mad, and all became sick, four dying and the others not being expected to live.

THE STEAMSHIP LINES running to New York have lowered steerage rates from Europe to twenty dollars, a reduction of nine dollars.

## BUSINESS NEWS.

The iron works of Briton Ferry, Wales, have stopped, throwing a thousand men out of work. The Consolidated Linseed Oil Company, formed four years ago in Chicago, and including fifty-five mills west of Buffalo, New York, has decided to break up owing to outside competition. Messrs. Bergin & Sons' glass works, Philadelphia, have been closed, depriving two hundred men of employment. The proprietors say they cannot compete with the New Jersey manufacturers, who pay their men with goods from their stores, and get their profit out of their store trade instead of their manufactures. Messrs. Boies, Fay & Cline, Chicago, have failed, with debts of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and assets a hundred thousand less. Messrs. Hassmyer & Brittain, hardware, Philadelphia, have failed, with forty thousand dollars assets to meet sixty thousand of liabilities. Messrs. M. Armstrong & Sons, wholesale leather, New York, have assigned, owing four hundred thousand dollars. In London, England, Messrs. Pellas & Co., merchants, have failed for two hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. Messrs. J. W. Humphrey & Co., dealers in oil well supplies in Bradford and Clarendon, Pennsylvania, and Bolivar and Richburg, New York, have assigned with liabilities of one hundred thousand and assets claimed to cover that amount. Thirty cents on the dollar is offered by Messrs. Chiniquy Brothers, general storekeepers, Cookston, Minnesota, who owe sixty-five thousand dollars. A run upon the savings bank of Yonkers, New York, caused by rumors that the bank was going to fail, resulted in a withdrawal of thirty thousand dollars by depositors. The bank has a million of deposits, and the officers claim that it has a surplus of a hundred and twelve thousand dollars and can meet any run upon it. A meeting of merchants in Belfast, Ireland, decided to start a new line of steamers between that port and the United States. The railway Bank of Delhi, New York, has failed, and Seth White, the principal owner, has assigned and is ill of typhoid fever. The bank's liabilities are reported as sixty-five thousand dollars. Foreign insurance companies in New York received over twenty-five million dollars last year, being an increase of over five and a quarter millions over the previous year. Their expenditure was nearly twenty-three millions, an increase of almost the same amount as that of the receipts. Brazil has raised a loan of twenty million dollars in the European money markets, through the Messrs. Rothschild, at eighty-nine. General trade reports indicate that a bad effect is being produced throughout the United States by continued uncertainty over the tariff, and in the West by storms and snow blockades. Nevertheless trade in the East for the week is represented as having been fair. Iron is quiet with no prospect of a revival, while petroleum is firm and active. Two hundred and eighty-nine failures were reported in the United States, twenty less than the previous week, and eighty-four more than in the corresponding week of last year and a hundred and twenty-three more than the same week of 1881. The failures in Canada were twenty-six, one more than in the corresponding week of last year.