Seal Life on The Rookeries.

Interesting Paper Recently Read Before the Natural History Society.

Unusually Large Mortality of the Pups Satisfactorily Accounted For.

At the last meeting of the Natural History, Mr. E. O. S. Scholefield, provincial librarian, read the conclusion of his paper on "Seal Life." It follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: At the request of our worthy Secretary, I have very much pleasure in reading to-night the concluding portion of my paper on the "Seal Life of the Rookeries of the Pribilof Islands."

In the first portion of my address that was given a few weeks ago I endeavored to give you some idea of the discipline observed in the harems on the rookeries, and I pointed out that the bull in his efforts to preserve order was not always noted for his gentleness. The cows in their persistent efforts to escape to the water are often very severely handled. In some instances they are so badly hurt that they die from their injuries. When forced against her will to stay, the cow patiently bides her time, and when the lord of the harem is sleeping she slips away unobserved and unmolested. But her troubles are not always over even when she has escaped the clutches of the beach-master. It frequently happens that before the cow can make the water she must run the gauntlet of bands of young bulls that haul out along the beach. These bachelor bulls do all that is in their power to intercept the escaping cow. The latter often displays much cleverness in outwitting them. Once in water, her superior expertness soon places her beyond the reach of her pursuers. It often happens, however, that the chase is kept up for some distance out to sea.

The adult bulls are pugnacious animals, and are very much addicted to fighting. It is in the height of the breeding season, however, and then alone, that the excessive fighting among the bulls occurs. The bulls, on arriving at the rookeries, and while waiting for the cows, spend their days in resting and sleeping. They are not, as currently supposed, continually engaged in a series of fierce and bloody encounters. Nor is it true that the arrival of the cows is the signal for desperate battles for their possession. As a matter of fact, the bulls appear quite indifferent to the first arrival of the cows, except, perhaps, where she becomes the object of capture by a particular bull. The cows receive little attention from their masters when once in the harem, after their first brief welcome. From the commencement on to the close of the season, however, more or less fighting can always be seen. The courage and fighting qualities of the bull are simply boundless in defence of his harem. In the breeding season it is impossible to move one of these bulls from his post otherwise than by killing him. But after the season they can be handled like sheep. The adult bull on the breeding grounds is as dangerous as a bear, and judging from the wounds that the animals inflict on one another, a man in their clutches would be in a sorry plight. The bulls will not interfere with the observer who keeps at a reasonable distance, but will charge fiercely and quickly when too closely approached.

Much of the fighting, Professor Jordan observes, especially among the harem bulls, is a species of bluffing, accompanied by a good deal of roaring and blowing, but ending without injury. The signal for such a performance is a challenging roar on the part of some bull, and an answering roar from his opponent. The two animals then approach each other, and when at a certain distance apart, both strike out with the long, serpent-like stroke characteristic of the seal. In making the stroke, the bulls let themselves down with their breast on the ground, and after puffing out their musky breath, they right themselves and return to their places. This, however, is not real fighting, but merely a friendly exchange of greetings between harem masters. It is a more serious matter when these encounters take place between the latter and the idle bulls, or between individuals of the latter class. The same preliminaries are gone through, only the stroke does not fall short and end in fiasco. The aim is taken for the foreflipper at the angle of the body, and if it is true a deep gash is the result. Failing in reaching the coveted point of attack, each animal seizes the other by the skin of the shoulder or breast, wherever the hold can be obtained. In this manner they tug and strain in their efforts to overturn each other. The strength of their jaws is wonderful, and it not infrequently happens that terrible wounds result from these sanguinary encounters. Their fights, as a rule, are of short duration, however, as the animals are soon fatigued on land, and have great difficulty in getting their breath. But it sometimes happens that these fights are continued until one or the other of the combatants dies from mere exhaustion. Bodies of animals which have died in this manner are often found on the rookeries, and especially in that territory occupied by the idle or reserve bulls.

The attitude of the fur seals towards their wounds is very remarkable. They make no attempt to lick or nurse them in any way. A bull whose foreflipper is hacked and bleeding, his every movement lacerating still further the injured muscles, may be seen rushing about, rounding up his harem, and roaring defiance to the reserve bulls, apparently not in the least inconvenienced. The thick coating of blubber under the skin, which is apparently not very sensitive, doubtless affords great protection, and this, not the muscles, is torn and lacerated. The climatic conditions, the salt water, and the absence of flies renders the healing of the wounds very rapid, and by the end of the season but few traces remain. Fighting has evidently been a feature of the breeding grounds from time immemorial, and it has become an instinct with the males. The bachelors of all ages are constantly going through the movements of their elders. And the same is true of the little pups; as soon as the latter are able to play at anything, it is bull fighting.

In the early days of the season all the animals sleep much of the time. The cows after their long journey spend most of the first six or seven days on land in sleeping. It is with the height of the season when the cows are landing in large numbers from their trips to the feeding grounds that the noise and confusion previously alluded to becomes so marked. But even through it all, a large number of the animals are comfortably asleep. A harem may often be seen where for the time being every member, from the old bull down to the pups, is sound asleep. As a rule, seals sleep soundly. In fact, to their habit of sleep soundly in the water the success of pelagic sealing is largely due. The attitude of the seal when thus sleeping is interesting. It lies on its back, in a bowed position, the nose just peering above the surface, and, it is said, always to the leeward. The hind flippers are raised aloft as a windbreak to keep the animal in definite position. In this attitude the seal can apparently sleep with the greatest comfort. In the calm days that occur toward the end of the breeding season the water off the rookery fronts and sand beaches is often nearly black with the slimming and sleeping pups. An interesting feature about the fur seal in its naps about the rookery is the variety of attitudes that it assumes. The sleeping animals assume every conceivable shape and position. One animal may be seen stretched out at full length upon its back, another on its side, and still another on its stomach. Again, the hind flippers may be tucked up under the body, the foreflippers outstretched. Or the hind flippers may be lazily waving in the air like a fan. The seals prefer the rocks. They do not care for a smooth and even couch. The body has a wonderful power of adapting itself to its rocky bed of water worn boulders. On rookeries where steep cliffs form the background seals are often found stowed away where it is a wonder that they can keep their positions at all.

There is great diversity in the coloration of the various animals. The pups at birth are a shiny black. Some of them show a brownish shade along the throat and belly. In September they exchange their black coats for ones of gray, which, under the action of the weather soon change into the brown and silvery colors of the adults. The adult female on her first arrival is dark gray. Under exposure to the wind and sun she turns a rusty, reddish brown. It would appear that, as a rule, the darker colors go with the older animals. about the middle of July, the time at which the younger bachelors begin to appear in greatest numbers, the rookeries also show a large number of animals, which in their silvery throats and bellies contrast strongly with the animals already present. Their backs present the same dark brown shade, but the silvery gray underneath the body is entirely different. Their small size, the black whiskers and the lateness of their arrival proclaim them to be younger animals. This makes it possible only to say that the older seals are more uniform and darker in color, while among the younger seals there is much diversity. Among the bachelors the colors seem more uniform, though the younger males are generally of the lighter shades. The greatest diversity, however, exists among the bulls. Among the harem masters there are two general types, the one almost black, the other reddish brown. Both styles of coloration are associated with the older animals, but which is the older of the two it is hard to say. But these three are only general types. There is the greatest individual variation among the classes of all bulls. Much of the individual variation is due to the length of time that the animals have been out of water. In water and when wet there is but little difference in the coloration. In rainy weather the animals appear to be all of one shade.

The diversity of color in the fur seal is confined chiefly to the outer or water hairs which project beyond the fur. The fur itself is fairly uniform. Beneath the water-hair is the short, thick fur of the seal. In the preparation of these skins these hairs are carefully removed, leaving only the short thick fur, which alone is of commercial value. It has been asserted that the pup is born without fur, having only black hair. This is not the case, however. The pup at birth has short, fuzzy fur, which grows rapidly and is of considerable length when the animal begins to swim. By the time it is ready for the sea in the fall, its fur differs in length and thickness from that of the older seals only as the size of the animal varies. Between the middle of August and the middle of October the adult animals shed their hair. During this season the skins of the seals are said to be stagy, and they are not taken on land.

There remains yet to be recorded the arrival of the young one and two-year-old females. The two-year-olds come to the rookeries about the 1st of August. They take up their places in the old harems or in new and temporary ones in charge of young bulls on the water front and in the rear of the regular breeding grounds. The yearling females, it would seem, come to the islands with the two-year-olds, but do not put in an appearance on the rookeries much before September, at the time when the pups of the year are able to swim well and begin to make their first excursions about the islands. For the rest of the season the young seals spend their time playing among the pups and ranging like privileged characters over the rookeries. That they do not, as has been supposed, frequent the hauling grounds with the males is doubtless due to the fact that these would annoy them, for the instinct of rounding up a harem is early developed in the young male. A yearling may frequently be seen rounding up a pod of sleeping or resting pups with all the gusto of an adult. The pups themselves not infrequently attempt the same thing with their fellows.

About the third week in July the old harem bulls that have fasted since the 1st of May begin to leave and seek the feeding grounds. As they withdraw their places are filled by the idle or reserve bulls. These latter have fasted for a shorter period, and therefore are able to remain out the season. By the second week in August all the able-bodied bulls have gone, and the bachelors and younger bulls flock over the breeding grounds. By the 1st of September the harem masters are beginning to return, some of them to their former places on the rookeries. Most of them, however, haul out along the great beaches to sleep during the rest of the season, going to and coming from the feeding grounds as they feel inclined.

The feeding grounds of the fur seals in Behring Sea lie to the south and west of the Pribilof Islands, at a distance of from 100 to 200 miles. The food taken by the seals while in Behring Sea consists mainly of squid, pollock and a small smelt like fish known only through the bones found in the stomachs of the seals. On the migrations along the coast squid is again the chief diet, though occasionally salmon, herring and rock fish are taken.

Of the age of the fur seal practically nothing is known, but one striking feature about the rookeries is the absence of any animals which seem to be old or decrepit. Although this may seem remarkable, perhaps it is not to be wondered at, when we consider the very severe strain that the fur seal is bound to undergo in its winter migration in Behring Sea and the North Pacific. An animal weak or broken down, either from old age or injuries of one sort or another, would quickly succumb to the hardships encountered in their migrations. Only those animals that have the hardihood and the strength to survive the adverse conditions of the winter arrive at the rookeries and the hauling grounds in the spring. These may be relied upon, unless overtaken by accident, to maintain themselves during the summer, to be again sifted out in the struggle for existence which the ensuing winter renews. It is only the old, old story of the survival of the fittest once more illustrated.

Of all the different classes of the fur seals, the pups are perhaps the most conspicuous and interesting. For the first two months of their lives they are always present on the rookeries where they are born. For a few days after its birth the pup is watched over by its mother with a moderate show of interest, which manifests itself principally in supplying it with nourishment and keeping it out of the way of the clumsy bull. But before long the little fellow grows independent and leaves the family circle, seeking the leeward of a sheltered rock at a distance from the harems. There it spends its time sleeping and playing with its companions. Whether this "podding," as it is called, is a matter of choice or the outgrowth of the instinct of self-preservation, the result is good, for it keeps the little fellows out of the way of the fighting and unwieldy bulls. From the time the pup joins the pod it receives little attention from its mother except on her return from sea, when she feeds it. The pup gorges itself with milk while the mother is on land, and goes hungry until her return. When it is a month old the pup seeks the water's edge, and after paddling about for a time in the tide pools, gradually learns to swim.

Many accounts have been given of the way in which the various classes of animals are supposed to assist the pups in learning to swim. If these have any foundation in whatever, it arises from a misinterpretation of the fact that the young bachelors, and probably the yearling cows also, play with and tease the pups in their first attempts to master the art of swimming. Bachelors have often been observed to push the little pups off the rocks into the water, and sometimes even to attempt to catch and block them. But the purpose is evidently not to assist the pups. The pup first seeks the secluded and protected tide pools, numbers of which are to be found along the rookery fronts. Here it paddles about, gradually seeking the open water, but not going far from the shore. Its chief difficulty at the outset is to keep its disproportionately large head above water. However, in a very short time it becomes quite at home in the water, and spends a great deal of its time in it. The pups play in the water, as they are accustomed to play on shore, rolling over and over each other, diving for shells, shaking strips of kelp, pieces of sticks, feathers or anything that comes to hand, just, in fact, as young dogs might.

By the middle of September, when the pups have learned to swim well, they develop a roving spirit and voyage back and forth between the various rookeries, and there is generally a continuous band coming and going between the latter. In this manner the pups spend their time, sleeping on shore when hungry, and playing in the water when gorged with milk. The mortality among the pups is very striking. They are not, after having attained the age of a few weeks, either easy to kill or injure. But when only a few days old it is a different matter. In the mad rushes of the angry and clumsy beach-master in his efforts to preserve law and order or to defend his harem from the attacks of the idle bulls, many of the little fellows are trampled to death before they are able to get away and pod by themselves. The principal cause of death is, however, due to the ravages of a small parasitic worm of the genus uncinaria, which infests the sandy areas where the seals are crowded and the ground has become filthy.

The season is now quickly drawing to a close. At the first approach of winter, usually in November, the cows and pups leave the rookeries together. In all probability the pups are weaned at this time, as, until the time of their departure, it has been ascertained that they exist solely on their mothers' milk. Following the example of their elders, they doubtless soon learn to subsist on fish. But they must have a very hard time of it during their first migration to the south, by reason of the difficulty of securing food and on account of the severity of the winter storms. It has been stated, indeed, that only about one-half return to the breeding grounds the second spring, and that not more than one-third of those born reach the age of three years. There is yet another cause of mortality among the fur seal pups. The great killer is responsible for the death of many of the latter. But whether the number destroyed by the killer is large or small, it is impossible to say.

The bachelors linger about the islands until after the departure of the cows and pups, and are often taken for food by the Aleuts all through the month of December and at times far into January. They have been known during mild winters to stay about the islands until the following spring. But as a rule before the end of November the seals leave the islands, and, class by class, they depart on their long winter migrations.

The fur seal is wonderfully adapted for its long winter residence in the water. Its movements are as quick and graceful as a fish. In swimming it uses the fore flippers only. The hind flippers are held flat together, projecting backward like a rudder, and it is not altogether unlikely that they may serve the animal in that capacity. When travelling rapidly the seal alternately rises clear of the water and dives under it in a series of compound curves. The dolphin-like leap, "breaching," as it is called, enables the animal without loss of time to recover its breath. It is not known how fast seals can travel, and probably the rate cannot be computed. They have been known to follow and swim with apparent ease about vessels moving at the rate of 10 to 12 knots an hour. Under force of circumstances they could doubtless reach a higher rate of speed, but whether it could be continued for long distances it would be difficult to ascertain.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I would thank you heartily for the kind attention that you have accorded me, both to-night and on that former occasion when the first portion of my paper was given.

A Sunday school speaker tells of a comical experience. He was invited to make an address at a Sunday school festival, and having nothing prepared to say, he tried to picture to the children the dolefulness of his position, and asked them this question: "What would you do if you were compelled to stand on a platform before so many bright boys and girls, who expected a speech from you, and you had nothing to say?" "I'd keep quiet," said one small boy; and his answer immediately brought down the house, and quickly brought down the speaker, too.

Tennis as It Is Played.

Eastern Visitors Illustrate the Modern Game in Its Perfection.

Their Speed and Service Puts Western Players at Their Mercy.

Victorians have been introduced to the highest grade article of tennis with which America is acquainted—also to the greatest exponents of the new school of tennis in both singles and doubles. They came; they were seen in the game in which they are invincible; and they conquered.

And having witnessed what may be termed "champion style," Victorians will no longer wonder how it is that "our Foulkes" has not held his own against these stars of greater magnitude—it is as though one should attempt to race a modernly-mounted cycling crack, using an old solid-tire bone-shaker for the test of speed.

Our Northwest players are good in their style, but the style of the Eastern cracks is comparatively as much of an improvement in effectiveness as the pneumatic-tired, high-geared safety over its antiquated forerunner.

The visit of Whitman, Davis et al, is, therefore, a revelation as much as a pleasure. For it the enterprising tennis club deserve not only sincere and hearty thanks, but what is more to the purpose, a crowded ground for to-day.

Yesterday there were dozens and scores of unfilled chairs, although the matches to be witnessed were incomparable, the finest ever seen in the Pacific Northwest. To-day a vacant chair should not be found, disgracing the city by its existence—for it will be the last playing day of the champion group previous to their return to the East.

They have enjoyed their tour, it may be said, and they have done good work as tennis missionaries.

"It is true," says Mr. Wright, the organizer and director of the tour, "that we have not found men of our own strength in the West, but we have had a delightful visit with hospitable people. We have illustrated tennis in its best and most modern development, and we quite expect to see the players of the Northwest profit by the lesson—get out of their rut and into the new style of play, so that if we comes West again three or four years hence, we may find foemen worthy of our mettle awaiting us.

"We certainly shall remember Victoria. Not only because of our kind reception, but because we close our Western tour here, and because we all have noted that the Victoria spectators understand the game better than any we have met in our Western ramble, the ladies as well as the gentlemen. We have all remarked this, to the credit of Victorians, while we are glad, too, to get back to the grass courts which are more familiar to our feet—more homelike, I might put it.

"Of course we should like to remain longer in the West, but we have strained our time to its limit. College terms are commencing, and my son, for one, has to be back in the East."

Nor can Mr. Wright and the members of his party wish for a longer season in the West any more heartily than Victorians could wish to have them—the light attendance of yesterday being no criterion. Those who applauded the play from the gay-garmented spectators' row saw tennis at its best, and were appreciative.

They were glad to know that Champion Foulkes and a number of his fellow leaders at home had the pleasant company of the visiting cracks for a dinner at the Mount Baker last evening; and also glad that the guests of the occasion were well impressed with the Arion Club concert, which fitted in as a supplementary feature.

But they would have delighted to do the stars more public honor—either by ball or banquet. The time of preparation being short, such functions could not be, and citizens can only show their appreciation by their presence at the courts to-day, and hope for a future meeting—when "our boys" shall have learned the new game.

* * *

In the first place, it is to be noted the Messrs. Whitman, Davis, Wright and Ward are young, vigorous, resourceful players—the youngest group of players that the Continent has yet become acquainted with. They represent championship, doubles and interscholastic tennis in its latest form—with plenty of snap and go, a development of, while an improvement upon, the modern English game, fast volleying and tremendous speed being its salient features.

In addition, they have created a new service, which was as much of a marvel to Victorians yesterday as their deadly speed in combination with admirable accuracy. This service is as new to Californians as it is to British Columbians, and may, perhaps, be most readily described as an application of the baseball pitchers' curve to the game of tennis—a fanciful sidecut of the racquet sending the ball curving through the air with a gain rather than a loss of speed.

Striking the ground, the ball flies in just the reverse direction to the natural, hanging in the air at the rebound just long enough to enable the server to get to the net.

It was Whitman who invented the stroke, bringing it out to the consternation of his adversaries some three years ago. Since then he and the other highest class players have improved it to the perfection plane.

Again, all of the Eastern company go in for high speed, Davis being notably fast and brilliant. The four play a game in some characteristics the same; in others radically dissimilar. All depend largely upon the service; all use a deadly back-hand stroke to great advantage; and all play a faster game than has hitherto been seen on the Pacific slope.

Whitman's greatest strength appears to be in his accurate placing of the ball with speed, combined with stonewall steadiness. It is this latter quality, combined with his disposition to let neither crisis, impending defeat nor approaching triumph affect his play, that has carried him victorious through all the big tournaments, leaving him champion of the Middle States, champion of Canada, champion of New York state, champion of Massachusetts, champion of the Longwood tournament, champion of the National Newport tournament—champion, indeed, of everything that there is to be champion of.

Beals C. Wright has something of the same idea of the game as the champion. He is, however, a left-hand player, which makes his game more confusing to an adversary, and gives him immeasurably greater strength in doubles with Whitman. He, too, has played in all the leading tournaments this season, and very successfully, winning a large percentage of his matches and working up to the finals and semi-finals in the others, against the best players of the land.

Dwight Davis is the popular player. He has the dash and brilliancy that are magnetic. His work may be classed as sensational in some respects, more particularly in his cross-court drives and terrific smashing.

Given the steadiness of a Whitman, he would be supreme.

Holcomb Ward is rightly considered one of the best players of the day in doubles, having given rather more attention to this branch of the game than to single playing, although an excellent individual player, placing well and smashing and driving with both speed and certainty.

In the Whitman-Davis exhibition yesterday afternoon, practically every feature of modern tennis was shown at its best—good lobbing, hard smashes, masterly line play, and quick rallying. These features, together with its great rapidity and those wonderful services made the match memorable.

When the home players met the Easterners, the weakness of the former was apparent. They do not push back the ball fast enough. When they do get an opportunity they lack the steam to kill the ball on the instant, as the brethren from the Atlantic side do. They have all the accuracy, but miss the speed, and this being wanting, the Easterners have a chance to get round and meet their very best intentions.

* * *

The Eastern group of champions had matters all their own way in the opening day events, walking through the card of fixtures with neither a loss nor yet a well-sustained challenge. It was service, speed and accuracy that counted, and while Champion Foulkes at home put up a stronger game than he has yet in the series, even succeeding in taking the second set in his match with Ward, his strong lobbing and persistent hard work availed nothing against the superior service and greater science of the visitors.

In the opening match of the morning, Foulkes was pitted against the brilliant Davis, masterful, resourceful and notably successful in his unique service and wonderful back-hand stroke. His returns were as a rule made from the net, and while Foulkes fought his hardest, and made at times almost impossible returns, he was clearly at a discount in modernity of play, service, speed and generalship of the court.

The fast service of the Easterners again gave them a certain victory in the match in doubles between Whitman and Wright and Johnston and Pooley; while Ward beat A. T. Goward after a really excellent match, chiefly by his careful play at the net, which the Victorian found it impossible to get by.

Severs, who was vanquished by Wright, had apparently not fully recovered from his Del Monte tour, so recently completed that he has not had time to adopt the rigorous training that has counted apparently in his past successes on the courts.

The big match of the day in doubles, in which Foulkes and Malcolm were not given so much as a look-in by Davis and Ward, was an object lesson throughout in smashing, volleying and service—the one visitor would serve; the other kill the ball at the net. And that's the way it was done.

Wright beat Powell handily, although the youngster at periods in the match surprised some his friends with brilliant returns, and may perhaps be counted upon to benefit more from the lessons of these two days than any other player of the province.

In Whitman vs. Davis the afternoon spectators were treated to the greatest exhibition of the modern game they have ever enjoyed in this city; and in Ward vs. Foulkes the latter showed how he has already improved his game through watching and following the Eastern play. He is already increasing his speed; played a very skilful lobbing game, and displayed an accuracy in his smart returns that called for high commendation from the visiting players.

The summary for the day follows:

Davis beat Foulkes, 9-7, 6-2.

Whitman and Wright beat Johnston and Pooley, 6-2, 6-1.

Ward beat A. T. Goward, 6-4, 7-5.

Wright beat Severs, 7-5, 6-1.

Davis and Ward beat Foulkes and Malcolm, 6-3, 6-0.

Wright beat Powell, 6-1, 6-1.

Whitman beat Davis, 6-0, 4-6, 7-5.

Ward beat Foulkes, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

The arrangements for to-day—the great day of the tourney—are in brief:

10:30 a.m.—Talbot vs. Wright.
11:15 am.—A. T. Goward vs. Whitman.
12 noon.—Severs and Powell vs. Davis and Ward.
12:45 p.m.—Johnston vs. Wright.
2:15 p.m.—Foulkes and Goward vs. Ward and Davis.
3:15 p.m.—Whitman and Wright vs. Malcolm and Talbot.
4:00 p.m.—Whitman vs. Foulkes.
5:00 p.m.—Ward vs. Davis.

* * *

The attention of the experts at the courts yesterday was considerably caught by the display of a genuine novelty in tennis equipment in the form of a racquet with the shape of a pim, but having a frame of tempered steel instead of wood. This is the invention of ex-Champion Larned, for whom it is named and by whom it has been patented. It is supposed to be a more lasting racquet and hold its shape better than any wood-frame, while the temper in the steel gives the frame the same natural spring that the wood possesses. Wright & Ditson are to manufacture the Larned racquet, and will have it on the market next season.

HOSPITAL WORK.

Regular Meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jubilee.

The regular meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Jubilee hospital took place yesterday afternoon at the Driard hotel. Present were the president, first vice-president, secretary and twenty-two members of the society. The meeting opened with prayer, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted, and the secretary-treasurer's report read as follows:

Madam President and Ladies:

Since the last meeting of this society the work has proceeded with unabated interest. The membership now nubmers 200, while 135 names are also enrolled as donors or active workers. Work and supplies have been received during the month as follows: Twelve tray cloths, 48 anasthetic towels, 1 pneumonia jacket, 12 quilts, 23 pillow slips, 15 small muslin curtains, 12 nightdresses, 5 nightshirts, 5 awning blinds, 12 teapots, 2 toilet sets, 6 soap dishes, 3 lemon squeezers, 3 hampers for soiled linen, 12 knives, 10 flower vases, 3 bureau covers from the Woman's Auxiliary funds, and 3 Turkish towels, 2½ yards towelling, 2 wrappers, 1 dressing jacket, 6 towel racks, 6 cotton towels and old linen as donations.

The matron reports that nightshirts and nightdresses are still badly needed, but that otherwise the minor needs seem for the present supplied. She is, however, very anxious for another invalid chair, adjustable, with pneumatic tires, such as was recommended by last month's visiting committee, and is much in need of old linen. I regret to say that, owing to a mistake on the part of the secretary of the Orphanage committee, a misunderstanding has arisen concerning the boy from the orphanage, and this matter must therefore stand over until the advisory committees meet and the board of directors can have it properly deferred to them. I have pleasure to state that regarding the invalid tables, Mr. Robert Tait, the carpenter, has furnished a sample copied very satisfactorily from the drawing supplied. This he has presented to the Woman's Auxiliary, and will make any number at a cost of $2 each. I have, during the past month, held a meeting with certain young ladies interested in hospital work, and it was then decided to form a society of young people to assist the Women's Auxiliary and to undertake individual work of their own on the same plan. This society will meet with me at the hospital on the first Friday in every month, and it is proposed that each member has the charge of a ward, or bed, furnishing these with niceties and comforts as required. Those present unanimously undertook this, and they hope to be able to provide an invalid table each, in course of time, besides attending to many smaller needs. I hope to have a full meeting on the next occasion, which will be advertised through the press, and to which all desirous of taking part with us will be welcome.

Letters and promises of sympathy and support in our undertaking have been received from Mrs. Price, Cowichan Lake; Mrs. Nixon, Denman Island; Mrs. Gerald Payne, Saturna Island; Miss Higgs, Pender Island; and Mrs. Willemar, Comox.

I beg to add that I may be found every Friday afternoon until further notice, in the smaller office on the ground floor of the hospital, where I shall be glad to explain our work to any desirous of associating with us, and also to give out and receive work.

The treasurer's report is as follows:

Cash in hand, Sept. 12	$200 40
Received from collectors as follows—	
Mrs. Ben. Gordon	19 25
Mrs. Arthur Robertson	9 50
Mrs. Arthur Butler	6 00
Miss Potts	10 60
Mrs. Hasell	6 00
Total	$260 75
Bills ordered paid, amounting to	118 50
Balance in hand	$142 25

B. M. HASELL,
Secretary-treasurer.

Reports were next read from the visiting committees, Mrs. Dalby and Mrs. Goodacre, and Mrs. Rykerts and Mrs. Walter Chambers. These committees expressed great pleasure with the progress and condition of the hospital, but recommended invalid tables and one or two invalid chair.

Minor business was then discussed and a special meeting called for to-day at Mrs. Gordon's for cutting out a number of nightgowns, according to the nurse's request. The president and first vice-president then moved a resolution of deep regret at the departure of Mrs. Arthur Butler for England, stating that this society owed its being to her indefatigable courage, loyalty and energy, and assuring her of its most grateful acknowledgment and remembrance. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

An advisory committee was appointed by the president, consisting of the presidents, Mrs. D. W. Higgins, Mrs. Lawrence Goodacre, Mrs. Rykert and the secretary, to meet with such a committee as the board of directors deem well to appoint, for the furtherance of the work of the hospital, and for general conference and advice.

The president then called the next meeting for Tuesday, October 10, and the meeting adjourned.

ATTENDANCE AT DRILLS.

Men of the First Battalion Turn Out Better Than in Former Years.

Lieut.-Col. Gregory, commanding the First battalion, has issued the following battalion order:

The following memo. of attendance at drill for the year 1898-9 is published for the information of all concerned; 30th June to June 30th:

Unit.	Parades.	Total Att.	Average.
No. 1 Company	43	1721	40.02
No. 2 Company	41	2092	51.02
No. 3 Company	43	2129	49.05
Battalion	15	2404	160.25

For the purpose of comparison, the attendances of the previous year are also given, viz., 30th June to 30th June:

Unit.	Parades.	Total Att.	Average
No. 1 Company	44	1632	37.1
No. 2 Company	59	2318	39.5
No. 3 Company	51	2008	39.3
Battalion	15	2091	139.5

The attendance shows a most gratifying increase over the previous year, which in its turn was considerably better than the attendance of 1896-7.

The battalion will parade at 10 o'clock next Sunday morning to attend divine service.

HACKMEN AND PAPER.

To the Editor of the Colonist.

Sir: In reference to your correspondent in yesterday's Colonist, signing himself "Streets," who evidently is ashamed of his name, but would like to see the streets swept clean and all the pieces of paper gathered up, surely that gentleman wants a job. I would suggest that the City Fathers, as he calls them, hire him at a salary (as evidently that is what he is after) to follow up the pedestrians and pick up the envelopes that they may drop.

I suppose this Mr. Streets is one of the agitators who has been trying to hound the hackmen off the streets. It is a shame, to say the least, that the Council should take those men's money for licenses to ply for hire and hound them all over the city to places where they cannot make a living. It is not only the hackmen that suffer, but the public, as they don't know where to find them half the time.

If the City Aldermen decides in their wisdom on the proper place for the hackmen to stand, why don't they make that their permanent stand, not keep shifting them because such grunters as "Streets" don't like them to stand in front of his store.

I hope the Council will give the hackmen's cause their gravest consideration, as they are one of the greatest conveniences to the public. T. M. BRAYSHAW.

Victoria, Sept. 17, 1899.

MOUSTACHES IN ORDER.

Secretary For War Requires the Young Officers to Parade Them.

London, Sept. 16.—The secretary of war, the Marquis of Lansdowne, has issued a circular to the general officers, saying he has heard that a predominant fashion exists among young officers to shave the upper lip, and adding that this is much to be regretted. The result is that many unfertile officers are being coerced for moustaches. The regulation against shaving the upper lip has been little observed of recent years, and its revival is unpopular.

The Season For Theatre.

Sam T. Shaw Opens in Victoria With a Week's Engagement.

New Faces in Vaudeville—The Cooper Company Coming.

The Sam. T. Shaw Company, which is no stranger organization to the people of Victoria, opened its week's engagement and the dramatic season coincidentally last evening, presenting the well-known play "From Sire to Son," before a well filled house. Earlier in the day the management had won the golden opinions of the citizens by the performances of its really first-class band—to which the orchestra proved no way inferior.

The company has been much improved since its last appearance here, and presented the play in excellent style generally, winning spirited applause and a number of curtain recalls for well-balanced efficiency. The play was staged, too, with a more than ordinarily careful attention to detail that speaks well for the future welfare of the company.

The piece itself, which deals with the times of the California gold craze, is a typical drama of the sensational type. Two gamblers, who have been pals for years, dissolve their partnership through the desire of one of them, Alfred Armitage, to lead a better life. Armitage has a loving wife and daughter, whom he has not seen for sixteen years, and it is his desire to provide a good home for them with his savings that induces him to change his mode of living. In a quarrel his partner, Jonas Hardy, shoots both him and his wife. His wife is killed, but he recovers, only to find that the shock has taken away his power of speech. At the instigation of his partner he is arrested as the murderer of his wife and locked up. Hardy, in the meanwhile, passes himself off as Armitage, secures the latter's daughter, claiming her as his own child, and disappears.

In due time the wronged man recovers his power of speech, sets out on the trail of his daughter, and everything turns out well. The plot is lightened by a funny little bit of love-making, which runs through the first two acts, the efforts of a money-loving doctor and his son to obtain possession of a widow, her daughter and her gold, being presented in a clever manner.

As the wronged father and the hero of the drama, Sam Shaw carried off the honors of the evening. H. W. Gilbert made a very acceptable villain, and Jennie Kelton, as the proprietress of the Yuba hotel, was good. M. J. Hooley, as Peter Grimes, the postmaster, and A. H. Hallett, as the doctor, furnished their parts well. Altogether, the show was very good in every way. The company do not attempt more than they can handle, and their engagement promises to be very successful.

To-night they will be seen in Edward Rose's comedy "The Westerner." In spite of its name, the play is a New York society comedy, and it heads the list of plays of its class. Since its production in Victoria last year it has received a thorough overhauling at the hands of its author, and has been almost entirely re-written. The points have been brought out in a clear, concise manner, and all superfluous dialogue has been eliminated, making it one of the most pleasing bills in the company's repertoire.

* * *

At the Savoy last night, the management once again demonstrated their determination to keep improving. The programme introduces a number of new faces—the property of very capable entertainers. John A. Flynn and Jennie Guichard, original and effective burlesquers, present a new comedietta under the caption of "The Astronomers," while in addition to the favorites of last week, Jessie Bright and Gertie Jackson, two young and charming singing comediennes, make their debut.

* * *

Mr. Fred. A. Cooper is once again with his Victoria friends, this time to arrange for a visit to the A. O. U. W. hall with his company that recently has been scoring a pronounced success in the Mainland cities. It is headed by Georgie Woodthorpe (Mrs. Cooper) and includes Leland Webb, Fred. A. Cooper, J. Harry Proctor, M. Mortimer Kelley, Emerson Biggar, H. Earle, C. H. Harper, L. H. Dewar, Blanche Crozier, Florence and Gertrude Royden. To these will be added Georgie Cooper fresh from her San Francisco triumphs, and the engagement is due to open early in October.

RECORDED IN VICTORIA.

Story of the Recent Earthquakes as Told by the Local Seismograph.

An interesting corroboration of the thrilling earthquake stories recently received from Skagway is afforded by the fact that the several shocks were clearly recorded by the Victoria seismograph.

This instrument, as recently told to readers of the Colonist, is set up in the basement of the old custom house. The moving portion consists of a horizontal pendulum, or "boom," finely pivotted. This is usually motionless, but whenever slight shocks occur, even in remote portions of the world, it is set vibrating.

The first northern shock, it is recorded, commenced at 4:26 p. m. on Sunday, the 3rd instant, in the form of small vibrations, when this "boom" indicated a severe quake lasting five minutes, evidently the time when fear took possession of the northern gold-seekers. The shocks then gradually abated till 8:35 p. m., when two more of less severity occurred. These were clearly recorded upon the Toronto instrument also, as shown upon a copy of their trace just received at the meteorological office in Victoria.

The terrifying shocks reported yesterday as occurring over a wide area of the Far North on Sunday week were even more vividly recorded here upon this wonderfully sensitive instrument. The first of these occurred at 9:10 a. m. on the 10th by a small tremor, followed three minutes later by the greatest shock ever recorded on this instrument. This lasted six minutes and caused the "boom" to swing over one inch. A lull then ensued till 1 p. m., when a smaller shock occurred, followed at 1:45 p. m. by another severe one, which lasted nearly two hours.

The latter data have been kindly furnished by Mr. Napier Denison direct from the newly developed photographic trace, not yet dry when the Colonist representative, remembering the installation of the seismograph, inquired of the observer as to its story of the Northern quakes.

"Mildred," said her father, "I am willing that the young lieutenant who comes here should make a coaling station of my house this winter, but if he ever hints at annexation you may tell him I am unalterably opposed to it.—Chicago Tribune.