

Spain's Leprosy Colony.

It is generally admitted that leprosy made its first appearance in Spain and other countries of western Europe shortly after the return of the troops of Pompey the Great from their military operations in Syria and Egypt, namely about the year 60 B. C. The conditions for the spread of the dread disease seem to have been such that it established itself and caused frightful ravages among the people, although explicit details are wanting in the writings that have come down to us from those troubled times. It must have figured in the last even after its first display of violence had passed, for the primitive habits of the people and their ignorance of hygienic precautions against possible contagion could not have stood them in great stead where there was question of its incursions.

History tells us that Alfonso III, King of Leon, had a son, Fruela, by name, who died in 923, a victim of a hideous disease which the chroniclers call leprosy, this being the only known case connected with the Spanish royal house. It was not until a hundred and fifty years after his death, however, that the first leprosy hospital was established in Spain by the renowned warrior, El Cid Comendador, around whose memory legend has woven so many romantic tales. Founded in 1067, the hospital of the Cid was one of sixteen hundred similar institutions in Western Europe which responded to the crying need of the times.

There was a very celebrated leprosy hospital in Seville, which owed its foundation to St. Ferdinand, known in profane history as Ferdinand III, King of Castile and Leon, who, shortly after his triumphant entry in 1248, into that proud stronghold of the Moor, ordered that shelter should be provided in the suburb of Maestrona for the lepers of the city. His son and successor, Alfonso the Wise, transferred the hospital to another part of the city, and endowed it with many valuable properties and privileges.

Wishing to make more suitable provision for the lepers of their kingdom, Ferdinand and Isabella issued a decree in 1477, which established a special board of "superintendents of lepers," whose chief duty must have been to watch over the isolation of the victims of the malady, for the medical skill of the day was powerless to do more than alleviate the misery of the patients, if it could do so much. The sanitary regulations of the board introduced and strictly enforced well-nigh stamped out the disease in Spain.

The lazaretto in Seville received from the royal pair even more ample privileges, among them being the right to one-fifth of the real and personal property of every leper dying in the kingdom. If the deceased left neither children nor grandchildren, the hospital was entitled to his whole estate. The one obligation on the part of the patient was "to pray for those who had founded and helped the hospital," where they were supplied with all things necessary for their bodily and spiritual well-being.

As time rolled by, the great hospital met with reverses. For nearly three centuries after the decree of Ferdinand and Isabella it continued in the enjoyment of its princely prerogatives, but then set in the period of decay. One by one, its exemptions and privileges were disregarded or annulled, until in 1854, when by the withdrawal of the royal patronage, its ruin became complete, even the buildings having fallen into dilapidation and decay. Though the inmates at the time were only twenty-nine in number, the income of the institution was not sufficient to furnish them with proper food and attendance. This state of neglect and destitution continued until 1864, when extensive repairs were made and the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul were placed in charge of the renewed and restored institution. But, after all, the place was only a hospital with its courtyard and small grounds. The patients who were able to do some little work had no place in which to buy themselves or while away the time, which must often have hung heavy on their brows.

It is now about sixty years since the marked increase of leprosy in the maritime provinces, especially in the South, called the attention of the medical profession to the danger of a renewal of the widespread evil of earlier times. Valence was the first to realize the danger, when the vital statistics of 1843 showed that during the preceding forty years the number of deaths from that disease had reached forty, and that twenty-six other cases were known. The number of lepers that were hidden away in remote villages might be much greater. For an sweeping changes were attempted in the sanitary regulations of the province or the kingdom, for the cabinet's changed so frequently and questions of finance, commerce and agriculture claimed so loudly for ministerial attention that the lepers of Valence and Alicante were disregarded if not forgotten. Outside of these general regulations issued in 1878 the government did nothing to hinder the spread of the disease.

All Stuffed Up

That's the condition of many soldiers from abroad, especially in the morning. Great difficulty is experienced in clearing the head and throat. No wonder soldiers come headachy, impure the nose, small and hoarse, politics the mouth, damage the stomach and affect the appetite.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures catarrh—in soothing and strengthening the mucous membrane and builds up the whole system.

These regulations were less efficacious than those of Ferdinand and Isabella, back in 1477.

But private real and charity were to come to the rescue of the victims of government indifference and neglect. It was near Christmas, 1901, that a priest and a lawyer, who were spending a few days in the little town of Torquemada, learned of the existence in the neighborhood of a poor leper, whose only attendant was an old man as helpless as the patient himself. The townspeople stood in such fear of the sick man that they would not go near his door, and the attendant never crossed the sill. Far into the night the priest and the lawyer discussed the question of caring suitably for those who were thus excluded from the society of the living, and yet could not be reckoned with the dead. Then was born the project of a leprosy colony, where all that religion and science could do for the alleviation of bodily and spiritual maladies might be put into practice under the most favorable conditions.

A preliminary organization was formed at Gandia, where an enthusiastic meeting held in the ancestral home of the Marchioness de la Rosa, in April, 1902, resulted in the election of Don Juan Yallier, son of the Marquis de Gonzalez to the office of President of the "National Leprosy Colony of St. Francis Borjia."

Organized and incorporated as a charitable society, it met with the enthusiastic approbation of Cardinal Herrero, Archbishop of Valencia, and of the Spanish hierarchy in general. Then began the work of soliciting funds and selecting a site for the first attempt at an agricultural colony for isolating, housing and suitably employing the distressed objects of the society's care. An ideal place was found in the valley of Fontilles, where a tract of about one hundred and sixty acres was bought for the first colony. Protected on the North and West by mountains and hills, and sloping towards the East and the South, it is the home of the grape, the olive and the orange. The soil is fertile and a copious spring supplies an abundance of water for the use of the colonists.

Three buildings have already been put up and others will be erected as circumstances permit; but as there are upwards of 2,000 known lepers in the kingdom, only a beginning has thus far been made towards providing for their proper care. Not only will the patients have sanitary surroundings, wholesome food, and the devoted care of the Sisters of Charity, but the Medical Institute of Valencia, under the Presidency of Dr. Vicente Carai, will undertake a careful study of their condition in hopes of discovering a specific for their ailment, or at least of lessening their sufferings.

Thus far, the Spanish Government has granted no subsidy to the colony, but the provincial and municipal authorities have set aside small annual grants towards its maintenance and development. It is plain, therefore, that if many poor lepers are to profit by the Colony of St. Francis Borjia, the charity of the faithful must come to the help of the institution. For the sake of arousing interest in their afflicted brethren and of inviting contributions of the faithful to so worthy an undertaking, committees have been formed in the principal cities, including Madrid and Barcelona. In the meanwhile, the good work is progressing under the immediate direction of the Rev. Carlos Ferris, S. J., who, with the authorization of his superiors, has established himself at the colony as chaplain and spiritual adviser.—D. P. S. in America.

Waiting Till "Ready." A lady said, with real tragedy in her voice: "I used to think that when we had a new house I would entertain much and have my friends here—I have always enjoyed them. And when the house was building I took a great deal of pleasure planning for the social enjoyment we should have. I had it arranged so it would be easy to entertain and here

CONSUMPTION In the cure of consumption, concentrated, easily digested nourishment is necessary. For 35 years Scott's Emulsion has been the standard, world-wide treatment for consumption.

A Fascinating Drama.

The peeping of the great Ontario west is a fascinating drama, whether we view it from the large or the small end of the telescope. I. e. from the point of the great railroad builder throwing a steel spine across the continent, or from the point of one little family unit finding its tree farm under the aegis of this transportation line.

The line of the Grand Trunk Pacific across Canada is essentially the belt of homes. Who is it that answers the call of the wheat? The young, the brave, the hopeful, the helpful, says Miss Agnes Deane Cameron in the March issue of the "Magazine of Commerce." The writing tools to write the drama are the strong arm of men and the faith-possessed women. It is a goodly play for the world to watch. The first scene is enacted on the prairie where the virgin soil is turned under to a crop of wheat for the first time since creation's dawn. The second scene is the grain elevator, red against the setting sun, and the waiting wheat train of Grand Trunk cars. The drama closes with the leaf of bread clutched in the eager grasp of the little child in some crowded city of the old world. "Manchester (Eng.) News," March 19th, 1910.

Our Cousins in London. The booklet by this name issued from the London Traffic office pictures and paints the interior and exterior of the new Grand Trunk building in Cockspur Street. The location is one of the best in all London and the new building has already become one of the show places of London.

On the first floor of the building will be found a spacious room—"all Canadian furnished"—where Canadian and United States newspapers are on file and where facilities are provided for conducting correspondence.

A private room is provided to which patrons may bring their business associates wherein to transact business. Adjoining this room is the office of the Grand Trunk Industrial Agent, who will give information and facilitate transportation and commercial transactions between any country.

Visitors may register their addresses for the information of their friends or business acquaintances. A copy of this booklet may be obtained on application to J. QUINLAN, Bonaventure Station, Montreal, Que.

When the Frost is on the Pumpkin.

As the summer dies and the leaves commence to turn sportsmen of the woods begin to plan for their annual two weeks shooting. "The Highlands of Ontario," the finest tourist camping and fishing district in North America is also the mecca for the hunter, where moose, deer, bear and other large game abound. Write to the undersigned for copy of "Haunts of Fish and Game," which contains a full description of the territory, maps, rates, game laws, etc.

J. QUINLAN, Bonaventure Station, Montreal, Que.

King Manuel of Portugal is an exiled man, and his kingdom has changed itself, almost in a day, into a republic. The monarchy has not been a strong one; and if the change meant popular representative government as we know it in British dominions, the people might hope to benefit. As it is, however, it is by no means clear that the new conditions will be an improvement upon the old. The politicians of Portugal, as a class, have an evil reputation in the matter of honesty. Tyranny under the forms of republicanism is the worst kind of tyranny; and it is that sort of thing, we fear, that Portugal is now about to experience.—Orestes.

A new boy had made his appearance in the schoolroom, and Miss Adair, the teacher, summoned him to her desk. "Do you expect to cope to school here regularly?" she asked him. "Yes'm." "Where do you live? Are you in this district?" "I guess so. I live down the street 'bout four blocks."

"What is your name?" "Martin Luther Hicks." "Martin Luther?" said the teacher. "I presume, Martin, you know for whom you were named?" "Yes'm," answered the boy, brightening up. "I was named after my uncle on my mother's side. He keeps a lively stable."

Our store has gained a reputation for reliable Groceries. Our trade during 1909 has been very satisfactory. We shall put forth every effort during the present year to give our customers the best possible service.—R. F. Madigan.

HAD HEART TROUBLE

LIFE WAS A BURDEN MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVES FEEL

Mr. Alexander Milburn, 704 Fifth St., N. W., writes: "I have been afflicted with the H.B.B. disease for many years. I had been told by the doctor that I would not be cured. I am a man of fifty-four years, and have a family of six children. About two years ago I was a sufferer from heart trouble, and was very nervous and run down. My father, a very old man of eighty-five years, told me that he often heard of people who were cured of H.B.B. disease by using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills to be a great cure so thought I would do so to give them a trial, but I had very little faith in them. My wife went to the store and got me two boxes, and before I had used the last of the first box I noticed a change, and before the second box was done I was cured and am a well man today."

Price 50 cents per box, or 2 boxes for \$1.25 at all dealers, or mailed direct by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

We believe MINARD'S LINIMENT is the best: Mathias Foley, Oil City, Ont. Joseph Snow, Norway, Me. Charles Whooten, Mulgrave, N. S. Rev. R. O. Armstrong, Mulgrave, N. S. Pierre Landers, sear, Pokemouche, N. B. Thomas Wasson, Sheffield, N. B.

Politeness pays. "It does, does it?" "Yes." "What does it pay." "Its debts."

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria

"Are you fond of music?" "Well, I like fine to here the bagpipes tuning up." "I seldom." "Oh, I see. No, to tell the truth I don't care anything about it."

Muscular Rheumatism.

Mr. H. Wilkinson, Stratford, Ont., says:—It affords me much pleasure to say that I experienced great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills. Price a box 50c.

Man thinks and of once becomes the master of beings that do not think.

There is nothing harsh about Lax-Liver Pills. They cure Constipation, Diphtheria, Sick Headache, and Bilious Spells without griping, purging or sickness. Price 25 cts.

All sports should go by seasons. In winter ice is king. To have a skate in summer is not the proper thing.

Beware Of Worms.

Don't let worms gnaw at the vitals of your children. Give them Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup and they'll soon be rid of these parasites. Price 50c.

"Where are you bound for, old man?" "Going fishing."

"Fishing? What for?" "To have something to yarn about when I get back."

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

Your achievement will never rise higher than your faith.

A PUBLIC WARNING

We wish to warn the public against being imposed on by unscrupulous dealers who substitute with cheap and worthless preparations designed to be imitations of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, the wonderful Blood-Cleansing cure.

Pharmaceutical concerns are flooding the market with these cheap and worthless preparations, some of which are even labeled "Extract of Wild Strawberry," "Wild Strawberry Compound," etc., and they do not use the name "Dr. Fowler," in the hope that the public may be deceived and led to purchase them, thinking they are getting the genuine "Dr. Fowler's."

Are you willing to risk your health—perhaps even your life, to show no more, no reputation, likely dangerous, so-called Strawberry Extract?

Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry has a reputation extending over sixty-five years, therefore when you buy it you are not experimenting with a new and untried remedy.

It cures Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera, Stomach Cramps, Spasmodic Cholera, Cholera Infantum, Summer Complaint, and all Looseness of the Bowels.

Ask for "Dr. Fowler's" and insist on getting what you ask for. Price 25 cents. Manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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