

A LEGALIZED MURDER.—Chemists in England have been hearing with interest of the action of one of their number who, as the coroner of the jury afterwards characterized it, had the "unbounded impudence" to treat a case of small-pox by prescription instead of reporting it to the proper medical authorities. The patient, fearful of being sent to an hospital, had applied to the chemist, who had privately treated him. According to British law the chemist cannot be made to pay any penalty for his ill-considered action, although a regular physician would immediately feel the rigor of the law for the same.

A JEWISH COLONY.—One of Baron Hirsch's schemes for aiding the distressed Jews has prospered in a most gratifying manner. In 1891 the Baron bought up a large tract of land near Woodbine, N.J., which he divided into farms of 30 acres each. Each householder is expected to buy out his farm within ten years, the sum of \$12.00 per acre being the maximum price. A Jewish village is rapidly springing up in the neighborhood, where the Hirsch cloak and trousers factories give employment to some hundreds of people. Excellent school advantages are given to the children, who are thus early brought under the strict rules which govern life in the Jewish colonies.

INTERESTING, THOUGH DEAD.—An ancient language used by the early inhabitants of Tuscany has recently come to light in a curious way, and philologists are greatly interested in the discovery. This language has been supposed to be wholly extinct, and it was with keen delight that a scholar while unfolding the swathing linen of an Egyptian mummy found that the pages of a linen book had been used for the cerement cloths. The curious sheets contained the ancient language together with a translation into another ancient tongue. It is thought that the find may settle some of the questions of the antiquity of various languages which have been vexing the philological fraternity for a score of years.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S.—THE CRITIC notes with much pleasure the Annual Report of the well-organized Society of St. Vincent de Paul. During the past year the Society has been most active in its chosen work of aiding the poor. Substantial provisions have been sent to many poverty-stricken homes, loads of coal have helped to warm rickety tenement houses, delicacies have been sent to the sick, and in several cases relief has been given to afflicted families by providing for funeral expenses. Special attention is called to the state of the dwelling houses of the poor of the city, and an urgent appeal is made to the Civic authorities to prevent the overcrowding of tenement houses. Owing to narrow, unhealthy quarters, our poorer citizens are camped in every direction, physical, mental and moral, and the efforts of those who are endeavoring to improve the condition of the poor are being constantly neutralized. For further details we refer our readers to the official report, feeling confident that the account of the work done will appeal to them in many ways.

UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!—For the past forty years efforts have been made to care properly for persons who have been afflicted with the dread disease of leprosy, and attempts have been made to stamp out the loathsome and fatal plague. The report for the past year of the Tracadie Lazzaretto is, however, far from reassuring. There has been no decrease in the number of patients since 1891, although there have been several deaths in that time. Two new patients came from districts where leprosy had never before been heard of. A third case was that of a man whose home had previously been in the vicinity of the Lazzaretto. The inspecting physician, Dr. Smith, reports that during his recent tour throughout the Province he found the disease showing itself in unexpected quarters, in isolated districts. He recommends strongly that the Government insist on the permanent detention and isolation of all lepers, and that greater attention be paid to the needs of the unhappy men and women who are already suffering a death in life. Public feeling will, we are assured, be with Dr. Smith in his suggestions. Strenuous efforts should be made to check the spread of the disease, and to make life endurable to those who, for the safety of the community, must be debarred from all the pleasures of life.

WAR IN KANSAS.—There are lively doings at present in Kansas, where a small but most demoralizing civil war is in progress. It will be remembered that during the presidential contest General Weaver's party, commonly known as the Populists, made a capital showing, and by uniting with the Democratic party they prevented Harrison's election in the State. The Republican party, was, however, still active in the minor State elections, and succeeded in securing 63 Republicans in the House of Representatives, while the Populists could only muster 56. The 5 Democratic members, and the 1 Independent member joined their forces to the Populist party, with the idea that when a Speaker was elected from the Republican side, the rival parties would be equal in numbers. Although the Republicans had slightly the upper hand in the House they were continually thwarted by the Populist Senate and the Populist Governor. On January the 10th the civil war began. The Populists swore in ten members who had not been legally elected and chose a speaker of their own number. The Republicans resented the high-handed action, and when excluded from the House they armed themselves with revolvers, clubs, etc., and forced their way in, while the Populists fled before them. At the present writing the Populists are the besieging party, the entire State militia has been called out to support their claims, and President Harrison is as yet unable to interfere in the matter. A few vigorous touches from Cleveland will probably settle the disagreeable business.

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AN AGREABLE BEVERAGE.—A new, or rather a revived, beverage which bids fair to become fashionable among a certain well-gilded class is orchid tea. Oddly enough the drink has long been known and esteemed in Bourbon and Mauritius, where the natives gather the orchids as the Japanese do chrysanthemums for the most prosaic purpose of stewing. A choice orchid with a pungent odour not unlike vanilla is selected and dried and infused as ordinary tea leaves. This remarkable drink is at present the rage in Paris, where weak dilutions are sold to those whose pockets are not well lined at the rate of a couple of cents per cup.

SULPHUR NOT NEEDED.—A number of large importers of lemons from the island of Sicily learned a valuable lesson recently. A fine cargo of lemons was unloaded at New Orleans, and as the fruit appeared in excellent condition the whole consignment was at once sold. The buyers were, however, soon discontented with their bargains, for the lemons shrivelled, and when opened were found to be devoid of juice. The shippers were accused of having doctored the fruit, but after investigation proved that the cargo had unintentionally been fumigated along with the ship and passengers, the sulphur fumes quite destroying the perishable fruit. The importers are now urging that fruit ships shall be forbidden to carry emigrants, at least until the need for fumigation is over.

WORK AND WORKERS.—There seemed to be two antagonistic ideas afloat in many of our Canadian cities. One is that there is little labor to be obtained for the working class of men and women, the other is that there are few competent work-people for the necessary labor. From one side we hear of the unemployed masses; from the other reiterated complaints of the lack of char-women, washer-women, snow-shovellers, and general laborers. If an arrangement could be made by which these two classes could play into each other's hands, there would be much less misery among the poor of our cities. Poverty is helpless before advertising necessities. Those who have work to be done have no means of knowing of the obscure laborers who are but too anxious to obtain employment. Free employment offices have done much to benefit both of these classes, but their work is for the most a soon-wearied-of undertaking, and the bright helpful spirit which should be an attribute of all officials who have to do with the poor, settles down into that of a pessimistic helper, thus robbing the perhaps well meant assistance of half its value. In our own city there are scores of men and women willing to do work—furnace-tending, garbage-moving, ice-cutting, window-washing, scrubbing, laundrying, etc., and yet when it is necessary to have extra work done, few of our householders know where to look for the workmen and women. The winter misery in our city will continue just so long as there is no systematic effort made to bring the work and the worker together.

ON THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.—A few facts concerning the history of the at present much-talked-of Hawaiian Islands will probably interest our readers. The group of the Hawaiian, or as they were once familiarly called, the Sandwich Islands, lies some two thousand miles south-east of San Francisco. In the year 1527 a couple of Spanish ships were wrecked near by, the survivors from the crews being rescued by the Islanders, who were thought to be of Malaysian origin. These men intermarried with the natives, and their descendants are found to this day in many parts of the twelve islands that compose the kingdom. The islands, properly speaking, were not discovered until the year 1542, when a Spanish navigator, Gaetano, found not only the islands, but also his long lost fellow-countrymen. Captain Cook's claim to be the discoverer of the islands is ill-founded. It was not until the year 1778 that he made his first visit, when he re-christened them the Sandwich Islands, out of compliment to Lord Sandwich, of England. The natives of that time were reported to be cannibals, although in other respects a moderately high tone of civilization seems to have obtained. The system of native government has been most complicated. Sometimes a half dozen monarchs have reigned at the same time, and kept up a constant struggle for pre-eminence. It was not until 1820, after a thirty years' war, that King Kamehameha succeeded in consolidating the kingdom. The dynasty thus founded lasted until 1872, when the royal line being extinct, recourse was had to electing a ruler. The present Queen Liliuokalani is the sister of King Kalakaua, who died in 1891, and the widow of John O. Dominia, an American citizen. Her tenure of the royal office is thus not assured by the custom of her people, for she is only a relative of an elected officer, nor is it assured her by the affection and trust of her subjects. The kingdom was placed under British protection in 1810, and in 1843 it was provisionally ceded to Great Britain. By a treaty of 1889 the control of the foreign relationship of the islands was given to the United States. Although the past history is full of interest, the future of the islands promises great advancement. Honolulu, the chief harbor, is, because of its geographical position, of vast importance to all Maritime nations, and by the time that the Nicaraguan canal is completed, it will be in the direct route of all steamers plying between China, Japan, and the American ports. The islands will also become the great cross-roads of the North Pacific trade, and their value will be materially enhanced by the fact that the new cables across the Pacific will have to be laid so as to intersect at Honolulu. When we consider the probable future of the kingdom, we cannot wonder at the eagerness which our American neighbors are displaying regarding them, or at the diplomatic action of the British Government in the matter. Beyond doubt the native government of the islands is doomed, and unless a natural government can be established in its stead there will assuredly be a serious international trouble.

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