

CURIOUS CONDITIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Among the many thrilling and memorable experiences told by survivors of the disaster few, says "Leslie's Weekly," have combined vividness of description with brevity in detail to the extent found in the story of Dr. Dorothea Moore, wife of Professor Moore, of Berkeley, whose home on Washington Street, San Francisco, was swept away by the flames with all its contents. Writing from a temporary retreat to a friend in Los Angeles, Dr. Moore says:

"Our little house in the garden on the hillside met the earthquake with an adaptable little shiver of its timbers; it was well built forty years ago. As soon as it was light we went over the neighborhood. In Chinatown the brick walls had fallen outward, and while the mothers and babies were already gathering in chattering groups in Portsmouth Square, the old town behind them was like a doll's house of empty rooms, having only three sides.

"When we met our neighbors in little, untidy, scared groups at the corners and discussed small breakages, none of us had the shadow of an idea that all these absurd "things" of which we were so proud and careful would be taken away in one splendid sweep of noise and flame, teaching us once and forever that life alone is enough, and courage and kindness are its sole valuable assets.

"Many eloquent words will be written of the tragic days, and also of the wonderful days of recuperation that have already begun. Some of the street scenes are not easily forgotten, so close is laughter to tears. The little Italian family who preferred to sleep cold outside on the church steps, with the puppy, than warm within, without him. The gentle old man, a common workman, who sits night and day beside his hysterical wife at the temporary maternity hospital, who can neither eat nor sleep, but who rises to help others. The little four-year-old Spanish girl, who is carried from bed to bed among the patients as the only interpreter to help nurses and doctors to discover where the worst hurt is among these poor foreigners. The two old ladies—having had no water for two days, and, finding it turned on—rushing out into the streets and calling out to all, 'Water, water! Come all of you and share; we have water!'

"The pathetic signs hung on projections of burned houses, on a bit of timber or a door, saying where 'mother' is, or where 'they have taken the baby.'

"The too-shrewd elderly Jew who, seeing the approach of officials with power to pre-empt untenanted houses, frantically tears down his sign of 'To Let!' and declares with tears that "it is just rented to a friend."

"Groups of homeless people in the blessed square with a great grand piano in the middle and somebody always ready with a song or solo.

"People picking up the bricks of their fallen chimneys almost before they are

[FIRE]
German American
Insurance Company
New York

CAPITAL
\$1,500,000
NET SURPLUS
5,841,907
ASSETS
12,980,705

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA.

down, and following fire ordinances, building little fire-ovens on the edge of the gutter, and cooking one hot dish or the baby's milk.

"Staid and elegant men on personal errands impressed by the soldiers and set to work to sweep a whole dirty block before being allowed to go.

"A big man with the red badge of the relief service discovered digging out blue china plates from the ashes.

"The girl who climbed up the balusters of the ruined stairs of the public building in which she was employed to the third storey, and lowered all the records to the floor and to safety; the delicate man who brought the plans of the new university library—an enormous weight—down eleven flights of stairs and to a place of safety."

SALMON THAT LEAP.

Many have seen the photograph of the "leaping salmon" exhibited in the Intercolonial Railway office window, in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. And many people who had never heard of leaping salmon, doubted the genuineness of this product of the photographic art. Mr. D. G. Smith, Fishery Commissioner of New Brunswick, tells the story of how he secured the picture on a New Brunswick river:—

"One day in early August five years ago, when visiting the Big Sevogle, a tributary of the North-West Miramichi, I observed a large number of salmon attempting to leap up over the 9 feet perpendicular fall a short distance above the Square Forks. I timed the leaps and counted 33 in 45 minutes. The scene suggested a unique photograph, so the next week found me back to the spot with my old 5 x 7 Blair camera and 16 Stanley plates. I made a raft of three cedar sleeper logs by battening them together with short boards nailed to their upper sides, and by means of two suitable lines leading from the up stream end, I had my assistants draw it, with myself seated on it with the camera on its tripod in front of me, as near to the fall as I dared to approach, and fasten it there. The salmon were not leaping so plentifully as the week before, but I snapped nine of my sixteen plates the first afternoon,

and the remaining seven the next. It was all guess work with a mechanical focus, and although I had, on developing them, but one perfect picture out of the sixteen plates, I felt that the result was worth going some forty miles to get."

DECAY OF THE BRITISH IRON TRADE.

Mr. J. Stephen Jean, who for a long period was secretary of the British Iron Trade Association recently published a book on the Iron Trade of Great Britain. One very interesting point with which he deals is the decay of the finished iron trade and the booming of the steel industry.

In 1882, he says, the world produced 9,680,000 tons of finished iron, and in 1902 the output was only 1,580,000 tons, Great Britain's share falling in that time from 2,841,000 tons to 965,000 tons. But the place of finished iron has been largely taken by steel; for whereas in 1882 only 7,000,000 tons was the extent of the world's production of steel, it is now more than 36,000,000. A chapter on the iron-making conditions in other countries as compared with those in Great Britain explains the phenomenal growth of the iron and steel industries in the United States and Germany, and indicates, from Mr. Jean's point of view, how it is that Great Britain, which was first in importance in the manufacture of pig-iron in 1880, now takes third place.

The question of "dumping" is discussed, and the author affirms that the agitation which has been carried on in Great Britain for some time against it has been partly founded on a more or less imperfect ascertainment of essential facts. An illustration of the conditions under which dumping is carried on is afforded by the experience of the German Wire Rod Syndicate, which comprises 82 works. In a recent six months they supplied 22,307 tons to home consumers, and on that made a profit of \$293,280, while on the 19,524 tons exported there was a loss of \$214,860. The German consumers were charged \$62.40 per ton, whereas, only \$35 per ton was obtained for the quantity exported. In Germany there are at least 46 different syndicates in the coal and iron trades alone.