

SEEKING THE CAUSE OF RECENT TREMBLOR.

In the San Francisco "Call" of the 8th instant, Dr. Albert J. Aatkins, scholar and scientist, contributes an article with the above caption. In it he says:

"On the early morning of April 18, the proud city of San Francisco suddenly awoke to find herself in the grasp of some mighty and destructive force. All humanity has heard the story of those awful days of terror which followed that sudden awakening, when fire followed earthquake so closely as to render a naturally courageous people almost panic-stricken. Men, women and children poured out from their homes into the streets, clad in all kinds of attire. With scarcely time to investigate the damages of the earthquake, men hastened to their business places, trying to have a few valuables from the rapidly advancing flames which had already begun their sweep of destruction.

"Now that the mind begins to regain its normal calmness and one is able to reflect, the paramount question in the minds of all is, what caused this calamity?

"All know that the fire was the great destructive element and that the earthquake caused the fire, but the great question is, what caused the earthquake?

"In spite of all the terror and realization of almost certain death there was a wild fascination about the whole experience which makes one respect the mighty forces of nature in their endeavour to destroy the feeble efforts of man. Everywhere buildings were wrecked, water mains were broken and the streets were filled with debris. The great City of San Francisco lay helpless in the hands of nature's cruel and destructive forces, which spared neither saint nor sinner, church nor saloon; the good and evil all suffered alike; it was one of the greatest catastrophes the world has ever known. There were no special providential favors shown to any special set, for it was nature's forces only at work and pursues fixed laws which are unchanging and everlasting."

THE WEAKNESS OF STATE BANK EXAMINATION.

The failure of the Milwaukee Avenue State Bank again emphasises the inadequacy of the American banking system. The conditions prevailing in this banking institution are, of course, not to be considered as entirely typical, inasmuch as the bank was almost a private institution, its policy and destinies being practically controlled by one family, who were the largest shareholders. The system of state banks under such conditions, and even despite the safe-guarding of periodical inspections by state bank examiners, exhibits all the

weakness of the private bank. Canada has found that the private bank in previous days served a good purpose in the development of the country, but the period of private banking has happily reached a limit, for our chartered banks with their numerous branches provide the financial machinery for the development and upbuilding of the country. State banks such as the Milwaukee Avenue State Bank are weak spots in the financial edifice of our neighbours, and it should be beyond the power of any one family to control an institution catering for public patronage and general and savings bank deposits. The demand for the improvement of the American banking system is becoming more urgent day by day, and such instances as the Chicago bank failure to which we refer can only tend to hasten reforms in the present system.

HOW TO SAVE PERSONS STUNNED BY LIGHTNING OR ELECTRICITY.

Electricity, either man-made or cloud-made, persistently hunts for a conductor to carry it to the earth and it never runs up a blind alley. The human body being two-thirds water is a good conductor and no opportunity to use it as an avenue back to earth is ever overlooked by electrical force. But the body must make a connection between the charged conductor and the earth or some other conductor to get a shock. One could safely do the "giant swing" or "skin the cat" even on the power line from the mountain water-fall to San Francisco which carries 60,000 volts, if he did not let his feet touch the earth.

Lightning occurs where the jump is shortest from the cloud to a conductor—hence the value of lightning rods.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

The "Electrical World and Engineer" is the authority for the statement that accidental electric shocks seldom result in death unless the victim is left unaided too long, or efforts at resuscitation are stopped too early, as in the majority of instances the shock is sufficient only to suspend animation temporarily, owing to the momentary and imperfect contact of the conductors, and also on account of the resistance of the body submitted to the action of the current.

BREAKING CONTACT.

Remove body of one insensible from electric shock at once from the circuit by breaking contact with the conductors. This may be accomplished by using a dry stick of wood, which is a non-conductor, to roll the body over to one side, or to brush aside a wire, if that is conveying the current. When a stick is not at hand, any dry piece of clothing may be utilized to protect the hand in seizing