

Act, and yet had friends or distant relatives who claimed the body, no difficulty was put in the way of their obtaining it. Such being the history of the working of the Act, we fail to see with what reason our friend, the editor of the *Herald*, should try and arouse public sentiment against it: He simply writes sentimentally; he offers no method that is better. If the public desire good surgeons and physicians these men must learn their anatomy. This can only be done by dissection of the human body. Shall these bodies be obtained legitimately or illegitimately?—that, practically, is the only question. So far as the medical schools are concerned it matters little, only so far indeed as those connected with them desire, as we know they do, that, when a body is deposited in the grave by friends, it should be allowed to remain there. If the public, forgetting this most important fact, should so influence legislation as to withdraw the present Act, what would be the result? The supply would not be cut off. Body-snatching would once more be of constant occurrence, and a sense of insecurity would pervade all classes, with regard to the possible disposition of the bodies of their friends. The necessity of human dissection is recognized. We believe that in this Province we have provided for its being done with the minimum amount of outrage to the better feelings of our nature.

INCREASE OF YELLOW FEVER AT PANAMA.

Further private advices from Dr. Wolfred Nelson of Panama report ten cases of yellow fever in December, 1883, with six deaths. The S.S. *Lima*, of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company cleared from Panama in that month for Callao, Peru. A few days out from Panama, yellow fever appeared on board. A number of her passengers had been waiting for her for nearly ten days in Panama. Ere the steamer reached Callao (eight days from Panama) one died, and several sickened. At Callao she was quarantined. Cases were isolated on board; two more died. Later on no new cases appeared, she was admitted to pratique. Her passengers doubtless received the germs of this disease in Panama. Fourteen fatal cases were reported in Panama in January of this year. Three fatal cases were reported on the line of the Panama Railroad for that month as

well. Up to the date of his letter, February 11th, nine cases and six deaths were reported. As usual the cases were among new-comers. Such is our information. In closing he tritely observes: "This is supposed to be the healthiest season of the year and so it is, it being the dry season. If things go on from bad to worse, while things 'are healthy,' as the increasing death-rate proves, what the change of season in April and May—from dry to wet—has in store for us is not pleasant to contemplate. Our forecast in October last of a possible epidemic in 1884 is now assuming tangible shape. Colon, on the Atlantic, is filthy and overcrowded, Panama, on the Pacific, is the same. Filth unmentionable is thrown into the streets in both cities. There is an abundance of suitable material for the disease to feed on in the hundreds of new-comers and unacclimated people. The disease has been endemic for years, as I shall fully prove in the near future.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY FOR APRIL, 1884.

This is an especially strong, varied, and valuable number. The opening paper is by Herbert Spencer on a subject of great public moment—the decay of the sentiment of personal liberty, and the rapid growth of the system of legislative interference and coercion—which he discusses under the title "The Coming Slavery." Our politicians should give attention to the striking facts and startling conclusions of this masterly paper. "A Defense of Modern Thought," by W. D. La Sœur is a vigorous reply to the Bishop of Ontario on "Agnosticism," and an instructive statement of the position of modern thinkers. There is another most excellent and practical chapter of W. Mattieu Williams's "Chemistry of Cookery," in which butter and other fats and milk are treated; and Dr. Oswald concludes in this number his lively series on "The Remedies of Nature." The illustrated articles are, "Photographing a Streak of Lightning," by Gaston Tissandier; "Why the Eyes of Animals Shine in the Dark," by Swan M. Burnett, M.D.; and "The Electric Railway," by Lieutenant B. A. Fiske, U. S. N., in which is told just what every one wants to know about this coming mode of transportation.

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