

FOUR

THE STAR, ST JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1907

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 17, 1907.

INDIANA AND IMBECILES.

At the meeting of the Medical Association held in St. John some weeks ago, the retiring president, Dr. A. B. Atherton, in his address and later in a communication to the press, strongly advocated surgical treatment as a means for preventing the transmission, by heredity, of various forms of weakness. He referred to criminality, insanity, and certain diseases, Dr. Atherton's paper, while it did not put forward any particularly original suggestions, presented the case in a concise manner, and aroused no little interest in Eastern Canada. This subject has for some years been widely discussed by medical men and others, and as a result of the arguments produced the state of Indiana has recently enacted a statute embodying the ideas dealt with. This new law is introduced by the preamble that "whereas heretofore plays a most important part in the transmission of crime." It goes on to provide that two surgeons of recognized ability shall examine all confirmed criminals, imbeciles, idiots and perpetrators of crimes of violence against women. If in the judgment of these experts "procreation is inadvisable and there is no probability of improvement in the mental condition it shall be incumbent upon the experts to perform such surgical operation as will answer the purpose of the law, but this operation shall not be performed except in cases that have been pronounced unimprovable." The expert surgeons are to give their services for not more than three dollars.

Surely this legislation deals with at least one of the evils of society referred to by Dr. Atherton. But British medical men look upon it as a matter of grave concern and doubt as to the wisdom of such a law. "All agree that efforts to prevent the increase in criminals and imbeciles is worthy of support, even to the extent of surgical operations, but there is a striking difference of opinion as to whether the statement contained in the preamble quoted above is entirely correct. Indeed the London Lancet in discussing the subject says, 'We are by no means certain that it has been proved that a large proportion of the insane are the offspring of confirmed criminals, idiots or imbeciles.'"

Another argument against the law which would seem to be worthy of consideration is that while certain patients may seem to be beyond improvement, their fate is made certain by the operation provided. It is well known to medical science that such operations frequently produce rapid mental degeneration, and British physicians agree that experts who give their services for not more than three dollars are being vested with a terrible authority when, declaring that any person is unimprovable, they are permitted to perform an act which makes improvement absolutely impossible. It is felt that Indiana has taken a step, which while it may be on a good road, is too far in advance of present day opinion.

TO TRAIN OFFICERS.

Canada is not a warlike country, nor does she particularly hanker after a strong standing army. Her people are willing as yet to rely upon the protection of the British forces, but at the same time are quietly adopting such means as will partially qualify them for military service should the occasion ever arise. Rifle clubs composed of civilians have been established throughout the dominion; cadet corps are attractive to the boys and afford preliminary instruction of a practical nature, and in many schools, companies have been formed for drill purposes. A new departure and one which the militia might enjoy all ment is the establishment of a military course at McGill College, the head of Canada's educational system. The department at Ottawa has expressed the wish that the militia might enjoy all additional recruiting sources and in accordance with this wish McGill has decided on a course. This scheme as outlined involves two lectures a week in military history, two in tactics, two in military law and administration. The courses in these subjects will extend from twelve to fourteen hours per week in the months of November, December, January and February. There will be in addition a course of two hours a week in military engineering, and two in military topography. These lectures will be given in the months of October, November, April and May, those months of the year being chosen in view of the need of some outdoor work. The courses will be in the hands of the following officers: Lt.-Col. H. Smith, Militia Department, Ottawa, military law and military administration; Major D. I. V. Eaton, assistant director of operations and staff duties, Ottawa, military history and tactics; Lieut. W. L. DeL. Carey, district engineer, Quebec command, military engineering and military topography. In Britain the same plan has prevailed for some time at Oxford, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Dublin and St. Andrews Colleges. Graduates are naturally believed to be possessed of wider qualifications for leadership than the ordinary run of men, and it is found that by special instruction along military lines, first class officers can be produced. Numbers of army commissions are awarded each year to the various colleges, and this same plan will be adopted in Canada.

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THE COMPLAINTS OF BEDROS TOURAIN.

Bedros Tourain, the son of an Armenian blacksmith, of Scutari, Constantinople, was born in 1851. He lived in great poverty and died of consumption in 1872. He left a number of dramas and poems that enjoy a great popularity among the Armenians. This poem was written a short time before Tourain's death.

Farewell to thee, O God, to thee, O sun, Ye twain that shine above my soul on high! My spirit from the earth must pass away!

I go to add a star to yonder sky. What are the stars but curses of sad souls—Souls guiltless, but ill fated, that take flight

To burn the brow of heaven? They only serve To make more strong the fiery armor bright.

O God, the source of lightnings! But, ah me! What words are these I speak? With thunder spelt, O God, and shatter the presumptuous thoughts That fill me—giant thoughts and infinite.

Thoughts of an atom in thy universe, Whose spirit dares defy its mortal bars. And seeks to dive into the depth of heaven, And climb the endless stairway of the stars!

Hail to thee, God, thou Lord of trembling man, Of waves and flowers, of music and of light!

And from my soul the power of soaring flight; Thou who hast taken from my brows the rose, And from my soul the power of soaring flight;

Thou who hast spread a cloud before mine eyes, And given these deathly flutterings to my heart, And bidst me smile upon thee on the brink

Of the dark tomb to which I must depart! Doubtless thou hast for me a future life Of boundless light, of fragrance, prayer and praise;

But if my last breath here below must end Speechless and mute, breathed out in mist and haze—

Ah, then, instead of any heavenly life To greet me when my earth span is over May I become a pallid lightning flash, Cling to thy name and thunder evermore!

Let me become a curse, and pierce thy side! Yes, let me call thee "God the pitiless!" Ah me, I tremble! I am pale as death; My heart feels like a hell of bitterness!

I am a sign that moans among the sad, Dark cypresses—a withered leaf the strife Of autumn winds must quickly bear away.

Ah, give me but one spark, one spark of life! What! after this brief, transitory dream Must I embrace for aye the grave's cold gloom?

O God, how dark a destiny is mine! Was it writ out with lees from the black tomb?

Oh, grant my soul one particle of fire! I would still love, would live and ever live! Stars, drop into my soul! A single spark

Of life to my ill fated lover give! Spring offers not one rose to my pale brow, The sunbeams lend me not one smile of light.

Night is my bier, the stars my torches are, The moon weeps ever in the depths of night.

Some men there are with none to weep for them; Therefore God made the moon. In shadows dim Of coming death man has but two desires—

First, life, then some one who shall mourn for him. In vain for me the stars have written "Love," The bulbous taught it me with silver tongue.

In vain the zephyrs breathed it, and in vain The secret leaves forbore to breathe or stir. Lest they should break my reveries divine; Ever they sufficed me to dream of her.

In vain the flowers, drawn of the spring, breathed forth Incense to my heart's altar, from the soil. Alas, they all have mocked me! All the world

Is nothing but the mockery of God! Judges (in the new courts during a divorce case, to the husband)—"Well, what is it you wish?"

Husband—"A divorce." Judge (to the wife)—"And you?"

Wife—"A divorce." Judge—"But when you came in you said that neither of you could agree on any one point."

A FINE PERFORMANCE

BY MANTELL LAST NIGHT

A King Lear the Popular Actor Added to His Already High Reputation.

Robert B. Mantell scored a distinct triumph in the initial performance of his play, King Lear, which was chosen as the vehicle, and showed Mr. Mantell's great ability in the many changing scenes required.

In act I where the old king casts off his daughter, Mantell gave an excellent portrayal of a monarch powerful, headless of advice, and a victim of flatterers. In this act Mr. Mantell as Kent was seen to advantage.

The most powerful acting in the play and the point where Mantell was most brilliant was in the scene with his two lovelorn daughters, who having obtained possession of his kingdom, were now thrusting him aside as an old dotard. The reading of the familiar lines "every inch a king" was perfect.

Mr. Mantell's set ups as the aged king was good. He controlled his voice well, changing from full, round tones to gentle quaverings which made his acting very impressive.

The part of "The Fool" was well acted by Guy Lindsey who, besides acting well his speaking lines, contributed greatly to the effect of the play by his dumb show of horror and amazement during the ill-treatment of the king by his daughters.

As Poor Tom, Mr. McGinn was all that could be desired. His personal appearance and stage presence were most affecting. He was a trifle unfamiliar with his lines, however, but made few halts.

The part of Edmund, the bastard son of Gloucester, was taken by Mr. Burly, who acted consistently throughout the play. The duel between him and his brother, Edgar, was rather disappointing, lacking the rush and vigorous fighting which might be expected from these two.

As Cordelia, Miss Marie Booth Russell maintained the high reputation she holds here in her acting, with the jewels elicited favorable comment from the ladies present. Her acting was thorough, and in the scene where Lear holds her dead in her arms, with the livid marks of the rope on her neck, her appearance was particularly commendable.

Miss Davis as Goneril was a fine example of a heartless woman who can, to suit her own ends, appear to be a saint. Miss du Boise as Regan was good.

The scenic effects throughout the play were all attractive, but the scene where Lear and the other outcasts spend a night on the moor in a violent storm, was a particularly fine piece of acting. The effect was splendid, but the steadiness of the lightning—flash lasting for several minutes—seemed at variance with the real lightning striking of the tree on the moor close by the party gave a very realistic effect to the storm.

Besides the fifty people present many had come from Moncton, Chatham and other provincial cities to see the Shakespearian master.

The noise caused by boys and men rushing up the stairs leading to the gallery was most disturbing, and should be discontinued.

ALPINE DEATH RECORD

BROKEN, EIGHTY KILLED,

TWENTY-TWO INJURED

Summer's Roll of Victims Longer Than

Ever Before, There Being Ninety

Accidents.

BERNE, Sept. 16.—The roll of summer victims of Alpine accidents is the longest recorded. Eighty persons were killed and twenty-two injured in ninety accidents this year, as against the previous record, seventy-six fatalities in 1905 in seventy-one accidents.

Thirty-eight of the eighty persons killed were guides, thirty-one were persons attempting vacation in the Alps and the remainder were native flower gatherers, etc. Three-quarters of the fatalities were caused by falls over precipices. The others were due to avalanches, snowstorms and lightning.

JUNIOR LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Junior Football League was held last night, when the following schedule of games was arranged between two teams composing the league, Rothsay and High School: Sept. 25—At St. John.

October 2—At St. John. October 12—At Rothsay. October 19—At Rothsay.

SCISSORS AND LIGHTNING.

Small articles of steel, such as scissors, cannot attract lightning out of its course, as commonly supposed.

Store Open Till 9 p. m. Tuesday, September 17, 1907.

WE RECEIVED, YESTERDAY, A LINE OF

Ladies' Goodyear Welt Lace Boots

having an extra heavy sole. This shoe is suited for general purposes, but is at its best when the sidewalks are damp. It is a very pretty thing.

Price, \$3.25.

Percy H. Steel, Foot-Lace

319-321 Main St. A.C.

SUCCESSOR TO MR. WIL. YOUNG.

RENTED TWO BICYCLES,

SOLD BOTH OF THEM

Two young men, who are supposed to have come from Sydney, worked a neat game yesterday of which R. E. Coles, the Charlotte street bicycle dealer, was the victim. The men hired two wheels—a Stearns' racer and a Red Bird—early yesterday morning and went toward the North End. On the way one of the wheels broke down and they took it to Gilbert's second-hand store on Mill street. Here they met a young man named Rudolph Hetherington, from the Washade-mook, and offered to sell him the wheel for \$5, which offer he accepted. Hetherington took it to Mr. Coles to be repaired as he visited to use it and Mr. Coles at once recognized the wheel.

The Fairville police as well as the city force are on the lookout for the men but no trace of them has yet been discovered.

The announcement that Principal J. E. Moore, of Rothsay, had donated a trophy for the Junior Football League is incorrect, but it is hoped by the boys that some one interested in football will feel disposed to put up a cup for competition.

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A Wrapper Protects

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Dirt and Germs

Scenic Route.

Between Millidgeville, Summersville, Kennebecasis Island and Baywater, Steamer Maggie Miller leaves Millidgeville daily (except Sunday and Saturday) at 9 a. m., 3.30 and 5.30 p. m. Returning from Baywater at 7 and 10 a. m. and 4.15 p. m. Sunday leaves Millidgeville at 9 a. m. and 10.30 a. m., 2.30 and 5.15 p. m. Returning at 9.45 and 1.15 a. m. and 4.30 and 6 p. m.

Saturday—Leaves Millidgeville at 7.45 and 9 a. m. and 3, 4 and 6 p. m. Returning at 6.30 and 10 a. m. and 4.45 and 6.45 p. m.

JOHN MCGOLDRICK, Agent.

WILL WED TOMORROW.

The marriage will take place in Leinster street church tomorrow morning of Miss Vernie Erb, only daughter of Isaac Erb, the Charlotte street photographer, and Mr. Harry F. Albright. The groom was formerly associated in business with Mr. Erb as a landscape photographer, but of late has been in the service of a large Portland, Me., concern travelling all over America for views. Mr. Albright latterly spent some months in Florida and, it is understood, will return there for the coming winter to continue his work. His bride will accompany him.

The ceremony tomorrow will be performed by Rev. Wellington Camp. Miss Erb is very popular in St. John and is an accomplished musician.

Most Rev. Ronald McDonald, R. R., titular Archbishop of Gorizia, is the guest of Very Rev. W. F. Chapman, V. G. Broad street. The archbishop visited Bishop Casey last evening. His Grace has been Bishop of Harbour Grace, Nfld., for twenty-five years. He was appointed soon after the visit of Mr. Conroy to Newfoundland and Canada. He has now retired because of ill-health.

Hon. C. W. Robinson, the premier, while in the city yesterday, told of a visit he had paid to the deposits of magnetite ore on the Neptisquit River. He said the government drill had in one place discovered ore about 400 feet thick. An analysis made by the official analyst had shown that the ore is of excellent quality. It is used for smelting purposes. The mine is about ten miles away from the I. C. R. The premier had promised the aid of the local government in developing the property.

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MOTHER OF MURDERED

MEN SOUGHT VENGEANCE

Armed With an Axe She Led the Mob in an Effort to Kill the

Gully.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Sept. 16.—After Harry Becker had been killed, and Samuel Becker, his brother, had been mortally wounded by Francesco Sica, a young Italian, tonight, two detectives had a desperate fight with a mob, led by the young men's mother, and by lynching the assailant of the two young men. It was only after the detectives' clothes had been torn to shreds and their prisoner badly beaten that the three were rescued by the police reserves.

The Becker brothers are proprietors of a hardware store on Upper Second avenue, in "Little Italy." Sica, who is twenty years old and a bootblack, yesterday purchased a revolver at the store. Tonight he returned and wanted his