



THE BATTLE against cancer is commanding the sympathy of the whole world. Investigations have been made on a large scale during the past year. These investigations have not been confined to one country, but to the civilized world. The results so far arrived at are, that cancer is not associated with the peculiarities of diet, climate or mode of life. The cancer research committee is doing a noble work in this field of labor. Their reports for this year show that no line of inquiry is overlooked, no matter how unpromising. The search after fresh facts has been stimulated by the rejection during the past year of certain fallacies, which previously obscured the true problem. One result obtained shows that cancer is not transferable from one individual to another, as if it were an infectious disease. The destruction of certain preconceived ideas of the origin of cancer has cleared the way for further advance, while the number of hitherto unsuspected facts certainly give hopes of final success. The researches in the various British colonies and protectorates continue to yield information of increasing value, and prove that the investigation is truly an imperial one. Cancer is found in vegetarians, as well as those who eat fish and fowl. The Prince of Wales has become deeply interested in the work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and with him are associated men of eminence from all parts of the empire. The day seems to be dawning when cancer shall have disappeared.

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THAT LOVE EXISTS is established beyond a peradventure; but is it necessary to marriage? Love is a sentiment. Is it a necessary adjunct to the matrimonial state? There are those who boldly proclaim that it should not be permitted to play any part in the marriage union; that marriage is a contract between two persons willing to make it; and if there be a similarity of tastes and a recognition of the duties to be performed, it is enough. The Chicago Tribune has been discussing the subject and says: "Are civilized nations reverting to the system of sale and purchase of brides and grooms? Is Cupid giving way to commercialism? Two of the most eminent anthropologists of the times—Paolo Mantegazza, the Italian, and Letourneau, the Frenchman—declare that civilization, having tried love and found it wanting in the arrangement of the marriage relation, is reverting to the system of barter and sale; that we are going back to first principles, and that but for the veneer of hypocrisy with which the people of the present time cover the arrangement, the system in America, in France, in England, and in Germany is the same as among the Kaffirs—pay the price and take the bride. These declarations, based on startling statistics showing the increasing tendency of 'settlements,' of marrying money to money, of the mating of millionaire girls to poverty-stricken noblemen, of the purchase of young and beautiful girls by decrepit multi-millionaires, are boldly made, and the writers declare that civilized man is again inaugurating the system of purchase, which, in time, may mean that the wealthiest man may buy the most beautiful girl from her parents, with her consent, she getting part of the purchase price; or that a rich woman may buy some handsome man whom she wants as her own." We trust that such a state of affairs may never be true of Canada. Love should be the forerunner of marriage. Without love marriage is a mockery. It is the union of two hearts which makes a marriage, not the words of a priest.

IS LOVE NECESSARY TO MARRIAGE?

of rain, while dwellers in cities for the most part vote it a "horrid nuisance." And yet the motive

"OF ALL THE FORCES of nature, that exerted by the falling rain is perhaps the most stupendous, as it certainly is the most neglected." These are the words of a contributor to one of England's leading journals. The idea is a novel one.

THE RAIN-DROP AS A MOTIVE POWER.

Except as an irrigating agent, and to fill our water-butts and wells, we make scarcely any use of a storm

power latent in water falling from a height is everywhere recognized. Says the Liverpool Express: "It is probably because rain falls in single drops, and the effect produced by any one drop is infinitesimal, that so few attempts have been made to apply the principle in regard to it. Yet, just reflect what it would mean should some one some day invent a method of harnessing the water poured forth from the clouds. On a really wet day, it is not a particularly uncommon thing for an inch of rain to fall. Now, an inch of rain descending upon an area the size of the United Kingdom, weighs approximately 7,692 million tons. The energy developed by such an incalculably vast weight of water, falling perpendicularly from a height of a mile or more, would be in the aggregate even more incalculable than the weight. In fact, both are best realized through an illustration. If it were possible to remove such a day's rainfall by human agency, the necessary train of tanks, each containing ten tons of water, would be long enough to wind itself 123 times round the earth at the equator. But the motive power developed by the falling rain, if it could be intercepted and utilized, would suffice to haul one thousand such trains each a distance of one thousand miles."

MISS TARBELL has issued her book on the above subject. Only those who have studied the voluminous evidence on the affairs of the Standard Oil Company given before the American Industrial Commission and have tried to make their way through its interminable complications and contradictions can form any idea of the task which lay before Miss Tarbell. Besides the great mass of testimony given before various investigatory bodies, she has had to study and digest a great bulk of pamphlet literature and endless columns of newspaper controversy. She has also had access to the manuscript files of the law courts in which important oil cases have been tried, and lastly, she has interviewed scores of prominent oilmen, including officers of the Standard Oil Co. itself. From this heterogeneous material she has woven together a narrative more exciting than many books of adventure, more instructive than many volumes on economics. Her conclusions are clear and outspoken and when most severe it is obvious she has no desire to be otherwise than fair to the great Trust. This is the final book on the Standard Oil Trust, and it is breathless reading—"one of the best pieces of investigation of which any economic literature can boast" the Manchester Guardian calls it. Miss Tarbell says "This huge bulk, blackened by commercial sin, has always been strong in all great business qualities, in energy, in intelligence, in dauntlessness. It has always been rich in youth as well as greed, in brains as well as unscrupulousness. If it has played its great game with contemptuous indifference to fair play and to nice legal points of view, it has played it with consummate ability, daring and address. The silent, patient, all-seeing man who has led it in its transportation raids has led it no less successfully in what may be called its legitimate work."

THE HISTORY OF THE STANDARD OIL CO.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS in which the old world is far beyond us; and the reverse is just as true. We can teach even dear old England some things about education. The Duke of Argyle, giving a civilian's impression of national defence in the nineteenth century, notes the special care taken in the physical training of youth in Sweden, Switzerland, France, Germany and Japan, and asks: "If all this is considered essential, even when the governments are sure to catch youth in the military net, why should we have so little government encouragement in Great Britain? Would it not be wise for public school boys to have a little less knowledge of the love songs of Horace and Anacreon and other theoretic mind training and be a little more 'quick at the uptake' of knowledge how best to use their limbs, enlarge their chests and have an idea how to work in unison with their fellows in military defence? Cooking, camping, marching, shooting and the practice of drill can

NATIONAL DEFENCE.

all be taught if an hour a day be given to the essential knowledge how best to defend hearth and home and the freedom on which we pride ourselves. To make men fit for war is the best way to prevent war from reaching us. Such general training would add no temptations to make war, but would give security that when "a strong man armed" comes to our house he need not hope to take away that which we have." This is all very true, but Canada has known it for a considerable time. The Duke of Argyle should witness a parade of our school children. He should see particularly our high school cadets at their physical exercises, then he would name Canada in the list of the countries which he thinks takes special pains with the physical training of their youth.

REASONS for the defeats of the Russian army and navy are coming to us thick and fast, and the one which seems to be the chief cause is that of drunkenness. This does not seem heroic, but according to an ex-attache it is only too true. He says: "Among the lessons taught by the war in the far Orient there is none that has received a more striking demonstration than that of the immense value of sobriety in military and naval operations. Russia has in this conflict labored under many disadvantages. But it is doubtful whether there has been any that has handicapped her more heavily than the drunkenness of her soldiers, of her sailors, and more particularly of her officers. Every foreign newspaper correspondent on the Russian side, even those whose sympathies were wholly Muscovite, such as Col. von Gaedke, formerly of the German general staff and probably the foremost military writer of the present day, has drawn well nigh incredible pictures of the prevalence of this particular vice among the foes of Japan and of appalling conditions arising therefrom. It is known that the foreign officers delegated to watch the operations in Manchuria have made still more damning reports on the subject to their respective governments, creating so deep an impression that the English secretary of state for war in the course of an address the other day declared that the victories of Japan were largely due to the sobriety of her officers and men, while the Kaiser in a remarkable speech to his officers at Strasburg, and of which only garbled reports have reached the public, gave expression to much the same views and is said to have added that Russia's military and naval disasters were in a great measure attributable to the intemperance of her officers. And, although deference to Muscovite susceptibilities and consideration for a stricken neighbor have led to the issue of a sort of official denial of these references by the emperor, to the least creditable causes of Russia's defeat, yet the notorious existence of the evil justifies the belief that he gave to it his unqualified condemnation." We are sorry the war ever was fought, but if the nations learn by it the value of sobriety, it will be some compensation for the many pathetic losses.

THE GREATEST ENEMY OF RUSSIA.

WE HAVE CLUNG to the habit of meat eating with a tenacity born of age and custom. Meat has always been associated with strength, and most of us cannot quickly rid ourselves of old associations. The average man does not take kindly to a diet minus meat. But modern science knows no limitations; to it nothing is sacred—not even the "roast beef of old England." So, after a very literal examination, the verdict is that a very little meat will go a very long way. The Jap is pointed out as possessing "marvellous endurance," the result of eating one meal of meat per day. The average man who does manual labor thinks he needs a meat diet three times a day. Speaking of this the Ladies' Home Journal says: "Take the pet notion in this country that a farmer or laborer must have meat at least twice a day because of his manual work. Does the American farmer do more work than the Japanese farmer? As a matter of fact, Japanese laborers do the work in the fields that horses do for us, and yet where will you find in all Japan a farmer or his help who eats red meat more than once a day? In thousands of cases they do not even do that. The Jap is by no means a solitary example. "Go to Holland, whose farmers are perhaps the sturdiest and most long-lived peasantry in the world,—according to the most reliable statistics—and find a single man who eats red meat more than once a day, or even that. Yet your Holland farmer does not begin to have the machinery for his work as has the American farmer, and must do with his hands and back what here is done by mechanical skill." Notwithstanding this denunciation of meat, few advocate total abstinence from it. That seems to be the best diet for all classes of workers in which meat figures but once a day.

MEAT AS A DIET.

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