

though most of them show the influence of tradition and sentiment and a desire to avoid extremes. An exception is presented in a rather radical expression of opinion by Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, long known as a friend of canal improvement, who declares that the great reduction of the cost of transportation by the railroads has greatly weakened, if not destroyed, the old-time arguments for the continued maintenance of the canals. Mr. Hewitt's letter is a striking one, and will do much to compel attention to a question, the solution of which will put to a test in the near future the practical statesmanship of the executive and legislative authorities of New York.—Bradstreets.

A MENACE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"There are a few principles which seem to us quite clear," says the New York Outlook. "The first is that the mere facts that Christian science and faith cure have organized as churches, and taken on a religious form, and are imbued with a quasi-religious spirit, do not exempt them from the operation of the law. Violation of the law is not made less a violation because the sanction of conscience is claimed for it. A Mormon cannot claim a right to polygamy nor a pagan to perform human sacrifice because his conscience requires this of him. Religious liberty is the liberty of every man to maintain what attitude he sees fit towards the Deity without interference from his fellow-men; it is not liberty to do or omit what he will in his relations to his fellow-men because his religion demands or forbids the action. The second is that well-settled usage, incorporated in the law, forbids the practice of healing by persons who have not been licensed by the State. And the practice of healing does not necessarily involve giving drugs; often, and to an increasing extent, the medical practitioner simply gives counsel. To attempt to cure disease as a profession and for pay, by whatever means, constitutes medical practice. Under the laws of our States, as they now exist, unlicensed practitioners may be prosecuted. The third is that the community has the right and the duty to afford protection to little children against even the neglect of their parents, and to protect the community against contagious disease by compelling the observance of those precautions which the general judgment believes to be essential."

RAILROAD BUILDING BY MUSIC.

A wise foreman of a construction gang of Southern darkies knows that he can get about 50 per cent. more work out of them if he can keep them singing, when the picks and shovels will invariably keep time with the music. The same custom seems to prevail among the African aborigines.

Building a railroad in the Soudan is not carried on to the sound of the voice of an Irish "boss" directing a gang of Italian laborers. As becomes the milder atmosphere of the tropics, a railroad in those regions is built to the "lascivious pleasing of a lute," or the African equivalent. The "sofas" are the working people, and the "griots" are the musical ones. The "sofas" will not work unless the "griots" play. So every gang of men has its orchestra. The "griots" play on flutes and rude harps the peculiar "rag time" tunes of Africa, and the picks and shovels of the "sofas" go industriously as long as the music lasts. In the Soudan it has been found impossible to get work out of the natives in the construction of railroads unless music was furnished. To the sound of music the steel rails are penetrating the Congo region and forcing their way through the Soudan.

To every gang of forty or fifty men there are assigned two harp players and a

flute player. As long as the music keeps up the black laborers do not seem to feel fatigue. Generally the musicians get tired before the laborers do. The music produced by these cheerers of labor would not be inspiring to a white man, for it is filled with peculiar plaintiveness. To the Africans, however, the tunes seem to be an inspiration.

A case somewhat familiar to this is the custom in Cuban tobacco factories. In the big room where the cigarmakers work is always a reader. He sits upon a platform and reads novels to the workmen, as they manipulate the tobacco. Again, on board ship a sailor will work as well again if he is permitted to "shanty"—that is, sing a working song, the rhythm of which keeps time to his labor. But in the building of railroads music is a new factor. Cecil Rhodes' "Cairo to the Cape" road will be literally fided and harped through Africa.—Dixie.

ASIATIC LUCIDITY.

The Calcutta Times has this paragraph in one of its hotel advertisements: "Gentlemen who come in hotel not say anything about their meals they will be charged for, and if they should say beforehand, that they are going out to breakfast or dinner, etc., and if they say that they not have anything to eat they will be charged, and if not so they will not be charged, or unless they bring it to the notice of the manager of the place, and should they want to say anything they must order the manager for one, not anyone else, and unless they bring not it to the notice of the manager they will be charged for the least things according to the hotel rate, and no fuss will be allowed afterward about it."

MEDICAL FEES IN THE KLONDYKE COUNTRY.

We find the following statement of alleged charges of Klondyke medical men in the Canadian Gazette, of London, Eng. We trust it is not a joke—the subject is not a fit one to joke upon. The figures are probably not out of proportion to prices of other services.

More signs of progress in the Yukon. The welfare of medical men in the Klondyke country is now in the hands of an organization known as the Yukon College of Physicians and Surgeons. The following scheduled scale of fees has, of course, been framed with due regard to local conditions:

Ordinary fee	\$ 10
Visit within town site	10
Night visit within town site	15
Midwifery	100
Anaesthetics	15
Minor operations	25
Major operations	100
Dislocations or fractures	50
Outside visits, per number	10
Consultation fee	25

HAMILTON CITY IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY'S DONT'S.

AND VERY SENSIBLE DONT'S THEY ARE.

Don't throw anything into the street. Garbage cans and barrels are always near at hand.

Don't throw away banana skins. They are slippery. Give them to a horse. Horses like them.

Don't forget that orange skins and watermelon rinds are easiest cared for when thrown into a garbage can.

Don't tear up waste paper and scatter it about the street. Your mother can use it for lighting her fire.

Don't fill the ash barrel too full. Ashes are easily scattered by the faintest breeze.

Don't use ash barrels for bonfires. Bonfires make extra work for the sweepers

and cartmen; they injure the pavement; the barrels cost somebody money.

Don't throw water into the street on frosty days.

Don't scatter the sand heaps in front of buildings being erected.

Don't throw anything into the sewers.

Don't prevent water in gutters from flowing into the sewers.

Don't touch the fire hydrants. If the hydrants get out of repair, the damage, in case of fire, might prove serious.

These items, which are contributed to the Times by an active member of the City Improvement Society, should be kept in a handy place for reference. Cut the piece out of the paper, and paste it up where you will see it frequently.—Hamilton Times.

WHAT DOES IT PAY?

Burglary insurance has had a hard road to travel in this country, so far. It has had a past, and it may have a future. But over the water it is recorded to be "one of the most successful branches of modern insurance work." A correspondent of The Chronicle (New York), says: "One company, for example, only six years old, the National Burglary Insurance Corporation, has secured a very fine premium income—last year's amounting to \$77,000, an increase of \$12,000 over the previous year. The five per cent. dividend to shareholders is paid from interest, and the whole of the trading profit of \$12,500 is carried forward." What is the matter with the ingenious and hustling Yankee that he is thus outstripped by his English cousins?—Insurance Report.

It is absurd to class burglary as "one of the most successful branches of modern insurance work." It is a bit absurd, too, to refer to the superior enterprise of our British cousins. This company did last year more than three times the volume of the English company referred to above. Burglary is a possible line, but it is beset with dangers in a great degree. We expect to make a success in it. That is our habit. But there will be many wrecks of companies in this line, as there have been in other lines. The "hustling Yankee" may take hold never so vigorously, but unless he has some other quality than hustle his work will soon be ended.—Fidelity and Casualty Bulletin.

WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCTION.

The Director of the Mint at Washington has nearly completed his estimate of the world's gold production for the year 1898. The data at hand seems to warrant the conclusion that the production will amount to at least \$294,000,000, and possibly \$295,000,000. Africa leads all other countries with \$80,300,000, with Australia second with \$67,500,000, and the United States third with \$64,463,000. Russia is credited with \$25,000,000, Mexico with \$10,000,000, and Canada, including the Klondyke, with \$14,000,000. In 1897 Africa produced \$58,306,000, with the United States second with \$55,363,000, and Australia third with \$55,684,000, Russia fourth with \$23,245,000. Mexico fifth with \$9,436,000, and Canada, including the Klondyke, with \$6,027,000. The total for that year was \$287,505,000. Of the \$14,000,000 credited to Canada in 1898, about \$10,000,000 came out of the Klondyke, and in the estimate of the production of the United States during the last year \$2,524,000 came from Alaska. In 1896 and for nearly fifty years previously, the United States occupied the first place in the world's production of gold. In that year the output of the world was estimated at \$202,682,000. These figures are subject to revision in making up the final estimate, but are believed to be approximately correct.