Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

Enteric Fever Imported from the Cape.—An outbreak of enteric fever has occurred at Orton, near Peterborough. Last month an Imperial Yeoman, who had enteric fever at the Cape, was allowed to return to Orton. Two days later, a number of his family was taken ill, and there are now a number of cases of a serious type. The medical officer has reported to the Local Government Board, pointing out that if more such cases were sent into the country, there would be a general epidemic.—English Exchange.

A Fireman's True Story.—The English-speaking competitors in connection with the recent international meeting of fire brigades at the Paris Exhibition were sitting in a cafe, telling of experiences they had had. The commander of the New Zealand contingent, it was noticed, had nothing to say. He just sat and listened. After a great deal of persuasion, however, he began to talk. "He said the most exciting incident he could remember took place at an hotel fire in his town. The hotel was twenty storeys high. The nineteenth storey was burning, when a man appeared at the top of the building. Some of the crowd shouted 'jump,' and others 'don't jump.' The man waved his hand to the people down below and disappeared. In a minute or two he appeared again, wrapped in rubber life-preservers, rubber cushions, and water bottles. Then it was remembered that he was a traveller for a rubber firm. The man jumped. When he struck the pavement he bounced up again higher than the hotel, and he went on bouncing for a week. Eventually they had to get a sharpshooter to shoot him to prevent him from starving."

Why?—Mr. Bryan took the opportunity last Monday of commenting on the newer problems of American finance. His attention seems to have been called to the fact that the surplus wealth of the United States is, at present, so great that some of it is overflowing into European securities. His comment, in his speech at Quincy, Illinois, is characteristic. Why do not these capitalists buy land in America instead of buying German and English Government bonds? Why, indeed? The answer that capitalists, large or small, usually invest their money where they choose, would be too commonplace for an economist of Mr. Bryan's grasp. The capitalist, we fancy, might retort that if the surplus funds of Chicago and the East were actually invested in Illinois lands, Mr. Bryan might start the hue and cry against the plutocrats who were forming a "Land Trust" and reducing the farmer to servitude. As a matter of fact, this last deliverance is only another stroke of the demagogue's art in which Mr. Bryan is proving himself so proficient. When European capital was flowing to America, the favourite argument of such politicians was that the foreigners were snatching away the American's birthright.—N. Y. Evening Post.