

**COST OF THE RUSSIAN PLAGUE.**—It will be of interest to make known some of the details of the “budget” of the plague of Astrachan, and of the measures taken to prevent its recurrence. The epidemic, which was near cutting off Russia from the rest of Europe, cost altogether about two million francs, the expenses, being calculated from January, when General Loris Mélikoff was named Governor-General, until April, when all danger had disappeared. The sanitary cordons and quarantines cost 100,000 fr. ; the watching isolating suspected places on the Volga, 60,000 fr. ; the medical *personnel* and payment of *employés*, 250,000 fr. ; medicines, &c., 90,000 fr.

A DOCTOR went out West to practice his profession. An old friend met him on the street one day and asked him how he was succeeding in his business.

“First rate,” he replied. “I’ve had one case.”

“Well, what was that ?”

“It was a birth !” said the doctor.

“How did you succeed with that ?”

“Well, the old woman died, and the child ; but, by the grace of God, I’ll save the old man yet !”

**AT THE AUTOPSY.**—Three physicians met together to consult, at the sick-bed of General X. After they go the General rings for his man-servant :

“Well, Jaques, you showed those gentlemen out ; what did they say ?”

“Ah, General they seemed to differ with each other ; the big fat one said, they must have a little patience, and at the autopsy—whatever that may be—they would find out what the matter was.”

THERE is but one proper cosmetic, and that is pure soap and water—not scented soap, but pure soap. Scented soap is only needed to hide the offensive smell of an unhealthy skin ; if the skin is kept healthy by regular washing, no scent will be wanted, and both blonde and brunette may be satisfied that the beauty which they will then possess and rightly rejoice it is the work of nature, and not the result of paint.