

# Messenger and Visitor

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**A New Pest.** A report comes from St. Catharines, Ont., of the discovery of a new enemy of the fruit trees. Mr. Thomas Beattie is said to have discovered a new species of scale which resembles in some degree the San Jose scale, the most formidable enemy which horticulturists have had to contend with in recent years. The new species was found on a lilac bush. When examined under a microscope it was found to differ somewhat from the San Jose scale—the latter having somewhat the form of a turtle, while the new scale is more elongated in form, but is believed to have a similar effect on fruit trees to that of the San Jose scale. Mr. Beattie has forwarded samples of the new pest to the Ontario Agricultural College for examination.

**About N. Rays** There has been much discussion late in scientific papers of France and England over the alleged discovery by M. Blondlot of certain rays, called N. rays. Some scientists have been unable by experiment to find any evidence of the existence of such rays, but it is said that Messieurs Blondlot and Charpentier have been steadily accumulating facts which place beyond question the conclusion that the discovery is a valuable contribution to science. As to the nature and qualities of the N rays, we are told that they are now proved to be nothing more nor less than part of the invisible spectrum of sunlight, a little more ultra than the ultra violet rays. They are somewhere between heat and electric rays, slower than rays of radiant heat and faster than Hertzian rays. They can pass through aluminum as sunlight through a glass and can be focused by an aluminum lens. These rays traverse lead, tinfoil, platinum and copper without difficulty and do not require complicated apparatus as the Roentgen rays. They stream from an ordinary incandescent lamp, more remarkable still, they can be spontaneously produced from a number of substances such as wood or glass when twisted or subjected to pressure. Untempered steel does not produce the rays, but tempered steel continually emits them. When thrown directly and solely upon the eye they enable it to see in a darkened room objects which had previously been invisible. Professor Charpentier discovered that the human body emits the rays in quantities proportionate to the activity of the part of the body whence they come. He has also proved that they are emitted from the speech centre of the brain whenever a person speaks. When the speaker emits rays they vary according to the pitch of the note. It is supposed that when it is known exactly what rays come from various parts of the brain in normal conditions it may be possible to use variations of quantity and quality as a means of detecting the injury or disease of different parts of the brain.

**Alcohol and Consumption.** The discovery that tuberculosis of the lungs is a contagious, and to some extent at least, a curable disease, has naturally led physicians to a study of conditions and habits of living with a view to determining what conditions are favorable or unfavorable to the propagation of the disease. There appears to be a pretty general agreement of medical opinion that indulgence in alcoholic liquors constitutes a condition highly favorable to the propagation of the germs of the disease by weakening the resistance of the tissues to the attack of the tubercle bacillus, and that the conditions to be found in taverns and saloons, by reason of the vitiated atmosphere of the places and the uncleanly habits, especially the reckless spitting, of many of their occupants, are very favorable to the spread of the disease. Dr. Knopf, a physician of world-wide reputation, in his international prize essay on "Tuberculosis as a Disease of the Masses and how to Combat It," speaks of alcoholism as being "certainly the most active co-operator of the deadly tubercle bacillus or germ of tuberculosis." Dr. West in his "Diseases of the Organs of Respiration" says: "There can be no doubt that when phthisis attacks alcoholic persons it is likely to run to an acute course." Dr. S. Mackenzie in the *Lancet* said: "It has been shown that those who are intemperate or who have opportunities of drinking show a higher mortality from phthisis than do others, and that the children of the intemperate are more prone to become tuberculous than those of the temperate. No doubt through alcohol persons acquire or inherit a lessened power of resistance to tuberculosis. Other physicians of eminence are no less decided in

pronouncing alcohol a potent agent in the production of pulmonary consumption. Professor Brouardel, Dean of the Medicine Faculty of Paris, pronounces alcohol the most potent factor in propagating tuberculosis," says that "the invasion of alcohol ought to be regarded as a public danger," and affirms that "any measures taken by the State or individual tending to limit the ravages of alcohol will be our most precious auxiliary in the crusade against tuberculosis."

## The Fighting in Thibet.

The British force accompanying Colonel Younghusband's Thibetan expedition have had more fighting to do. The *London Times* received under date of May 6, a despatch giving an account of two sanguinary encounters with native forces. One of these encounters occurred at Karo Pass to which point Colonel Brander with 300 rifles—about two-thirds of the Gyantse garrison—had been sent in order to disperse a body of Thibetans stationed there to oppose the progress of Colonel Younghusband's mission. The pass is at an altitude of about 16,000 feet, and the Thibetans were found, about 1600 in number, holding a wall well flanked, with sangars and having made elaborate preparations for hurling rocks down on both sides the gorge. The place was taken by Colonel Brander's men after an obstinate resistance on the part of the enemy, the frontal attack being supported by a flanking movement. When this movement was effected the entire Thibetan force fled. Seventy-five Thibetans were killed in the attack, and it is supposed that as many more may have fallen in the pursuit. The casualties on the British side were 18, including 5 killed, among the latter being Captain Bethune who fell while leading his men in the frontal attack. After Colonel Brander's force had left Gyantse, a determined night attack was made by a Thibetan force of 800 men. The small garrison under the command of Major Murray acted with great gallantry and beat off the attack successfully. It is reported that the attacking force lost heavily. But they were still holding a position in the neighborhood of Gyantse and keeping up a fire upon the garrison. Colonel Brander's force was expected to return to Karo Pass and disperse them. It is evident that Colonel Younghusband is meeting with a very inhospitable reception and it seems doubtful whether his mission can have any satisfactory result. It seems almost certain that a stronger military force will have to be sent for its protection.

## Sir Henry Stanley.

Sir Henry M Stanley died in London on Tuesday morning the 10th inst. Stanley won fame chiefly in connection with his work as an explorer in Africa and especially as the finder of Livingston. His eventful life began in Denbeigh, Wales, on January 28, 1841. The conditions of his early youth were very humble. At three years of age he was placed in the poor house of St. Asaphs, where he remained ten years, receiving an education which enabled him to teach school. At the age of fifteen he sailed as cabin-boy in a vessel bound for New Orleans. There he was adopted by a merchant named Stanley whose name he took in place of his own which was John Rowlands. His patron died without leaving a will, and young Stanley was left to his own resources. When the civil war broke out he enlisted in the Confederate army, but having been taken prisoner, joined the Federal Navy, and served as acting ensign on the "Ticonderoga." After the close of the war he became a newspaper correspondent in connection with the *New York Herald* and was finally sent by James Gordon Bennett to Africa to find Livingston. Stanley reached Zanzibar on the east coast of Africa in January, 1871, and on Nov. 10, found Livingston at Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika, where he had just arrived from the south-west. Stanley furnished him with supplies, explored the northern part of Lake Tanganyika with him, and remained until February, 1872, when Livingston started on the journey from which he never returned, and Stanley made his way back to Europe, reaching England in July, 1872. Here he was received with great enthusiasm, was publicly entertained and presented by Her Majesty with a gold snuffbox set with diamonds, and by the Royal Geographical Society (1873) with the Patron's Gold Medal.

The success of Stanley's first African expedition led to his being sent by the conductors of the *New York Herald*

and the *London Daily Telegraph* on a second. This was undertaken in 1874. At the expense of great labor and in the face of most formidable difficulties, Stanley explored the region of the Lake Victoria Nyanza. He found the Lake to be the largest body of fresh water on the globe, having an area of 30,000 square miles. During this visit to Africa Stanley explored the course the great river which Livingston had discovered and which he had believed to be the Nile, but which Stanley proved to be the Congo. A third time Stanley visited the dark continent, sent there by the Brussels African International Association with a view to developing the great basin of the Congo. This work he completed in 1884, having established trading stations along the Congo River from its mouth to Stanley Pool, 1400 miles up the river. A fourth expedition was made in 1887 for the purpose of relieving Emin Pasha, Governor of Equatorial Africa, whose condition was known in Europe to have become precarious. Stanley fulfilled his mission, succored Emin and brought him and his followers safely back to Egypt. Nearly three years were occupied in the journey. His return to England was an unending ovation. The universities of Oxford and Durham bestowed upon him the degree of D. C. L.; that of I. L. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Cambridge.

## Unrest in Russia.

A secret report from St. Petersburg to Rome represents the internal situation of Russia as becoming most serious as regards the preservation of the present institutions, the military failures in the Far East having strengthened the opinion that the evils are due to the present organization of the country, in which a change is necessary. The hope is expressed that the Emperor himself, seeing the danger, will be induced to grant the country a constitution, in which event, it is asserted, the enthusiasm of the people will become so great as to render it possible to raise an army and collect the means necessary to defeat Japan. Otherwise, the report says, it is believed all the efforts made at St. Petersburg will remain futile, as besides the war in the Far East Russia will be obliged to face a latent if not an open revolutionary movement at home, depriving her of the assistance of the most progressive elements of the Empire, such as the Poles and Finns.

## The War.

Very little definite information respecting the progress of the war in the Far East has been received during the past week. Early in the week it was reported that railway communication with Port Arthur, which had been interrupted by the Japanese, had been restored, and that the Russian commander-in-chief had succeeded in sending a train load of ammunition through to the besieged city. The restoration of communication appears to have lasted only for a day or two before it was again interrupted. How the Russians came to regain command of the railway and the telegraph is not explained. A body of Cossacks were reported to be operating in Korea and making a vigorous attack upon the town of Anju which is some eighty miles or more south of the Yalu, but nothing very definite as to their movements has been learned. There are reports that the Russians have destroyed their costly wharves and docks at Da'ny in anticipation of their falling into the enemy's hands. This report seems to have arisen by way of explaining the sound of heavy explosions which were heard out at sea, and which are also explained as being caused by the Russians endeavoring to remove the obstructions at the entrance of Port Arthur harbor, or removing rocks which might serve as a refuge for an attacking party. Another explanation of the explosions is the very unlikely one that the Russians were blowing up their ships at Port Arthur. It does not appear that Nur Chwang has yet been abandoned by the Russians, though there are reports that the larger part of the Russian garrison has been removed, and the complete evacuation of the town is expected. There is a belated report of a Japanese cruiser having been crippled by a Russian torpedo boat in Taiden Wan Bay on June 10. If the report is true it seems unaccountable that it was not published before. The Japanese are no doubt concentrating a large force on the Liaotung peninsula, though the exact disposition of their forces is not revealed. There are said to be 30,000 Japanese at P'ose-wo. An important battle may be expected before long. The Russians are manifesting a good deal of uneasiness in reference to the attitude of the Chinese, which is regarded as being uncertain if not actually hostile, and indeed there are rumors of attacks having been made by Chinese on Russian outposts.