Novel Experiments With Food.

Experiments of a novel and of a very important character have been undertaken at Washington by Dr. Wiley assisted by other officials of the Department of Agriculture. The nature and scope of the experiments will be best gathered from the remarks made by Dr. Wiley himself, who says:—

It must be remembered that these tests have nothing to do with the importations or exportations of food or our food commerce with foreign countries. Only incidentally will they be of value in this respect. The first object is to ascertain the relative value of food products and the effects of preservative matter, coloring and other adulterations commonly used.

"Under the law the United States authorities can inspect foods ready for exportation to foreign markets. But this only on the request of American exporters. Strange as it may seem, no such request has ever been made. In regard to the importation of foreign food products, our consuls abroad can refuse an invoice at any time to any food found to contain poisonous matter.

"Our purpose in the present experiments is to ascertain what and how much harm preservatives in food will do the human system. Special reference will first be made to borax and sulphurous and salicylic acids. Only pure food, however, will be given to the subjects for the first two weeks. This will be carefully weighed, together with all drinkables, and the condition of the men observed each day.

"The experiments are more expensive than any others ever attempted and should prove of great value to physicians, trainers of athletic teams and the public in general. There is a great difference of opinion as to the effect of different foods on the human system. At the same time there is a great lack of facts upon which to base calculations. Various methods have been adopted in the past to ascertain these facts, but the experiments have been largely made on animals. This has all been very well so far as animals are concerned, but the stomach of a cat or a rabbit is very different from the stomach of a human being. One can easily digest what the other would not for a moment contain.

"Our object is to experiment with the digestive apparatus of a human. Such experiments have been made in the past, but they have never been general and never covered a long period of time. Physicians have often taken one or two men for a test, but only for a brief period. Our test is made with twelve men and will be continued for a year. We hope to exhaust the subject and furnish data of great technical value to physicians and importance to the public at large."

"The young men undergoing the tests—who, by the way, should receive the highest praise for this volunteering for the public good — are divided into two groups. Half will be resting while the other six will be given the extraneous matter for observation purposes. We thus have what we call the relaxation table, where only pure food is allowed, and the observation table, where the chemicals are administered. We are thus able to strike a balance and to note quickly any disturbance of the system caused by the adulteration.

"These adulterants will not be administered in the food itself, but will be given to the subjects immediately before or after eating, in such quantities as would naturally be put into the amount of food taken when prepared for commerce. We keep a regular account with each man, and by chemical analysis can quickly tell what has been digested and what has not. For two or three weeks now, as I have said, only pure food will be given, in order to get the men into a perfectly healthy condition and in order to test the relative quantities taken. This we call the fore period. Only normal systems will be experienced on; that is, the healthy man. Later in the year we may ask to go into the hospitals for observation on invalids to test the relative value of food on weakened stomachs.

"As each series of experiments is completed and conclusions drawn a report will be made to the Secretary of Agriculture, and these reports will be given to the public in two forms. There will be a technical report for the use of physicians and another for the general public which can be easily understood. In this way we hope the test will result in great and lasting benefits.

"The utmost care will be maintained in both departments, the kitchen and dining room. Absolute cleanliness has been established and will be kept up to the very end. My assistants engaged in the work will use every care as to detail of preparation and chemical analysis, and the subjects on whom the tests will be made will eat nothing and drink nothing but the food prepared for their use unless in case of illness. Should one of the men contract a cold or become ill from any cause of course, be eliminated from the ob- of course, be el,minated from the observation until perfectly well again."

New York Hibernians To Have a Hall.

For some time it has been the aim and ambition of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New York County, N.Y., to erect such a building as would forever stand a monument to the genius, industry and fealty of the Irish element of our population, in which classes might be conducted and lectures delivered calculated to shed light on the history of the race and its sacrifices and contributions to the creation and up-building of the institutions of the Republic, as well as to afford opportunities for self-improvement and pleasure by means of a free library, reading-rooms and other accessories of like character. In other words, to found a lyceum under the auspices of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In seeking to work out this end several disappointments have been met with; nevertheless the effort has been continued, thanks to the perseverance and patriotism of the humble and earnest membership of the Order, so that to-day the Hibernians find themselves possessed of a valuable property, 100 x 110 feet, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 116th Street, New York city, in equity of $50,000.

A demonstration was held in Carnegie Hall, New York, on Sunday evening, Dec. 7, for the purpose of presenting the matter to the public. There was a very large attendance, and the meeting was a splendid success. A series of lectures by distinguished speakers was given. Archbishop Farley presided.

Archbishop Farley was introduced by the Hon. William Bourke Cockran, who intended sailing for Europe on the day previous, but postponed his journey to attend the meeting. Mr. Cockran alluded to the fact that this was the first secular function that Monsignor Farley had attended since he was elevated to the head of the archdiocese.

In replying the Archbishop said: It is high time that the numerous and influential body of Catholic Irish-Americans in this, the largest Catholic city—I might add perhaps Irish city—of the United States, had some monument worthy of the name of Ireland, and I am happy that the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are the first to take the step toward the raising of that monument.

They showed their appreciation and love for Ireland and the United States, and love for the cause of higher education when, some years ago, they gracefully and generously, and with that open-handedness which is characteristic of the Irish race, presented $50,000 to the Catholic University at Washington.

If there is any institution or association which deserves a monument to keep its memory green it is the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This enterprise, which I look forward to as a medium for great things for our Catholic people in this city, has my heartfelt blessing and I wish it Godspeed.

Hon. Thomas J. Gargan, of Boston, delivered an eloquent address on the "Irish in America;" Mgr. Joseph F. Mooney, Vicar-General of the archdiocese, spoke on "Irish Moral Influence on American Character;" the Hon. John T. McDonough, Secretary of State of New York, on "Irish Influence on the Industrial Development of America;" the Hon. Thos. Addis Emmet Weadock, of Detroit, Mich., on "Irish Influence on American Polity;" the Hon. Morgan J. O'Brien, Justice of the Supreme Court, New York, on "Irish Influence on American Bench and Bar;" Major Edward T. McCrystal, on "Influence of Irish Soldier in America," and the Hon. William McAdoo, Ex-Assistant Secretary of the Navy, made an interesting address.

Subscriptions amounting to more than $5,000 were promised, and a large sum will be realized from the sale of seats and boxes.

All unhappiness, as all happiness, is from within. For, as St. Bernard has said: "Nothing can work me damage but myself; the harm that I sustain, I carry about with me, and I am never a real sufferer but by my own fault."

The Pope And Workingmen.

On the 3rd day of March next His Holiness Leo XIII. will complete the twenty-fifth year of his Pontificate as the successor of Peter. Catholic workingmen have adopted a very appropriate method of celebrating the event. A committee representing them in Rome will, on that day, present to the Venerable Pontiff three bronze tables. These tables will constitute the international homage of the Catholic toilers. Upon them will be inscribed the social doctrines of Leo XIII. as expressed in his three Encyclicals on the labor question. After they have been presented to His Holiness the tables will form the essential part of a monument symbolizing the workers' cause sanctified by religion. The monument will be erected at St. John Lateran's, the mother church of all the Christian churches in the world, and will, it is expected, be finished about the 15th of May. The secretaries of the committee, Mgr. Pezzani, Monterone, 79, and the Rev. Professor Carlo Salotti, Via Umilta, 36, Rome, inform the public in a letter which they have just issued that the names of all contributors of ten lire will be cut upon the monument. The Holy Father will be highly pleased with this tribute for there is no title he loves better than the workingman's Pope.—Liverpool Catholic Times.

LET US TAKE TIME.

Let us take time for the evening prayer. Our sleep will be more restful if we have claimed the guardianship of God. Let us take time to speak sweet, loving words to those we love. By and by, when they can no longer hear us, our simplicity will seem more wise than best wisdom. Let us take time to read our Bible. Its treasures will last when we shall have ceased to care for the war of political parties, the rise and fall of stocks, or the petty happenings of the day. Let us take time to be pleasant. The small courtesies which we often omit because they are small, will some day look larger to us than the wealth which we have coveted, or the fame for which we have struggled. Let us take time to get acquainted with our families. The wealth you are accumulating, burdened father, may be a doubtful blessing to the son who is a stranger to you. Your beautifully kept house, busy mother, can never be a home to your daughter whom you have no time to caress. Let us take time to get acquainted with Christ. The hour is coming swiftly for us all, when one touch of His hand in the darkness will mean more than all that is written in the day-book and ledger, or in the record of our little social world. Since we must all take time to die, why should we not take time to live, to live in the large sense of a life begun here for eternity?—Home Journal and News.

A PROTESTANT SYNOD OPPOSED TO CREMATION.

The Catholic Church has consistently opposed the pagan method of disposing of the dead by cremation. It is, therefore, gratifying to note that the Protestant synod, held at Halle, Germany, on November 6th, refused, after a heated debate, to accept the motion that clergymen be permitted to attend cremations or hold divine service over a corpse before it was carried to the crematory. The synod stamped cremation officially as a "sin, not a mere infraction of ethics."

Always take the part of an absent person who is censured in company, so far as truth and propriety will allow.

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