

SINGULAR EFFECT OF EMOTION ON THE SENSES.

Sir William Dalby, consulting aural surgeon to St. George's Hospital, has been noting down some "strange incidents in practice"—that is to say, certain cases within his own experience as a medical practitioner—which he confesses himself unable to account for by any course of cause and effect with which the profession can be said to be at all accurately familiar. The most curious have reference to the effects of emotion on the various senses. One is that of a lady who was standing before her toilet table and looking through an open door into her husband's dressing-room, when she saw in a mirror the reflection of her husband in the act of cutting his throat. From that moment she was absolutely deaf. A similar sudden and complete loss of hearing happened some years later to a young married woman who was suddenly confronted with her husband's dead body at the time when she believed him to be quite well, and when she was going to meet him after a long absence.

On various occasions, Sir William Dalby has noted the remarkable effects produced upon the hearing by emotional influences not only by great mental shocks, but by mental strins. He has known not only sudden grief but also overwhelming joy, instantly to make a person quite deaf. Sir William Dalby has known the sense of smell to be lost by very strong emotional influences, and with this the sense of taste. A remarkable instance of loss of a faculty is that of a brother physician, who in boyhood found himself suddenly deprived of the power of speech. He was a man of middle age and robust appearance. His hearing was perfect and he could understand all that was said, but his replies were always communicated by pencil and paper. One day this physician announced that the power of speech had returned as suddenly as it had originally left him. He added that he was entirely unable to ascribe the recovery to any cause, and Sir William Dalby confesses that his experience does not enable him to offer any explanation.

THE POPULATION OF THE EARTH.

How many people are now living on the earth? How are they divided in regard to the great geographical divisions of the world, to the great political subdivisions, or as to races? Where are the most densely and the most sparsely settled countries? To these questions we find answers given in the publication by H. Wagner and A. Supan, entitled *Bevölkerung der Erde*, the eighth division of which appeared in 1891. For a large part of the earth, these answers do not pretend to scientific accuracy, because they are not founded on an accurate census, or counting of the people, but the estimates have been carefully made after comparing all the information available from various sources, including especially the careful study of this subject made by M. Emile Levasseur, of the Institute of France, and published in the Bulletin of the International Institute of Statistics in 1887 and 1888. According to Levasseur, the total population of the earth in 1886 was 1,483,000,000; accord-

ing to Wagner and Supan, it was in 1891 about 1,480,000,000, the difference being mainly due to the differences in the estimates of the population of China and of Africa. The figures of Wagner and Supan include 836,000,000 people actually counted or registered, or a little over 56 per cent. of the total mass.

Over half of the people of the world live in Asia, and nearly one-fourth of them in China, which slightly exceeds the whole of Europe in population. India contains a little over one-fifth, and Africa about one-ninth of the world's people. Less than one-fourth belong to what are ordinarily known as civilized nations, and of these nearly one-third, or about one-thirtieth of the total population of the world, belong to the English speaking peoples. The density of the population of different parts of the world varies very greatly in different countries—being greatest in Belgium, where it is about 535 to the square mile. The number of persons to the square mile in different regions and countries is as follows: Europe, 95; Asia, 48; Africa, 14; America, 8; Australasia, 1.3; Belgium, 535; England, 480; Netherlands, 357; Great Britain and Ireland, 311; Italy, 272; German Empire, 236; Japan, 271; China, 226; India, 187; Switzerland, 186; France, 184; Austria-Hungary, 170; Denmark, 146; Portugal, 124; Spain, 89; European Russia, 49; Sweden, 27; United States, 17; Mexico, 15; Norway, 15; Canada, 2. A large part of the world is not crowded yet. In Australasia the density of population is only 1.3 per square mile.

In 1660, Riccioli estimated the total population at 1,000 millions; in 1810, Malte-Brun gave it as 640 millions. In 1840, Bernoulli gave it as 764 millions; in 1858, Dieterici estimated it at 1,283 millions; and in 1868 Kolb gave it as 1,270 millions. In 1872 Behm and Wagner issued the first of their reports on this subject, estimated it at 1,377 millions. In 1880 they reached the figure of 1,556 millions. In 1882 they rejected the result of the so-called census of China in 1842 taking 350 instead of 405 millions as its population, which reduced the total result to 1,434 millions, equivalent to 1,401 millions in 1880. In the figures of Wagner and Supan for 1891, a further reduction is made of 46 millions, 38 millions being dropped from Africa alone. According to these revised estimates, the population of the earth increased in eleven years from 1,355 millions to 1,480 millions, giving an average annual increase of 0.84 per cent. Taking into consideration the fact that excessive death rates prevail in semi-civilized and barbarous nations, it seems probable that the average annual increase by excess of births over deaths is certainly less than 1 per cent of the population of the earth.

FRUIT GROWING.

It is satisfactory to have the opinion expressed by Professor Saunders of the Department of Agriculture, that the collection of fruit trees at the Agassiz Experimental Farm is the largest on the continent and to be assured that the experiments that have been made there will be of the greatest value to the people of this Province. But we want

more than verbal opinions and assurances from the officials at Ottawa. We require the Government to see to it that everything possible and that is within their purview be made to work together for our good. Last year a pretence was made of teaching our farmers more about their business than they knew already, by an expert sent out by the Department of Agriculture; but he had not time to complete his task and returned to his headquarters without having accomplished anything.

We ought to be put in possession of the results of years of Governmental experiment and if there is anything to be learned we want to have the full advantage of the teachers towards whose salaries maintenance and travelling expenses we pay more than our due proportion. Most of us know that mixed farming combined with fruit growing is an industry for which we possess exceptional facilities and that there is a home market as well as a demand from our neighbors of the prairie provinces for all the products we can raise. We know too that there are thousands of acres of land on the Island and Mainland, wild and unproductive at the present moment which are admirably adapted for the successful culture of apples, pears, plums, cherries and all the small fruits.

Besides, dairying and poultry raising with the cultivation of fruit form a proper combination for the lands of this Island, which generally are not adapted to farming on a large scale, owing to the limited areas of arable land in any one block. The trouble is that the business is not as well understood as it might be and as teachers are sent out to teach the arts of agriculture and their kindred industry, we claim our full share of their services. We want to know from them not only what is possible of accomplishment, but how the best results can be secured.—*Commercial Journal*.

BUSINESS men for consuls is, we are satisfied to learn, to be the policy of President Cleveland in making his appointments. Mr. Egan was a bright business man and diplomat whom the Republicans sent to Chili, and there have been other shining lights who have been sent elsewhere to represent "the greatest nation on earth." Vancouver was blessed with a splendid specimen in the person of Jay Ewing, while some other "diplomats" hailing from Washington have been no credit either to their nation or to themselves individually. Now the broad policy is to select men for consuls who have exceptional business qualifications and possess sufficient trade instinct to recognize an outlet for American merchandise and ability to aid in working up the market for the product of American manufacturers and farms. As concerns Great Britain, one of the *sine qua nons* has been that the appointee must be a gentleman, and, in this respect, he frequently furnished a striking contrast to his American confrere. Now, however, that, as far as possible, greater stress is to be laid by our neighbors upon business ability, that qualification will no doubt have greater consideration from the Home Government.

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