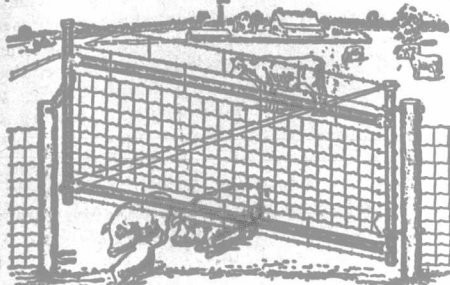


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plishing something, for in those branches application and industry work wonders; but in English literature and composition one yearns for brains, for appreciation, for imagination! Month after month I toil on, opening oyster after oyster, but seldom finding a pearl. Fancy my joy this term when, without any violent effort at shell-splitting, I came upon a rare pearl; a black one, but of satin skin and beautiful lustre! Her name is Rebecca, and she looks not unlike Rebecca at the well in our family Bible; her hair and eyes being so dark as to suggest a strain of Italian or Spanish blood. She is nobody in particular. Man has done nothing for her; she has no family to speak of, no money, no education worthy the name, has no advantages of any sort; but Dame Nature flung herself into the breach and said:—

"This child I to myself will take, She shall be mine and I will make A Lady of my own."

Blessed Wordsworth! How he makes us understand! And the pearl never heard of him until now! Think of reading Lucy to a class, and when you finish, seeing a fourteen-year-old pair of lips quivering with delight, and a pair of eyes brimming with comprehending tears!

You poor darling! You, too, know the discouragement of sowing lovely seeds in rocky earth, in sand, in water, and (it almost seems sometimes) in mud; knowing that if anything comes up at all it will be some poor starveling plant. Fancy the joy of finding a real mind; of dropping seed in a soil so warm, so fertile, that one knows there are sure to be foliage, blossoms, and fruit all in good time! I wish I were not so impatient and so greedy of results! I am not fit to be a teacher; no one is who is so scornful of stupidity as I am. . . . The pearl writes quaint countrified little verses, doggerel they are; but somehow or other she always contrives to put in one line, one thought, one image, that shows you she is, quite unconsciously to herself, in possession of the secret. . . . Good-by; I'll bring Rebecca home with me some Friday, and let you and mother see her for yourselves.

Your affectionate daughter,
EMILY.
(To be continued.)

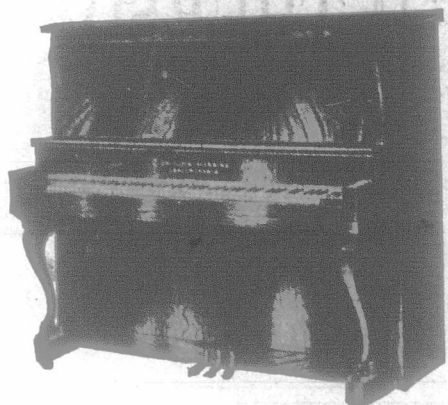
The New Public Health.

(Continued from page 477.)

typhoid fever or not. Satisfied on that point, his first question is not, "Tell me all the different water supplies you have used, or all the sources of milk you have used." The first question is, "When did you first show the earliest symptoms of the disease?" Why? Because this date once fixed, the date at which infection entered the patient's mouth is fixed also, i. e., a date between one and three weeks previous to the date of earliest symptoms. (The occasional exceptions do not affect the validity of this statement as a practical, working rule.) Remember, that at this stage the detective may not have even an inkling as to which of the usual factors, water, milk, food, flies, or fingers, is involved. Still less can he guess which particular water supply, milk supply, etc., of the many possible ones, may be the guilty one. But the answer to this question reduces possible routes to those used by this patient—not at any time—but during a specific period, i. e., from one to three weeks preceding his date of earliest symptoms.

Not yet, however, are the milk and water questions offered. The second question is, "Where were you during that period?" Why? Because if the patient were not in the community during that period, he could not have contracted his infection within it, and does not belong to the outbreak under examination at all, but to some other. He is, in brief, an "imported case," and while, of course, he is to be supervised lest he spread his infection to others, he cannot help to locate the source of the main outbreak—unless perchance he be himself that source, i. e., the introducer to the community of the original infection. If he be an imported case, he is noted for further reference, and the detective goes to another patient. If not, the questions continue. But not yet are water or milk or flies mentioned. The third question is, "Were you associated during

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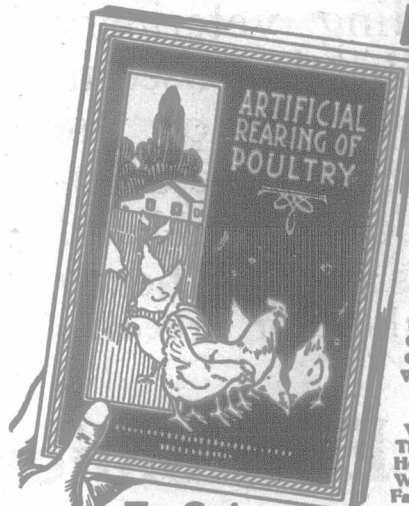
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