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How The Scientist Traced The Disease Germ to Its Lair.

So read the headlines in the Paris papers. Under them are telegraphic espatches from Cholet, in the departterrible story. Fifty persons had sat put them into the appropriate "broth"

been poisoned and twelve are dead. The symptoms are the same. All were seized with violent abdominal pains, purging and sudden high fever Arsenic is suspected. The police are investigating.

The police find out nothing. Nobody at that family reunion had any animosity against any one else. None of them had enemies. There is no apparent motive for murder, not even of one person, let alone of two score.

Baffled at First Famous detectives are sent down rom Paris. They obtain the remnants of the feast. They analyze them. No arsenic is found. No metallic poison such as might have caused those deaths is discoverable.

What then is the cause? In his library in Paris sits Prof. Chantemesse, dean of the Medical Faculty, and head of the Pasteur Institute. He is pondering over the mystery of that wholesale poisoning

"There are other poisons besides arsenic and the metals," he says to the Deputy Minister of Justice who has come to consult him. "There are other poisons that would produce just those symptoms. These are bacteria. Have you made a bacteriological examination of what was left over from the feast?"

The official confesses that they have

Getting at the Cause.

"Have it made at once," says Prof. Chantemesse, "Now, let us analyze this menu and try to find out what dish served at the feast was most likely to contain disease germs. The germs of such diseases as typhoid are often found upon radishes, celery, cucumbers-any vegetable that is not cooked. If these were to blame there must have been other cases in the town besides those who attended the banquet. You tell me there have been

"Soup," goes on the doctor. "No toxic germs in it. The boiling would kill them. Fish. Always suspicious in cases that look like poisoning. Veal stew-probably innocent. Epinards -safe. Roast capon-also safe. Salad-as suspect as the hors d'oeuvres. Gateau a la creme royale-or cream tarts-most suspicious of all."

"But, Monsieur le Professeur! Surely you are not serious. You are joking when you cast suspicion upon the gateau a la creme!"

Dangerous Stuff

"My dear sir, I am very serious. The cream of which that gateau is made consisting of eggs and milk and sugar is a most dangerous substance. venture to predict the poison will be found in either the hors d'oeuvres, the fish, the salad or the gateau. I suspect the gateau. Have your men ask every one who was present exactly what dishes he partook of. Then by elimination you will arrive at the dish that is to blame. In the mean time, send all the remains of the meal to Drs. Papin and Gaudin at Angers and order them to make a bacteriological examination and report to me. Send also to them samples of the blood of the patients for the same

As the official continues to manifest teau a la creme is dangerous, Prof Chantemesse takes down several volumes of medical journals, consults their indexes, and shows an article by Dr. Vaughan of Philadelphia, describing a case of poisoning caused by cream puffs. He also shows a list of 700 similar cases, prepared by Dr. Lecoq, covering seven years.

Careful Examination

Prof Chantemesse's instructions are carried out. Within a few hours Drs. crobes in the scrapings of the dishes

and the left-overs of the banquet. The fish is acquitted. While it is no longer fresh, the germs of decomposition found in it have evidently entered and developed since cooking. The fish was quite fresh when served.

The lettuce, radishes, cucumbers and other vegetables eaten raw, were No one else but those at the banquet had suffered from eating the articles obtained from this place. Therefore they, too, are acquitted. Of the thirty eight persons poisoned all ate the gateau a la creme. None of the twelve

who escaped tasted it. Smears of the custard-like cream from the cream puffs are examined under the microscope.

EATH at the feast! Whole- The two bacteriologists compare asks her for her recipe. She gives sale murder of a wedding notes. They have found a microbe it gladly. Is she not proud of her banquet! Scores poisoned! that strongly resembles that of ty- gateau a la creme?

veals the same microbe.

down to a feast in honor of a wed- and watch their behaviour. Soon they ding; of this fifty, thirty-eight had have flourishing colonies of these

TYPHOID MARY AND HER TERRIBLE LIFE RECORD.

IN MARY MALLON New York had a "typhoid carrier" of covered by Prof. Chantemesse. She became known as "Tvphoid Mary."

In 1900 she was a servant in a family at Mamaroneck. A young man visiting the house had typhoid fever. In 1901 the laundress of a New York family that employed Mary Mallon took typhoid. In 1902 seven members of a New York lawyer's summer household at Dark Harbor, Me., were stricken. Mary Mallon was a servant there.

In 1904 four servants of a New York family at Sands Point, L.I., fell ill. Mary Mallon was of that household. In 1906 six of a family of eleven, that of a New York banker at Oyster Bay, had typhoid. Mary Mallon was their cook.

Later the same year Mary was working for a family at Tuxedo Park. Their laundress was stricken. In 1907 Mary was cook in a New York City home. Two cases of typhoid followed her arrival:

The Board of Health found that Mary, though she had never had typhoid, was "a perambulating disease." They sent her to North Brother Island and kept her there for three years in strict quarantine. When they released her she promised not to seek employment as a servant.

of typhoid fever. They are, however so similar that the investigators can call them paratyphoid.

Germs Descovered

About the same time the professor receives a letter from Dr. Rappin, meringue. The bits of the crust which director of the Pasteur Institute Nantes. Dr. Rappin has been called

"I have it!" cries Dr. Gaudin. "So have I!" cries Dr. Papin.

in to attend one of the sufferers. I this man's blood, he writes, he has discovered a bacillus, and this re re cognizes as an old friend, a toxic germ he has noticed before in treating cases in which persons had been poisoned by eating curds and sour

Prof. Chantemesse performs an autopsy on the body of one of those who died after the banquet. He, too, finds a bacillus that resembles in all respects those found by his colleagues has no knowledge of microbes. Sh He describes it as a "mobile bacillus of the Goertner group"

The Recipe Used

gateau a la creme royale. He knows has never had typhoid fever nor any t is a custard, with a meringue upon disease that resembles it. t. He knows there are many ways

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Milk, sugar and the grated yellow Careful examination of the blood rind of a lemon, boiled together. The drawn from the poisoned persons re- beaten yolks of eggs stirred into the boiling fluid. Place in a compotier They isolate some of these microbes to cool. The whites of the eggs whipped to a stiff broth and piled upon the custard. Crush macaroone; sprinkle the crumbs over the froth and pop the dessert into a hot oven But they are not identical with those for about two minues, just long

enough to brown the surface. Such is the Cholet cook's recipe.

Professor Turns Cook Prof Chantemesse is something of cook himself. He makes a gateau la creme according to this recipe. While he does so he talks, and this "If there were any microbes in the

milk, the sugar or the yolks of the eggs, they would be killed by the boiling, or would at least be so atenuated as to be harmless. But the whites of the eggs are not cooked. The slight browning in the oven coagulates the albumen in them superficially and forms a crust. An ideal medium is left below for the multiplication of any infectious bacteria that may have pre-existed in the whites of the eggs."

To demonstrate this, Prof Chante found by himself and his colleagues and places them in the meringue. After a few days this contains enough of these germs to kill a regiment.

Exit the Animals To test the poisonous powers of these germs he tries them on some guinea pigs. He feeds the animals on the gateau a la creme he has infected with microbes. They suffer just as did the members of the Cholet wedding party and die in a day or two. Further questioning of the cook rereals the fact that she made her cream the night before the wedding and left it to stand in the warm kitchen.

the microbes through the cream!" exclaims Prof. Chantemesse. How Came They There

"Ideal conditions for the spread of

But Prof. Chantemesse is not yet satisfied. He has caught the "gunmen," yes. But he has not found "the man higher up." Here are the microbes; but where did the microbes come from? That is the serious questoo many gateoux a la creme royale himself not to know that death-dealing microbes are not a usual ingredi-This they report to Prof. Chante- ent of that delectable dessert. How did the microbes get into the cream? Who put them there? Flies, is the obvious answer. But flies could only have contaminated the surface of the Prof. Chantemesse has preserved show no sign of such contamination Back to Cholet and the scene of the tragedy goes the indefatigable detective of science. Questions are asked. Physicians are interviewed. Other cases of suspicious poisoning are reported. And each case has followed a meal prepared by that same Breton

peasant woman who is so proud of her gateau a la creme. She has served many families in and around Cholet.

Not a Likely Murderess Is she, then, a murderess? Prof. Chantemesse cannot believe it. She does not behave like an assassin. She would not know a tuberculosis germ from a staphylococcus if she met

Prof. Chantemesse questions her Pro. Chantemesse is familiar with again. She is a healthy woman. She

But Prof. Chantemesse knows all of making it. He wants to know just about typhoid carriers. He has read how this particular gateau was made. of and met with those abnormal per-The cook who made it is sent for. He sons who, themselves immune to the attacks of the typhoid germ, carry them around in their systems for indefinite periods and disseminate them wherever they go. He suspects this woman of being a typhoid carrier. He analyzes her blood. He puts her through the tests that are familiar to physicians and, sure enough, he finds that she is fairly swarming with bacilli of the type found in the cream

tarts and in the bodies of those who had eaten them. Prof. Chantemesse reports to the police and to the Academy of Medicine. The mystery is solved. The cook is the innocent cause of all this sickness

and all these deaths. Thus is another story added to the nnals of scientific detective work.

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