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## LEFT LEPROSY FROM MAN

Case of Dread Disease Cured at Louisiana Lepers' Home.

TREATED FOR 4 YEARS

Millions of Lepers in the World Today—Poor Are Its Principal Victims—Until 1897 Thought Incurable—Has Victims All Over the World.

Cured of leprosy, with his face clear from the fearful scurf of the disease, and with the glassy stare gone from his once expressionless eyes, Louis Smet, a 15-year-old New Orleans boy, of Creole parentage, has been discharged from the Louisiana Lepers' Home, as the first leper who has ever been absolutely cured by less than divine agency, in the history of the world. Success has crowned the treatment administered in the Louisiana Lepers' Camp by Dr. Theodore Dyer, consulting leprologist of the home, and the world's authority on leprosy.

There are fully 500 lepers abroad in Louisiana and more than 200 walking on the streets of New York. "These latter," the report states, "are entirely without attention by the medical authorities of that state, who have asserted that the disease is not contagious, in spite of the world's experience to the contrary. These lepers are free to walk abroad upon the streets of the national metropolis, continually spreading the danger of contagion to all whom they may chance to brush against in the course of their peregrinations. No care is taken of them; there is no place where they may receive special treatment, and the danger is not even recognized by the city's medical authorities.

"There are 2,800,000 lepers in the world," said Dr. Dyer, commenting on this report. "Nearly 3,000,000 out of an estimated population of 1,438,680,000 souls, or 1 for every 500 souls. Out of every 1,000 persons that walk the habitable globe there are two afflicted with this awful and loathsome disease, hitherto incurable.

"Unbelievable and absurd these figures may seem at first sight, yet their truth is one of the most firmly established in medical science. And this disease, the most loathsome of all the afflictions mankind has to endure, and which is among the most widely spread the sons of men have to suffer, can be cured, and cured without spot or blemish.

"Leprosy was first known in the first century of the Christian era. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries the disease covered Europe. Twenty thousand leper houses existed in 1228, there being 2,000 in France alone. The disease spread over the habitable world, and was the most wide-spread plague known in ancient times. As a menace to human life it so continued for six hundred years.

"By the eighteenth century it had practically become known in every country of the world and forty years ago it began to sweep over the universe with terrible rapidity. In the Sandwich Islands its first ravages were noted. Every corner of the world has since received its visitation. Japan is full of it, India, China, Persia, the coasts of Africa, Norway and Sweden, Central and South America, Mexico, Cuba, West Indies all the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans, New Zealand, Madeira and fully a dozen of the United States. The storm center is in Louisiana, with New Orleans at the apex.

"The figures are appalling. Twenty thousand lepers in Japan; two hundred thousand in India, two millions in China, and thousands and thousands in the Philippine Islands. The acquisition of the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico have made the question of leprosy an important one to the whole country. Every one of the Philippine Islands is infected; one-tenth of the population of Guam is infected; in Havana there are eleven lepers now in the Isolation Hospital at San Lazaro. There is a leper at nearly every important city in our new acquisitions.

"Not to the rich class does this disease come. Its visitations are confined to the poor and lowly. It is not enough that the poor should be poor; that they should suffer hunger in times of want, should freeze in winter and stifle in summer; leprosy is their exclusive possession. It is said that there are probably not half a dozen persons of wealth and position in the United States afflicted with this disease. It attaches itself solely to the humble, as do its congeners, tuberculosis and syphilis.

"And despite the world-wide prevalence of this terrible scourge up to 1879 there was absolutely no hope, beyond that of a divine miracle, feebly held out to the leper.

"In contrast to the conclusions of this last Berlin conference, which made the announcement of the belief that all treatment could be only palliative and not curative, and that serum treatment is unsuccessful, Dr. Dyer has declared that he has discovered, and is daily employing, an indisputable cure of the disease.

"There is no secret about the process. I am not claiming to have made any wonderful discovery. Simply by the application and continuation of the methods that have been used for leprosy since the disease was known, applying them with scientific skill, the disease can be cured."

Silver money 250 years old is still in circulation in some parts of Spain.

## THEY BECOME INSANE.

Because They Live in Circular Lighthouses.

The Minot Ledge Light is famed for the number of men who have gone crazy in it, and for that reason it is an object of interest to students of mental diseases. It is, as everybody knows, a piece of engineering of the highest order, being in that respect only second to the famous Eddystone Light. More than a year was consumed in getting a foundation for it, and so high are the tides and so terrific the storms that the entrance to the light is more than forty feet above the water.

Then, one above the other, come the five rooms occupied by the keepers and used for storage purposes, and then the watch room and finally the lantern. The tower being circular and space greatly in demand, naturally everything is made to conform, so that no room shall be lost. Even the beds on which the men sleep are curved, the tables against the walls are circular and the benches are half moons. Everything is round.

In this lighthouse there have been at least five well marked cases of insanity, and others in which madness has been suspected and the men relieved from duty. Experts in mental diseases who have made a study of conditions at the Minot Ledge Light attribute the unusual prevalence of insanity there to its peculiar form of structure. There is no point, they say, on which the eye may rest, so it travels round and round in a maddening whirl.

They therefore suggest that some means be devised for filling the curves and producing corners and angles. In support of this theory they cite instances of men who have lost their mental balance during long confinement in "circular prisons," but have quickly regained it on being transferred to an ordinary room of corners and angles.

Baron Trenck spent much of his time in prison making marks and corners to break the circularity of his surroundings and keep his reason from slipping away on the mad whirl of encircling walls. Casanova, an Italian engineer, who was imprisoned in a round tower, gives much the same testimony. He says he felt great mental relief on being removed to an ordinary square room.

As it is well nigh impossible to make much change in the form of the structure of the Minot Ledge lighthouse, the number of men in charge of it has been increased to five, in order that they may have frequent leaves from duty and take turns in going ashore for a visit to family and friends. This system has resulted in a decrease in the number of cases of melancholia and more serious mental disorders.

In fact, but for the frequent changes made in the service by shifting men from one station to another, the number of cases of this sort everywhere would be much greater than it is. In some cases a man is kept in a place for only a few months, and then sent to some less isolated station for a while.

To give the men something to think of other than their loneliness, and to occupy the long hours through which they have nothing to do, circulating libraries of fifty books each are provided. The books are carefully selected and changed every three months, when the inspector makes his visit. In the collection are biographies, history, travel, fiction, poetry, illustrated magazines, and in some cases newspapers. Also medicine chests are provided for relief in cases of sickness and careful directions are given for the use of their contents.

Despite the dangers and hardships of lighthouse life, there are many applicants for positions in them. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the service there is always a number of men to select from. And yet the pay is small. In fact, the law provides that the average compensation given keepers shall not exceed \$600 a year. Probably the best paid keeper in the service is the man at "ell Gate, who gets \$1,200 a year.—Chicago Chronicle.



Mrs. Frederick Johnson, Of Philadelphia, president of the National Congress of Mothers.

### Autograph Quilt.

Displayed at a sale of work at a Nonconformist church in London recently was a gorgeous quilt bearing the autographs of over 400 persons, mainly members of the congregation. The signatures, originally made in pencil on diamond shaped pieces of blue and white cloth, were feathered in colored cotton by the ladies of the church, who upon finishing the quilt presented it to their pastor.

Harvesting by electric light has been introduced in Australia.

## BANK ADOPTS THUMB MARKS

As a Means to Identify the Depositors in Chicago.

The finger print as a means of identification is in a fair way to be adopted by at least one Chicago bank, which, after a thorough investigation of the system, considers it the most dependable method of identification, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean. The new system will create a revolution in bookkeeping, for instead of an alphabetical classification of signatures, such as the banks now have, they must adopt a scientific classification of finger prints. And here a new field opens for the man with sharp eyes. The finger marks, or, rather thumb marks, the key to the Chicago system of the bank's depositors, which number many thousands, must be arranged in a scientific classification, and it will require an expert to do it.

This new system of identification, while not an altogether simple thing for the bank employee who must arrange and keep it, is for the depositor one of the surest safeguards. At present, when a man opens an account with a bank, he signs his name in a book or upon a card, and this forms not only his means of identification, but is, as well, the bank's only safeguard against the forger. With the thumb mark system of identification, the depositor will leave his thumb mark upon a card or a page of the depositor's ledger. If there is any question as to his identity at any time he appears at the bank, he has only to make a new thumb mark, which an expert will compare with the mark of identification. If the two are identical the man is identified.

The method of securing the thumb mark is simple. The receiving teller and the paying teller at the bank are provided with a piece of tin, some printer's ink, and a roller. The ink is thinly spread upon the tin, the depositor places the ball of his thumb upon this and rolls it backward and forward, pressing heavily, until the ball of the thumb is thoroughly "inked." The depositor then presses the thumb firmly upon the ledger page opposite his name, which he has himself written. The depositor is then given a number, and this number, with the signature and thumb mark, is classified. The expert then examines the thumb mark and decides to which classification it belongs. If it is a "whorl" or an "arch," it is placed in that classification. In this manner the bank would be enabled to tell what depositor had signed a check if it bore a thumb mark, even if the name could not be deciphered.

The whole system of thumb mark identification is based upon the theory that from infancy to old age the lines of the thumb and finger tips never change. A photographic system of identification is unreliable, for a man may greatly alter his appearance in a few hours. The signature is not an infallible means of identification, for often sickness or an accident causes a great change in a man's handwriting. Systems of measurement, like the Bertillon system, which has in times past been employed by some banks, are not infallible, for there an allowance of two millimeters must be made. Young depositors are constantly growing. The Bertillon system is not infallible for men of any age.

Recent Theory Regarding Sleep.  
An interesting and novel theory of sleep has recently been put forward by Dr. Claparede, a French scientist, who holds that sleep is a positive function or an instinct designed to arrest functioning. Dr. Claparede makes the assertion that we sleep, not because we are intoxicated or exhausted, but in order to avoid such conditions. "Not only are there various kinds and degrees of sleep, but it does not always follow exhaustion. Furthermore, it is well known that sleep is not proportional to the degree of exhaustion, and it may be either total or partial. In measuring the profundity of sleep various conditions are encountered which are not susceptible of explanation on the toxic theory, but which agree perfectly with the hypothesis that it is a positive restorative function. The definition of sleep, according to this new theory, is a reaction produced by various excitants, and is an inhibition which manifests itself subjectively by a lack of interest in exterior things.—Harper's Weekly.

### Marriage Rate in England.

The marriage rate is higher in England than elsewhere, being 19 a 1,000. In most other countries it varies from 7 to 10 a 1,000. The highest birthrate according to a volume of statistics referring chiefly to foreign countries, issued by the British board of trade, is in Roumania—39 a 1,000. That country also has the highest death rate, 27.7 a 1,000. The lowest marriage rate is in Sweden, where it is 9 a 1,000.

### Tobacco and Health.

In the course of my association with tobacco, about twenty-five years, I have known men all this time, every working day, to be inhaling tobacco dust or fumes produced in the process of manufacture. Uninterrupted good health is the general rule of all persons engaged in tobacco proceedings of every kind, and generally of large consumers.—London Lancet.

### The advance of civilization is decreasing the number of prairie dogs.

South Africa exports about \$26,000,000 worth of diamonds to London every year.

The movement in England for restoring the use of knee-breeches is making considerable progress.

Physicians are beginning to regard nits worry as a disease, to be prescribed for like any other malady.

## THEY DRIVE HOME

Many Russian Prisoners.

At the beginning of the war, the commission for the purpose of their own and to reporting to the Russian for further service. In the commission's records in London and the other in Ohio. They were composed partly of military officers and partly of officers and had been hard work all the time. The names of reservists who were released about twice as large as the number of younger soldiers. But a thing which struck me very much when I came to know some of the results of the commission's proceedings was that the percentage of officers released was nearly twice that of the soldiers. "I never lived long in Russia," said this fact until my own war experience. I then met a lady who accompanied her husband, a Russian officer going to war, up to London. We traveled in the same train and I asked that she did not mind being so far from home. "I don't mind," she answered. "I have to see him very soon." "How is that?" You know that the war will not end for the present." "Oh, yes, I know that, but my husband will be back very soon." As I pressed her to let me know how this would be managed, she answered: "Well, after all, I'll tell you, for it is no secret. Every officer knows it and it only depends upon his personal merit to find himself out of it or not."

As the commission for the purpose of the medical commission in Russia in order to be released. You are then allowed to remain at home as long as you wish, which another commission in Russia examines you and then you have to pay another sum of money in the future, and then you are free. I expressed some doubts as to the correctness of these statements, as it seemed to me impossible that officers could resort to these means in order to avoid military service, but the lady was positive and cited several names. "Of our acquaintances," she said, "there are three who have thus succeeded in being sent home, and one of them advised my husband to do the same, and he named the doctor and the sum to pay." "Well," I answered, "you must do me one favor; when your husband comes home, will you please let me know?" The lady agreed to do so, and a fortnight later I received the following note: "My husband has just returned; he has been rejected on account of disease. That gentleman had been exactly two months in Manchuria, just in time to get the disease, pass through the commission and return speedily home, probably thinking that he had done his duty to his country. I afterward learned in Russia that this process is not a new one, for during the Russo-Japanese war of 1904 a doctor who was penniless when he started for the war was worth at the end of it about \$10,000 sterling. From the number of officers rejected and from what I have heard, I think that the doctor now in Manchuria, to whom the lady alluded, promises to beat the record of his countryman.—London Times.

### Londoners' Seely Luncheon.

Mrs. Ernest Hart tells in The House Beautiful that the first time she was present at a post-prandial as a patient of a hospital in Paris she exclaimed on the chest being opened, "Why, the lungs are not black!" "I remarked the surgeon, 'you are accustomed to see the appearance of lungs of Londoners.' This she was waiting for as a registrar in her hospital in London it was her duty to examine the lungs of the bodies of patients that came into the post-mortem room. No object lesson could be more striking and no demonstration more conclusive of the life atmosphere conditions under which we live in London and other great smoky cities than this comparison of the lungs of Londoners with those of the inhabitants of Paris.—Westminster Gazette.

### Boys to be Taught Telegraphy.

An order has gone into effect on the Pacific coast division of the Atlantic, Topoka and Santa Fe railroads, by which messages will be sent each day for the study of telegraphy. When proficient they are to be provided with positions with a considerable increase of salary. Much care has been taken in the selection of the messenger boys, who will henceforth be considered as apprentice telegraph operators rather than as errand boys.

### Lobsters' Curious Ears.

Most curious are the ears of lobsters. Each is a sac or bag containing fluid and ear stones, these last particles of mineral matter, in some cases, particles of sand. They increase the vibrations set up by sound waves, which in due season impinge on the delicate cells of the ear, which contain the ends of the nerve of hearing. These last in turn convey the impressions to what some call the lobster by way of a brain, and a very respectable man it is.

### Virtue in Short.

It would be very interesting to know how often persons suffering from the trouble of upper air surfaces, such as the throat, have almost gone deaf, use influenza, catarrh and other diseases seem to have increased.—London Lancet.

Of the 720,000,000 acres of land making up the total area of the world, 24,000,000 are arable. The staple crops are wheat, corn, rice, etc.