THE ROYAL GARDENS AT CASERTA, ITALY.

Most of our readers are familiar with the chief features of the Italian school of landscape gardening, the broad plateaus, the artificial lakes and waterfalls, and especially the formality of shape shown in trimming the edges and rows of trees. Of the pleasure grounds attached to the palace of Caserta, the country residence of the late King of Naples, we herewith publish a view, extracted from *The Garden*. Our contemporary, in describing the scene, says: "You enter through a huge royal palace, which seems admirably suited for accommodating several regiments of life guards, when the scene depicted in the illustration meets the eye—the huge cascade facing a distant hill covered with evergreen oak. Good as the engraving is, it can give little idea of the enormous length of these garden waterworks, long and well constructed stone reaches of deep clear water, broken here and there by falls, which are embellished by a rich display of sculpture and statuary. But, before reaching the waterworks, we have to traverse a very large space by habit called a garden, but which is simply a huge expanse of turf, on which stands clumps and squares, and avenues of trees. We have to approach these closely to see what they are composed of, for all are either clipped or mown, or in some way mutilated, till they lose all individual character, and merely form irregular walls of vegetation. Under one of the falls, there is a vast covered way, with well constructed rocky walks and walls, and here the maiden-hair fern grows everywhere as freely as meadow grass; it ventures out from the moist and shaded grottoes, and creeps into the eyes and ears of the spouting sea monsters outside in the sun—the only trace of life or Nature near. The distressing effect of all this gradually passes away, for one of relief, as the base of the great irregular (but also artificial) cascade is reached, till the eye dwells happily on the hills around, densely garlanded with evergreen oak. All this kind of art comes from allowing the space intended for a garden to be converted into an open air gallery for the exhibition of architecture, sculpture, etc., mostly of a mediocre, and often of a feeble or ridiculous character. Let us not, however, delude ourselves into the belief that, in creating such scenes, on either a large or small scale, we are making a garden. There is at Caserta, however, an example of one phase of real gardening which will repay the visit. It is what is called the English garden, a large piece of diversified pleasure ground, with many trees allowed to assume their natural development. Towards the end of the last century this garden was planted, and with a very happy result. The great geometrical district, so to say, gives one an idea that the region is not a fertile one; this is at once dispelled on entering the English garden. The cedars, cypresses, and deciduous trees have attained great size and beauty, and grow in stately groups, with open spaces between, so that their forms may be seen. Here is the first camellia ever introduced into Italy, where the plant is now so abundantly grown, and whence we get most of our new varieties. It is a specimen of the single red, now in full bloom, and about 20 feet high and 15 feet through. The camphor tree is seen in fine health here, in specimens nearly 50 feet. The garden is enriched by some grand cork trees, which may give many visitors a fair idea of what a noble tree this oak is when fully developed. The trees are huge in stem, picturesque in their branching, and about 80 feet high. Some of the scarcer pines attain much perfection here, as, for example, the Mexican (*p. Montezuma*), which is 60 feet high.

The Possibilities of Future Discovery.

A striking illustration of the popular lack of scientific reasoning is to be found in an editorial which recently appeared in the New York *Herald* as follows:

"The wildest imagination is unable to predict the discoveries of the future. For all we know, families in the next century may pump fuel from the river and illuminate their houses with ice and electricity. Iron vessels, properly magnetized, may sail through the air like balloons, and a trip to the Rocky Mountains may be made in an hour. Perhaps within fifty years American grain will be shot into Liverpool and Calcutta through iron pipes laid under the sea. By means of condensed air and cold vapor engines, excursion parties may travel along the floor of the ocean, sailing past ancient wrecks and mountains of coral. On land the intelligent farmer may turn the soil of a thousand acres in a day, while his son cuts wood with a platinum wire and shells corn by electricity. The matter now contained in a New York daily may be produced ten thousand times a minute, on little scraps of pasteboard, by improved photography, and boys may sell the news of the world printed on visiting cards, which their customers will read through artificial eyes. Five hundred years hence a musician may play a piano in New York connected with instruments in San Francisco, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Orleans and other cities, which will be listened to by half a million of people. A speech delivered in New York will be heard instantly in the halls of those cities; and when fashionable audiences in San Francisco go to hear some renowned singer, she will be performing in New York or Philadelphia.

In the year 1900 a man may put on his inflated overcoat, with a pair of light steering wings fastened to his arms, and go to Newark and back in an hour. All the great battles will be fought in the air. Patent thunderbolts will be used instead of cannon. A boy in Hoboken will go to Canada in the family air carriage to see his sweetheart, and the next day his father will chasten him with a magnetic rebuker because he did not return before midnight. The time is coming when the *Herald* will send a reporter to see a man reduce one of the Rocky Mountains to powder in half a day. Skillful miners will extract gold from quartz as easily as cider is squeezed from apples. A compound telescope will be invented on entirely new principles, so that one may see the planets as distinctly as we now see Staten Island. Microscopes will be made so powerful that a particle of dust on a gnat's back will appear larger than Pike's Peak. And marvelous progress will be made in psychological and mental sciences. Two men will set in baths filled with chemical liquids. One of them may be in Denver and the other in Montreal. A pipe filled with the same liquid will connect the two vessels, and the fluid will be so sensitive that each may know the other's thoughts. In these coming days, our present mode of telegraphing will be classed with the wooden ploughs of Egypt, and people will look back to steamships and locomotives as we look back to sailboats and stage coaches."

MEDICAL NOTES.

Cholera.

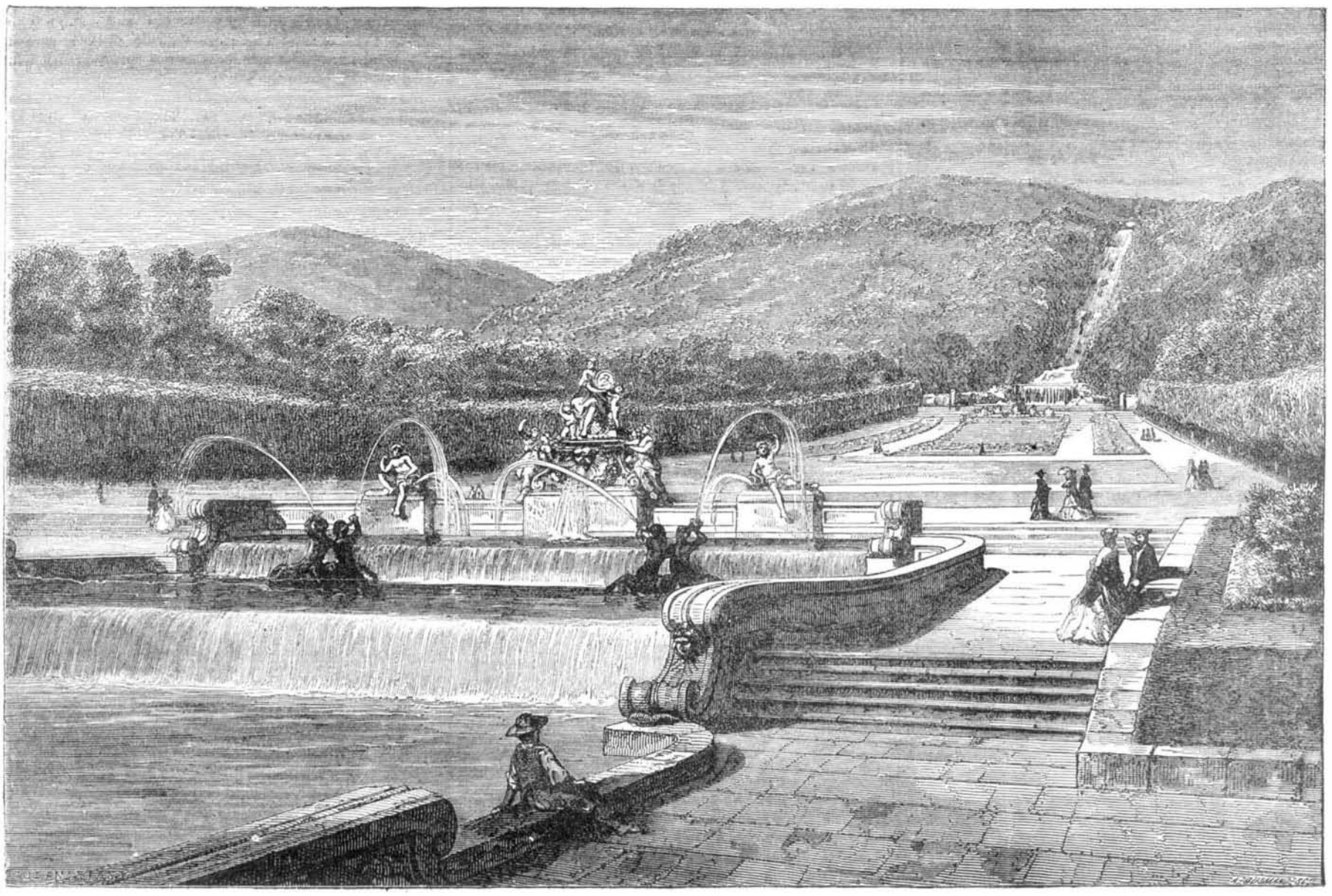
There may come another cholera scare this year; certainly there will come one before many years. Some doctors think the scare worse than the disease. At any rate, the nervous depression produced by reading and hearing alarming stories is a well proven semi-cause of death, by diseases which affect the nervous system, whether alone or conjointly with other disorders; and sometimes light ones are aggravated to the bitter end by imaginary fears. Knowing the force of this fact, as all experienced people do, it seems a happy thing to find an antidote, as far as cholera scares are concerned, in the following statement: Dr. Blakiston says, in the London *Medical Times and Gazette*, that it has been fully proved in the Paris hospitals that cholera is not communicable by the breath of the patient, or by contact with his body during life or after death. Most of the "stiffs," as they are called in technical vulgarity—that is, the subjects of dissection—were for many months victims of cholera in Paris, and yet no doctor and no student caught the disease. Therefore let no timid person have any fear about the infection of air or touch, but remember that the germs of cholera have been proved to be propagated through the *dejecta* (voidings in any way) which come in contact with water or food, possibly with air much breathed, though this is not fully shown.

Valerian in Diabetes.

Dr. Bouchard says extract of valerian is a powerful agent in diminishing the elimination of urea and waste of tissue seen in diabetes. He adds a curious fact, observed in long practice among the Indians of Lower California. The warriors, before entering on an expedition, go through a course of valerian regimen for a month, to get themselves into a fatigue-supporting condition. This fact suggests another, concerning the Peruvian Indians, who are able to go without food for five days, under a burdensome journey, when well supplied with the juice of the plant, so extensively used in that country, called coca. It seems to us that coca and valerian might be used in thickly settled countries as articles of medical nutrition, to say nothing of their possible value as substitutes for food of the common sort among the very poor.

Poisoning by Hydrate of Chloral.

In the case of a man who took six drams of chloral to commit suicide, electricity was first used to induce regular



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