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THE AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Science took its origin in a convention of geologists at continually battling against an impulse to kill his wife, Philadelphia, in 1840, who announced the object of cut off his own right arm. A young man applied for that society to be the study of geology and natural medical relief for cerebral hyperæmia, admitting that history. During the Cambridge meeting, in 1849, a with it had come a desire to kill a fellow clerk. So subdivision was effected into four sections—of physics, strong it was, indeed, that whenever his back was chemistry, geology, and zoology. There are now eight turned, he could scarce refrain from plunging a knife sections in all; Section E being devoted to geology and into him; once offering a cup of poison, and knocking geography. The great number of papers offered, and it from his hand when he would put it to his lips. A the limited time allowed for their discussion, led the woman with an impulse to jump from her window only geologists who met at the Cincinnati meeting of the escaped because, as she was preparing to spring out, a A. A. S., in 1881, to consider the propriety of organ-market boy slipped on the ice in the street and tumbled izing a national society to consist exclusively of about awkwardly, setting the woman laughing and working and teaching geologists. The subject was driving the suicidal mood from her. specifically discussed at subsequent meetings, but the consummation was delayed till the Cleveland meeting, young man could not see a fine dress without the imlast August, when it appeared to the majority present pulse to injure it; running into the nearest drug store that the hour had come for definite action. There had for vitriol, and before the mood was gone, ruining over been a committee for several years having the matter one hundred fine gowns. in hand, and Prof. N. H. Winchell and Prof. C. H. The "reasoning" mania would seem, from its de-Hitchcock, of that committee, called a special meet-scription, to be one of the most dangerous, because ating of Section E for August 14, the day before that set tacking those from whom acts of violence are not to be for the A. A. A. S. There was much enthusiasm and looked for. One thus afflicted suddenly finds himself a strong sentiment in favor of the new society. A with a perversion of the emotions, derangement of the provisional constitution was adopted, and a com- will; "knowing the impulse is a dangerous one, the mittee of organization appointed, consisting of act it imposes an unreasonable one." But he must do Professors Alexander Winchell, of Ann Arbor, John it, being seized with sanguinary fury. Such persons J. Stevenson, of New York, C. H. Hitchcock, of Hanover, N. H., John R. Proctor, of Frankfort, Ky., and Edward Orton, of Columbus, O. This committee sent circulars to all members of Section E, and also to others whom they had reason to suppose to be interested. The plan was to class the first hundred who should signify their acceptance of the terms of fellowship as "Original Fellows." These have now been found, and other names have been proposed for membership. Ballots have been cast, though not yet declared, for the permanent officers. During the Christmas holidays a meeting will be held at some suitable place, to be designated by the committee, when the organization will be milk. Much consumption is believed to be due to this completed, the constitution ratified, and other work done. After the first of January, 1889, all working or teaching geologists in America will be eligible to fellowship on election and the payment of their dues.

It is evident that this is an important movement. Among the original fellows are some of the foremost American geologists. It is not intended in any way to interfere with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. One of its regular meetings will be held at the same time and place as that association.

The call for the first meeting of the American Geolo-Ithaca, N. Y. The formal organization will take place been used for providing cream for coffee, etc., and the in the Botanical Lecture Room of the Cornell University.

MADNESS AND MURDER.

The deeds of murder recently done in that noisome quarter of London called Whitechapel, all, there is reason to believe, the work of the same hand, seem to have attracted the attention of the neurologist as well as that of the police. What was the motive? Most people who have followed the history of these crimes, coming as they have one so quickly after another, have laid it to this or that cause, or, at least, it would seem so from those that have been made public. Dr. Hammond, well known in the department of neurology, says, in a recent paper, that no distinct motive was necessary or, rather, that it may have been a mere fancy or freak, such as often comes to those with deranged or diseased minds, or even for the mere love of pain and cruelty—a supposition which the hacking of the body in each case would seem to lead to. There have been nine victims so far, all women, but in the once-celebrated case of Helene Jegado there were twenty-eight in three years, all being killed by poison, and apgreater or lesser extent, in the mind of every human afford a satisfactory clew. being without exception." Some love to kill game or the lower animals, while others have an irresistible desire to kill their fellows. The mildest mannered man, he says, has it at times, when sufficient cause comes. "It is inborn, instinctive, and no amount of civilization or refinement is sufficient to abolish it altogether." He says that crimes are sometimes done by those to whom the idea of violence is repugnant, whose reason urges them against their own acts, yet with not enough strength to resist the impulse. Neither delusion nor emotional disturbance need come. At one time he is calm, at another excited, but always conscious of his acts. The epileptic may commit acts of violence while under the influence of a paroxysm, unconscious at the time, though remembering every little detail when it is done; but such cases as every neurologist sees, so we

neglected an extensive business, for the sudden impulse The American Association for the Advancement of that came to him to commit murder. One, who was

Such moods, it seems, may recur and may not. A

as are unable to control their impulse to commit crime our author looks upon as in the same category with murderers and as meriting the same fate.

MILK AND TYPHOID FEVER.

The agency that milk may assume in the propagation of fatal diseases has received much attention during recent years. Dr. Klein's investigations have confirmed the belief that milk has in a large number of cases been responsible for epidemics of scarlet fever.

Tuberculosis, it is also known, can be developed in cows, and can be distributed in like manner by their

A recent epidemic which occurred in a New Jersey suburb of this city goes far toward reducing the probability of milk acting as a disseminator of typhoid fever to a certainty. A florist had been in the habit of supplying five families with milk. He was attacked by typhoid fever, and after an illness of several weeks expired. It was found that he had been in the habit of drinking large quantities of milk himself, while the other members of his household used very little. Typhoid fever also began to appear among the five families whom he supplied. In each house there were one gical Society has been issued for Thursday, Dec. 27, at or more cases. In one family the suspected milk had bulk of the fluid, or skim-milk, left had been used for cooking. In this house only one case appeared. Upon inquiry, it was found that the invalid, a domestic, had habitually drunk the skim-milk. The others had not used it and were unaffected. New cases were added to the list, but were all confined to the five families in question and to the florist's house. In one family five or six cases occurred, including one fatal attack.

On investigation the water supply of the milkman's premises was found to be far from satisfactory. He received water from the regular water works. He used a portion of the water pipes within his premises for the conveyance of a liquid fertilizer. This inconceivably unclean practice would offer a good clew to the source of trouble had it been continued. But it is asserted positively that, since last February, no liquid manure had entered the pipes. A well of unquestionably bad water existed on the premises, but does not appear to have been used to any extent. The water supply in the meadow where the cows were pastured was contaminated to some extent with sewage. It is very doubtful if a cow could drink water containing the typhoid poison, and, without becoming ill, could communicate it parently for the pure love of killing and witnessing to her milk. None of the cows has shown signs of suffering; in some cases the suffering of those who sickness. The propagation of the disease by milk is had befriended her-masters, mistresses, friends, and almost absolutely proved in this case. Where the poiseveral nuns. And all the while she affected an ardor son or germ came from is altogether uncertain, and the of piety—awhile, indeed, an inmate of a convent. Our problem has not passed the conjectural stage. If imauthor declares that a desire "to kill exists, to a pure water were used for washing the cans, it would

The lesson to be drawn from this is clear. Greater precaution in the use of water in dairies should be taken. The mere adulteration of milk is bad as a matter of ethics, but when the addition of water may involve the absolute poisoning of the milk, the responsibility for its addition is far graver. There is also a good side to the question. The occurrence cited in confirming the possibility of milk being the active agent in contagion also indicates a preventable cause. Recent advances in sanitary engineering have gone to prove that much malaria is of house orgin, and the name "house malaria" has been coined to express the condition. In surgical practice Lister introduced the carbolic acid douche, and while he supposed that it was disinfection that he was teaching, really taught surgeons to be clean, and many surgical cases now reach are told, have at times an itching for murder. One a successful end because of cleanliness in the operations. man, of amiable disposition, asked to be locked up and Typhoid fever, in one of its methods of dissemination,