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A. E. BEACH.

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### YELLOW FEVER IN FLORIDA.

During the month of August much alarm has existed in Florida, on account of the appearance there of yellow fever. Many deaths have occurred in the smaller towns of the peninsula, but Jacksonville has been the principal seat of war in the battle between health and disease. Daily bulleting have been received from it for the last twenty days and have shown some fluctuations in the number of cases and deaths, but on the whole a pretty constant number of new cases have been reported.

Every means was adopted to check the speed of the fever. Resin and tar fires were built and maintained, in the hopes that the bituminous fumes would kill the that the management have succeeded in bringing the bacterial germs. Acting on the theory that concussion of the air would effect the same result, cannonading was extensively practiced. Elaborate quarantine arrangements were established, passengers' baggage on the railroads if suspected was detained and fumigated. Camps were established for refugees. A sadder form of precaution was the pickets. Outlying lines were guarded by armed men for the exclusion of fugitives from infected districts. On August 20, five new cases were reported at Jacksonville and one death, giving a total to date of thirty-eight cases and six deaths. At line. present the threatened plague is diminishing, and a few more days will, it is to be hoped, witness its end, before MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE the evil reached any degree of magnitude.

#### ------THE GREAT AUGUST STORM.

During the week ending August 21st, the United States were visited by a severe wind and rain storm which may fairly rank among the greatest storms of the year. It began on Monday, Texas and the adjoining territory being the starting point. Thence it moved on in a northeasterly direction, its center reaching Memphis, Tenn., at 8 o'clock that evening; twelve hours later it reached Louisville, Ky.; and twelve hours more brought it to New York. A low barometer prevailed along its course, 29.46 being the Memphis and Louisville readings at the periods when the storm center passed over them. On its way to New York the storm passed through the Ohio Valley, and even reached the GreatLakes and the St. Lawrence River.

In the neighborhood of the Gulf of Mexico the high water on the rivers and coast did much damage. The plantations about the mouth of the Mississippi were with the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the Mississippi were in a contract of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the mouth of the Mississippi were in a contract of the Mississippi were in great number of coal barges were sunk. Elsewhere similar occurrences are reported, a vast extent of country being inundated along the course of the storm.

> In this city the wind reached the rate of thirty-six miles an hour, and in eighteen hours of August 21st the rainfall amounted to 3.30 inches. In some respects it ranks as the most severe storm of the year.

# -----

# THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING CONVENTION.

The National Electric Light Association, which met here last week, is much increased in membership since last year, the attendance itself showing it. The papers. for the most part, were upon practical topics, explain- fect and 200 imperfect seeds. ing just how certain obstacles may be removed; some were on theoretical problems, and some cited experiences extremely valuable to others, though costly Lieutenant Peary and Commander Henry T. Taylor to those who conducted them; for it is always instructive to a practical man to be told how a certain result may not be obtained, and the reason lions of dollars. why.

Some of the principal papers read were: Electrical Steam Engineering, by W. L. Church; Some Practical journed. Pointers, by C. C. Haskins; Measurements of Alternating Currents for Commercial Purposes, by O. B. Shellenberger; The Ideal Motor, by F. B. Crocker; Disruptive Discharges of Underground Conductors; serves that business during last year suffered greatly Electrical Conductors in New York City, by S. S. from an epidemic of cholera in Sicily, the mortality be-Wheeler.

growth of this association and the conditions surround-panic." The effects were heightened by the ignorance ing it. We can all remember when the telephone ap- and superstitious character of the people generally. In peared and startled us. It was so novel that it was the poorer quarters it was believed, as in the Middle hard to understand how it could be made of practical Ages, that the government and the richer classes were

now even faster than when it first started, one improvement following another so quickly, it treads upon its heels.

One of the most difficult problems before the officers of the association was how to get men who had succeeded in making improvements to come to the conventions and explain them. They were slow to do this, hard to be convinced that it was to their interest to do so; for that they would, like enough, carry away with them in exchange the equally valuable discoveries that had been made by others in other directions. It has been in this way, by urging men working in the same field to exchange ideas with mutual advantage, National Electric Light Association to its present satisfactory position and awakening so much interest in its proceedings. That the theory they worked on was a good one is amply proved by the attendance and the fact that every big lighting company in the country sends a representative to its meetings; those who have come to the earlier meetings and explained their experiments in the way of removing obstacles, appearing again and again to repeat the same thing, and listen to what others have been doing in the same

# ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science began its annual meeting at Cleveland, O., on August 15. The usual address of welcome on the part of the city was responded to by Major J. W. Powell, the president of the Association. The retiring president, Prof. S. P. Langley, gave his address on the subject of the History of a Scientific Doctrine. The meeting then lasted until the close of the week. It was marked, as usual, by receptions to the Association on the part of the citizens of the place of meeting, and by evening lectures by members. Prof. Putnam, the permanent secretary, reported an excellent financial status. The permanent endowment fund exceeds \$45,000, and the liabilities are nominal.

In the chemical section, Profs. Maybery's and Dow's paper on the Salt Brines in Northern Ohio was of special interest. They found bromine and lithium in the brines from natural gas wells in quantities sufficient to indicate a commercial value for this product. In the biological section, Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant read a paper on a Phase of Evolution. It was a study of the dandelion and of its apparent modifications under cultivation. He advanced the view that cultivation does not cause new variations, but only takes advantage of those already existing.

The ever interesting subject of gravitation was treated in a paper by Prof. Erasmus D. Preston, entitled Deflections of the Plumb Line and Variations of Gravity in the Hawaiian Islands.

Prof. Atwater gave one of his striking monographs on the subject of plant food, stating that it might yet be practicable to raise crops in water, the food elements being supplied thereto by the cultivator. He cited a buck wheat plant thus raised, producing about 800 per-

Transisthmian canals were discussed by Mr. W. Nelson, who spoke of the Panama Canal as it is, while told of the progress made on the Nicaragua Canal. The probable cost is now put at fifty or fifty-five mil-

After the election of officers for the next year, Prof. Mendenhall being elected president, the meeting ad-

#### Cholera and its Effects in Sicily.

The British consul at Palermo, in his last report, obing very great in most of the towns. The population It is an interesting and instructive study to note the of Palermo lived for some months in a state of "savage ors of the cholera poison, in order to ex-

deposited pipes, with account of the process of manufacture of	value especially as at that time with the apparatus	disseminators of the cholera poison in order to ex-
the latter	at hand it did not work as wracthly and reliably as	tamping to the mean nonviction Sistem of charity
ram, receiving steam through the piston rod 1055	at nand, it did not work so smoothly and reliably as	terminate the poorer population. Sisters of charity
Efficiency of PlantBy Prof. DE VOLSON WOODA review of	now. Practical, pushing men got hold of it, and now	were stoned in their visits to the houses of choleraic
Engines of the Re UmbertoTwin engines, each of 10,000 horse	we wonder how we could get along without it. The	patients, and even doctors were sometimes obliged to
power, illustrated.—I illustration	case of the electric light has been, in many respects,	visit the sick under military escort. A man with a de-
engine, substituting digging for plowing.—Its full dimensions and data.—I illustration	similar. Who would begin to distribute it? Who	cent coat on his back always walked in danger of be-
VIII MISCELLANEOUS -Curious Inventions - A peroid barometer	would be the first to use it? Projectors delayed, as if to	ing assaulted, since it was believed that all were agents
electric paper weight, lamp shade with moving disks, and musical paper cutter — Four objects of much interest described and illus-	give each other a chance to spend a pot of money in ex-	in a conspiracy for the extirpation of the poor. In
trated, -4 illustrations	perimenting. It was only a short time, however, when	interior towns tragic scenes ensued in consequence of
MORTON, President Stevens InstituteA concise examination of this read question	a system was devised for both the voltaic arc light and	this superstition. ""The popular mind in Sicily seems
	the incandescence. Some projectors came out boldly	inaccessible to any idea of the virtue of clean water and
IX. NAVAL ENGINEERING.—Mechanically Propelled Boats.— Some novel ideas in the direction of lifeboats and steamships.—	and put their money in lighting plants while others	soan" and sanitation has been so completely neglected
The work of a woman inventor, -3 illustrations 10555	not yet sure showed an inglination to make the anna	that it may be doubted whether cholors has not become
$\mathbf{X}$ , ORDNANCE — Russian and English Field and Coast Guns — A re-	not yet sure, showed an inclination to make the appa-	that it may be doubted whether choiera has not become
view of the Russian field guns from an English standpoint, with	ratus and let others do the lighting, until finally there	endemic. For a time Messina became a veritable des-
run sections and elevations of Russian guns.—16 inustrations 1053	came to be no more doubt about there being money in	ert; many of the chief medical men fled, as well as
XI. SANITATIONLondon SewageNew sewage precipitation works recently erected for treating a portion of the London sew-	selling the light as well as the plant. Naturally enough,	numerous apothecaries; every house was closed and
age	with a great field full of ingenious, practical electri-	food was most difficult to procure, and what was ob-
XII. TECHNOLOGYTo Mend Broken MarbleA cement for this	cians, the first crude attempts at general distribution	tainable was of the very worst quality. The mortality
wood Wool Making Machine.—Machine for making this pro-	were improved on over and over again, and this im-	was almost entirely confined to the humbler classes, all
duct, with some notes on the article itself and its uses5 illustra- tions	provement has never known a pause. It is going on	who could leave the city having fled.