

The "Potato Cure."

Readers may remember the article which went the rounds of the various medical journals about a year ago, which highly extolled the virtues of potatoes as a remedy in cases where foreign bodies had been taken into the stomach. The explanation of this lay in the fact that the potato leaves a large residue in the intestine which passes on and increases the amount of feces to a considerable extent; the foreign body is enveloped in this, and any sharp corners or angles which it may possess are kept from injuring the delicate mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines. To accomplish this end large quantities of the vegetable must be eaten, and potatoes are given in every conceivable form, fluids being avoided as much as possible. The foreign body thus passes out without injury to the alimentary canal. At the time this remedy was brought to general notice several cases of recovery by its use were also noted. As the idea appears to be a very sensible one, we take occasion to abstract from the report of a case, remarkable in some respects, which was recently published in the *Medical Record*.

The case is reported by Dr. Edward Pisko, of New York, and is that of a child not quite one year old, who had swallowed a screw one inch in length. The screw passed on into the stomach, and did not seem to be giving much trouble when the patient was first seen. To avoid both a laparotomy and the danger of intestinal perforation, the aid of the potato was invoked, in spite of the tender age of the patient and the fact that it had just been weaned from the breast. Potatoes were given in every form, and white bread dipped in milk, but no fluids. The child continued well, and on the fifth day, after the administration of a slight laxative, the screw was passed enveloped in feces. There was no apparent injury to the stomach, and no intestinal catarrh, and the child's general health remained unaffected. The interesting features of the case are the brilliant success of a most unassuming remedy and the fact that the patient was so young, and scarcely weaned.

Pisko also relates the following case, which he saw in Albert's surgical clinic at Vienna:

A boy *æt.* 6 years, who, two years previously, had swallowed a nail, which at that time was removed by gastrotomy, was brought there again with a nail (6 centimeters long) in his stomach. This time the "potato cure," which had been introduced in the meantime, was used, with the result that on the ninth day the nail made its appearance *per vias naturales*.

It would seem that we are not yet acquainted with all the possibilities of the luscious tuber, since it even bears off the palm from laparotomy.—*Weekly Medical Review*.

Death Rates of the World's Largest Cities.

Following are the vital statistics for a number of the principal cities of the world, compiled to December, 1890:

AMERICAN.		
	Estimated Present Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000.
New York.....	1,655,598	22.22
Baltimore.....	455,427	19.31
Boston.....	446,507	23.64
Brooklyn.....	853,985	22.41
Chicago.....	1,100,000	16.93
District of Columbia (Washington).....	250,000
New Orleans.....	254,000	48.48
Philadelphia.....	1,064,277	18.97
San Francisco.....	300,000	20.23
St. Louis.....	460,000	15.02
FOREIGN.		
London.....	4,421,661	21.1
Liverpool.....	613,463	21.9
Birmingham.....	461,895	18.5
Manchester.....	379,437	27.2
Glasgow.....	530,208	22.4
Dublin.....	353,082	25.5
Copenhagen.....	307,000	20.7
Christiania.....	143,300	20.7
Stockholm.....	236,350	18.0
St. Petersburg.....	924,466	24.7
Amsterdam.....	403,083	19.2
Rotterdam.....	197,723	18.6
Antwerp.....	232,418	26.1
Brussels.....	182,275	25.7
Paris.....	2,260,945	24.61
Rome.....	393,496	23.9
Venice.....	156,515	31.5
Berlin.....	1,575,485	17.1
Munich.....	298,000	30.2
Prague.....	314,425	21.99
Vienna.....	822,176	23.0
Buda-Pesth.....	442,787
Bombay.....	773,196	19.78
Calcutta.....	433,219	21.5
Madras.....	398,777	35.0
Cairo.....	374,838	34.8

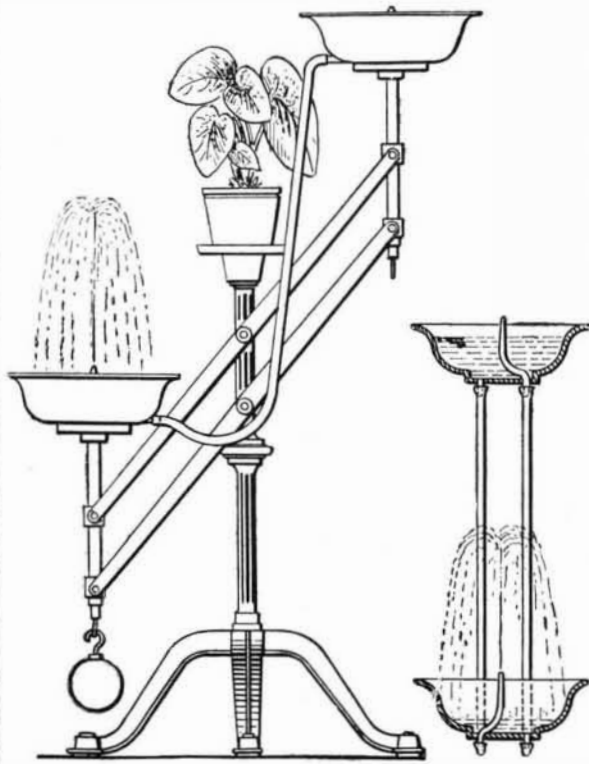
—*Fire and Water.*

Estimated Population for 1900.

The estimate of the population of the United States for the year 1900, by Hon. Carroll D. Wright, superintendent of the Department of Labor, gives as the approximate figures 76,639,854. This is the result of a careful consideration of the estimates made by several other reliable individuals, the known rates of increase, and the various circumstances that bear upon the growth of population.

PORTABLE PARLOR FOUNTAIN AND FLOWER STAND.

The annexed engraving, taken from the Vienna *Gewerbe Zeitung*, illustrates a fountain consisting principally of two equal sized basins, each containing a spraying nozzle and an outlet pipe, the spraying nozzles being connected by two rubber pipes with the outlet pipes, as plainly shown in the sectional view.



PORTABLE PARLOR FOUNTAIN AND FLOWER STAND.

The basins are supported on suitable holders connected with each other by parallel levers fulcrumed on the flower stand. A weight is adapted to be hung on the lower end of the holder containing the empty basin to counterbalance and to hold the filled basin in an uppermost position. The water flows from the filled upper basin through the outlet pipe to the spraying nozzle of the lower basin, and is projected quite a distance up into the air, to fall back and gradually fill the lower basin. When this is accomplished, the upper basin has run empty and the counterbalancing weight is now hung on the holder of the empty upper basin so as to change the position of the levers, and consequently the basins; that is, the filled basin assumes an uppermost position, while the empty one swings downward. The water now flows from the upper basin to



A CURIOUS TOMBSTONE.

the spraying nozzle of the lower empty basin, and is sprayed to accumulate in this basin.

It takes about one hour's time to empty a basin containing about one-half gallon of water, the opening of the spraying nozzle being one-half millimeter in size.

In case the water gets dirty, the basins can be readily removed from their holders and emptied, cleaned, and replaced, and one again filled with fresh water.

T. G. H.

Subterranean Fires.

Some idea of the terror of volcanoes may be gathered from an account of an eruption in one of the Hawaiian islands, as graphically described in the *London Budget*, when the crater was filled from five hundred to six hundred feet deep with molten lava, the immense weight of which broke through a subterranean passage of twenty-seven miles and reached the sea, forty miles distant, in two days, flowing for three weeks and heating the water twenty miles distant.

Rocks melted like wax in its path; forests crackled and blazed before its fervent heat; the works of man were to it but as a scroll in the flames.

Imagine Niagara's stream, above the brink of the falls, with its dashing, whirling, madly raging waters, hurrying on to their plunge, instantaneously converted into fire—a gory-hued river of fused minerals; volumes of hissing steam arising; smoke curling upward from ten thousand vents, which give utterance to many deep-toned mutterings and sullen, confined clamorings: gases detonating and shrieking as they burst from their hot prison house; the heavens lurid with flames; the atmosphere dark and oppressive; the horizon murky with vapors and gleaming with the reflected contest.

Such was the scene as the fiery cataract, leaping a precipice of fifty feet, poured its flood upon the ocean. The old line of coast, a mass of compact, indurated lava, whitened, cracked and fell. The waters recoiled and sent forth a tempest of spray; they foamed and lashed around and over the melted rock, they boiled with white heat, and the roar of the conflicting agencies grew fiercer and louder. The reports of the exploding gases were distinctly heard twenty-five miles distant, and were likened to a whole broadside of heavy artillery. Streaks of the intensest light glanced like lightning in all directions; the outskirts of the burning lava as it fell, cooled by the shock, were shivered into millions of fragments and scattered by the strong wind in sparkling showers far into the country. Six weeks later at the base of the hills the water continued scalding hot and sent forth clouds of steam at every wash of the waves.

A New Industry for Sunderland, England.

The negotiations which have been taking place for some time past between the River Wear commissioners and the Anglo-American Oil Company have at length been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and, before long, a new and very extensive industry will be established in Sunderland. The Anglo-American Oil Company is one of the largest concerns in this country or America. It owns large oil wells in Pennsylvania, besides a fleet of specially constructed steamers for the conveyance of oil across the Atlantic. The company intends to erect works at Hendon, near Sunderland, covering about two acres of ground, which will comprise three or four tanks resembling gasometers in appearance, for the reception of the oil. The liquid will be pumped from their own ships, as they arrive in the docks, to the tanks referred to, and thence dispatched to all parts of the kingdom. This is an entirely new industry in the port of Sunderland, and capable of assuming large proportions.—*London Times*.

A CURIOUS TOMBSTONE.

The inhabitants of the sleepy village of Wilmette, Ill., were astonished not very long ago to find an enormous elm tree standing in the middle of their principal street. It had been moved along the highroad, and was being conveyed to Graceland Cemetery, where it was to be planted over the grave of Mr. J. H. Lathrop, of Chicago. A rather romantic story is told about the reason for the transportation of so large a tree. It was said that while Mr. Lathrop and a friend were out shooting about two years ago, they stopped to take lunch under the spreading limbs of an enormous elm. They stood admiring the tree, and finally entered into a compact that upon the death of either, the tree was to be transplanted to the grave of the deceased at the expense of the survivor. Unfortunately, there is no reason to believe that there is any truth in the story, as Mr. Lathrop was not a sportsman. He knew the tree, took a fancy to it, and made up his mind that he would be buried under its branches. To that end he provided a fund of \$10,000 in his will for the removal of the tree from the forest where it stood to the cemetery, a distance of twelve miles. At the time when the photograph which we publish was taken, the tree had been moved five miles without accident, save the sad fate which met one of the laborers, who was crushed to death beneath it. A force of thirteen men is employed, and the expense of removal so far has been \$2,000.

A hole has been chiseled through the tree about ten feet from the ground, and through this has been passed a steel bar, which projects far enough on either side to bear upon the heavy timber braces which support the tree in an upright position. Wire guy ropes are attached to staples driven in the limbs which serve as a further support. The roots are carefully wrapped up to protect them from freezing. The tree is about 75 feet high and 7 feet in circumference.