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MEASLES TERRIFIES THEM.

Pacific Islanders Dread the Disease as We Dread Cholera.

With the communities of the temperate zone measles is accepted and tolerated as one of the many indignities connected with childhood. If a grown man has the fever and the rash he becomes the source of mirth in others, and is laughed at by his comrades because he has not yet concluded his infancy. Out in the Pacific measles is no laughing matter, but is regarded as health officials look upon cholera and the plague, both because of its high degree of contagiousness and the large percentage of mortality among its victims. More than once it has happened that steamers have been quarantined at Honolulu or Suva or Apia, all because some baby has had this disorder.

In 1874, after the British Government had annexed the Fiji Islands, a war vessel was detailed to take King Cakobau and a batch of high chiefs on an educational cruise, which should show them the magnitude of the British empire as displayed at Sydney. Unfortunately the party on its return to Fiji brought the contagion of measles.

The pest spread with terrifying rapidity from island to island, and attacked all ages. There was only one medical man in the group, and he could not begin to take care of the dangerous cases in Levuka, and as for the hundreds of other islands away from Ovalau the only thing that could be done was to send out word to the sufferers not to lie in the water. But despite these orders there was the one thing each Fijian felt that he must do when he had measles, and as soon as the rash began to smart and grow hot the patients hurried to the nearest stream or even to the beach and jumped into the water. Result, what might have been expected; total mortality during the epidemic, 50,000; being nearly one in every three of those.

Measles found its way into Tonga despite all efforts to safeguard the kingdom. The death rate was just about the same as in Fiji. From Tonga the contagion spread to Samoa. Its coming had been foreseen and the proper steps taken. The native pastors were supplied with medicines and instructed in their use. Best of all, every town was placarded with notices telling the people what they must not do.

GOT THE WRONG DOSE.

We Know the Bottle, but He Was Mistaken in the Contents.

In a railway carriage on the London and Northwestern Railway recently a waggish young man noticed an elderly gentleman trying to put on his overcoat, went to his assistance. While thus engaged the young man observed a good-sized whisky flask protruding from one of the old gentleman's pockets, and thought it a good opportunity for joke. Having helped the stranger with his coat, therefore, he pulled out the flask and said:

"Will you take a drink?"

The old man did not recognize the position and drawing himself up remarked severely:

"No, sir, I never drink."

"It won't hurt you," insisted the wag; "the best."

"Young man," said the old gentleman, speaking loud enough for all in the carriage to hear, "if you persist in drinking whisky you will be a ruined man at 40. It is the curse of the hand. When I was a boy my mother died, and the last thing she did was to call me to her bedside and say, John, promise me that you will never touch a drop of liquor."

"Oh, well, in that case," said the joke. "I must drink it myself," whereupon, sating the action to the words, he pulled out the cork and took a good drink. A moment later he dropped the bottle with an exclamation which certainly didn't sound like a blessing, and yelled, "Ugh! Ugh! My mouth's all raw!"

Then it was that the old gentleman discovered his loss, and to the amazement of the other passengers, said:

"Ah, young man, you will be careful before you take another man's property again. I am Dr. Blank, and that bottle contained some quinine and iron for one of my patients."

The young man got out at the next station.

The Sorrow of China.

The Yellow river, which has been named the "Sorrow of China," is probably the most destructive stream on the face of the earth. In less than 1,000 years it has changed its channel four times and the point where it empties into the sea has from time to time been moved up and down the coast a distance of 300 miles. It runs through a vast alluvial plain, and is fed by streams from a great system of mountains in the north. When the snow melting on this range comes at a time of heavy rains the result is sure to be a terrible flood. It has been estimated that in the past three centuries over 10,000,000 human beings have perished in the floods of the Yellow river. For destructiveness, both of life and property, this stream is unparalleled, and the sorriest bestow upon it is simply justified by its history.

A Unique Carpet Cleaner.

Carpets can be cleaned without removing them from the floor by a new machine, which has metal strips set inside the carpet to beat the carpet as the cleaner runs over the floor, a fan being mounted in the top of the casing to draw the dust into a water compartment, which has an air passage covered by a moistened screen to retain the dust particles.

Newspapers of the United States. There are 2,200 daily and 15,000 weekly papers published in the United States, and twenty-three different languages, other than English, are represented in the newspapers of this country.

Couldn't Say She Made Light of Him. Young Mr. Banks weighs a trifle over 200 pounds, and is somewhat sensitive about it. He was calling on a young lady the other evening, when she said naively: "Oh, Mr. Banks, would you just as soon sit in this easy chair as in that rocker?"

"Certainly, certainly," replied Banks, gallantly, as he changed from one chair to the other.

"Oh, thanks, thanks," she murmured; "you are very kind. I have an idea full of such lovely terms under the cushions of this easy chair, and you—"

"Good night," said Banks, stiffly, as he walked away, never, never to return.

REPUTATION AT A BOUND.  
Men Who Became Famous at an Early Age.

The early exploits of military leaders are paralleled in other lines of life by achievements of young men who afterward became famous in their chosen professions or callings. It has frequently happened that young men distinguished themselves by achievements which they were never afterward able to surpass. Bryant never wrote a better poem than *Thanatopsis*, yet he was only a boy when this, his best known production, was completed. Like many poetical writers, he was a poor judge of the merits of his own work, and fancied he could write much better in life. He preferred his translation of Homer to any of his poetical effusions, and disliked to be complimented upon *Thanatopsis*, regarding it as a mere boyish play of fancy which had been greatly surpassed by his later work. The public, however, did not agree with him, and nine-tenths of the men who admire *Thanatopsis* neither know nor care anything about the rest of Bryant's writings; this one is enough. Shelley was only a boy when Queen Mab appeared and resulted in his leaving the university. Keats was not 20 when he distinguished himself by some of his choicest work: Moore was admired all over the English-speaking world before he was as old as Hobson.

As with writers, so with men of affairs—the youthful man frequently outshines his elders by some achievement which establishes his reputation. Cyrus James Fox was not 20 when his first success in Parliament was recorded. Metternich was a young man when he first saw the destinies of the Austrian empire. Thiers and Gladstone were still young when their first political successes were recorded; Lafayette was only a boy when he came to America; Alexander had hardly attained his majority when he marched into Asia; Edison had not grown a beard when his first inventions astonished the electricians; Peter Cooper was still a young man when he undertook to solve the problem of steam traction. Fulton was young when he set about the work of "navigating the piano and organ."

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