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PROFESSIONAL BRETHREN

By George E. Walsh.

of harmless herbs and oils.

mistaken.

"You mean to say there is no poison

in any of them?" I asked in astonish-

I did not believe he understood his

business and probably said as much.

from this man convinced me that I was

I walked home, dejected and baffled.

Nevertheless I was not discouraged.

for that. Then I thought of hypoder-

mic injections, which might be admin-

It was while speculating upon the

master's night visits to the doctor's ac-

counted for everything. It was at

these meetings that the harm was done,

the possession of abilities of a certain

CHAPTER X.

UT in the meantime,

by mere accident, I

discovered the secret

of my master's fatal

illness. It happened

One afternoon when

in this wise:

was free for a few hours I strolled

down the road toward Dr. Squires'

house, habit generally drawing my

footsteps in that direction. I was in-

green grass and think. I am a great

When alone in the woods, I will

more enjoyment therein than in the

company of man, or an army of busy

ants will amuse me for half a day. I

would not hurt one of these insects for

anything or permit them to be dis-

turbed in their work, and yet I have

On this particular afternoon I walked

down the country highway for some

distance, and then, attracted by the

song of a wood thrush, I concealed my-

listened. The bird could not see me,

The noise that had frightened her

came from the hoofs of two horses,

leaves of the bushes at the riders, and

I was consequently not surprised

"I do not consider it an honor to

have completed your discovery," she

"But I have promised to tell it to you

"How long before-one day or one

There was a look of annoyance in his

"Any number of days beforehand

"Well, then, I wish to hear it now,"

"Woman's impatience," he muttered.

"That is unkind. I don't like such

"Nothing personal was intended, Miss

"Well, please don't do so any more."

The doctor watched the horses drink-

"Can you keep the secret if I divulge

"Can I? I don't think that question

ing for a few moments and then, lean-

Belle. I was merely uttering my re-

"It has caused half the trouble in the

Dr. Squires and Miss Stetson.

vessel for the beasts.

hour?"

world."

enforcing her words.

flections aloud."

steed, he said:

is necessary."

reflections upon my sex."

lives if necessary.

he had scored the first victory.

istered while in his office.

"None whatever," he replied.

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HE indisposition of Mr. Goddard was of short greatly surprised and perturbed when duration, but the attacks became more frequent after my first visit to Dr. Squires, and I was

occasionally called upon to carry notes for him which announced the breaking of engagements. There was nothing serious about his complaint except that he appeared weak and languid and unable or unwilling to attend to his social duties. He would spend the day at such times resting on the bed or couch either smoking gloomfly or closing his eyes in a moody, dejected manner. He would lie in this way for hours without moving a muscle, but he was not asleep. The slightest noise would arouse him. He would merely open his eyes and ask, "What's the matter, William?" Then without even waiting for my reply he would close them wearily and relapse into his for-

mer languid condition. By this time I was considerably attached to him, and it gave me as much anxiety as a relative to see him slowly going into a decline. The dread of the inherited disease intensified my feelings for the man. I had no faith in I would be present at the next meet-Dr. Squires, but I could offer no good ing or I would relinquish all claim to son. I was startled at the sight. Her substitute.

Left to myself a great deal, I took order necessary for success in my line to reading the books which I found in of work. Mr. Goddard's study. Many of these were medical treatises. Evidently the man had tried to make a study of his complaint and had collected all the literature possible upon the subject. These books were handsomely bound and copiously illustrated, but they were too technical for my limited understanding. Nevertheless I frequently found myself turning over their leaves and aimlessly reading para-

graphs here and there. One day I was engaged in this idle amusement when I happened to open tent upon no particular purpose. I was me. I understood that both families the book at a chapter headed, "Poisons | merely walking along for the change. and Their Administration." I had not read many lines before I suddenly and lie down in the woods or on the closed the book with a bang. An idea had occurred to me that fairly startled lover of nature. The birds and grass me. I was instantly positive that I and flowers always appeal to me. had at last a clew to the sickness of my master and possibly the reason for Dr. Squires' mystery.

The doctor was slowly poisoning Mr. Goddard while pretending to help him

to ward off an inherited disease. This accounted for the peculiar languid condition of my master at certain intervals. After every dose of the in- raised my hand against my fellow sidious poison he was made weak and creatures, partly in self defense, it is listless. Each attack helped to break true, to wound them or to take their down his naturally rugged constitution. It was merely a question of time before he would succumb to the poison instead of to any mythical disease.

Confronted by this thought, I was uncertain for a time just what to do. | self in a thick clump of bushes and My first impulse was to go to my master and tell him my suspicions so he and for a long time I lay there with could be placed on his guard, but as my eyes half closed listening to the my life has never been guided by im- sweet music of the dainty singer. I pulse I soon dismissed this from mind. do not know how long I remained

Besides, I had nothing but my suspi- there entranced by this private concert, cions to reveal-not a single fact to but suddenly the bird hushed its song prove anything. It was my duty to and flew away. collect facts and then to confront the doctor with them and have him arrested. If he was determined to put which were cantering down the road my master out of the way and gain at a rapid pace. I peered through the the hand and fortune of Miss Stetson. I was equally determined to thwart instantly all my gentle thoughts fied. him in his little game. The stakes The spell of the bird was no longer were high for him, and I knew that he would play a cunning, skillful hand, but as he would suspect no danger from me I had the advantage of working secretly and without much fear of discovery.

A professional burglar has a little of the detective spirit in him, and I soon | a drink at this place. A wooden trough found myself enjoying the scent with had been sunk into the ground to reall the keenness of an experienced of- ceive the water and to form a drinking ficer of the law. I had hunted detectives before, dogged their tracks, penetrated their disguises and followed when the two drew up their horses just up little clews that they left behind in in front of me and led them to the their work, but all in the interest of spring. The doctor dismounted and crime. Now, however, I had turned held the horses while they drank in reformer and was legitimately pursu- the cooling draft. The two had been ing a criminal whose evil genius had engaged in conversation, and I judged been directed toward the destruction that she had been trying to extract his of one whom I had learned to like. It secret from him. was no ordinary man that I had to fight against, and this gave more zest keep your work so secret until you

to my undertaking. was saying. "Then all the world will I discovered that my master had a night appointment with Dr. Squires know it, and there is no special interabout once a week. These appoint- est in it for me." ments were irregular. Sometimes they were early in the week and, again, in before any one else hears of it," the the middle or the end. Evidently the doctor answered. doctor told him each time when to

come again. Upon reflection I was satisfied that there was a strange coincidence be- face at her reply. tween these weekly night calls and my master's periodical attacks of languor you wish," he answered, and sickness. Almost every time after he had met the doctor at night he had she replied quickly, a bright smile rebeen in bed a good part of the following day. This convinced me that the poison was administered at the doctor's office and was not intrusted to his patient.

This conclusion was reached one day when I was considerably dejected. I had been working up the case for nearly a week, and everything seemed to point to the fact that I had made a mistake in my reasoning. I could discover nothing to corroborate my suspicions. On that very day I had man- ing against the saddle of his black aged to secure the medicines my master was in the habit of taking, and, carrying them with me to the city, I | it to you?" had them analyzed by an expert chem-

"No, probably not. But I want your mine. I could-no, I could never mar. that he was unwilling to shut the door promise that you will never reveal it | ry him; I would be afraid." to anybody," he persisted.

"Well, you have it. I will never mention it until you give me permission." "All right, then. I will tell you all. When I was a young man, I went to India as a surgeon in the English army. There I met so many lepers that my attention was called particularly to this disease. At first they disgusted and alarmed me. Their rotting fingers and toe joints, their running sores and their emaciated bodies were so loathsome that I could hardly stay in their presence, but in time I got used to them, as we do to everything. I even I was so confident that poison was contained in some of them that I was found myself pitying them and wondering if something couldn't be done to alleviate their sufferings and even he told me that they were composed to cure and stamp out the horrible disease. This was the beginning of a career that I have studiously pursued ever since. I spent all my time in studying leprosy in its worst forms. I determined to find some remedy for it. I was limited in funds, but managed to get along by living near them. took them to another chemist and I could not exist in the same house spent \$5 more just to have a correct with them. The thought of it nearly analysis made. The same conclusion stifled me. But I could live near them and help them and in time perfect my

discovery. "My secret is already out, Miss The doctor was too shrewd for me, and Belle," he added after a pause. "I am devoting my time and life to the disreasoned with sense that the man covery of a positive cure for leprosy, that most dreaded of all diseases that would not adopt ordinary methods to poison my master. He was too shrewd ever scourged a wicked world. I am on the right track. In fact, I have about perfected it, so that I will be ready to announce the results to the world in a year. There is only one thing that bothers me. I am experipossible methods of giving him poison that I reached the conclusion that my menting with this continually."

"Experimenting with whom?" The words were so hollow and unnatural that I turned my eyes from the doctor's face to that of Miss Stetface was livid-paler than that of any corpse. A look of horror shone from her eyes.

"Whom are you experimenting with, Dr. Squires?" she repeated in the same strange voice.

"With-why-my dear Miss Belle, have I divulged any family secret?" stammered the doctor. "Did you not know? I thought your father knew that you knew that"-

"That Charles had leprosy in his system-that he was a leper?" she said

"Your father knew it; his father knew it: Charles knew it when he met

made no secret of it among them-"No, I never knew what the disease was. Father never told me. Oh, can

it be possible!" She swayed in her saddle, and if the doctor had not caught her she would have fallen to the ground. I could it, except to pay taxes." watch the birds by the hour, finding hardly contain myself. The news nearly made me desperate. This accounted for everything. I was all wrong in my conclusions. The doctor was, after all, a good man, holding the secret of my master's life in his possession and trying hard to help him

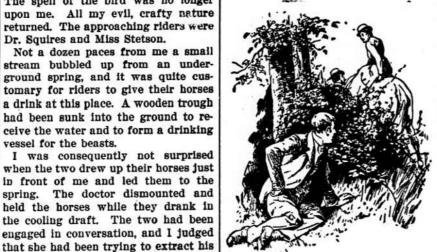
"You must let me give you some wa ter. Miss Belle," the doctor said as he steadied her in the saddle. "Dismount a moment, and let me bathe your forehead."

"No, thank you, doctor. I will be all right in a moment. The suddenness of

the news startled me." "I know it, I know it, and I was brute to tell you. I should have been more thoughtful. I shall never forgive myself. But, Miss Belle, believe me, I thought you knew it all. He should have told you."

"No, no; I am glad he didn't. How could I have been the same to him? How can I in the future?" She shuddered and covered her face

with her hands. "Don't go on so, my dear Miss Belle," the doctor said in a low, winning voice. "There is hope for Charles yet. You



forget that I am close upon the greatest discovery of the age. If it succeeds. Charles will be a new man, free from all taint of leprosy."

"But you could not eradicate the germs of the disease from his body; they might not show themselves in him, but in future generations they would come out."

"We can only hope for the best," he replied. "Who can tell what medicine may not accomplish? It has done wonders in the world already, and there are new worlds that it is conquering every day. We must look forward daring to predict now."

His words were intended to be encouraging, but she did not raise her head. From the slight shuddering of her delicate body I knew that she was

"Do not yield to this weakness, Miss Belle," he added a moment later. "I instances of assaults by Negroes on tell you I will cure Charles. I can do white women and declared that the it, and I will do it. If not for his sake, I will do it for yours."

A faint smile was visible through her tears as she looked at him and answered slowly:

him by all means for his sake, not for. Reverting to the president's assertion serme

Again she covered her face and sob-

"Not if I cured him entirely?" he asked in a voice that had a curious tension to it. "Not if I assured you positively that the disease would never show itself while either of you lived?"

I loved him, loved him!" There was an awkward silence. The tears stood in my own eyes, but those of the doctor were dry and exultant. The confession, I knew, pleased him. These words from her lips would give him the clear field. He could honorably try to win her love. With Charles there to prevent him from winning a beautiful bride and a princely fortune?

sin, a crime. And yet I loved him so-

ticians. A few moments later they gathered up their reins and rode away. She was pale and beautiful; he was strong and robust-and exultant. TO BE CONTINUED.

## Miscellanebus Reading.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

Warns Republicans Their Folly.

Senator Tillman recently made strong and logical attack upon the mad cated by closing the postoffice at In- there would be more blood shed than dianola, Miss., and the appointment of was ever shed before. Dr. Crum to be collector of the port of "I beg you for God's sake," he said synopsis of it:

Senator Tillman said he proposed to surprise his friends and astonish his in order to retain their supremacy. enemies, if he has any, by being very mild in what he would say.

"If we had known at the beginning of the civil war," said he, "what we do now there would have been no rational, decent and sane in their purwar." He inquired why the large majority of law-abiding citizens of Indianola shall be punished because there was a small, lawless and brutal element. It was contrary, he said, to the to make even a start to run down those fundamental principles of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence.

Replying to some remarks made by of the wildest ass that roams over the southern states with a wax skin on him that the Federal government is not supreme," but, he said, there were some cognate propositions which have been ignored.

He said that in the south people have tors thirty-five years ago were conquered. "We are perpetually remindd," he said, accentuating his words, "that we are in the Union, but not of

The poison in the race condition in the south, he declared, lay in the referee system which had been adopted. The balance of power, he said, in national Republican conventions was held by the machine of the south, and that machine was composed of Negroes. When the people of the south, said he, ose patience and do "cruel, bitter, fearful, flendish and savage things, there is a howl from men who know nothing and who have never been south of the Potomac, but who have postoffice is to be taken as a measure the earth, all vegetation disappears and theorized."

Continuing, and addressing the Republican side, he said that if this poland if some of them could be given and imbecility. The postoffice belonged land, they brought a lot of straw places in the cabinet he would vote for to the United States, and he inquired with them for their horses, and in it them. "I will vote for Booker Wash- if a handful of rufflans was more powington as secretary of anything. Let erful than the government, "with its insect which has since become known us have a Negro, a genuine Negro, not a mulatto or hybrid. Then let us make them officers in the army and navy. Let us give them pro rata share of all the good jobs, wherever they exist, without regard to local conditions." He added that nothing of the sort would be done.

After speaking for nearly two hours and not concluding, he yielded for an

executive session. Senator Tillman spoke for three hours the next day in continuation of his remarks on the race question, and was heard with interest by the Republicans, many of whom do not agree with the president in his Negro policy. Senator Tillman, in his speech, said that in dealing with the Indianola postoffice the president and postmaster eneral transcended their authority nd resorted to methods which were ooth tyranical and unconstitutional. He wanted to know if in figuring up the purpose of their new born zeal "this cold-blooded, calculative, advisedly-taken action," was not prompted by a low motive. He charged that 800,000 Negroes are coercing 50,000,000 of white people in the north to deal with 17,000,000 white men in the south in the interest of 8,000,000 ignorant Negroes in that section.

He referred to the cost in lives and money on account of the race problem in this country, and, addressing the Republican side, called upon them to meet him "upon the same plane of patriotism, of race pride and of civilization, and not to fall into the pitiful cesspool of partisan politics." He read extracts from the letter of the president written sometime since covering his views with respect to appointments of Negroes to office. He wanted to be hopefully for results that it would be just to the president, he said, but the views were superficial.

"How little and small and infinite small" he said. "is the knowledge behind such a view."

He added that the people of the north more northern people find out about the Negro the less use they have for him. The ballot of the Negro, he maintained, was a menace to good government and the people of the north "You are good, doctor, to sacrifice so are coming to realize that the enfranmuch for either or both of us. Cure chisement of him bordered on a crime. proper order he'll hab a mighty fine

of hope and opportunity in the face of a worthy and competent, colored man. \$350.000.000 Annually. Senator Tillman said that at the first

blush there is not a man alive who would not agree with that sentiment, but he inquired if it ever occurred to bug will draw \$100,000,000 of this large to spend more than half a million dolanyone that in opening that door of amount, the grasshopper will take \$90,- lars since then in trying to exterminate hope it might not be shut in the face 000,000 and the Hessian fly will call for the bug, which has threatened to eat "No, no; I could not. It would be a of the white man. The door of hope in at least \$50,000,000 more. Three worms every green thing off the face of the South Carolina, he said, at one time that attack the cotton plant will ashad been closed by bayonets to the whites for eight years, while rapine murder and misgovernment ran riot, with an abomination in the sight of man presiding over the state. He declared that he did not hate the Negro, and that all Negroes are not bad. Only a small percentage are bad,

no longer a possible rival, what was and these, he said, are leading the rest crisp green heads. and being patted on the back by poli-

He regarded it as his duty, he said to his state to stand forward opposed to any manner of political or social equality on the part of the Negro with the whites. Continuing, he referred to the adoption of the fifteenth amendment to the constitution. "When you remorselessly stand by that," said he, "and say it is sacred, you force us to face the alternative of a conflict of

The purpose of those who endorse the president's door of hope policy, he declared, is that in time South Carolina should become a state of mulattoes policy of President Roosevelt as indi- and in this event he predicted that

races."

Charleston. His speech occupied a facing the Republican side, "not to part of two days, and the following is produce an acute stage of hatred which will bring the two races together with the resolve of the whites to die Senator Tillman said his newspaper friends always took great pains to quote everything he had said that was "hot," leaving out everything that was suit of sensations, and in this respect a great wrong had been done him. "A lie," he said, "never had any particular truth," and he would not attempt

that have been told on him. Senator Tillman said he did not want to see the African driven to the wall, Senator Spooner in his speech, Senator and he did not want to shut the door of Tillman said: "It is not in the dreams hope in his face, but he could not consent to the dominance of that people over the whites.

Senator Tilman then poked fun a Senator Hanna and read the title of the carpet the ground, and when the wheat bill he recently introduced to pension has been harvested they fly to the auex-slaves. "Oh, my God!" said he, "did tumnal corn. Senator Hanna mean that or is it a political dodge?" The effect of the bil was, he declared, to give opportunity to harmless, insect. In parts of the West, unscrupulous Negroes to bamboozle and however, it is a serious menace to agdeceive their people by securing subscriptions ostensibly to further the in- ily do more than \$100,000,000 worth of terests of the bill. He concluded by damage. It is the true locust, celebratsaying that "in proportion as you ed in Biblical and other history, and arouse false hope in the minds of these people you are only sowing the wind enemy of man, barring only the cinch which will flame up into a whirlwind

later on." hours. He was followed by Senator Carmack, of Tennessee, who said the suitably constructed cellars, but before action of the president in the Indianola case was not in accordance with reason, justice or the constitution. He said that if the closing of the Indianola of the strength of the executive and starvation stares them in the face. the power of the Federal government, then the government at Washington deserves to be despised for its weakness militant president at its head."

Another Tradition Gone. "There is a popular belief that the Negro knows how to handle a mule better than a white man," said an observant man, from a sugar plantation, where some young mules are being trained for the work that they will have to do during the grinding season, and I there observed that if the overseer had not superintended the training some of the mules would have been crippled. Now, a plantation is the best place to judge a Negro's abilities in this respect, for there they handle mules more than do any other class of Negroes. If a mule balks while a Negro is handling him the mule will receive a good beating, and this makes matters worse, for the more one beats a mule the worse he generally gets. The animal becomes stoical, and it takes something more than blows to stir him. Still, the Negro does not think of anything but this sort of punishment, provided he alone has charge of the mule. Some time ago I came across a balking mule and an infuriated Negro. The Negro had dismounted-for he had been riding the muleand with a stout whip handle was pounding the mule for all that his strength enabled him. If a pebble or a small piece of rock is dropped into a mule's ear the animal will run a breakneck speed. I thought of this, and told the Negro to get into the sad-" 'He won't move, boss,' said the Ne

gro, "and he's been standing here all mawnin' like he's dade.' " "I secured a pebble and informed

the Negro that if he would get on the mule everything would go on well. "Taint no use to do nawthin' no mo', an' I dun gib him up,' he replied. "I finally succeeded in getting him

to remount, and as he did so I dropped the pebble in the mule's ear. The animal threw his head up simultane ously, then started away as if Mexi-can spurs were being punched into his have no more use for the Negro at sides, while the Negro held on with close quarters than he had. He cited much difficulty. All I could hear was: instances of assaults by Negroes on "Wonder what dat white man done dis here mule."-New Orleans Times-

> ### "How does you like de new preacher?" asked Mr. Erastus Pinkley.
> "Very much," answered Miss Miami Brown. "He's got a good staht. He various kinds of silk-spinning insects those canonized persons whom they knows a heap o' words, an' jes' as other than the common silk worm. He respect most, as to the prophet Dansoon as he gits 'em arranged in de

BATTLE WITH THE BUGS. Twelve Insects Cost This Country

States \$350,000,000 this year. The cinch state of Massachusetts has been obliged sess the farmers for a total of \$65,000,- spread, comprising some fifty square 000, and the potato bug will eat \$8,000,-000 worth of its favorite kind of garden fruit and shade trees, and if it should produce. Ten millions of dollars is a moderate estimate of the injury that of the country it might easily do milwill be done by the apple worm, and lions of dollars worth of injury yearthe caterpillar that makes cabbages its ly. The brute is a dark gray caterpilspecialty will destroy \$5,000,000 worth of

The estimate, which is c	onservative
and under the mark, is as f	ollows:
Cinch bug	\$100,000,000
Grasshopper	90,000,000
Hessian fly	50,000,000
Potato bug	
San Jose scale	10,000,000
Grain weevil	10,000,000
Apple worm	10,000,000
Army worm	15,000,000
Cabbage worm	5,000,000
Boll weevil (cotton)	20,000,000
Boll worm (cotton)	
Cotton worm	
	1000

Total.....\$385,000,000 How absurd it seems that this government, with an army of 65,000 men, 254 warships and more money in its treasury than any nation has ever before possessed, should be helpless in a fight against twelve objectionable

Yet such is the fact. The individual bug is small, but its "stronghold," is its tremendous power of reproduction. What is to be done in conflict with an adversary which is capable of having a billion descendants in a summer. In conflict with such an enemy Uncle Sam finds himself in much the same situation as that of Gulliver when he discovered that he was at the mercy of the Liliputians.

The cinch bug is a disgusting little beast, only a third of an inch long. Originally it fed upon wild grass, but when civilized man arrived and planted wheat the cereal suited its taste exactly and it soon became what it is today, the worst foe of the most prized of bread-producing crops. It gets into the funnel-shaped part of the leaf, where it joins the stalk, and sucks the sap until the plant dies. The bugs, multiplying at a rate almost inconceivable, attack a wheat field in armies which literally

Everybody knows the grasshopper, riculture, and in a "bad year" will easin the United States ranks as the worst bug. It is a foe most dreaded by farm ers over extensive areas. Droughts Senator Tillman spoke for three they may combat by irrigation; from tornadoes they may take refuge in the march of the devasting swarms of grasshoppers they are helpless. The plague arrives and lo! as if by magic the crops are swept from the face of

> sian troops, engaged by the British as auxiliaries, landed on Long Isalmost undoubtedly were eggs of the in this country as the Hessian fly. Three years later the pest began to make itself troublesome in the neighborhood of the landing place and since then it has gradually spread westward. Barring the cinch bug, it is the wors enemy of the wheat, making its first appearance as a tiny maggot at the base of the young plant and sucking the juices of the latter. Eventually the plant is weakened and destroyed, and the maggot is transformed into a fragile dark-colored gnat, closely resem bling a small mosquito-the destined

In the year 1776 when the Hes-

parent of maggots yet to be. The army worm, which is one of the most dreaded of the insect foes of the farmer, is a naked-striped caterpillar, an inch and a quarter long. In May and June it makes its appearance in immense numbers, devouring wheat oats and other grains and grasses. It climbs up the seed stalks and cuts off the heads. With a favorable succession of seasons it multiplies in geometrical ratio, and at last becomes so numerous as to necessitate migration in search of food. Then the army worms travel and feed during both day and night, inflicting enormous damage. It is from their mode of marching in armies at such times that their popular name is derived. The parent of the worm is a brown moth.

The potato bug seems to have been originally native to Colorado and New Mexico. Various wild plants furnished it with food, but nothing seems to have been so exactly suited to its requirements as the potato. With the introduction of the potato by settlers came the opportunity of this objectionable the duplication or even indefinite mulinsect to multiply ad infinitum. It began to march eastward and northward; at first slowly, depending upon its own remains being diminished in the least. power of flight, but later in great big It is worth noting that the nature of jumps, assisted by the railroads, on the honorary qualifications accorded which it took passage. It made trips to the same saint varies in different of hundreds of miles by river, floating countries. Thus, for example, Daniel on chips or voyaging by boat. Its has at Cairo the name of Nebbi-Danspread was startling and at the present time its territory comprises nearly all of the United States. All efforts to that which suits him best and is the diminish its numbers have been in most honorable they can confer. In vain, and \$8,000,000 is a moderate esti- Algeria or Morocco-feudal countriesmate of the damage it does annually. In 1868 a French naturalist named which signifies lord, which is also the Trouvalot, residing at Medford, near title there of military and political Boston, was making experiments with chiefs. In central Asia they give to various kinds of silk-spinning insects those canonized persons whom they

NO. 20. come a few eggs of the Gypsy moth, already well-known as a destructive insect in Europe. These eggs were in a pasteboard box on a window ledge and Twelve insects will cost the United were blown away. As a result the earth in the region over which it has miles. It is a ravenous defoliator of extend its operations over a large part parent is a moth of yellowish hue with black bands on its wings.

> The San Jose scale gets its name from the fact that it first appeared in the San Jose valley, California, having been imported probably from Australia or Hawaii. It is the worst of all enemies of fruit trees. Almost microscopic in size, it will spread through an orchard in half a dozen years, and in place of green leaves and blossoms. leaves nothing but dead trunks and branches. A fruit-raising district attacked by it is destroyed as effectually as if overrun by a fire. These insects. millions of them together, suck the sap of the tree, each one of them covered with a waxy scale, which forms a sort of grayish scurf on the bark. Inasmuch as a single female may have as many as 3,216,000 descendants in a single season, it is easily understood why the pest spreads so dangerously fast. Recently the department of agriculture has imported from China a bug that preys upon it, and which is now being propagated in outdoor cages for

> distribution among fruit growrs. The grain weevil, which destroys millions of dollars' worth of stored cereals, in granaries and elevators every year, is a little brown beetle a quarter of an inch long. The question of how to fight it is one of growing economic importance. It was imported originally from the Mediterranean and has been "domesticated" so long that it has lost the use of its wings. Indeed, its rayages made it famous long before the Christian era, and it is mentioned in the "Georgies" of Virgil. The female beetle punctures the grain kernel with her snout and inserts an egg, from which is hatched a little worm that lives in the hull and feeds upon the starchy interior.

> The cabbage worm, which does more or less damage in every truck patch, is a green caterpillar, an inch and a half long. It is the offspring of a common (whose parent is likewise a moth) is a reddish worm, half an inch in length, and is unpleasantly familiar to everybody. There are many other destructive insects in the country, of course, but those here mentioned are the ones that does the bulk of the damage and which are most dreaded by the growers of crops. Up to date the government, with all its powers, has been almost defenceless against these dozen tiny, but unrelenting foes.-Washington Letter.

NO LEAP YEAR IN SEVEN YEARS. Unusual Event Will Not Occur Again For 200 Years.

It is very unusual but still it is a fact that the completion of the last month of February marks the first time in history for 100 years when seven successive Februarys of only 28 days have occurred, and it will be 200 years longer, or the year 2100.

The unusual occurrence is due to the workings of the rule of astronomers for calculating leap years. The rule by which the present or Gregorian calendar is calculated is as follows:

Every year divisable by four shall be a leap year except the centuries and these shall be leap years if they are divisable by 400. According to this rule the year 1900 was not a leap year, and therefore the present year, 1903, is the seventh year since a leap year occurred. The year 2000 will be a leap year because it is divisable by 400, so that the next time when seven common years will fall on seven successive years will be from the year 2096 to 2103, the year 2100 not being a leap year. The above rule was instituted by Pope Gregory in an effort to keep the solar and calendar years together.

The solar or sun year is 365 days, 5 hours, 40 minutes and 47 seconds long, so that every four years the solar year gets nearly but not quite 24 hours ahead of the common year and accordingly one day is added to February every four years to take up the discrepancy. There is, however, still a slight difference, the calendar gaining on the solar year by about one day in every 400 years so that on every century year divisable by 400, the extra day is not added.

TOMBS OF THE ANCIENT PROPHETS .-There exists in parts of Islam many tombs of the prophet Daniel. Of these one of the most celebrated is at Cairo. This fact need not astonish us. The Mussulmans admit without hesitation tiplication of the bodies of holy persons without their veneration for each of the iel-that is, they give him the title of prophet, as being at the same time the title they give to scints is sidi, had imported the eggs from France iel, the title of khodja, which means in and with them, by some accident, had Arabic writer or lettered.