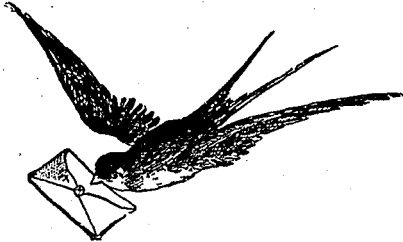


Our Foreign Letter.

A RAMBLE THROUGH THE EXHIBITION OF HYGIENE IN SANTIAGO (CHILI).

By MISS LINA MOLLETT.



(showing, as the little school-girl said, "a long country you can step over") than as a progressive nation with scientific interests and enthusiasm for modern improvements. And yet with a very small population scattered over a very large area, Chili has managed to represent its scientific progress in hygiene in a large well-organized exhibition, showing exhibits and original inventions that would in many cases be a credit to any European nation.

The exhibition buildings are in the Quinta Normal, a botanical and zoological park in the suburbs of Santiago.

You can drive out there in the electric car, through broad and quiet streets basking in the glare of the sun.

There is little traffic, and the sentinel policeman in white drill, who is posted at the corner of every block, wears a bored expression and looks with the interest of *ennui* at the common objects of the wayside. The vendor of fruit and vegetables on horseback with saddle-bags of half-cured cowhide and flapping poncha (mantle) of brilliant hue—or the ice-seller tinkling his little bell—or funereal washerwomen in hideous black manteaux (the national garb), covering them like mortuary palls, or ladies in the same awful costume returning from some errand of devotion or charity, rare and few on a summer's afternoon, which is the sleepy time for Santiago.

Arrived at the Quinta Normal, the car stops, and after paying your entrance fee, you can pass along a shady avenue to the first, and for the stranger, perhaps, the most interesting display of exhibits; a sample collection of all that is eaten and drunk in Santiago. Wines of the country, which those who are authorities compare to the wines of Greece and Hungary, mineral waters to meet almost every ailment, fruits that show our European friends side by side with Southern dainties one learns to appreciate gradually—bread and cake and sweets and jams and condiments and preserved meats and a host of aliments that prove, as is the fact, that no one need hunger in Santiago.

Birds, actually bought in the market-place, and beautifully stuffed for exhibition, lie on a counter as if exposed for sale. There are a number of aquatic samples we rarely see in our best zoological collections—some lovely little creatures from the Cordillera, that a collector would go wild over—feathered songsters of the aroma and pimento trees we have loved to hear in Santa Lucia (for the story of the voiceless birds of South America is a fable) and, alas, the corpses of

Among the general public Chili is far more known as a happy hunting ground for the sensational novelist or a vague geographical annotation on the map

some parrots, that would be household pets at home, lie here only to suggest pie.

In the fish and reptile food department a frog as large as a chicken, immense sea-urchins, snails, a prickly lobster and goldfish, are among the most striking delicacies.

As we pass on a smiling young lady amiably fills our hands with pretty coloured advertisements, and at the end of the hall a highly ornate hygienic metal coffin reminds us of mortality, while our scientific companion explains the system by which the air can be pumped out "when," as some one frivolously put in, "if you're pretending, you're settled."

The Röntgen rays with a large collection of Röntgen photographs, charts of birth and death-rate among various nations, dentistry represented in a fine North American section, good in every detail, a wonderful collection of microbes in bottles "sufficient," I was told, "to kill off the population of Chili," model plans for irrigation and models of workmen's sanitary cottages, models of wholesome stables with Lilliputian horses and cows patiently stationed before empty mangers, are amongst the most prominent exhibits of the central building.

Outside the building is the display that many consider the crown of the whole exhibition: the military ambulance, encamped in the open air, ready for action; its wooden horses packed to start, compact, clean, well-organized and practical, showing in every detail forethought and military precision, animated by the spirit of German discipline and German learning, doing credit to the German teachers and the Chilean pupils, and credit, too, to the advancement of hygienic science generally, as brought to bear on soldiering.

The naval ambulance is in the third and largest building.

As was the case with the military, the naval exhibition shows an attention to detail and orderly organization to which it is impossible to do credit in a few short paragraphs. Some of the exhibits are the property of the largest Chilean war-ship, O'Higgins, so called in memory of the patriot hero of that name, of British origin. An intelligent sailor is there to explain the ingenious and humane arrangements for obtaining the greatest possible rest for patients during the movement of the ship, the immense disinfecting tube for cleansing bedding and clothes—the machine for bandage cutting and many other excellent arrangements. He does so with evident pride, and is altogether a pleasing specimen of the Chilean "Jack Tar."

Not far from the naval ambulance is the model school-room for juniors, and connected with it a small display of maps and diagrams on improved principles.

Chili is unwearying in its efforts for intellectual progress and vast sums are expended every year for free schools and colleges which are under medical supervision with regard to sanitary concerns.

A carpentry class-room adjoined, devoid of all but the practically necessary, and suggestive of much excellent training. Diagrams to illustrate the proper position of the body during work, hung on the walls. In the same building we had the pleasure of seeing an excellent exhibition of physical drill, directed by Don Joaquin Cabeza, and executed by pupils of the Institute Nacional with a precision and agility that was quite above criticism.

The lofty hall was filled with spectators, who applauded so vociferously that the boys must have been

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