

### Annotations.

#### THE PAN-AMERICAN IDEA.

The Great Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo is now open, and is a perfect dream of beauty, exceeding, if possible, the exquisite *tout ensemble* of the World's Fair of 1893. The site chosen for the new show in the Lake City of Buffalo cannot be excelled; a character peculiar to itself is the series of canals and lakes which surround the main group of buildings, making a delightful waterway for the gondola and electric launch. Another feature is the colour scheme. The staff walls of the main buildings have been finished in a great variety of colour, now strong, bright, highly contrasting hues, again subdued and neutral, while the red roofs in the Spanish tile treatment add a dominant note of intensity. With all the wealth of tint given by trees and flowers, sheen of lake and sparkle of fountain, the whole is a brilliant picture. The whole scheme of building and colouring has been elaborated in the hands of eminent artists, the result is a superb triumph for art. Away back inspiring the whole Exposition is the vital Pan-American Idea, which is becoming more and more prominent in the political and commercial life of the Americas.

#### THE SLAVE TRADE.

It seems almost incredible that until 1842 the Slave Trade flourished in the United States of America, and that it was only in that year that Great Britain and the United States combined, by means of the Ashburton Treaty, to effect its suppression. It was in August, 1619, that the captain of a ship flying the Dutch flag informed the inhabitants of the British Settlement of Jamestown, in Virginia, that he was prepared to exchange merchandise for any product they had to dispose of. Twenty negroes were amongst this merchandise, from the West Coast of Africa. Fifty years before this, however, the Spaniards had brought over slaves from St. Domingo to Florida. Shortly after this an English privateer, named the *Treasurer*, brought negro slaves to Jamestown, but only landed one woman.

The result of the employment of slave labour in Virginia was that large profits were made, and that the planters not only increased in numbers but became wealthier annually, on account of the profits made on their tobacco,

rice, cotton, and sugar plantations. So the slave trade grew and flourished for 200 years, the New England Colonies taking the lead in it. The profit made by the dealers was enormous, £12 and £40 for each slave landed being no unusual sum for them to obtain.

In course of time the Colonies saw their way to a share in these profits and levied a tax upon every slave landed, but nothing like direct legislation was attempted until these Colonies had become the United States of America. It is strange that in a country so permeated with the spirit of freedom and the love of individual liberty, that the slave trade should have flourished for so long. The history of its abolition is the history of all movements to effect the freedom of any given class of persons. There is the voice crying in the wilderness amidst public indifference, later, when the insistence of the speaker has made it heard and felt, there is the bitter and unscrupulous opposition of vested interests and, lastly, when the work of the prophet is accomplished there is the triumph of right, the enfranchisement of the slave, and the acknowledgment of the justice of the reformer's demands. The order of events bears a close resemblance to the history of our own profession in its struggle for enfranchisement. We are now in the second stage. By all the laws of evolution we must eventually arrive at the third.

#### THE DANGERS OF FLANNELETTE.

Flannelette is a material which is so often used by nurses for nightdresses and under-clothing that we cannot impress upon them too earnestly its highly inflammable nature. Only recently the death occurred in a London hospital of a probationer whose flannelette nightdress caught fire. So rapidly did the flames spread that the entire nightdress was burnt, and dropped off this unfortunate girl in rings upon the floor, and though she lived for three days, recovery was hopeless from the first, as, with the exception of her feet, the whole body was burnt, the burns for the most part being very deep. Since then several deaths, and more accidents have occurred, and one coroner pointed out that in the case of the ignition of a flannelette garment the result was almost certain to be fatal to the wearer. In view of these facts nurses should not only discard flannelette themselves, but take every opportunity of impressing upon working mothers the danger connected with its use.

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