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# TREASURY GIRLS.

## UNCLE SAM'S FEMININE EMPLOYES AT WASHINGTON.

### About 4000 Women in the Various Departments—Money Counters and Press Feeders—How the Clerks Live.

Frank G. Carpenter says in a letter to the New York *World*: There are about 4000 women in the Government departments, and these are scattered from the Treasury to the Government Printing Office, and they do all manner of work. Some of them are stenographers and typewriters. Some of them are printers. Some are copyists and translators. Some have to do with the legal questions of the departments, and some of them receive high salaries as special examiners in the Patent Office. Now two women clerks receive $1800 a year, and some of the most responsible business is done by women. As a rule, however, they get lower salaries than the men for the same work, and it was thought to be a big thing when the first woman received $1600 a year.

COUNTING MONEY.

It was through Treasure Spinner that women got their first hold on the Government, and the demand for clerks was so great during the war that he employed a number. This was in 1862, and women then received $720 a year as copyists and money counters. They are now the best money counters in the service, and they can count thousands upon thousands of dollars without making a mistake. Sitting at a desk they take roll after roll made up of hundreds of greenbacks, their fingers fly as though moved by electricity, and their rosy lips touch each other in counting at the rate of hundreds of times per minute.

The fastest counter in the Government service is a woman, and women are the best of counterfeit detecters. They seem able to tell a bad bill by intuition, and they have to count dirty bills as well as clean. The money they count is old as well as new and it comes from every part of the United States. In the Redemption Bureau of the Treasury the bills are counted in packages of 100 bills each, and the pretty Treasury counter moistens her fingers on a wet sponge as she goes rapidly through these packages. If she finds that a package is not right she notifies the chief, and the bank which sends the package has to make up the loss. If she makes a mistake herself the money is taken out of her salary, and this is true in respect to a counterfeit as well as for an error in counting. When a bill is lost in one of these rooms or in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing the whole force is kept in the building until it is found, and not long ago there was a big excitement in the Treasury over a lost Government bond.

The Washington streets are alive at four o'clock every day. It is at this time that the departments are dismissed, and the great streams of humanity pour out of the doors of the tomb-like buildings. It is interesting to stand and watch the characters. Fresh young girls, with baskets in their hands and with jaunty spring bonnets over their blonde or raven curls, walk beside dudes in high collars, check suits and wide pantaloons, and mixed up with these are fine looking old ladies and plainly dressed women, who may keep whole families on the $2 or $3 a day which they make by copying papers year in and year out. There are many widows in mourning, and there are cultured looking old men, with faces as rosy as the setting sun and hair as white as silver. There are broken-down men who seem to have lost their last friend, and bluff, bullying clerks who look like bad men from Bitter Creek. There are men with histories, and there is a stately old man in a stock and an old style hat, who probably went into the departments under Van Buren and who sticks to his old style dress still. There are many cultured men among these clerks, and many highly bred and really beautiful women.

TWO CLERKS.

I talked with Judge Edgerton, of the Civil Service Commission, about them yesterday, and he told me that many applicants for positions were the daughters of statesmen and generals, and that the average of purity and culture among the applicants was very high. He told me that one-third of the persons applying to the Civil Service Commission were women, but that the demand for women clerks was less than that for men, and that out of the clerks so far appointed through the commission only one-seventh were women. Since the Civil Service Commission has been in operation only 1354 clerks have been appointed to positions in Washington, and to show how great the demand for appointments is, 33,000 persons have been examined, and over 20,000 of these have passed the examinations.

Do Government clerks marry?

Not as a rule, and until very recently a man and his wife had no right to each hold a position in the departments. Secretary Vilas, when he was Postmaster-General, made a different ruling, and he told his clerks that they could marry if they pleased, and that they need not fear dismissal from him on account of their cooing and love making. Secretary Whitney, however, decided that a lady clerk must lose her job if she married a fellow-clerk, and I am told that instances have been where clerks have married and kept the marriage a secret in order to retain their situations. When Attorney-General Brewster was in office one of his best clerks fell in love, and she presented her case to the Attorney-General. He told her that there was no reason why the department should lose a good clerk simply because she wanted a husband, and he retained both clerks in office. As a rule, however, Government clerks do not marry. Many of the lady clerks support families out of their earnings, and as for the young men they contract expensive habits of living, and they cannot understand the philosophy of the theory that two can live on the same amount as one and live better.

It is the same with clerks here and elsewhere. Some are always hard up and some are always flush. There are professional borrowers in each department who borrow from their friends whenever they can and pay when they have to, and every pay-day these creditors are rushing around to get their money, and the borrowers, in many instances, are trying to elude them. Some clerks borrow of note-shavers, and we have some men here who do nothing but lend money to Government clerks. They get as high as 10 per cent. a month, and often renew their notes every month. I have heard of a clerk who borrowed $100 in 1870 of one of these note-shavers, and who has paid that bracket $10 every month since then for the use of that money. Some clerks speculate and some of the messengers play policy. Not a few of them have been bitten by bucket-shops, and though the general average of clerical honor is as high here as elsewhere, still the black sheep exist, and they are by no means few.

A wrong impression prevails in some sections of the country as to the female clerks of Uncle Sam. There may be some bad women among them, and there undoubtedly are some. Among 4000 women it could not be otherwise, but the percentage is very small, and the average female clerk is a good woman. She is, as a rule, a women of intelligence and culture, and the great majority of clerks come from good families. Many of them are the widows of noted men, and some of our greatest statesmen have married department clerks. Attorney-General Brewster's wife was the daughter of a Secretary of the Treasury, and he married her from the departments. Stephen A. Douglas married a department clerk, and I know daughters of Governors and Generals employed in the departments. Many of the ladies of the departments go into the best society of Washington, and there are descendants of Jefferson at work in the departments here.

PRESS FEEDERS.

The sexes are mixed together in the Government work, and the desks of the ladies stand side by side with those of the gentlemen. Some of the old lady clerks are very fine looking, and there is one gray-haired lady of the Treasury whose husband was Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio, and the daughter of a Minister to Mexico works within the same walls. There is a fine-looking old lady in the Pension Office who boasts of being a great-grandmother, and who was the first woman clerk ever elected by a Legislature in this country.

The lady clerks of Washington dress well. As a rule they keep themselves posted on topics of general interest, and they are good talkers. Many of them are employed in the Postoffice Department, and they do the most of the Dead-Letter Office business. Every year about 5,000,000 letters come to the Dead-Letter Office. The ladies look over these letters, decipher their contents and send them where they should go. One set opens the letters, another set reads and sorts them and another examines and redirects them to their proper places. Every year there is from $30,000 to $40,000 in these letters, and a year ago the letters which came to the Dead-Letter Office contained drafts and money orders to the amount of $1,500,000. Eighty-four thousand letters contained postage stamps and 25,000 contained articles of merchandise. There are on the average about 15,000 letters a day which come into the office, and the women handle the most of this immense mail. They don't have time to waste over the love letters, and the sad stories they hear they are bound not to reveal. It is in this office that a woman must know how to keep a secret.

The women in the Government Printing Office and in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing do all kinds of work, dirty as well as clean. They help manage the presses, their sleeves are rolled up high above the elbows, and their plump, round arms receive many an ink spot during the day. There are between four and five hundred of them in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and they work behind a partition of iron network, and every piece of paper and every bill is counted. Many of them clean off the presses or push the sheets to the printer. It is the same in the Government Printing Office, where they feed the presses, attend to binding machines, and do all kinds of work that men do, and a surprising thing is that in not a few of these branches colored women work side by side with white women without clashing. The Government Printing Office employs over one thousand women, and the printers among these are paid by the hour, and some of the women printers make as high as $70 a month.

GAS STOVE.

There are over one hundred very pretty seed-senders here, and these put up the seeds for the Agricultural Department. They make seed bags, keep account of the seeds which each Congressmen gets, and see that they go properly out. There are some women telegraph operators in the departments, and there are some who do map-draughting and tracing. The male clerks of the departments do all kinds of work. The Government has salaried carpenters, chemists, scientists, lawyers, and experts of every kind. The army of private secretaries and stenographers is numbered by hundreds, and the private secretaries of chiefs get $1800 a year and upward. Now every Bureau has its stenographer, and the click of the typewriter is heard in every room.

How do these clerks live?

Very much like other salaried people the world over. Some of the men and a few of the women have saved money and bought property in Washington, some own houses and some rent houses. The majority, however, live in rooms, and board. A few of the ladies do light housekeeping, and I have known of clerks who do their cooking over gas jets and who live very well by understanding how to do so. The mantel-bed the folding-bed are great institutions in Washington, and here appearances are everything. Rooms in a fashionable and convenient locality cost $15 a month and upward each, and it is wonderful what a nice little home a lady clerk makes with one room. Her mantel-bed looks like a bookcase and her washstand looks like a writing desk. A highly colored portiere is hung over the locked door which leads into the adjoining room, and which is occupied, perhaps, by another clerk. Easy chairs are scattered about the room, it is well carpeted and furnished, and it looks like a parlor. Here the young lady may receive her callers, and here she lives with all the comforts of a parlor until she gets ready to retire.

Then the scene changes. She lifts up the writing desk, turns on the spigot, and straightway has a porcelain basin of the purest Potomac water. She gives this red Turcoman curtain a push, loosens the hook and opens her bed. It is already made, and its spring are as soft as those of a millionaire. She sleeps like a child and wakes as fresh as a daisy. It costs her but little, and she maintains the appearance of having quarters which would cost a Congressman $50 or $75 a month, for $15. She may cook her own breakfast over a lamp, and she may dine at a restaurant or at a place where she gets only a dinner for so much per month. But the one thing about which she is most particular is her clothes. These must be good, and she knows how to make a last year's bonnet look like that of a Massachusetts avenue belle at one-tenth the expense. I have known, however, of girls who bought their dresses on the instalment plan, and who had worn them shabby while they were yet paying for them. Such cases are, however, few, and the girls as a rule pay cash for what they get. They do good with their money, and a number of them keep whole families out of their salaries. A number board nicely and spend all they make. A few are married, and many are widows. All told, they are as nice a class of women as you will find.

### Are There Other Habitable Worlds?

Here, again, we have only conjecture to guide us. With respect to the bodies constituting the solar system, which from their comparative proximity to the earth might be supposed to furnish a solution to this problem, careful observations have heretofore offered no indication whatever of the existence of life upon their surfaces. But life in some form or another may, notwithstanding, exists on those bodies. We must bear in mind that the planets are in all probability in various stages of development. It may be reasonably presumed that the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, in consequence of their enormous bulk, have cooled down more slowly than the earth and the other smaller planets of the solar system, and are therefore less advanced as abodes of animated existence than the latter are. But even in the case of the earth it must be admitted to have revolved millions of years around the sun merely as a fiery orb before life appeared on its surface, and even after it had cooled down and become the abode of animated existence it produced, during countless millions of years more, life only in its lowest forms. The existence of man is but of yesterday. This is an instructive lesson. It teaches us that although man exists on the earth's surface it does not follow that beings of the same order of intelligence as man exist upon all the other planets or even upon any of them. Upon some of the planets life may not have come into existence; upon others life may exist, but in a less advanced stage than upon the earth; and the same remark is obviously applicable to the numberless bodies of the starry firmament. The state of the question then is this: We cannot pronounce positively upon the existence of life anywhere beyond the planet upon which we dwell. But reasoning from analogy, we may suppose that certain, if not all, of the other bodies of the planetary system, which in so many respects bear affinity to our own planet, are in like manner the abodes of life in some form or another, and that similarly there are countless bodies in the stellar regions which may also be the abodes of life. This is a question, however, upon which the noble science of astronomy, so distinguished for the exactitude of its conclusions, does not venture to pronounce a positive opinion, seeing that there exists no sure basis of facts available for its consideration. In these circumstances it is left for each individual inquirer to form his own opinion independent of any support derived from scientific authority.—*Prof. Grant.*

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Leighton Foster, Bennie Evans and Lewis Bishop, of New Haven, Conn., spent the other day in hunting for turtles, snakes, toads, butterflies and bugs along the banks of West river and on the West river meadows. Among other specimens captured was a turtle which has two distinct heads and necks, both perfectly formed, and they move in any direction. The turtle is about as large as a silver half dollar. If a fly is placed in the mouth of one head the other immediately tries to sieze the fly. The turtle has considerable trouble in walking, owing to the fact that the heads at times become possessed of the idea of traveling in opposite directions. This generally results in a struggle of the feet and little progress. Foster bought out the interest of his two friends in the turtle and has it at his home. He will offer it to the authorities at Peabody Museum.

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Henry James has been publishing a serial story entitled "The Liar," and now a Chicago novelist has come out with a yarn called "A Pure-Souled Liar." Truth seems to be crushed to earth just at present, so far as light literature is concerned.

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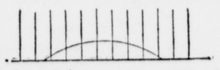
A Maine telegraph messenger took a telegram the other day to an old gentleman 70 years old, who never had seen such a thing before. The first thing he did was to read the printed regulations on the top of the blank, and it took him five minutes to get to the message.

### Two Curious Problems.

Students familiar with mathematics know that this class of sciences furnishes some very curious examples. Not many years ago a Boston paper contained a discussion of the apparently simple question whether a paling made of parallel upright poles set in a straight line at equal distances apart would require more of such poles if a hill has to be passed over than if the ground is all level. If there is a hill in the line, the surface or ground distance from one end to the other is unquestionably greater. To some persons there seems therefore evident need of more palings to cover such increased distance. If our readers and their friends cannot agree, after due discussion, it may be well to examine a diagram showing



the rounded top of a hill traversed by a line of perpendicular poles drawn all from the same base-line and long enough to exceed the total height of the hill; then reflect that if the poles of such length should be so set, the owner could cut off each to a specified height—as five feet—above the part of the ground on which it would be standing. One has then only to reflect further that the hill can be imagined removed, and all the poles made of the same height as those at its former base. This problem might become practical in fence building.

Somewhat less practical is that of the wise man's window. Can a man enlarge his window so as to have twice as much space for light and air and yet keep both the height and breadth of the window unaltered? If any one says no, suggest that a window originally set cornerwise, in the form commonly called a diamond, can be so enlarged by being made into a

parallelogram, with its sides perpendicular.—*Harper's Bazar.*

### Monotonous Harmony.

As a general thing, original people—people with wills and opinions—in other words, interesting people, are not, I am inclined to believe, of a very easy-going temper. The man who has a mind of his own usually wishes to have his own way, and is, therefore, not likely to be regarded as in any conspicuous degree peasant. When it is said of a clergyman, "Oh, he is a very good man," all church-going persons at once get an idea of very dry sermons. (For the conveying of such a compliment as this, all the vowels and consonants together are not equal to one left-handed inflection.) The most interesting character in Milton's "Paradise Lost" is unquestionably the arch-fiend himself; and in the modern newspaper—epic poems being long out of date—no class of persons, unless it be political candidates, cut a greater figure than the criminals. There is no doubt of it, good-nature and even a good character—which things, I comfort myself with hoping, are not exactly the same—do tend to grow somewhat monotonous and tiresome. Human nature is like an apple—all the more palatable for being a trifle tart. No husband and wife ever lived together in greater mutual affection then did Elia and his cousin Bridget, concerning whom we read, nevertheless, "We agree pretty well in our tastes and habits, yet so as 'with a difference.' We are generally in harmony, with occasional bickerings, as it should be among near relative. Our sympathies are rather understood than expressed; and once, upon my dissembling a tone in my voice more kind than ordinary, my cousin burst into tears and complained that I was altered."

A little flavor of individuality and self-will is excellent for preventing insipidity. Thus I theorize. And why not? If a man is fond of his own ease and his own way, always "notional," often out of sorts and never very amiable, why should he not shape his theory to fit the facts?

All the while, however, I am conscious that I could find much to say on the other side. There used to be a funeral hymn (it may have gone out of vogue ere this) beginning, "Sister, thou wast mild and lovely," the word "lovely" being employed, I take it, in the old-fashioned, dictionary sense of lovable, not in the new-fangled boarding-school sense of beautiful; and I cannot help feeling that mildness, gentleness of spirit, is one of the traits which most people like to attribute to their friends, at least after they are dead. It would sound rather odd and incongruous—would it not?—to sing about the coffin, "Sister, thou wast irascible and interesting." And even in the case of the living, I must confess to a preference for an equable and obliging disposition, especially in a woman. I may be whimsical, but I have never seen many who affected me as uncomfortably sweet-tempered.—*Atlantic.*

### The Penalty of Overindulgence.

Inexperienced Kid—"Why, pa, what's the matter with you?"

Pa—"My dear child, I have a terrible attack of indigestion. I am afraid that coal-scuttle was too rich."—*Life.*

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The natives of the Arctic regions have a barbarous, but effective, way of dealing with the wolves which are a pest there. Sharp blades are stuck in the ice and baited. The meat freezes, and in thawing it out with his tongue the blade cuts the tongue, ultimately preventing the beast from licking the snow, and thirst finally kill the animal.

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Out in Sydney, Australia, according to report, if you want to use the telephone, you must ring the person up with whom you would communicate and then take a cab and go and see him. An answer by telephone is never expected.

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A red-headed girl tried to ride a white horse through the streets of San Francisco, and was violently thrown from her mount, suffering a severe scalp wound.

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There is a movement on foot in Dr. Sunderland's church at Washington, where the President and Mrs. Cleveland attend, to have ladies pass the contribution plates.

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A monster toad, weighing sixty-six pounds and measuring nearly three feet round the body, is said to have been found at Juillac, France, and sold for $350 to a manufacturer at St. Etienne. Its croaking bears a close resemblance to the barking of a dog. The inhabitants of all the country round have been pouring into Juillac to see the phenomenal animal.

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Dr. Oswald, in the *Popular Science Monthly*, foreshadows a new science, based on the interaction of the body and mind, and treats at length of one of its branches, which he styles "The Moral Influence of Climate." In this he avails himself of the results of sundry French statistical studies, which reveal a curious regularity in the geographical distribution of certain virtues and vices; intemperance, for example, north of the forty-eighth parallel; amatory aberrations, south of the forty-fifth; financial extravagance, in large seaports; thrift, in pastoral highland regions, etc.

### Happiness.

The foundation of all happiness is health. A man with an imperfect digestion may be a millionaire, may be the husband of an angel and the father of half a dozen cherubs, and yet be miserable if he be troubled with dyspepsia, or of any of the disorders arising from imperfect digestion or a sluggish liver. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets are the safest and surest remedy for these morbid conditions. Being purely vegetable, they are perfectly harmless.

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In Wyoming they call whisky conversation water.


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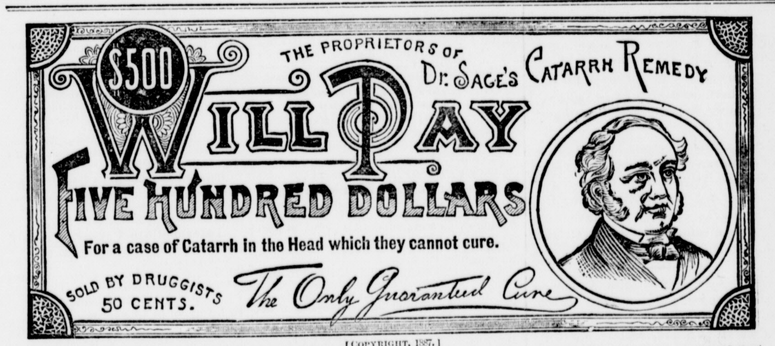
**Gold** is worth $500 per lb. Pettit's Eye Salve is worth $10.00, but is sold at 25c. a box by dealers.

**PISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION**

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**CATARRH IN THE HEAD.**

**SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.**—Dull, heavy headache, obstruction of the nasal passages, discharges falling from the head into the throat, sometimes profuse, watery, and acrid, at others, thick, tenacious, mucous, purulent, bloody and putrid; the eyes are weak; there is ringing in the ears, deafness, hacking or coughing to clear the throat, expectoration of offensive matter, together with scabs from ulcers; the voice is changed and has a "nasal twang"; the breath is offensive; smell and taste impaired; there is a sensation of dizziness, with mental depression, a hacking cough and general debility. Only a few of the above-named symptoms are likely to be present in any one case. Thousands of cases annually, without manifesting half of the above symptoms, result in consumption, and end in the grave. No disease is so common, more deceptive and dangerous, less understood, or more unsuccessfully treated by physicians.

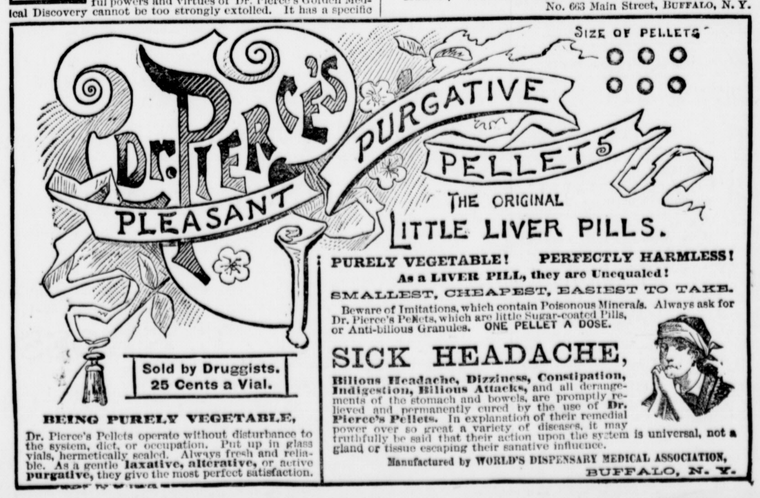
**COMMON SENSE TREATMENT.** If you would remove an evil, *strike at its root.* As the predisposing or real cause of catarrh is, in the majority of cases, some weakness, impurity, or otherwise faulty condition of the system, in attempting to cure the disease our *chief* aim must be directed to *the removal of that cause.* The more we see of this odious disease, and we treat successfully thousands of cases annually at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, the more do we realize the importance of combining with the use of a local, soothing and healing application, a *thorough and persistent* internal use of blood-cleansing and tonic medicines.

**CHIEF RELIANCE.** In curing catarrh and all the various diseases with which it is so frequently complicated, as throat, bronchial, and lung diseases, weak stomach, catarrhal deafness, weak or inflamed eyes, impure blood, scrofulous and syphilitic taints, the wonderful powers and virtues of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cannot be too strongly extolled. It has a specific effect upon the lining mucous membranes of the nasal and other air-passages, promoting the natural secretion of their follicles and glands, thereby softening the diseased and thickened membrane, and restoring it to its natural, thin, delicate, moist, healthy condition. As a blood purifier, it is unsurpassed. As those diseases which complicate catarrh are diseases of the lining mucous membranes, or of the blood, it will readily be seen why this medicine is so well calculated to cure them.

**LOCAL AGENT.** As a local application for healing the diseased condition in the head, Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy is beyond all comparison the best preparation ever invented. It is mild and pleasant to use, producing no smarting or pain, and containing no strong, irritating, or caustic drug, or other poison. This Remedy is a powerful antiseptic, and speedily destroys all bad smell which accompanies so many cases of catarrh, thus affording great comfort to those who suffer from this disease.

**PERMANENT CURES.** The Golden Medical Discovery is the natural "helpmate" of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It not only cleanses, purifies, regulates, and builds up the system to a healthy standard, and conquers throat, bronchial, and lung complications, when any such exist, but, from its specific effects upon the lining membrane of the nasal passages, it aids materially in restoring the diseased, thickened, or ulcerated membrane to a healthy condition, and thus eradicates the disease. When a cure is effected in this manner it is *permanent.*

Both Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy are sold by druggists the world over. Discovery $1.00, six bottles for $5.00. Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy 50 cents; half-dozen bottles $2.50.

A complete Treatise on Catarrh, giving valuable hints as to clothing, diet, and other matters of importance, will be mailed, post-paid to any address, on receipt of a 2-cent postage stamp.

Address, **World's Dispensary Medical Association,** No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.