

**AMERICAN CATTLE-PLAGUE.**—Dr. Frank S. Billings, director of the patho-biological laboratory of the State University of Nebraska, claims to have discovered the germ of the American cattle-plague, commonly known as Texas-fever. This germ, he says, belongs to that class of septic germs represented by our swine-plague and rabbit septicaemia. It is a bacterium. It colors at its poles, and has a clear or non-coloring middle piece to its body. It has a motility in hanging drop-cultures, and also in the blood serum from the original blood of a diseased animal. Dr. Billings gives no experimental evidence to support his claim, but states that this will follow in course of time.

**HEALTH OF PRISONERS.**—Dr. Watkins, inspector of the State Board of Health of Louisiana, has recently examined the prisoners in the parish prison of New Orleans. He found a number of the inmates suffering from acute dropsy of the legs, arms, face, and body, due to confinement and insufficient and unwholesome food. Each prisoner is allowed a piece of bread and a pint of tea early in the morning, and one meal consisting of soup, the beef cooked in the soup, and bread. The beef is supplied by a contractor at five cents and a half per pound, and has been repeatedly condemned by the resident surgeon.

**TYPHOID-FEVER CONTAGION.**—We have repeatedly called the attention of our readers to what we believe to be a dangerous error in the management of typhoid-fever. The tendency to look upon drinking-water as the usual, if not indeed the only, channel by which the disease is propagated, is so prevalent among sanitarians and physicians, that other means are very liable to be overlooked, and the necessary precautionary measures neglected. An instance of the probable communication of this fever by other instrumentality than water is reported by M. Bonamy of Nantes. Two households used drinking-water from the same source. In one six cases of typhoid-fever occurred, four of which were fatal: in the other no cases occurred. It is true that this is negative evidence. It is, however, notwithstanding, of some value; not perhaps taken alone, but in connection with other facts which have from time to time been recorded touching the methods by which typhoid is propagated.

**SCARLET-FEVER IN LONDON.**—Scarlet-fever is very prevalent in London, there being in the hospitals alone nineteen hundred cases under treatment.

**YELLOW-FEVER AT TAMPA.**—The disease which appeared in Tampa, Fla., in the early part of October, has developed into undoubted yellow-fever. To Oct. 24 there had been 180 cases reported, with 27 deaths. Under the auspices of the United States Marine Hospital Bureau, a hospital has been provided, and a corps of experienced nurses has been obtained from Savannah to take care of the sick. The weather is very favorable for the spread of the fever, and the extension of the disease to the suburbs of the town is conceded.

## EXPLORATION AND TRAVEL.

### The Kuango.

MR. MENSE, who accompanied the energetic missionary Grenfell on his exploration of the lower Kuango, has described the interesting journey in a lecture delivered before the Geographical Society of Berlin. He describes the exploring of the tributaries of the Kongo as not connected with great difficulties, which only begin when an overland journey is attempted. In the trip up the Kuango a lady even participated. The principal difficulty was the obtaining of fuel for the boiler of the steamboat. Food was plentiful, as the river swarmed with hippopotamuses. In many places their meat could be bartered for fuel. When arriving near Kindjungi, a reef running right across the river, the hippopotamuses got scarce, but in their stead an abundance of shell-fish was found. The intercourse with the natives was generally peaceable; but, as those tribes who had hostile intentions had no fire-arms, their attacks were not dangerous. Grenfell had provided his steamer with a net of steel, which protects the crew and the passengers from the arrows. The reef Kindjungi stopped the progress of the expedition. The river forms a fall three feet in height, and has dangerous whirlpools. It rushes through a narrow gorge cut about a thou-

sand feet into the plateau, which consists of laterite. The tribes inhabiting this district have had no intercourse with Europeans. They wear self-manufactured clothing, and their language differs from those spoken near Stanley Pool. The country is thickly wooded, and caoutchouc is found in considerable quantities. Elephants and buffaloes are numerous, but there are only few villages. The lower part of the river runs through a grassy plain, while near Kindjungi the country becomes mountainous. As Major von Mechow descended the Kuango to Kindjungi, and as Dr. Büttner reached its middle course coming from the west, the position of the whole river is now fairly laid down.

**TRAVELS IN AFRICA.**—Captain van Gèle's attempt to reach the Welle, according to *Le Mouvement Géographique*, has unfortunately been unsuccessful. When he arrived on the upper Itimbiri, he unexpectedly found the country uninhabited and poor. As he was not prepared for this, and had no provisions to last him for a journey through unknown territory, he had to return. He will probably resume his enterprise. According to the Proceedings of the Geographical Society of Berlin, Dr. H. Meyer has succeeded in reaching the summit of the Kilima Njaro, while all former travellers failed in their attempts. The summit is occupied by a crater. It is covered with snow, which sends forth a glacier that extends to a comparatively low level. The Germans are making vigorous attempts to penetrate into the extensive unknown area of West Africa. Two expeditions are being organized in Kamerun to explore the interior, which forms the watershed between the Kongo and Benue systems. Lieutenants Kund and Tappenbeck, who made important discoveries in the southern Kongo basin, will push eastward, while Dr. Zindgraff will try to penetrate into the interior in a north-easterly direction. So far, the hostility and jealousy of those tribes who command the trade between the interior and the coast have prevented all expeditions from entering the unknown country.

**GREENLAND.**—The Danish expedition to the coast of northern Greenland, says *Nature*, has just returned to Copenhagen. It has been absent since the spring of 1886, and was directed by Mr. C. Ryder. During the two summers it was enabled to proceed from latitude 72° to latitude 74½°. It investigated the Upernivik glacier during the winter. Many meteorological, magnetic, and astronomical observations were made, many anthropological measurements were taken, and botanical and zoological collections have been brought back. The investigations of the western coast of Greenland are not likely to be continued for the present. It is to be regretted if the latter statement should be true. The Danish expeditions to Greenland have resulted in so numerous and valuable contributions to our knowledge of this immense island that their continuation seems very desirable. The exploration of Melville Bay is of the greatest importance, as here many questions regarding the character of the ice of Davis Strait must be solved, and as its topography is utterly unknown; but so far the Danes have not extended their researches beyond their most northern settlement, Tassiusak, which lies at the southern extremity of Melville Bay.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA.**—Dr. George M. Dawson, chief of the party sent by the Canadian Government to explore the country adjacent to the Alaska boundary, has returned to Victoria. Two of his party, Messrs. Ogilvie and McConnell, will winter in the district, making astronomical observations, which will give data for the establishment of the international boundary. The expedition so far has secured a great deal of geological, geographical, and general information of the country. The point from which the doctor turned back was at the junction of the Lewis and Pelly Rivers. It is one thousand miles north of Victoria. There the flora was found to differ but little from that on the banks of the Fraser. A great deal of open, grassy country exists along the streams tributary to the Yukon. No areas of tundra or frozen swamps, such as are to be met with in the interior of Alaska, were discovered by the expedition. The doctor's conclusion is that the whole country from Cassian to the vicinity of Forty Mile Creek, on the Yukon River, yields more or less gold in placer deposits. This would constitute a gold-bearing region fully five hundred miles in length by an indefinite width, and which so far, in comparison to the area, has been very little prospected.