

## GENERAL NEWS.

(Continued from page 2.)

wild beast show which formed part of the attractions of the fair, and by some means entered the cage occupied by a fierce lion, and locked the door behind him. What actually happened no one can say, but there is no doubt that the animal immediately sprang upon Grollier, whose agonised cries speedily brought in the tamer, Ahmet Ben Amar, and his assistants. They were, however, too late, for the unfortunate man was already dead, his body being covered with wounds from the lion's claws. In a pocket was found a letter of farewell addressed to the girl.

## DR. SVEN HEDIN'S RETURN.

Frankfort o. M., September 15.  
The *Frankfurter Zeitung* publishes a telegram from Calcutta, stating that Dr. Sven Hedin has arrived at Simla in the costume of a Tibetan Lama. He will leave Simla for London in ten days' time.

## THE CHOLERA IN ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, September 15.  
The returns published this evening show a rapid advance of the cholera epidemic in the city. In the 24 hours ending at noon today the number of fresh cases was 240, and sixty of them have proved fatal. The total number of cholera patients is 515.

## PROGRESS IN PORTUGAL.

A contemporary publishes the following communication from its correspondent in Portugal: Notwithstanding the recent political troubles, there are signs of a commercial awakening in Portugal. For one thing, the authorities have become alive to the value of the tourist. In the past the inadequate number of really good hotels has kept many visitors away from even the most picturesque neighbourhoods. Hitherto, heavy and all-embracing taxation has militated against serious enterprise of the kind. Now, in deference to the growing number of tourists, new and important laws have been passed by the Chamber of Deputies. So progressive is the spirit of the movement that it deserves to be widely known. First class hotels containing a minimum of one hundred bedrooms are to be exempt from all rates and taxes for ten years. These hotels, in addition, are to be permitted to import all furniture, clothing and hotel necessaries in general free of duty for that period. These measures have still to be ratified by the House of Peers, but there is little doubt of a favourable issue.

The significance of this innovation is very great. Throughout the whole of Portugal there are at present not half a dozen hotels that can lay claim to the necessary qualifications. The actual condition of what may be termed the tourist market demonstrates clearly that there is room for at least a score. In Mont Estoril alone, that fascinating seaside resort south of the Cintra Mountains, within reach of such spots as Cascaes, Carcavellos, Cintra, Cabo Roca, and Collares, there is occasion for several. Arrabida with its orange groves and wonderful scenery, the semi-tropical Southern coast of the Algarvu—there is no reason why these and many more delightful haunts should not be opened up. Under the new conditions the commercial result is a little amazing to contemplate. When the total sum of duties, rates, and taxes is taken into consideration, for a period of ten years the working expenses of these hotels will be reduced by half.

## WITCHCRAFT IN CUBA.

From time to time America and the world in general are subject to an appeal from philanthropic parties and organizations for a better moral treatment for the negro. Looked at from a purely theoretical standpoint, such an appeal can be supported by very powerful arguments. But to those who have to do with the descendants of the slaves in everyday life the question assumes a very different aspect. To them it is every day more difficult to agree that the descendants of Ham will ever attain that degree of civilisation and intelligence which will permit of entrusting them with any responsibility in public affairs. Cuba is a favourite instance with the philanthropists, and principally for the reason that some of the greatest leaders in the War of Independence were negroes, and that, in reality, without them the island would still be a misgoverned dependency of Spain. This much is true, that those blacks who fought in the armies of the revolution developed some of the best qualities of human nature. They were brave, enthusiastic, loyal, and just. But the same cannot be said of the black people of the island as a general rule. The coloured population of Cuba is permeated with crime and vice, worse than any other population in the world. The horrible crimes of savagery and violence, often executed under the cloak of some mystic religion, have at last awakened the

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## Oberstabsarzt a. D. Dr. v. Hahn,

hitherto Chief Physician of Dr. Brehmer's Sanatorium at Görbersdorf, has settled in Dresden as a Lung Specialist, and may be consulted daily from 11 to 1 and from 4 to 6 o'clock at Prager Strasse 33, I. Telephone 9579.

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## MOVEMENTS OF LINERS.

North German Lloyd S. S. Co., Dresden office: Fr. BREMMERMANN, Prager Strasse 49.

## YESTERDAY'S REPORTS.

"Prinzess Irene," from New York for Genoa, left Gibraltar September 14th.  
"Seydlitz," from Bremen for Australia, left Genoa September 15th.  
"Grosser Kurfürst," from Bremen for New York, arrived New York September 15th.  
"Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," from Bremen for New York, arrived New York September 15th.  
"Kronprinzessin Cecilie," from Bremen for New York, left Bremerhaven September 15th.  
"Prinzess Alice," from Bremen for Japan, left Port Said September 15th.  
"Kleist," from Hamburg for Japan, left Southampton September 15th.  
"Scharnhorst," from Japan for Hamburg, left Port Said September 15th.  
"Gneisenau," from Bremen for Australia, arrived Adelaide September 16th.  
"York," from Australia for Bremen, left Fremantle September 16th.  
"Kaiser Wilhelm II.," from New York for Bremen, left New York September 15th.

Cubans and the American Government of the island to some idea of the field of cannibalism and witchcraft which is exploited under their very noses.

According to the *Pull Mall Gazette*, in the Southern States of America the whole question of lynching, which every now and again arouses a wave of horror through civilisation, is caused by the lusts and passions of the negroes. But the crimes of Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama are mild compared with the horrible orgies of cannibalism which take place, with alarming frequency, in Cuba. After half a century of freedom, the blacks are no more civilised than when their forefathers were landed from the slavers in Havana Bay.

The Cuban outrages may be divided into two classes: witchcraft and fanigism. For the latter, there is hardly a word in English. Fanigism is the association of criminals in lodges or clubs for the purpose of attacking rival clubs or of committing offences against law and order. The only qualification for admittance into a lodge is the murder of a white man in the open street. Under the rule of Spain, fanigism attained tremendous notoriety, and the streets of the large towns were impossible after sunset unless in parties, or under escort of the police. During the American intervention, strong measures were taken by General Wood to repress the clubs, and for some years the fanigists were comparatively quiet. During the past six months, however, they have again showed their heads, and several murderous assaults have been committed in the streets. Fanigism is, however, the lesser of the two evils.

Brujeria, or witchcraft, is holding many of the rural districts of the Island in absolute terror. In every village there are to be found one or more men or women who, by the use of superstitions and by their own force of character, have obtained absolute domination over the rest of their race. To them come all the other blacks of the districts in time of physical or moral trouble, and in return for payment in money or in kind the witch-doctor prescribes a remedy or works a charm. Some of the incantations are amusing in their absurdity, others again are most dangerous. One of the most common is the chicken cure. This is performed by burying a pail of water in the ground, and, at a distance of five metres, another hole is dug, where a chicken is burnt. The ashes are buried in the hole, and the witch traverses the intervening space to the bucket, making mystic passes and howling incantations. The pail is then raised from the earth, and the patient is bathed in the water. The theory is, of course, that the unknown properties in the chicken pass from the ashes to the water as the witch walks the five metres. Such a ceremony is harmless to the patient, and, generally, the only damage is the disappearance of a chicken from a neighbouring farm.

In other cases, the horns of oxen are supposed to be possessed of splendid properties, either when bound on the witch's forehead or rubbed on the patient.

The worst and most disastrous cure prescribed, however, is that known as the "white blood" cure. This means nothing less than the eating of a human heart and drinking of human blood, taken from the newly-killed body of a white person.

Within the last month there have been in Cuba no less than three cases of this terrible ceremony having been performed by the witches in different parts. The victim is almost always a white child, decoyed from its parents' cottage by the offer of some sweets or of a ride. The victim is generally taken from a district removed some distance from the patient's abode, so as to render discovery more difficult. Once arrived at the temple of the "brujos," a solemn ceremony is held, during which the child is laid on the altar, gagged and bound. Then the chief witch doctor plunges a knife into the body and slays the child. The blood runs into a cup and the heart is served on a plate to the patient. Whether the remains of the poor child are burned or eaten is not known, but in a recent case the evidence was very strong that at least part of the body had been consumed.

The curious part of the whole thing is that patients declare that they have recovered after the ceremony, which seems a supreme proof of the efficacy of faith as a cure-all.

The discovery of these crimes is one of immense difficulty, for the witch doctors constantly change their residence; it is almost impossible to get any negro to give evidence against the witch, and when the pursuit becomes too hot it is customary to sacrifice the temple and its ceremonial articles in an all-consuming fire.

Politically, the evil is that very many of the black population are voters, and so long as the enormous coloured race has a powerful voice in the legislation, so long will it be impossible for Cuba alone to efface these crimes from her calendar.

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Southerly to south-west winds, clear at first, more cloudy later, dry for the most part, temperature not much altered.