# "WILLIE K." and his famous Stables.



WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT.



MRS. W. K. VANDERBILT.



VANDERBILT'S TURNOUTS AT THE LONDON HORSE SHOW.



ONE OF MR. VANDERBILT'S COACHING TEAMS.



THE CHATEAU AT POISSY-ON-SEINE.

It Is at St. Louis-de-Poissy on the River Seine in France—A Fine Wall and Hedge Encircled Place of 250 Acres Which Has Cost the Racing Railroad King a Million Dollars at the Least.

Poissy-on-Seine, Oct. 12.

"MIEU VANDERBILT, 'e 'ave been 'ere a good many years," said the young English-speaking Poissy cabman, who drove me out to St. Louis de Poissy, William K. Vanderbilt's training headquarters near the town of Poissy, some thirty-five miles a little to the north of west of Paris. "I remember vare well when 'e come. I was small boy then. Every year s'nce then 'e have been 'ere sometimes; 'e used to come from Paris in the tra'n, but now 'e come 'oot' 'oot, in 'es motor car.

"'E does not stay much about the town, no; 'e stay at 'ees place an' keep busy about 'ees 'orses. But everybody in Poissy an' in this neighborhood think 'e vare fine man; 'e give much work to the men of Poissy an' other places roun' 'ere. Some years ago 'e 'ave employ 'undred, two 'undred men. 'E is—what you call it?—hall right? 'Ees sat eat!"

The Vanderbilt "farm," as it is sometimes termed by the Anglo-American colonists in Paris is anything but a farm in the ordinary sense, since no appreciable part of the ground within its inclosure is devoted to cultivation. But it is big enough for a very respectable farm either in France or the United States, as it covers not far from 250 acres, while its soil is fertile enough to raise any of the crops which are produced on the smiling, hill-circled plain around it.

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While the owner of the place was in France in August, but attending the races at Deauville, Trouville and other racing centers, Mrs. Vanderbilt was living in a pretty little red roofed, white stone cottage just outside the yellow walls.

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The entire inclosure is practically level, and the turfed course, with its two stretches, has a circuit of a mile and a quarter. The sand course, just inside the other, is perhaps a hundred yards shorter. One of the stretches of the turf course is quite five furlongs in length, which gives a chance for a long straightaway dash.

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The turf on the outside course is kept in as good condition as the turf should be on the putting greens of a first-class golf course, although a bit longer. As turf longer or rarely maintained in France, the course has to be watered plentifully every day, water for that purpose being pumped from the Seine into a water tower upon its banks, about half a mile from the Western boundary of the farm. Within the inclosure and near its eastern wall is another smaller water tower, which is connected with the first by underground pipes.

All the racing in France, as in England, is upon the turf. Consequently the more severe exercising of the horses at St. Louis de Poissy is done upon the turf course, the inner, shorter, sand course being reserved for the slower gallops. Inside the track there are twenty-two large paddocks, in which all the horses on the place can be turned out at once if it is so desired.

There are stalls for sixty-two horses, besides the six or seven "hacks." The stables, which are very roomy and well ventilated, are [illegible] with thick yearlings, which surrounds the stalls, is about a rod wide. Five times round this track make a mile, and its short turns are sharply raised on the outside.

There is nothing in the world, apparently, that William K. Vanderbilt likes better than to watch his horses at work under the direction of his trainer, William Duke. For some years Duke was employed by Sir John Thursby in England, where he helped introduce American training methods, as Lester Reiff and Tod Sloane introduced American riding. Duke succeeded Hughes as trainer at St. Louis de Poissy about five years ago. The stand from which the trainer and the owner watch the horses at St. Louis de Poissy rises one story above the riding school and commands an unobstructed view of both tracks, the sand and the turf.

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It is in doing all this work that the "one hundred, sometimes two hundred" men of Poissy, as stated by my cab driver, have been employed by the establishment to the gratitude and largely to the support of all Poissy and its environs. The building of the new "castle" has employed many local workmen also. These men and the local tradesmen do most of their dealing with William K.'s secretary, Rutgers Lenig, the proprietor himself rarely coming in contact with them.

In the summer when the races are on and the horses are away St. Louis de Poissy boasts few employes, but at other times there are about thirty stable boys, besides other regular employes, such as the gardener, the concierge and their underlings, and so on. The stable boys include a few French lads from the neighborhood, but there are several English lads, while here and there among them may be seen a "broad straw hat, entirely American." Bellhouse, the regular Vanderbilt Jockey, succeeded Ransch, the American, last spring, and is English.

The only training quarters in France that have cost more money than Vanderbilt's are those of Edmond Blanc, brother of Camille and manager of the Casino at Monte Carlo. His racing headquarters is at St. Cloud, adjoining the racetrack there, which was built by him originally to serve as a training track only. It has been one of the most important racetracks in the French system for some time now, however, and Edmond Blanc is one of the heaviest holders of racetrack stock in the country today.

## FINE ART WORK IN STABLES.

Those who should know say that while Vanderbilt has spent a million dollars upon his track near Poissy, Blanc has spent twice that much at St. Cloud. Including the public stands, the track there has cost much more than the Vanderbilt tracks, and the same may be said of the training quarters themselves. Much costly art the work is to be found in some of the stalls and other parts of the big stables at St. Cloud, but nothing so extravagant and really useless is to be found at St. Louis-de-Poissy.

Edmond Blanc makes his establishment very profitable, however, every year. Vanderbilt made money out of French racing for the first time in 1906, but has made little or nothing this year. To tell the truth, "Willie K." has not done so well this year at last; neither has Jay Ransch, the American jockey who left him last autumn after "a bit of argument," thus closing an engagement of three years. Vanderbilt's present jockey, Bellhouse, the English lad, who rides the horses of other owners when not needed by Vanderbilt, has done very well, however, being second on the list of winning jockeys, which bears out the statement that Vanderbilt's horses were not up to the standard this season.

It makes little financial difference, however, either to Vanderbilt or Blanc whether they make money on the tracks or not. Blanc's pockets are kept full to repletion, quite independent of his winnings or losses as a racing man, by the constant stream of money from the other most parts of the earth that flows to him by way of the great gambling resort, where, as the French say:

"Noir gagne quelquefois—Rouge gagne quelquefois, mais Blanc gagne toujours"—which means that Blanc wins sometimes, red sometimes, but white (Blanc) wins all the time.

## SHEEPSHEAD A GOLD MINE.

The race course at Sheepshead Bay, largely owned by Vanderbilt, and his New York Central Railroad trains—unless the Interstate Commerce Commission shall get after them too hard—"win all the time," and will keep his pockets full, no matter what happens in France, so that he need not care the snap of a finger whether his horses win on the French turf or not. At the most his racing there can not possibly be big enough to embarrass him financially; since like Keene, Harry Payne Whitney and August Belmont, "at home," he never bets to any extent worth mentioning. But it is said that he does care a lot—that he is pretty sore over the failure of his stable to cut much ice this year.

It should be understood, however, that Vanderbilt stands very high as a racing man in France, notwithstanding his rather poor luck this season. There was a time, before his horses began to win, when Frenchmen refused to take him any more seriously than they take most Americans, whether rich or otherwise, but now "it is different." His costly breeding farm has not turned out any great horses as yet, but it has never carries an unbroken certificate, despite his breakdown, and had beaten the best French horses before being withdrawn because of lameness. The last time Pressman ran, in 1906, he was so much of a favorite that there was no betting against him, and the money wagered upon him at the booths was returned after the race was over. Vanderbilt's Maintenon has the distinction of having won the largest amount of stake money won by any one colt since racing began in France—550,000 francs, or $150,000. Last year as a three-year-old and this year as a four-year-old. He began this season in fine form, winning the Prix Eclipse and the $6,500 francs—and several other events, but then went lame.

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# What Medicine Knows Today---Yellow Fever

**A Disease That Stands Yet Without a Cure—Modern Medicine Can Only Try to Prevent It by Fighting the Mosquito—Insect Screens in Place of Drugs and Medicines—"Bughunting" Appears to Have Cleaned Up the Panama Canal Zone—The Death Rate of That Vast Graveyard of the Past Is a Little Smaller Today Than That of the Average American City.**

JUST as malaria is transmitted from man to man by the anopheles mosquito, so yellow fever is spread broadcast by the mosquito known as the Stegomyia fasciata. In detail the processes differ, but in their main outlines they are alike. In each case the insect bites a sick man, sucks up the minute organisms that cause the disease, harbors them in its body and permits them to attain a certain growth, and then injects them into a well man and makes him sick.

Wherever the stegomyia fasciata is able to live yellow fever constantly threatens. Like the anopheles, it breeds in stagnant pools, in drains and in swamps. It is a native of the West Indian Islands; and there is reason to believe that it has flourished there for thousands of years. But not until Columbus landed on the coast of Cuba and white men began to navigate the western Atlantic did it travel elsewhere.

Today the stegomyia is a naturalized denizen of many places. It swarms in the brackish marshes along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico; it is at home along the South American coast as far southward as Buenos Ayres; it has appeared along the Mediterranean, and it has journeyed as far north as Boston.

It breeds in all sorts of damp, hidden places, and it is a great deal harder to dispose of than the anopheles. One insect, [illegible] ice, and is quickly killed by cold weather. When the thermometer falls below 62 degrees it becomes incapacitated and does not bite. This explains why yellow fever is seldom found in the North, and why a few nights of frost always suffice to end an epidemic. But the eggs and larvae of the mosquito resist a very low temperature; therefore, while a cold snap will stop an epidemic, it will not prevent other epidemics in future years.

As in the case of the anopheles, it is only the female stegomyia that bites human beings. The male is a vegetarian and harmless. In order that she may become infected the female must bite a man who is in the earliest stages of yellow fever. After she does so the organism of the disease develops in her body, and when twelve days have elapsed they have attained maturity. Thereafter for at least two months the infected female is a menace to man. She may bite a dozen men and infect them all. Her infectiousness, indeed, probably continues as long as she lives.

## LIKE MALARIA PROTOZOON.

The exact nature of the yellow fever organism is still in dispute, but probably it is a near relative to the protozoon that causes malaria. When it is introduced into the blood streams by the bite of an infected stegomyia there follows an incubation period of from two to six days, with three days as the common mean.

The patient's first symptoms are usually sudden chills and fever, accompanied by headache and pains in the eyes, back and limbs. Thereafter the temperature rises quickly and a great many very serious manifestations appear. The eyes bulge and skin turn yellow, the patient becomes much exhausted, and there is vomiting of blood—the familiar "black vomit." Death may occur within forty-eight hours; and even when recovery follows it is labored and difficult.

The death rate among white men is inherited from long generations of infected ancestors. But even among native blacks the mortality often reaches 10 per cent.

Contrary to the general opinion, yellow fever is not a contagious disease, in the common acceptance of the term. That is to say, the bedding and clothing of patient are not capable of transmitting the disease to others, and if there were no stegomyia mosquitoes flying around, the proximity of a yellow fever sufferer would be no more of a menace to others than the presence of a man suffering from toothache or Bright's disease.

In only one way, in fact, can the malady be transmitted. That is by the bite of an infected mosquito. Therefore, three means of stamping it out suggest themselves:

1. Patients must be screened from mosquitos, so that the latter may not bite them and become infected.

2. Healthy persons must be screened from mosquitoes, so that those which have become infected may not spread the disease.

3. Diligent efforts must be made to kill all adult mosquitoes and to prevent the hatching of their eggs.

These are the means adopted by the American doctors in Cuba and on the Isthmus of Panama to combat the malady. Now and then of course, yellow jack appears, despite the most elaborate precautions, but it may be said with confidence that its days of devastation and terror are over. A general epidemic—on the isthmus, for instance—is now a very remote possibility. The doctors there, as soon as a few cases appeared, would make such strenuous efforts to isolate and screen the patients, to protect all healthy persons, and to kill mosquitoes, that the outbreak probably would never attain dangerous proportions.

It is an unfortunate fact, however, that the facilities for fighting an epidemic are not nearly so efficacious in [illegible] as they are in the Southern States or or appears in a neighborhood, and before the municipal authorities can take proper measures, hundreds of persons are infected.

This was proven during the epidemic at New Orleans several years ago. Despite the most vigilant work of the local physicians the disease spread. A large population of ignorant foreigners,—living in crowded quarters, blocked all prophylactic efforts. Cases were concealed and orders regarding screening were disregarded. As a result there were many cases and many deaths. But in time means will be devised for meeting and overcoming such handicaps, and then yellow fever will be but an unpleasant memory.

## ATTACKS PERSON BUT ONCE.

As every one knows, an attack of yellow fever leaves the convalescent patient immune to the disease, and this immunity persists for the rest of his life. Once a man has had the fever and got over it, the stegomyia may sting him ad lib without further damage. This fact was put to practical use during the Spanish-American war, when regiments of immunes were enlisted for service in Cuba.

The stegomyia mosquito is a prowler at the night. It is seldom observed flying about between the hours of 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. It sleeps, indeed, during the heat of the day, and rises forth when the sun begins to slant toward the westward. Between twilight and midnight it is most active. Close observation indicates that while an infected female is dangerous for at least two months, she seldom bites more than one man a week. If she were more voracious than that, a yellow fever epidemic would spread so rapidly that nothing under the sun could stamp it out.

The share of the mosquito in transmitting the fever was first pointed out by Dr. Carlos Finlay, a distinguished [illegible] though the credit for the discovery belongs to the American army surgeons who worked out the details in Cuba. The first as-

of their lives—Reed, Carroll, Agramonte and Lazear. The last of these, in fact, died of the fever and Carroll came near doing likewise. Their work, however, is a [illegible] duplicating his sacrifice. It is to the everlasting honor of American medicine that all of these valiant heroes were Americans.

So far no cure for yellow fever has been perfected. During the course of an attack medicines are of little avail and nature must be left to battle with the invading organisms almost unaided. A number of efforts have been made, but the results have not been very successful.

It has also been suggested that blood from patients who have conquered the disease and are convalescent be injected into the veins of healthy persons to immunize them against the disease, or into the veins of other convalescents to help them to recovery. It is true enough that this blood has a great capacity for combatting the yellow fever organisms and their toxins, but the scheme has not proved practically successful.

As a matter of fact, it is unlikely that any curative serum will be produced until more is known about the yellow fever organism. Some years ago a pathologist named Sanarelli found a bacillus in the blood of yellow fever patients and came to the conclusion that it was the cause of the disease. But it is now known that this organism—it is called the bacillus icteroides—has nothing to do with it, and that it may be found in the blood of healthy men.

During the past century or so there have been seven great epidemics of yellow fever in the southern United States. The first was in 1693 and the second two years later. Then there was an intermission of nearly fifty years, or until 1853, when a very severe epidemic broke out. It was followed by another in 1867, one in 1873, and one in 1878. The last named was another bad one. After that there was no serious epidemic until 1906.

Until American physicians took charge of things down there, yellow fever was constantly present in Cuba. The first as-



"THE FEROCIOUS BRUTE THINKS HE'S LOOKING ..."

cabinet, but before he can leap upon it a shot rings out on the drowsy Southern or Southwestern air and the conquered monarch of the forest drops upon the mossy turf, and immediately expires with a large sediment of lead in his catechised midst.

"It is indeed a noble beast that has fallen before that unerring rifle of the mighty hunter. Stretched at full length he's almost as extensive as an Irish setter, and his fleecy coat is nearly three-quarters of an inch thick in places, growing upon him in the sparse yet attractive fashion which is familiar to every naturalist that's had occasion to study the fuzz on a caterpillar. His teeth would be fully two inches long if he had any left—the depths of the roots show it.

"And then picture the scenes at night around the glowing campfire, when the hunters take their ease. Some engage in the sport called 'Harriman,' which consists in affixing a heavy false mustache to the short, stout stump of a slippery elm tree, and then shooting at it with explosive bullets. Some, perhaps, argue the mooted point: Did or did not Ben Daniels once nature fake a government mule? Still others gather about the Master of the Hunt, discussing that immortal work, 'The Winning of the West,' and figuring out that it can be won in 1908 with a third term plank just as easy as it was in 1904 without one.

"But I shall hereafter leave the delights of the camp and the chase to hardy spirits like the President, Secretary Loeb and others who are better fitted to endure the life. As for me, I shall devote my spare minutes to searching out the accursed enemy of mankind who is responsible for those deceiving works of fiction which describe how any man equipped with a bottle of matches, a small iron hatchet and two fish hooks can live in luxury in the woods. When I overtake this criminal I shall pull him apart with bare hands, and the few living survivors of the ill-fated hosts that have followed his hellish advice will meet and pass me a vote of thanks.

"It was this scoundrel who deluded me with pleasing visions of the joy of sleeping on perfumed and downy beds of balsam boughs. Honest boys, it almost made me loathe the sight of a common spring mattress, two weeks ago when I was reading his ing. I have a every hemlock tree long knows ha distinct ways goes through night.

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# What Medicine Knows

**A Disease That Stands Yet Without a Cure—Modern Medicine Can Only Try to Prevent It by Fighting the Mosquito—Insect Screens in Place of Drugs and Medicines—"Bughunting" Appears to Have Cleaned Up the Panama Canal Zone—The Death Rate of That Vast Graveyard of the Past Is a Little Smaller Today Than That of the Average American City.**

JUST as malaria is transmitted from man to man by the anopheles mosquito, so yellow fever is spread broadcast by the mosquito known as the Stegomyia fasciata. In detail the processes differ, but in their main outlines they are alike. In each case the insect bites a sick man, sucks up the minute organisms that cause the disease, harbors them in its body and permits them to attain a certain growth, and then injects them into a well man and makes him sick.

Wherever the stegomyia fasciata is able to live yellow fever constantly threatens. Like the anopheles, it breeds in stagnant pools, in drains and in swamps. It is a native of the West India Islands; and there is reason to believe that it has flourished there for thousands of years. But not until Columbus landed on the coast of Cuba and white men began to navigate the western Atlantic did it travel elsewhere.

Today the stegomyia is a naturalized denizen of many places. It swarms in the brackish marshes along the coast of

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