

Vapo-Cresolene
Established 1879.

**Whooping Cough, Croup, Bronchitis
Cough, Grip, Asthma, Diphtheria.**

CRESOLENE IS A SOON TO ASTHMATICS.

Does it not seem more effective to breathe in a remedy to cure disease of the breathing organs than to take the remedy into the stomach?

It cures because the air rendered strongly antiseptic is carried over the diseased surface with every breath, giving prolonged and constant treatment. It is invaluable to mothers with small children.

Those of a consumptive tendency find immediate relief from coughs or inflamed conditions of the throat.

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Headache, Indigestion and Constipation.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

It will interest sufferers to know that a valuable medicine, called Prootoids, has been discovered, which is now completely curing each of the above-named complaints. Prootoids are elegant in appearance, and pleasant to take, and, what is of the utmost importance, are thoroughly reliable in affording quick relief. You do not require to go on taking them for a prolonged period, as is necessary with some medicines, which even then are mostly disappointing; you simply take a dose of Prootoids when ill and repeat the dose if necessary, but generally one dose is quite effective.

Prootoids are immensely more valuable than an ordinary aperient, in so far that they not only act as an aperient, but do remove from the blood, tissues, and internal organs all the waste poisonous matter that is clogging them and choking the channels that lead to and from them. The beneficial effects of Prootoids are evident at once by the disappearance of headache, the head becoming clear, and a bright, cheery sense of perfect health taking the place of sluggish, depressed feelings, by the liver acting properly, and by the food being properly digested.

Prootoids are the proper aperient medicine to take when any Congestion or Blood Poison is present, or when Congestion of the Brain or Apoplexy is present or threatening. They have been tested, and have been proved to afford quick relief in such cases when other aperients have not done any good at all. It is of the utmost importance that this should be borne in mind, for in such cases to take an ordinary aperient is to waste time and permit of a serious illness becoming fatal.

Prootoids act splendidly on the liver, and quickly cure bilious attacks that antibilious pills make worse. Many people have been made sick and ill by antibilious pills that could have been cured at once by Prootoids. People should not allow themselves to be duped into contracting a medicine-taking habit by being persuaded to take daily doses with each meal of so-called indigestion cures that do NOT cure. Prootoids have been subjected to extensive tests, and have in every case proved successful in completely curing the complaints named.

A constipated habit of body will be completely cured if the patient will on each occasion, when suffering, take a dose of Prootoids, instead of an ordinary aperient; by so doing, the patient will require doses only at longer intervals, and will so become quite independent of the necessity of taking any aperient medicine.

Prootoids are only now being placed on the Australian market, consequently you may at present have a difficulty in getting them from your local chemist or storekeeper, but ask for them, and if you cannot get them at once, send stamps or postal note for price, D/S. to W. G. Hearue, Chemist, Geelong, and a bottle of them will be immediately forwarded to you post free. Chemists, storekeepers, and wholesalers can now obtain wholesale supplies from W. G. Hearue, Chemist, Geelong, Victoria.

N.Z. Branch Office, No. 11, First Floor, Home's Buildings, Williams-street, Wellington.

Some Famous Frauds

By CHARLES MICHELSON

THE FRANKLIN SYNDICATE, THE WOMAN'S BANK, THE ARIZONA DIAMOND CONSPIRACY, THE HUMBERT SWINDLE, AND OTHER HISTORICAL CASES—WHILE HUMAN NATURE IS WHAT IT IS, THE OLD FRAUDS WILL REAPPEAR.

(From "The Scrap Book.")

Within the last few years public attention has been called to several dishonest financial schemes of great magnitude, and the impression has grown that the business world of America has fallen to a lower ethical plane. The truth is that financial dishonesty is endemic, though it becomes epidemic when conditions are favourable. After the exposure of a series of Chadwick cases and Miller syndicates people begin to think that all fraud has been rooted up. Doubtless the collapse of the Carthage Ivory, Slave, and Exploration Company astonished the Phœnicians and convinced them that the world would never again be deceived in such a manner, and probably the Greeks felt the same way about the Atlantis Gold and Land Exploitation Syndicate. There has never been an age without its Chadwicks and Millers.

Moreover, one scheme begets another. The fifty-million-dollar South Sea Bubble of nearly two hundred years ago not only swallowed up the savings of rural and urban England, but suggested the Mississippi Scheme which cost the French people no less than a hundred million dollars.

THE FRANKLYN SYNDICATE IN BROOKLYN (1899).

The Marvellous Story of William M. Miller's "Ten Per Cent a Week" Enterprise.

Miller's five-hundred-and-twenty-per cent syndicate was at least three hundred years old in idea. In the time of Elizabeth it was operated successfully in England, though the immoderate dividends were supposed to be paid from the plunder of mythical privateers, instead of fictitious investments in stocks. So large were the dividends and so glowing the promises that the shares rose to tremendous values. They were, of course, paid out of the subscriptions of new investors until the flight of the Miller of his day revealed that the only pirate doing business was the promoter himself.

The Spanish Main was the Wall Street of that time. The piling up of huge fortunes was just as intoxicating to outsiders in the sixteenth as in the first year of the twentieth century, when the whole world looked open-eyed at the millions created by the great steel merger and the fluctuations of stocks. Newspaper stories of these great fortunes watered the field that Miller and his companions were to till.

The direct inspiration of the Franklin Syndicate was a scheme known in Pittsburgh as "Fund W." This was a successful confidence game; and it is worthy of memory that Colonel Robert A. Ammon, a leading syndicate of the Franklin group, was in Pittsburgh at the time when "Fund W." was in operation.

The Franklin Syndicate was started modestly. William F. Miller, a small, pale young man, living in a tenement at 144 Floyd-street, in the Williamsburg district of Brooklyn, and an earnest member of a near-by church, confided to the corner groceryman and a few friends in his church that he had in excess resources of information as to what certain important operators were doing in Wall-street. Thus, he said, he was in a position to make great gains by speculation. He offered to guarantee a

return of ten per cent every week on all the money he invested, and half a dozen persons to whom he broached his plan under pledge of secrecy gave him ten dollars each. Sure enough, when the week ended, each investor received a dollar as his first dividend. Each of the original investors were now permitted to increase his own investment and to bring a friend into the syndicate.

Innocent and sophisticated alike—for a large proportion of Miller's customers were perfectly aware of the character of the enterprise—they sent in their money. The first week Miller took in less than one hundred dollars; the second week it was five hundred, the third week three thousand, and so the snow-ball grew.

It was a veritable blizzard of ten-dollar bills. The money arrived so fast that frequently the only record of the day was the total receipts. The money was tucked away anywhere; there were waste-paper baskets full of it; bureau drawers were so stuffed that they could not be closed. Anybody opening the door on a blustering day saw a whirlwind of greenbacks disturbed by the breeze, and while the clerks shouted at the intruder to shut the door the office-boy regathered the bills that were scattered about like autumn leaves. More than a million and a quarter of dollars, mostly in small bills, was received in that house before the end.

Little Miller, so obscure a few months before, was now the most conspicuous figure in Williamsburg. He frequently dashed into the drug-store on the corner to telephone. While the admiring and envious neighbours looked on and listened, Miller, with a regal disregard for business privacy, would "call down" J. Pierpont Morgan and Co. for failing to deliver "that hundred thousand shares of Steel Preferred" on time, and would notify John W. Gates that William F. Miller insisted on "a settlement for the million dollars in Pennsylvania bonds" loaned the day before. Similarly, Sully, the cotton king, would be congratulated on the joint profit he and the Franklin Syndicate had made from the rise, and would be advised that the Syndicate presented him with another two millions of credit for further purchases.

The victims came like swarming bees. But the very prosperity of the swindle was fatal. As long as it was confined to a quiet corner of Brooklyn it could escape observation, but with thirty thousand dollars a day coming thitherward the eyes of the newspapers were drawn to the inflow—and then it was all over. Miller fled by way of Colonel Ammon's office, carrying with him a satchel containing more than one hundred thousand dollars. The satchel stayed with Lawyer Ammon, but Miller escaped through a rear entrance and got as far as Montreal. He returned from Canada, relying on Ammon's promise to keep him out of jail, but Ammon failed him and he went to prison, where he remained, until by revealing the lawyer's part in the swindle he bought a parole, and Ammon took his place as a convict.

THE WOMAN'S BANK IN BOSTON (1870—1892).

The Remarkable Career of a Female Napoleon of Fraudulent Finance.

Long before Miller's time Americans had been painfully introduced to the sort of finance that later became synonymous with his name. One of his predecessors in the game was Mrs. Sarah E. Howe, the Brookline philanthropist, who in 1879 started a Woman's Bank in Boston. She was elderly, deaf, and unamiable, but had no trouble in making women believe that she was the agent of rich and benevolent Quakers who, desiring to help widows and spin-

ners of limited means, proposed to pay them eight per cent quarterly, in advance, on deposits of not less than three hundred dollars nor more than one thousand. Depositors came in such numbers that she had no difficulty in paying interest out of the incoming stream until she had garnered three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. She operated for three years before the police closed her bank and sent her to prison. Promptly on the expiration of her sentence—three years—she opened another bank in Boston and carried on her old business until she had fifty thousand dollars; and then disappeared.

Not long afterward she appeared in Chicago, where, as "Mrs. Elmer," she conducted a bank in the business section and advertised that the "Ladies' Provident Aid" would pay seven dollars interest a month on deposits of one hundred dollars. She escaped from Chicago with her plunder, added to it in New Brunswick, and returned to Massachusetts in 1888, but the police broke up her establishment almost as soon as it opened its doors.

Her transactions were so near to real banking, that, though frequently arrested, she was never convicted after the first experience. In all she must have realised nearly a million dollars by her frauds, but she spent it as fast as she made it, and when she died, about fifteen years ago, she was destitute.

TWO ENGLISH CHAPTERS OF "FRENZIED FINANCE"

The Colossal Schemes of Jabez Spencer Balfour and Whitaker Wright.

It is a noteworthy fact that in spite of the greater strictness of the English law on such matters, schemes like those of Miller and Mrs. Howe have never gone so far in the United States as on the other side of the ocean. Miller operated for a few months; Jabez Spencer Balfour flourished in England for nearly thirty years, and did more than thirty times the damage.

Balfour was really a Miller with imagination. He pyramided company on company and so mingled fraud and legitimate enterprise that when he finally fled England, thirteen years ago, the crash of his schemes cost investors thirty-five million dollars. Balfour's original capital was his enthusiasm in the cause of the Nonconformist churches, a reputation as a temperance worker, and an appalling stock of assurance. A "get-rich-quick" company had recently collapsed, and the distress it caused gave him his opportunity.

This was in 1866. He organised a company to protect the savings of the Nonconformist ministers, school-teachers, and tradesmen, the Thriftless Classes in England. His Liberator Building Society undertook to build homes for the poor and worthy on terms of such surprising liberality that deposits came with a rush from the beginning. The austere Balfour and his associates paid their lavish dividends out of the new deposits, and the business was kept running until the deposits were far up in the millions.

Then the inevitable breakers were sighted. Instead of snatching what he could and running away, Balfour simply organised a new company, which took over the pressing liabilities of the old concern. Thus was started a new flow of deposits which ran its course, and then still another company carried the game farther. The scheme grew until the Balfour group had banks and trust companies and was building docks on the Thames Embankment and financing ventures all over England.

Balfour was elected mayor of Croydon. Then he was sent to Parliament, where he staunchly supported the Liberal programme. He took part in all the