



Vatican Notes

VOLUME XXIII NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1974 NUMBER 3



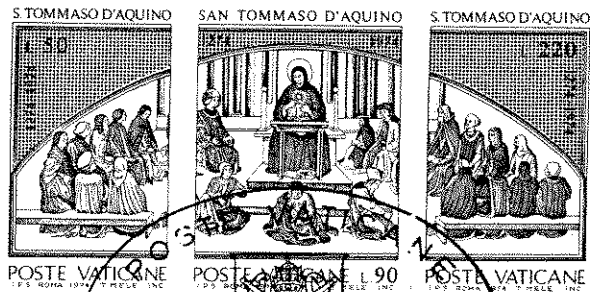
H. ANGELICO (PARTICOLARE DELLA CROCFISSIONE)

VII Centenario della morte di
S. Tommaso d'Aquino
(DOCTOR ANGELICUS)

★ ★ ★ F. D. C. VATICANO
THE STAMP



1274 · 1974



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COMMEMORATIVE

The Vatican issued a triptych on June 18, 1974 to commemorate the Seventh Centenary of the death of St. Thomas Aquinas. The stamps are in values of L50, L90 and L220. The center stamp, L90, is larger than the other two. The design was copied from a painting in the library of the Convent of St. Mark in Florence and was etched by Tullio Mele. The original was done by an unknown artist of the Fra Angelico School. The L50 and L220 are perf. 14½x14, the L90 13½x14. They are printed in panes of 15 sets or triptychs each, in two colors offset and engraving on white paper by IPS, Rome in the quantity of 1,450,000 sets.

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

The three stamps issued by the Vatican as pictured on the cover of this Number of the Notes commemorates the Seventh Centenary of the death of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

He was an Italian Dominican Theologian, a Doctor of the Church, and the patron of Catholic schools. Thomas was born at Roccasecca, near Monte Cassino around 1225, the youngest son in a large family. His mother was the second wife of Landolfo of Aquino and he had five sisters, three older brothers and at least three half brothers. He died at Fossanuova on March 7, 1274.

St. Thomas is still the most important and influential scholastic theologian and philosopher.

As a theological and philosophical movement from the 13th century to the 20th, Thomism may be defined as a systematic attempt to understand and develop the basic principles and conclusions of St. Thomas Aquinas in order to relate them to the problems and needs of each generation.

St. Thomas clearly distinguished between the realm of nature and the realm of supernature: the first is the domain of reason and, therefore, philosophy; the second is that of faith, and, therefore, theology. Although Aquinas wrote strictly philosophical works his most original contributions were made in the course of theological speculation. He made a personalized Aristotelian philosophy serve as the handmaid for his theology.

His theology, then, is an attempt to systematize revealed truths in a human manner so as to make revelation better appreciated by the orderly, logical, scientific mind.

The holiness of Thomas's death at Fossanuova, and the miracles that accompanied it, soon led to his being venerated as a saint in the monastery and its vicinity. He was buried in the abbey, and peasants began to bring the sick and infirm to his tomb, where many cures were reported.

The initiative for his canonization possibly came from the Pope, John XXII. The canonization itself took place at Avignon on July 18, 1323. It was a great public occasion, attended by King Robert of Sicily, and John XXII did not hesitate to create the impression that he was glorifying Aquinas as much for his doctrine as for the holiness of his life.

The canonization was the first step of a movement that developed and grew stronger in the course of history. Some 2 centuries later, Thomas was elevated to the dignity of a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius V.

Finally, in 1918, St. Thomas became an institution in the Church with his being mentioned in the Code of Canon Law - this is the only name in the entire Code - with the injunction that the priests of the Catholic Church should receive their philosophical and theological instruction "according to the method, doctrine and principles of the Angelic Doctor.

CHAPTER COMMUNIQUECHAPTER No. 1 EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The fifth meeting of the year was held on Sunday, October 27th at St. Richard's Church in Danvers, Mass. The speaker was Father Seypko who described his "Visit to Russia."

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum on the campus of Regis College in Weston.

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER

At the last meeting the Chapter elected new officers. The Society would like to congratulate them and invite them to active participation in the Society as well. The officers are:

President: Steven J. Sieben Vice-President: Pearl Lieberman
Secretary: Tony Rizzo Treasurer: James C. Schiltz

The Chapter also agreed on nominal dues of \$1.00 a year.

A happy Treasurer reported a substantial balance on hand with all current bills paid!

The next (second) regular meeting is scheduled for Monday night November 25th at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago.

A good suggestion that other Chapters might like to adapt was that they have a series of "Show and Tell" sessions, with the members taking turns bringing something of philatelic interest from their collections for display and discussion.

CHAPTER No. 8 SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

The monthly meeting was held at the home of one of the members.

At their October-meeting a motion was passed to establish dues at \$2.00 for the 1974-1975 season.

A suggestion for a Christmas party to be held on December 1 was to have been discussed at the November meeting.

Announcements were made and encouragement given for the members to attend two Shows in the Milwaukee area: DANEPEX and UWMPSEX, the latter sponsored by students at the University of Wisconsin evidently.

N.B.

The Editor would like to make this page a regular feature of our Society's publication. Officers and Chairmen are urged to keep us posted with information through our Chapter Coordinator, Mrs. Ione Madritsch or through the Editor. It will be a source of news about PEOPLE, which is most important, as well as about IDEAS, which we all can use.

CHAPTER No. 7 NEW YORK

The Officers serving this Chapter for the current year are:

PRESIDENT: Larry Black VICE PRESIDENT: Louis Sgandurra
TREASURER: Raymond Kelly RECORDING SECRETARY: Victor Bove
PUBLICITY SECRETARY: Kenneth Bellino

Mr. Bove's address is: Box 166, Times Square Station, New York, N.Y.

10036.

NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members. We invite them to active participation in our Society by contributing ideas, articles and suggestions to the Officers and through them to the entire membership.

2434 Richard C. Romano	612 South St.	Fitchburg, Ma. 01420
2435 Michael Angelo	4164 Hilldale	Memphis, Tenn. 38117
2436 R. Neakrans	Box 3314	San Mateo, Cal. 94403
2437 Victoria Holden	P.O. Box 1052	Pomona, Calif. 91769
2438 Harold Bromel	U.S. Dept. of Commerce BIC/OIM Room 4015	Washington, D.C. 20230
2439 Donald C. Pickering	13 Burnett St. ***** *****	Nashua, N.H. 03060

A little belatedly, but most sincerely, our congratulations go to Antonio S. Rizzo of the Chicagoland Chapter for receiving the "GRAND AWARD" at COMPEX in the May exhibition with his Vatican City "Errors and Freaks - Perforation and Printing Varieties."

SECOND DUES NOTICE

A number of members have not yet paid their dues for the current year. A second notice was sent recently by our President, Arthur Lohan. This issue of the Notes will be the last issue sent to those who do not pay current dues by December 31. Immediately after the first of the year a membership Roster will be compiled and sent to all members who are paid up members as of December 31, 1974.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN OF THE VPSPRESIDENT

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87 Charlemont Street
Newton Highlands, Mass. 02161

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

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BACK ISSUES OF THE NOTES

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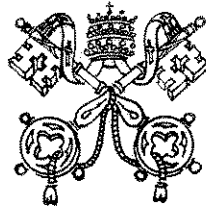
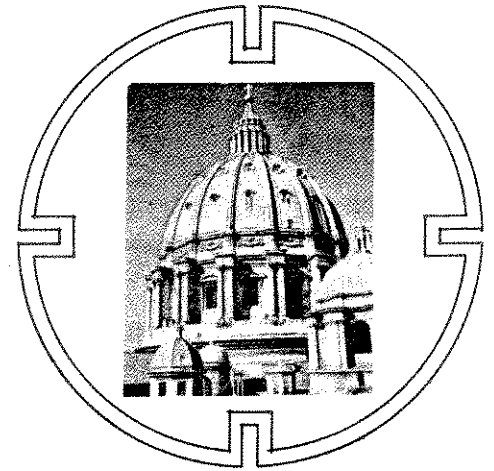
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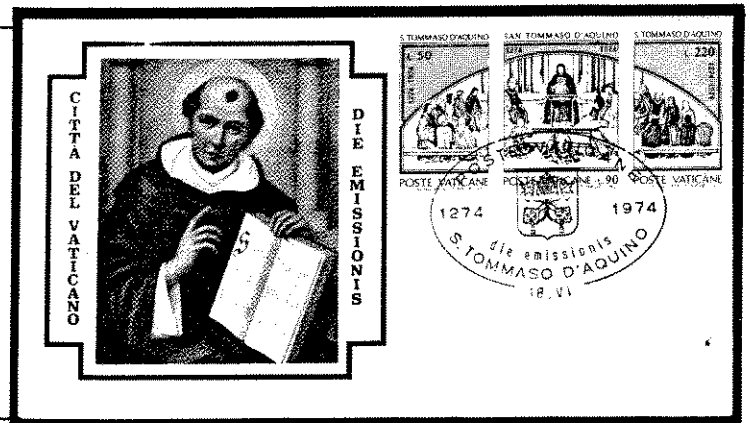
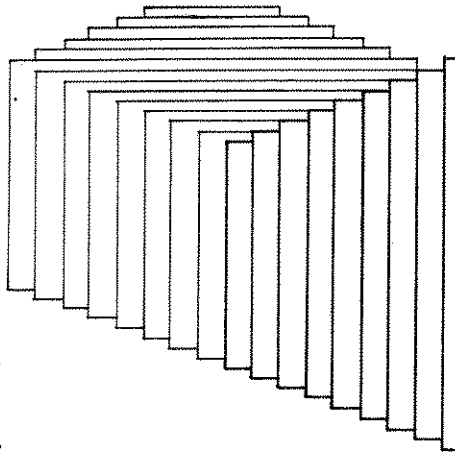
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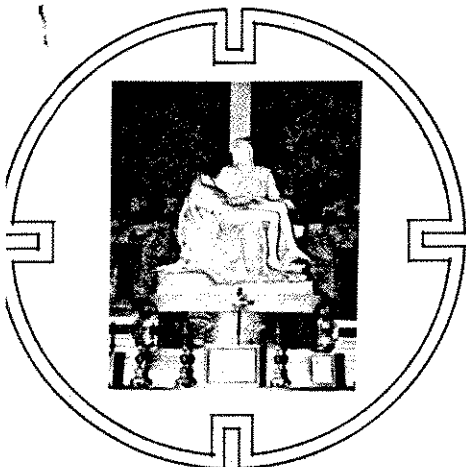
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1950 HOLY YEAR ISSUE

On December 21, 1949 the Vatican issued the Twenty-Fifth Holy Year Set. There were four different designs and the set was issued in eight values. They were designed by Corrado Mezzana (the first three) and Nello Ena (the fourth). They were printed by rotary photogravure in two colors and in the amount of 1,000,000 complete sets. The 1974 Bolaffi Catalog lists the set at \$16.70.

In the first, Jesus is pictured entrusting the keys to Heaven to St. Peter. It is taken from the fresco by Perugino in the Sistine Chapel and is a visual rendering of Matthew XVI,19.

The second presents the four Jubilee basilicas (refer to accompanying Holy Year story) with the Aurelian Wall and the Tiber, namely, top to bottom, St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Peter's.

Pope Boniface VIII (1295-1303) is shown in the third stamp proclaiming the first Holy Year in 1300. This is taken from a fresco attributed to Giotto in St. John Lateran Basilica.

The last depicts Pope Pius XII, then reigning, opening the Holy Door.

In March of 1949 the Vatican had issued what is described as the "Basilica" issue as a preliminary to the Holy Year. This was a regular issue of 10 values plus two Special Deliveries.

The Holy Year Issue carries Scott Numbers 132-139. The issue is watermarked and there are Plate Flaws in some of the issues. Besides the issues pictured above, there were 20, 25, 20 and 60 Lire values in the set.

A special Cancel was used during the Holy Year from December 23, 1949 and read: 25th Jubilee Year - Peace and Goodness - To All People.

THE HOLY YEAR

This is our third article of a series on the Holy Year which will be observed throughout the world in 1975.

In 1500, Pope Alexander VI ordered ceremonies that are observed essentially today in commemorating the Holy Year.

Chief among these that open the Holy Year are breaking down a special door at the chief Roman churches: St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran Cathedral, St. Mary Major Basilica and the Basilica of St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls.

The reigning Pontiff performs the ceremony at St. Peter's and cardinals are designated to open the other holy doors which will be closed again at the conclusion of the Holy Year.

The symbolism of the specially-opened doors - that will be accomplished for Holy Year, 1975, at Christmas-time this year - is to demonstrate that the Church is opening up its spiritual treasury to all the faithful by means of extraordinary indulgences connected with it.

The Church's position on indulgences has, since Martin Luther struck out at abuses in the system, been considered a major road-block to Christian unity.

Indulgences, briefly, are granted by the Church to those persons who fulfill certain spiritual conditions or who perform certain prescribed practices as a sharing of the merits won by Christ in his suffering and death.

Catholic theology holds that even when a sin has been forgiven there still remains a debt to be paid God for the fact of the breaking of his laws. So that, even if a person be restored to the state of grace following the proper reception of the Sacrament of Penance, there remains a balance of payment owed.

This can be removed by certain spiritual acts of penance and prayer, by pilgrimage to a privileged shrine, or in another fashion the Church might require.

The Catholic doctrine of Purgatory and prayers in behalf of the faithful departed are central to this belief. A person who dies without having paid back all that is owed God for forgiven sins must settle the debts before his already redeemed soul can enter Heaven. Prayers may be offered for those souls by those who are still on earth, again taking advantage of shares in the merits of Christ earned by the practices outlined by the Church, as earthly custodian of the treasury of those merits.

The indulgences are termed plenary or partial based upon whether or not the debt is paid in full (plenary) or in some measure (partial).

"DISINFECTED MAIL" by K.F. Meyer, M.D. (Con't.)

Instruments and Equipment Used for Fumigation

Museums containing material dealing with cholera in Vienna, Marseilles, Rome and other cities have preserved the tongs, forceps or pincers used to handle the letters being dipped or placed in the fumigation box. Several of these pieces of equipment have been drawn from old photographs (Figure 1, Plate 1). An instrument called a rastel (from the Italian word grill) consisting of two metal plates hinged together at one end, with handle at the other was extensively used in Austrian and German State lazarettos. The lower surface of the upper plate was provided with small sharp projections, pins, knives; when the plates were brought together the projections fitted into a number of slits on the upper surface of the lower plate. The letter was placed between the plates of the rastel, and when these were brought together they produced a variable number of small or large coarse punch holes or perforations of the paper (Figures 2 and 3).

Another type in use in lazarettos with a heavy mail traffic was a book press-like device on a solid metal foundation. The thick metal lower plate carried a series of sharp knives. A heavy upper plate slid between two guideposts and when pressed down by a long strong lever punched holes through the paper. This type of rastel permitted perforation of bundles of letters (Figure 4). The letters were picked up with tongs (Figure 5) and placed on a wire tray of a simple fumigation box consisting of a metal plate with a cup-like receptacle used for holding the heated fume-creating powder. A metal bell jar was placed over the tray and cup, and the letter was exposed to the vapors for five minutes (Figure 6).

Whenever many letters had to be decontaminated they were transferred to the wire grate of open fumigation boxes, and the boxes were then placed in the large opening of a hearth. Sulfur fumes were generated by burning a mixture of sulfur, saltpeter and wheat bran. The wire drum was rotated during fumigation in order to expose the letters adequately to the sulfur dioxide (Figure 7). The decontamination boxes when not in use on the hearth were placed on a suitable stand (Figure 8). According to Prof. M. Kaiser of Vienna, these boxes were used in the lazarettos of Austria, particularly Trieste (for details see Meyer, 1952). There is reason to believe that this type or quite similar boxes were part of the regular "Contumaz Amt" along the Danube.

In recent years the type of fumigation boxes installed in some Italian lazarettos have been excellently described. The principles on which these boxes operated, for example in Venice, are fully described by Ancona (1951) and Ravasini (1957) in Italian. As far as is known, these have not been described in English. Sketches prepared from the originals illustrate the box (Figure 9).

Any strong wood, preferably cashew nut tree (*Anacardium orientale*), or lead varnished internally and externally was molded into boxes commonly measuring 2 feet wide, 2½ feet long and varying in height according to the load of mail to be decontaminated. The boxes were closed by tightly fitting lids. On the inside, at about ⅓ of the height of the box, a grating made of rush or soft wood resting on small projecting pinions received the letters, documents or other objects to be disinfected. On the same level of the grating a small sliding box with a lid projected from one of the side walls of the box; in the receptacle letters or valuables removed from their wrappers were exposed to the fumes without the risk of losing them in the bundles on the grate. On one of the long sides of the box a small, tight-fitting gate door served to admit the disinfection mixture or powder. A circular opening about one inch in diameter on a side wall opposite the small box served as a valve for the fumes, or as an opening through which the neck of a bottle or the tube of a retort containing disinfection gases could be inserted. Two round convex glass windows on the walls of the box permitted inspection of the inside of the box without opening it. Since the grate was removable, large unfolded documents or letters could be arranged upright, resting against the pinion supporting the tray. Both sides of the papers were thereby more thoroughly exposed to the fumes than when they were layered on the grate.

After 1830 disinfection stations located in booths or huts were instructed to obtain special fumigation boxes (Sempf, 1952). One is pictured in an article by Heinsen (1933) (Figure 10). It was a wooden or metal container 3x3x2½ feet, closed by a tight-fitting lid. The interior was divided into three sections—a grate made of wire netting, a middle shelving holding a pan with vinegar and a lower compartment with a tray to hold the glowing wood coal on which the fumigation powder was spread. On one side of the box was a door with a small vent. In-

structions for handling letters issued to the Contumaz-Anstalten in Braunschweig dated June 23, 1831 (paragraph 60) indicate that the letters were to be exposed to the fumes for five minutes and then removed, perforated with the rastel and then submitted further to the heat, vinegar evaporations and the smoke developed by the decontamination powder (Gronow, 1952). Casual perusal of the available published records leads to the belief that the type of fumigation described by Heinsen was widely used after 1830.

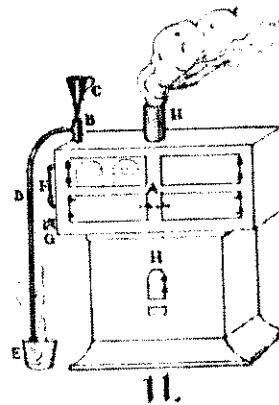
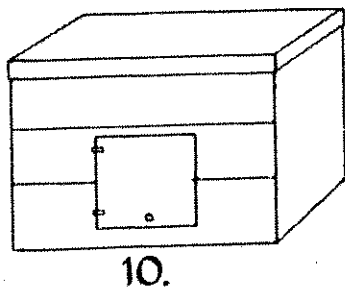
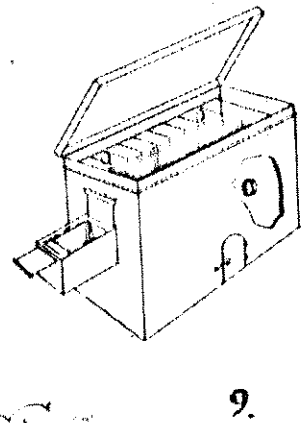
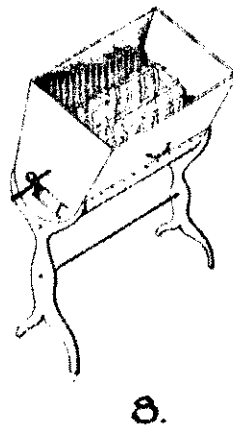
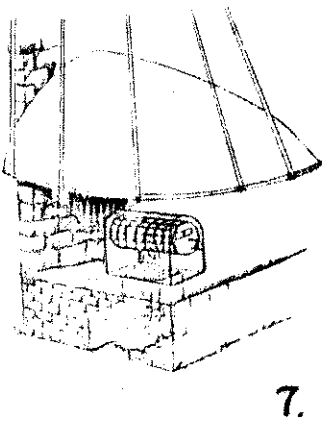
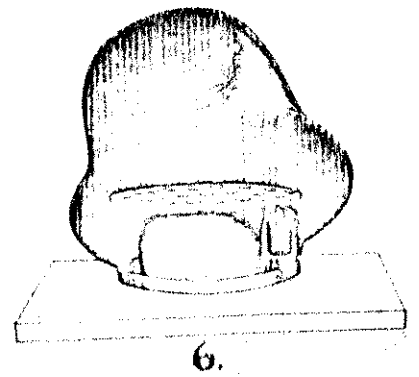
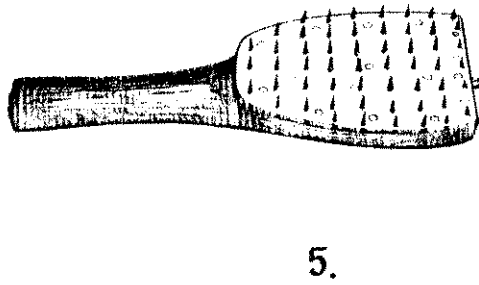
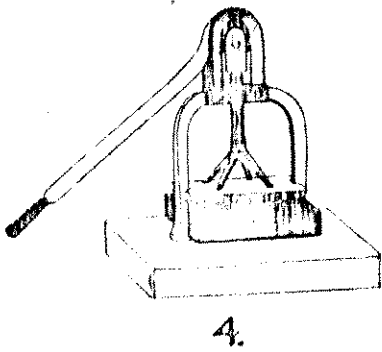
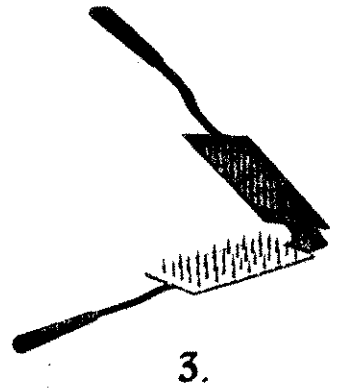
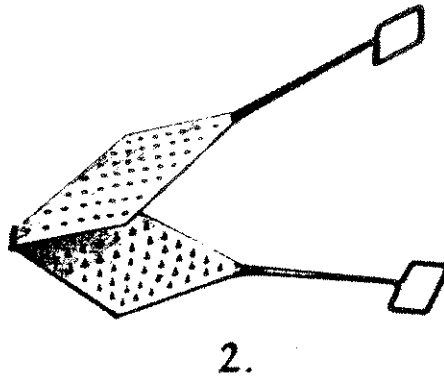
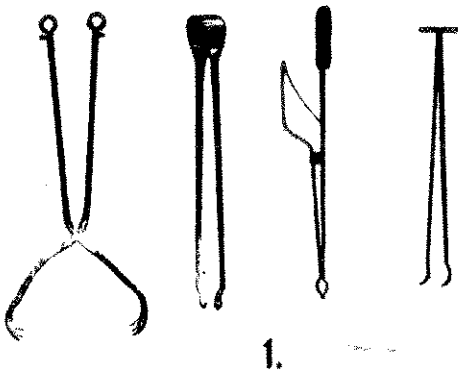
Professor Ravasini, in his excellent monograph, attributed to Bussolin a report that in 1879 the maritime authority at Trieste developed a new type of fumigation box—an installation made of copper and steel manufactured by the Baumann firm of Vienna. It can generate fumes of carbolic acid saturated with steam. This somewhat complicated apparatus, meant to apply the ideas of Lister and meet the criticism of Pettenkofer, is illustrated in Figure 11. The description of the apparatus, translated from Ravasini's monograph, follows:

"The apparatus consists of a recipient for water (-a) divided in four compartments in which water and vapor can penetrate. There are four little doors which close hermetically. The picture is presented with two little doors closed and the upper ones open.

"At the left, in the upper part of the receptacle is a short round opening (-b) through which, by means of a funnel (-c) water is introduced. While the apparatus is in use, a curved tube (-d) is introduced so that the vapor can be let out. The vapor is gathered in a tube (-e) containing little water, placed at the end of the tube. A certain amount of water is placed in the receptacle, which in the (-f) glass tube indicating the condition of the same reaches only the height of ⅓. Only one-third of the tube is empty.

"In the tube at the bottom of the water receptacle which joins with the hydrometer, one finds a valve (-g) through which the receptacle can be emptied of water. The heating is obtained by means of a burner (-h), joined to the apparatus. Once the water boils, and when the vapor escapes through the tube (-h) one must be careful to use only that amount of combustible which is enough to maintain the state of boiling. In the four compartments of the apparatus are tin trays soldered and

"DISINFECTED MAIL" by K.F.Meyer, M.D. (Con't.)



(To be con't.)