

Miscellaneous News.

Blew Out the Gas.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., April 23.—A well dressed young man, about 24 years, whose name is supposed to have been James Gaunt, was found dead in a room in the St. Cloud hotel this morning. He had just been suffocated with gas from a jet which had not been turned off. He is a stranger here and is supposed to have come from West Chester, Pa.

Boys Killed by Eating Wild Parsnips.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 28.—Near Bonville, five boys, J. B. Irwin, Emmet Moore and Gifford Lampton, while in the woods yesterday, ate wild parsnips. Three of them died within an hour, and the fourth is not expected to recover. The fifth will probably survive.

Supposed Kidnapping by Gypsies.

MYERSVILLE, Pa., April 22.—A son of Adam Christ, a wealthy farmer residing two miles north of this place, disappeared from home on the 12th instant, since which time nothing has been heard of him. It is believed he was kidnapped by a strolling band of gypsies. Several gypsy camps in Berks and Lebanon counties have been searched, but without success. The parents are greatly distressed on account of his prolonged absence.

Brother of Ex-Governor Pollock Dead.

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., April 28.—Dr. Samuel Pollock, for many years a leading physician of the West Branch valley, died to-day aged 79 years. He was brother of ex-Governor James Pollock, of Philadelphia. He had been prominent in the state medical society, and was a noted classical and biblical scholar.

The Height of Meanness.

The meanest man competition has begun again. So far California takes the lead. It is recorded that a merchant in Los Angeles observed a newsboy peering down into the grating in the sidewalk in front of his store one afternoon recently, and upon inquiry learned that the little chap had dropped a quarter into the place and was studying upon the best means of recovering his wealth. The merchant one of his clerks sent down into the cellar recovered the coin and very coolly put it into his till. A police-officer investigated the matter, and gave the boy twenty-five cents to replace the coin of which he had been plundered.

A Distinguishing Old Lady.

Mrs. Polk, the widow of James K. Polk, tenth President of the United States, is over eighty years of age, but she is in good health and she possesses a memory of unimpaired vigor. She resides in the old Polk homestead at Nashville, Tenn., a large, roomy, two-story building made of brick.

Are Wooden Bridges Safe?

A wooden bridge has been built in place of the iron death-trap which recently went down in the suburbs of Boston. Who is there to prove that after all wooden railroad bridges are not better than those built of iron? No one has ever heard of a wooden structure going down because of its sudden contraction by cold or expansion by heat. Wood goes to decay, but it does not crystallize or rust out. A blow delivered by a broken shaft or locomotive driver which will crack and possibly destroy a bridge constructed of iron will not in any way cripple a good bridge made up of wood and bolts. Iron bridges have not been used long enough to be anything more than an experiment. The experiment has not yet proved entirely satisfactory.

A Sumptuous Smoking-Room.

A Russian millionaire has recently had built for him at St. Petersburg a most sumptuous smoking room, which is the astonishment of all the northern capital. Its richness consists not so much in its furniture, which is a model of simplicity, but in its walls. These are literally lined with European bank notes. Instead of the mass of white ceiling which forms the desperation of disciples of William Morris, is seen a profusion of Austrian notes most artistically grouped round a 10 florin bank note. Ornate designs composed of French, English, Italian and Russian bank notes adorn the walls. The curious room has received many famous visitors from all points of the compass. Among others a celebrated Hungarian painter was introduced. He glanced up at the eccentric millionaire and said with a smile: "Sir, it is a pity you have already thus disposed of your money, for the same amount I would willingly have decorated your walls, perhaps more artistically, indeed than is now the case—by covering them with paintings, even as Michael Angelo did for his Holiness, Pope Julius II."

Ir I wanted to get good, square judgment on something I had done, I had rather go to a newspaper office for it than any other court of justice. I know the justice of journals, their integrity and their purity of motives. I know that they probe into men's characters. No man whose character is pure need fear all the press in America. The way to be safe from so-called newspaper attacks is to be a Christian. The reporters are the best detective force in this country. They have brought more criminals to justice and punctured more shams than all agencies combined.

Bleeding at the Noes.

To prevent it keep erect. Apply cold water to the neck. Then take a long strip of cloth, an inch or so wide, and with a pencil pull it gently into the nostril, being sure to carry the first of it well back toward the throat. See that there is nothing tight about the neck.

G. A. R. NOTES.

New York has 608 posts. Rhode Island, with twenty posts, has 2,000 members. New Hampshire has eighty four posts and 5,000 members. The soldiers' monument at Brooklyn, New York, will cost \$250,000. The Vermont Soldiers' Home was ready for occupancy on May 1. Patrick Sullivan, Altoona, Pa., enlisted when only 4 feet 9 inches in height. A bill is before the State Legislature of Missouri appropriating \$1,000,000 to found a Soldiers' Home in that State. Comrade Reuben Taylor, 76 years old, who served his country faithfully in two wars, is in the LaPorte county, Ind., post house. Orders for transportation of veterans, to the Illinois Sailors' and Soldiers' Home at Quincy can now be obtained on application to the officers of the home. Members of the Loyal Legion who attend the meeting of the National Encampment G. A. R., at St. Louis, September next, are invited to be the guests of the St. Louis Commandery. The soldiers' monument at Logansport will be unveiled July 13. Postmaster General V. H. and General W. H. Gibson, of Ohio, will be the orators. The monument is to be 50 feet high, and will cost \$10,000. There are 50,000 pension claims still pending in the Pension Office. New cases and increases are being filed at the average of 20,000 per month, while the average cases disposed of will number 9,000 per month. At the annual encampment of the Department of Massachusetts held in Boston last month the vote on the Pension Service Bill averaged two to one in its favor; at the previous encampment was nearly four to one in its favor. It will be of interest to veterans to learn that the Union Veteran Army, Department of Massachusetts, is a thing of the past, the few remaining members of the organization having decided some time since to let the organization die a natural but very quiet death. The Department of Ohio at its last annual encampment of the department, had 84 organized posts. She now has about 620. This gives to Ohio the largest number of Posts and makes her the second on the list in regard to membership. Pennsylvania being first in number of membership and New York third. The Philadelphia City Troop is the oldest military organization in the United States. It has been in continuous service in the State or National Government since its organization, it was the first company to celebrate Washington's Birthday by parading on Feb. 22, 1895, and has kept up its observance ever since regardless of the weather.

The Late Doctor J. G. Holland's Opinion.

A Physician Climbing the Editorial Stairs. The columns of the newspapers appear to be flooded with proprietary medicine advertisements. As we cast our eyes over them, it brings to mind an article that was published by the late Dr. Holland in Scriber's Monthly. He says: "Nevertheless, it is a fact that many of the best proprietary medicines of the day were more successful than many physicians, and most of them, it should be remembered, were at first discovered or used in actual medical practice. When, however, any shrewd person, knowing their virtue, and foreseeing their popularity, secures and advertises them, then, in the opinion of the bigoted, all virtue went out of them." Is not this absurd? This great man appreciated the real merits of popular remedies, and the absurdity of those that derided them because public attention was called to the article and the evidence of their cures. If the most noted physician should announce that he had made a study of any certain organ or disease of the body, or make his sign larger than the code size, though he may have practiced medicine and been a leader in all medical councils, notwithstanding all this, if he should presume to advertise and decline to give his discovery to the public, he would be pronounced a quack and a humbug, although he may have spent his entire life and all his available funds in perfecting his investigation. Again we say, "absurd."

If an ulcer is found upon one's arm, and is cured by some dear soul of a grandmother, outside of the code, it will be pronounced by the medical profession an ulcer of little importance. But if treated under the code, causing sleepless nights for a month, with the scientific treatment, viz., plasters, washes, dosing with morphia, arsenic and other vile substances, given to prevent blood poisoning or deaden pain, and yet the ulcer becomes malignant, and amputation is made necessary at last, to save life, yet all done according to the "isms" of the medical code, this is much more gratifying to the medical profession, and adds more dignity to that distinguished order than to be cured by the dear old grandmother's remedy. This appears like a severe arraignment, yet we believe that it expresses the true standing of the medical profession in regard to remedies discovered outside of their special "isms." One of the most perplexing things of the day is the popularity of certain remedies, especially Warner's safe cure, which we find for sale everywhere. The physician of the highest standing is ready to concede its merits and sustain the theories the proprietors have made—that is, that it benefits in most of the ailments of the human system, because it assists in putting the kidneys in proper condition, thereby aiding in throwing off the impurities of the blood, while others with less honesty and experience deride, and are willing to see their patient die scientifically, and according to the code, rather than have him cured by this great remedy. Yet we notice that the popularity of the medicine continues to grow year by year. The discoverer comes boldly before the people with his merits, and proclaims them from door to door in our opinion much more honorably than the physician who, perchance, may secure a patient from some catastrophe, and is permitted to set a bone of an arm or a finger, which he does with great dignity, yet very soon after takes the liberty to climb the editor's back stairs at 2 o'clock in the morning paper that "Dr. So-and-so is in attendance," and thus secures for his benefit a beautiful and free advertisement. We shall leave it to our readers to say which is the wisest and most honorable.

He Could Sing.

Several years ago one of our northern boys, when, as yet, steamers were frequent visitors, a certain small boat used to ply, touching at various points, according as its freight or the weather demanded. The crew was somewhat limited, consisting of the captain, the first mate, whose name was Barnabas, and cook, John, who, when stress of work required, also acted as second mate. John was an excellent cook and a fairly good sailor, but was afflicted with an impediment in his speech which made him somewhat backward in expressing himself, and was especially annoying, if, for any reason, he becomes excited. At such times the more he wanted to say something the less he was able to say it. Fortunately, however, he could sing as straight as any one. One day the Captain was below taking a nap, while Barnabas and John were running the boat. A sudden squall happened to come up, and a puff of wind brought the boom around with such unexpected violence as to knock the unwary Barnabas overboard. Thereupon John rushed into the cabin in the wildest excitement to inform the Captain of what had occurred, but, as usual, he was unable to get out a coherent sentence. "B—b—b—" he stammered, until the Captain, in a rage, shouted: "Thunderation! man, sing if you can't say it," and John, catching at the happy suggestion, sang: "Overboard is Barnabas, Half a mile astern of us." The boat was immediately put about and the luckless Barnabas recovered.—Detroit Free Press.

A Bet Easily Won.

Robinson—Did you ever notice, Brown, the habit Dumley has of saying "What's that?" to every remark made to him? Brown—No; I think you're mistaken, Robinson. Robinson—I'll bet you five dollars that you can't make a remark to him that he won't say "What's that?" Brown (puts up the money and accosts Dumley)—Will you have something to drink, Dumley? Dumley—Doncare, N. Y. Sun.

A Waste of Time.

Mother—"What did young Mr. Tompkins say to you, Clara, last night, while he was to button your glove?" Clara (sighs)—"He said the man who would make a glove that wouldn't button easier than that ought to be hanged."

Agents.

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Commercial Honesty.

Confidence between dealer and customer is a grand thing. It's got to have a deeper foundation than that one man has the goods and another wants them. Without seeming censorious, it's got to have a more substantial base than even commercial honesty. That tolerates adulterations of goods, admixtures of poor materials and good and runs its risks, it needs be, of being found out. If anyone in business wants to get firmly rooted in the esteem of those he deals with, he must be ready to go a step further—be sponsor for what he sells out-and-out, or ready to make it good. Confidence is sure to follow such a course. It may seem like giving a heroic character to business to put it on the same footing as morality, but that's the only price that will purchase the confidence of others. Integrity can't be made two-faced. Young man about starting out in business, ponder this.

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DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

A Famous Detective's Ideas Concerning Their Protection and Employment. The question arises as to how these men can be employed. Of course, it is not possible to force these men into employment; neither would it be proper to put them into responsible positions. They should be graded according to their intelligence and education. There are many places where men of this kind could be employed where there would be no motive for them to steal, and where it would be impossible for them to do so. Many of them would find employment themselves, and, if let alone, would continue in such employment, but some society would have to be formed similar to the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to protect them. Its agents should be in all parts of the country. For instance, where a man has been convicted of a crime in New York, on being released from prison it might be necessary, in order to keep him away from his old associates, and give him a new start in life, to send him to some other city or locality. Communication should be kept up between these various agents of the society in the different parts of the country, and one could help the other. I am satisfied that if an organization of this kind were once started and properly managed under honest and competent officers and agents, it would soon gain the confidence of the public and charitable men and women who would come to its aid, and be among the most earnest and influential looking toward the reformation of these men and women. Men coming from prison would soon learn to have confidence in the society, and would be convinced that they could trust it, and that people merely for the sake of curiosity could not ascertain anything in regard to them. Of course there would be criminals who would endeavor to impose on the society and try to use it for the purpose of promoting some of their schemes, but I venture to say that the number would be very few. The society should also make it a rule that where an effort had been made to reform a man, and he had intentionally and willfully deceived the society, it should pursue a life of crime, the society's course would be to give information to the police which would enable them to follow the man and cause him to again be stopped in his criminal career. There are already "prison aid societies," no doubt they are of considerable benefit, but their means are not sufficient to enable them to be of a great deal of service, and men who have been criminals and to whom I have talked in regard to reforming, have expressed to me their lack of confidence in them. The invariable conclusion reached has been that the principal thing that is given by them is advice and very little assistance. It is just possible that this may arise from lack of funds. If a society of this kind were organized of course it would be necessary to keep a complete record of all those who had been assisted, and the employment they had been put at. It would also be necessary for the agents of the society to keep a look-out for the welfare of these men, and to see how they were getting along. The books and records of the society should of course be considered secret, and no information should be given from the same unless the society's agent were thoroughly convinced that it was for the purpose of aiding the ends of justice. Whenever a complaint was made about any one who had been a criminal that he was being persecuted by police-officers or others, the society should at once take steps to put a stop to such persecution. A man who has been known as a professional criminal, starting out to reform, has an almost impossible task to accomplish, and although a number have succeeded, very many have been forced back from their good resolution by persecution on the part of police-officers and those who have known them in their criminal career.—Robert A. Pinkerton, in Chicago Inter-Ocean.

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