SUGAR A STRENGTHENER.

Russian Wrestler Declares it Adds to

Height and Strength. Various reasons have been assigned for the increase in stature and strength of the modern maiden, who has most certainly grown uncommonly tall and proportionately muscular during the past few years. It eannot be that out door sports, gymnastic exercises, and so on, have stretched her out and made her as strong as she is, because her brothers have precisely the same advantages and they have not developed at the same rate. It seems to me, therefore, that the secret lies in the fact that of recent years girls have become far greater consumers of sweetmeats than ever were their mothers and grandmothers.

Time was when we should never have dreamed of having sweets on our luncheon, dinner and tea tables. Now it would be quite extraordinary were one not to offer these dainties. And, what is more, we are not merely content to eat sweetmeats at our meals, but we consume them at all times and in all places between meals. It was recently said that boxes of bonbons play a conspicuous part in modern lovemaking, "sweets to the sweet," being apparently the text by which every young man of the day guldes himself through the devious paths of courtship.

The great Russian wrestler who is shortly to enter again into contest with the Turk, Madrall, tells us that the more sweet stuff one cats the stronger one grows. Sugar Is the seeret of strength, he declares .- Lon-

Indians' Deadly Foe.

"The full blooded Indians of the United States are scarcely holding their own in point of increase of population," remarked Capt. Downs, special Indian agent of the United States Government.

"In some of the tribes there is a slight Increase, but it is among the mixed breeds and not among those of pure aboriginal stock. The deadly foe of the red man continues now, as for many years past, to be tubereulosis.

"Just why this disease should seem to commit greater ravages among the Indians is difficult to understand. At first the theory was that it was due to their changed mode of existence; that the transition from a savage to civilized life made them peculiarly susceptible. I. am inclined to think that there is but little basis for this view, especially as the number of victims claimed by consumption shows no sign of diminution, although many years have elapsed since the Indian forsook the primitive ways of living.

"A more reasonable explanation is found in the present habits of the people. In building their teepees or log houses they make very scant allowance for ventilation, and sleep in quarters from which fresh air is largely excluded. Besides, a dozen er more individuals will occupy a room that ought not at the most to contain more than two. Another bad practice of which it is difficult to break them is that of the common pipe. A group of Indians will take turns in smoking the same pipe, and if one of the party be diseased there is always the danger of its being transmitted.-Washington Post.

Lake Turns Red.

One of the natural curiosities of Switzerland is Lake Morat, which turns blood red every tenth year.

For centuries this freak was regarded by the Swiss with superstitious dread, and not until scientists turned their attention to the matter was the helief in the supernatural partly removed. Even now some of the more ignorant persist in regarding the omen as one of evil import.

The reddish color is given the water by a minute plant closely related to the red snow.

Every tenth year this plant begins to propagate, and so quickly does it grow that in a short time the whole lake is a crimson tide. The plant is so minute as not to be perceptible without the aid of a microscope, and there was some foundation for the early belief that the lake had turned into a sea of blood.

Business of an Empire.

An idea of the cost of running a great nation may be gained from the statement that England's balance sheet for the last fiscal year shows an expenditure of considerably more than three-quarters of a billion dol-The exact amount was £151,-769,000. To meet this revenues were raised amounting to £153,707,-000, leaving a surplus on hand of £1,938,000. Of this vast expenditure £66,200,000 went to the army and mavy, £924,000 for dispensing justice, and £15,161,000 was spent on education. There is one entry under expenditure which reveals the magnitude of the empire's business. It is that for "stationery and printing," and shows that three-quarters of a million pounds was expended on this item alone during the past year. -Leslie's Weekly.

Madrid still has the medieval night watchmen. They admit late comers to the apartment houses at night, but no longer sing out the hour or the condition of the weather. They still go by the name of "sereno," which they got from the fact that, as it seldom rains in Spain, their cries about the weather generally ended with that word ("las tres

One-sixth of the members of Camp Nome, Arctic Brotherhood, are col-

ROOSEVELT AS A BEAR HUNTER.

Black Sort Not a Formidable Brute

-Easily Loses its Head. Ordinarily, however, a black bear will not charge home, though he may bluster a good deal, says the Prosident. I once shot one very close up which made a most lamentable outers, and seemed to lose its head, its efforts to escape resulting in its bouncing about among the trees with such beedless hurry that I was enally able to kill it.

Another black bear, which I also shot at close quarters, came straight for my companions and myself, and almost ran over the white hunter who was with me. This bear made no sound whatever when I first hit it, and I do not think it was charaing. I believe it was simply dazed, and by accident ran the wrong way, and so almost came into collision

However, when it found itself face to face with the white hunter, and only four or five feet away, it prepared for hostifities, and I think would have mauted him if I had not brained it with another bullet: for I was myself standing but six feetorso to one side of it. None of the bears shot on this Colorado trip made a sound when hit; they all died silently, like so many wolves.

Ordinarily, my experience has been that bears were not flurrled when I suddenly came upon them. They impressed me as if they were always keeping in mind the place toward which they wished to retreat in the event of danger, and for this place, which was invariably a piece of rough ground or dense timber, they made off with all possible speed. not seeming to lose their heads.

Frequently I have been able to watch bears for some time while myself unobserved. With other game I have very often done this even when within close range, not wishing to kill creatures needlessly, or without a good object; but with bears, my experience has been that chances to secure them come so seldom as to make it very distinctly worth while improving any that do come .- New York Mail.

Edict Against the Almighty.

The conviction has long prevailed that boldness and resolution are innate in the Anglo-Saxon races, but a recent example of unheard of courage is offered by the mayor of one of the cities of Spain, who has openly challenged no less than the Almighty by publicly denouncing His behavior toward the mayor's province in the following interesting decree, translated from a Spanish journal:

"The mayor of the department of Carthanas, to the inhabitants thereof, know ye:

"Whereas the Almighty has not behaved himself properly with regard to this province and city, inasmuch as only one rainstorm visited the country during the last year, and not a single time has it rained during this winter, in spite of prayers and processions, in detriment to the chestnut crops, on which the prosperity and progress of our province

Now, therefore, be it resolved: "Art. 1. If within the peremptory term of a week, from the date of this decree, it should fail to rain abundantly, no one shall attend mass nor say prayers of any kind.

Art. H. Should the drought continue for a term of eight days longer, all churches and chapels shall be burned and all objects of devotion and prayer destroyed.

Art. III. Finally, if within a third term of a week, it should fail to rain abundantly, all clergymen, monks and friars shall be massacred and be-

"And permission is hereby granted to all to commit all sorts and specles of sin, that the Supreme Being may know and understand with whom he is dealing."—Mexican Her-

A Blind Man's Newspaper.

For the first time in history the blind have now a weekly newspaper of their own. It is issued at a penny, too, and contains an excellent record of the events of the week, doings in parliament, the war in the East, and so on. It is called the Braille Weekly, after the French inventor of the greatest system of printing and writing for the blind, and is printed at Edinburgh on a cylinder machine by a new invention which alone enables the paper to be issued at the popular price of a single copper coin -London Daily News.

Occupation and Physiognomy. Calling must certainly have some influence over the physiognomy of the cabman, the omnibus driver, the butler, or the groom; each frequently possesses a type of face which wears so characteristic an expression as to make it not difficult to identify the vocation accompanying We speak also of the legal face, the scientific face, the ecclesiastical face, the musical face and artistic face, the dramatic face, and the military face.—The Lancet.

A few years ago the President decided to appoint Mr. Wynne, now Consul General at London, to be First Assistant Postmaster General. "How will we keep this from the

newspapers?" was asked by some of the President's advisors. "I think that the best way would be to take the newspaper correspon-

dents into our confidence," said the President. This was done, and the secret was carefully guarded for a month, although known all that time by fifty or more Washington correspondents.

-Louisville Post.

THE LAWS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Boers Opposed to Black Man Being Represented.

The difficulties presented to the legislator in South Africa are greater than those in any other British colony or group of colonies. Foremost among them is the political position of the black races. Two years ago an intercolonial conference met at Bloemfontein, which resolved that a commission be appointed to gather information and make recommendations "with the object of arriving at a common understanding on questions of native pollcy." Six months later a commission was chosen consisting of eleven members, representing all the South African colonies. After an investigation lasting many months, during which the commissioners travelled all over South Africa, they prepared a report which has been published by the Colonial Office. The first matter dealt with by the commission was the definition of the word "native." It was decided that the world should mean an aboriginal inhabitant of Africa south of the equator; a half-caste, that is, the offspring of a white and an aboriginal parent, and the offspring of a halfcastes and an aboriginal. According to this definition, the child of a halfcaste and a European is not regarded as a "native."

A far more difficult question was next considered, that of the representation of natives in the colonial parliaments and in the future federal parliament. In the Cape Colony all who have the requisite qualification, European or native, possess the franchise. As a consequence, the number of native voters is increasing every year and threatens in time to outnumber the wihte vote. The commission, while deeming it necessary that the natives should have some form of representation, rejected, unhesitatingly, the proposition that "full and equal political reghts should be granted to all classes of men fulfilling the necessary franchise qualifications." It was resolved to recommend the adoption of the New Zealand plan for the representation of the Maoris-that is, that the natives should elect a certain number of members, "not more than sufficient to provide an adequate means for the expression of native views and the ventilation of their grievances, if any; the number of members not to be regulated by the numerical strength of the native vote, and no native to vote at the election of any candidate or member who is to represent Europeans."

The adoption of such a scheme would involve the curtailment of native rights in the Cape Colony and Rhodesia (where the Cape Colony system prevails) and the granting of the limited franchise to the natives in Natal, the Transval and the Orange River Colony, where they have hitherto had no

The Boers, who are about half the population, are bitterly opposed to any sort of representation of black or col-

The Shah's Strange Fear.

There was an element of humor in the interview which took place in Paris between the Shah of Persia and M. Curie, the French scientist. His majesty had expressed his desire to see the wonders of radium, so a telegram was sent to M. Curie asking him to present wager. himself at the Elysee Palace Hotel, says the London Chronicle.

"Your name and your great discovthe Shah, after the manner of an "Arabian Night" potentate addressing a magician. "I wish to see this famous radium, which is described as having the most marvellous powers."

"Sire," replied M. Curie, "I can satisfy your curiosity, but not here, for the light is too strong. In order that you may properly see the brilliance of radium I must show it in a room which

is dark-entirely dark." The Shah, whose nervousness is very well known, did not take kindly to the idea of a dark room, and called his grand vizier, who suggested drawing the curtains of the room, but M. Curie persisted that blackness was necessary. Thereupon the Shah called M. Paoli. the French detective protector of royalties, who assured his majesty that there was no danger. So the party descended to the underground apartment in the hotel known as the safe room.

M. Curie began expounding the properties of radium, and then gave a signal for the electric light to be switched off. Immediately a panic seized the Shah's suite and all cried out in Persian and in French, "Light! Light! Turn on the light!" The electricity was switched on again, and the disappointed savant was forced to show his radium in a lighted room.

A Day's Doings in New York. Every40 seconds an immigrant ar-

Every 3 minutes some one is arrest-

Every 6 minutes a child is born. Every 7 minutes there is a funeral. Every 13 minutes a couple get mar-

Every 42 minutes a new business firm starts up. Every 48 minutes a building catches

Every 48 minutes a ship leaves the harbor. Every 51 minutes a new building is erected.

Every 55 minutes a passenger train arrives from some point outside the city limits. Every 1% hours some one is killed

by accident. Every 7 hours some one fails in busi-Every 8 hours an attempt to kill

some one is made. Every 81/2 hours some couple is divorced. Every 10 hours some one commits

sulcide. Every 2 days some one is murdered, SOME VERY STRANGE DISHES.

Savages Not Only Ones with Fastidi ous Tastes.

In America horse flesh is sold surreptitiously, masquerading as beef. In the markets of most European cities horse and mule flesh is sold openly, in some cases, however, being under the surveillance of the police. "The Greeks ate donkeys," they say, "and if donkeys were edible, why not horses to-

A strong prejudice was manifested against eating horse flesh when its use was first proposed, but this feeling is rapidly vanishing, and hippophagy is as common as beef eating. The wormout steed finds his way to the abuttoir as readily as the cow that will not give milk, or the stail-fed ox.

Frogs are dearly prized by gourmets | ed with the utmost simplicity. the world over. Snails are devoured in France, and help to tickle the Jaded palate that has become cloyed with swollen goose liver and decayed salmon roes. The snatis that are eaten are the every-day, slimy little mollusks that are to be found by thousands in the gardens, vineyards and woods of the provinces of Burgundy

and Provence, and in Switzerland. Australian natives are fond of butterflies and declare them to be more nourishing than the flesh of kangaroes or fowls. The butterflies are pounded into a sort of cake.

The aborigines of South America and Africa consider the guana, a large lizard, a great delicacy. These lizards are not unlike a small crocodile, but are far more unsightly than that crea-

In Australia several kinds of snakes are eaten roasted. They are said to be equal in delicacy and flavor to the finest stewed cels. An English traveler declares the steam from the roasting reptiles is by no means unsavory.

Some folks in Russia will pledge their friends in a gobiet of unrefined lieve is obsolete,- very real human train oil, and not so long ago dwellers on the American prairies esteemed a glass of buffalo's blood the richest drink on earth.-What-to-Eat.

Curious Historical Wagers.

In the year 1787 a farmer laid a wager that he would eat two dozen penny mutton pies and drink a gallon of ale in half an hour, a feat which he easily performed well within the specified limit, says the Queen. In about half an hour afterward he devoured a three-penny loaf and a pound of cheese and then attacked a leg of pork.

A few years later, when the prince regent was enlivening Brighton with his vagaries, the notorius Sir John Lade made his celebrated wager that he would carry Lord Cholmondeley on his back twice around the Steine. As Sir John was short and his opponent tall, much curiosity was aroused, and many spectators, including ladies, came out to see, but were all balked of the spectacle by the knight declining to bear the nobleman except in the minimum of clothing, declaring that there was nothing in the conditions calling upon him to carry extra weight.

Of quite another kind was the wagering by a gentleman that he would stand all day upon London Bridge with a trayful of new sovereigns, but be unable to sell them at a penny apiece, and, like Sir John Lade, he won his

In 1806 a curious wager was laid between two gentlemen as to who should assume the most singular character at cry are known to us in Persia," said a fancy dress ball. The winner paraded with his coat and waistcoat deco ractd with banknotes of different values, a row of five-guinea notes and a netted nurse of gold adorned his hat, while on his hat appeared a piece of paper with the words, "John Bull,"

The loser would certainly appear to have been more original still, for he appeared dressed like a woman on one side, one-half of his face being painted and the other half blackened to resemble that of a negro. On one leg he wore a silk stocking and a slipper and on the other half a pair of linen breeches, a boot and spur, while he was also adorned with half a long-tailed linen

Money in Waste Hardwood.

All the world's woodcutters might be millionaires if they knew how to gather up the twelve baskets of industrial crumbs as does a distilling plant in a Michigan town. This establishment has a capacity of ninety cords of hardwood a day, the wood consumed being slabs, crooked logs, treetops and other hardwood offal from logging and lumbering operations.

From one cord of this material there is made ten gallons of wood alcohol. 98% per cent being pure; 200 pounds of acetate of lime, quicklime being added for this purpose, and 50 bushels of charcoal. Every product of the wood except the charcoal passes off in the form of gas and is reduced by distillation. Some irreducible gas and a little tar product are used as fuel. Nothing is lost.

The alcohol is worth 60 cents a gallon. The acetate of lime is worth 2 cents a pound and the charcoal is worth 10 cents a bushel. The value of the lime used is worth not over onefourth of the value of the acetate. The value of the final product of the cord of refuse wood is, therefore, not far from \$14. The process is not expensive. The plant, running at full capacity, will turn out a product daily worth \$1,200 from material that has but little commercial value in its crude form.-Chicago Tribune.

Plants Affected by Ether. Ether and chloroform, so useful in sending men to sleep, have the very opposite effect on plants, which are stimulated to the greatest possible activity by these drugs. In Denmark and Germany advantage has been taken of this fact to force flowers in rooms and glasshouses, and to make them bloom out of season. The results are said to be marvellous.

If You Want to Read Something Good!

A distinct Christmas flavor tound in Lippincott's Magazine for December adds to the general interest which is never lacking. This is a season of happiness and Lippincott's is happy too. Jolliness, humor and pathos are there, but the deeper tragedies of life have no place in this issue.

The opening novelette, "Of the Lion's breed," is by Grace Mac-Gowen Cooke in collaboration with Vond Reed; and it is good enough to indicate the quality of the seven shorter stories which follow. It is a picturesque romance of the coal fields, strongly dramatic, yet treat-"Josiah Allen's Wife" calls her

amusing contribution "The Last Straw." This may prove illuminative to husbands. Mrs. I Zang will who still writes under her maiden name, E. Ayrton, is the author of "Don Cupid," a sweet child sketch with a grown-up love interest. An automobile racing story by Ralph Henry Barbour, called "Victory With Honor," abounds in humorous situations and lively dialogue. "A Studio Mouse," is a clever tale of artistic life among the "cliff dwellers." In it the Mouse (George Knox) describes a courtship which threatens to cut off its source of supplies. Seumas Macmanus, the Irish humorist, tells 'How Condy Rhu Raised the Devil," and makes it superlatively funny. Ella Middleton Tybout's story, "A Moment of Confidence," shows two pictures of the fireside,which cynics try to make us bepictures, complete in contrast, "The Wildwood Limited" is a story of a locomotive engineer, by Cy Warman, whose name in the line he has chosen has few equals. This tale will be especially enjoyed by railroad men.

Marion Harland once spent Christmas in Beth-lehem of Judea. She describes the Christmas ceremonies in the Church, which is built on the site of the Manger where Christ was born, and gives much interesting news of the town, in her paper in the Christmas Lippincott's.

A paper on "The Modern Lyceum," by Paul M. Pearson supplies up-to date information on this live subject; and Wimer Bedford, a Veteran, writes an anecdotic article on "Some Generals of the Civil War." This will be followed by a second paper of further reminiscen-

Christmas poems by Charles Hanson Towne and Clinton Scollard

mark the glad season.
"Walnuts and Wine" have caught the prevailing happiness and reflect its spirit in joke and verselet.

A Record Crop-

This Year's Production of Corn Breaks All Previous Records.

The corn crop of 1905, according to the American Agriculturist of November 18th, approximates 2,700,000,000 bushels, making the largest ever produced, and 130,000,ooo bushels greater than last year's splended total. The notable thing in ricent weeks was the splendid weather throughout a large part of the corn belt, and the absence of killing frosts until a late date. Eore or less corn in shock in Missouri and Kansat was badly damaged by excessive rains, these causing mold and decay. Correspondents' report an excellent rate of field in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska, 31 1/2 to 38 bushels to the acre. New York is credited with 301/2 bushels and Pennsylvania 35 bushels. The rate of yield for the United States is placed at 28-7 bushels, or one bushel greater than the preceding season.

A physician long in the field of practice says that you can keep a cellar dry by opening the north window and keeping the other windows closed. The wind from any other direction of the compass will cause the cellar to remain damp.

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