

PULSE AND POETRY.

RELATION OF VERSE TO HUMAN ORGANISM.

Experiments Being Conducted to Discover Law of Connection Between Stress in Metrical Composition and Heartbeat.

Berkeley, Cal.—A remarkable set of experiments to determine the relation of poetry to human organism is being conducted in the experimental psychology department of the University of California by Prof. James Main Dixon and Dr. W. S. Wrinch. These experiments, which were begun some time ago, are a field heretofore unexplored by psychologists. They are of an exceedingly delicate nature, and the university at Berkeley is one of the few institutions in the United States which possess apparatus sensitive enough to record the results of the work.

Prof. Dixon has already discovered an emotional curve in poems like Tennyson's "The Bridge." Experiments are now being conducted to discover a law as to the relation between stress in poetry and the beat of the human heart, and the relation between the lines of poetry and the respiration. A large number of tests have already been made, and some provisional conclusions have been arrived at, but before the law is fully determined Prof. Dixon thinks it will be necessary to record the singing of the Doxology or some other song by a whole congregation.

In securing the records to be used in drawing this general conclusion, Prof. Dixon and Dr. Wrinch use an exceedingly complicated machine that records the pulse beat of the person receiving the poetry, the stress, the number of lines, the respirations and the time taken. All these results are recorded on a smoked record and can be preserved.

Prof. Dixon, who is a noted English scholar and author, and who is here doing research work, will present a thesis on his work for a doctor's degree. A great deal of interest is being taken by scholars in the outcome of his researches, and his technical lecture before the Philological club giving the results obtained thus far. In speaking of the experiments, Prof. Dixon said:

"The work we are doing now deals with the expansion and contraction of lines of poetry, according to the subject matter, whether it is happy or sad. An emotional curve has been discovered in poems like Browning's 'Abt Vogler' and Tennyson's 'The Bridge.' Perhaps the most remarkable manifestation of the law discovered was found in Tennyson's 'May Queen.' It was shown that the three divisions into which the poem is divided vary in a most decided manner. The first, giving a mood of heightened happiness, uses 11 per cent. more syllables than the second, which is in a mood of utter depression. The third division is in a mood of resignation or sorrow, and uses three per cent. less syllables than the second."

The results thus far obtained have been sent by Prof. Dixon to the Royal Society, at Edinburgh, of which he is a fellow.

A further examination to find a norm in all poetry—that is, why some lines should have eight syllables and others 15, and why the lines of 15 should break in the middle with a caesura—has been undertaken. It is also Prof. Dixon's purpose to determine what a line of poetry is psychologically. Experiments with the pulse and throat seem to show that a tetrameter verse of our common hymn "Doxology" gives a norm. For every pulse means a stress and every line means the time between respiration. An experiment with the hymn, "Rock of Ages," comes out regularly 16 pulse beats and 16 stresses, four respirations and four lines.

Before he finishes, however, Prof. Dixon intends to record the singing of a whole congregation on a phonographic record, and see if the law holds for great audiences, as well as for individuals. By these experiments Prof. Dixon will seek to draw sharply the line between poetry and prose. At present it is almost impossible to tell the real difference between the poetry and prose. If poetry is a direct appeal to organism, it has a direct connection with breathing and the heart action, and the connection is to be minutely determined.

EATS 73 BUCKWHEAT CAKES

Winner of a Unique Contest at Sharon, Pa., Rewarded with a Fine Bit of Pastry.

Sharon, Pa.—What is undoubtedly the long-distance record in the buckwheat cake-eating line is held by Assistant Postmaster Joseph L. Roberts, who won by one cake in a contest recently conducted under auspices of Dr. S. S. Gilbert.

Roberts defeated Paul Gilbert, secretary of the York (Pa.) Wall Paper company. His record was 73, while Gilbert was able to stow away only 72.

The contest was held at Dr. Gilbert's home, and it kept two cooks busy preparing the cakes.

Dr. Gilbert dropped out of the contest after he had eaten 48, and his son, Joseph, fainted when he tackled No. 59. This left but the two contestants, and the tournament ended as stated above.

The cake, a big prize, was awarded to Roberts.

A Close Second.

With a record of 13 killed and nearly 300 injured, the football season passes into history as a good second to the late Fourth of July.

TRANSPORTATION OF MAILS

Annual Report of Assistant Postmaster General Shows Large Increase in the Service.

The annual report of W. S. Shallenburger, second assistant postmaster general, shows that the annual rate of expenditure for all inland mail transportation service during the last fiscal year was \$67,931,439. To this is added \$2,516,053 for foreign mails. The largest item in the postal transportation figures are the star routes, which number 18,743, aggregating 233,392 miles and an annual rate of expenditure of \$39,177,377; railway post office car routes, numbering 284, with an aggregate of 52,037 miles and an annual rate of expenditure of \$5,518,234, and railway mail service (officers and clerks), 11,444 in number, involving an expenditure of \$12,095,437.

The number of miles traveled per annum by all classes of routes of mail transportation in this country, among which are star routes, railroad routes, special office routes, mail messenger routes, etc., aggregates 505,585,526.

In Hawaii the star route and mail messenger service at the various ports is now so arranged as to connect mail steamers at any time, whether the steamers are running on regular schedule or at irregular intervals.

To indicate the large increase in the volume of mails carried by the railroads it is pointed out that the expenditures for railroad transportation and railway post office cars during the four-year period 1902-05 was \$42,458,146, an increase of over 17 per cent. over the previous four-year period, while the revenue of the postal service was \$139,781,794, an increase of over 40 per cent. over the previous four-year period.

The report says it is evidently the desire of the American people to send parcels of small average weight abroad, and that our rates of postage favor this practice.

SACRED EVEN IF DRUNK.

Queer Privilege Claimed by German Officers—Privates Punished for Protecting a Girl.

Berlin.—A German soldier does not possess the right of self-defense against attack by his superior. This amazing decision has been handed down in a case just ended at Dessau. The facts in the case follow:

Sergt. Heine, who was drunk, entered a public dancing saloon and insulted two girls who were in the company of two soldiers named Guenther and Voight. The girls appealed to their companions for protection, and the soldiers protested to Heine, who drew his sword. He made a drunken lunge with the weapon and slightly wounded one of the girls.

A violent scuffle ensued, during which Heine was disarmed and felled to the floor.

Guenther and Voight were arrested for striking their superior officer. In the trial the prisoners' counsel contended they acted in self-defense. He declared it permissible for soldiers to defend their honor and life, even against a superior.

"Nothing of the sort," responded the prosecuting counsel. "Self-defense is a conception that does not exist in the relations between soldiers and their superiors."

Counsel for the defense asked: "Must a soldier allow himself to be unresistingly slaughtered by a superior officer?"

"Yes," the prosecutor replied.

The court, however, partially dissented from this view. A soldier whose life is endangered might parry, although he must not strike a counter blow. The prisoners each were sentenced to five years' hard labor, in addition to which they were dismissed from the army and deprived of their civil rights. Heine was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for assault.

HINDOO MEDAL TALISMANIC

Brings an American Doctor Costly Presents and a Lucrative Position.

Kittanning, Pa.—Dr. C. A. Flower, of this place, has returned from St. Louis mystified, but covered with presents. He has also proposed to move to India within a year to become a private physician to Rajah Tipo Sahib—a dignitary of whose existence Dr. Flower was in complete ignorance until some days ago, when he was confronted with the rajah's courier in St. Louis.

Eleven years ago, while at Chicago attending the world's fair, Dr. Flower was instrumental in saving the foot of a young foreigner who had been trampled on by a camel. The lad, who appeared to be a Hindoo, pressed on the physician a medal and took in exchange the physician's card.

Some weeks ago Dr. Flower was sent a copy of a western paper, in which his name was mentioned. Would he call at the Indian embassy at St. Louis, bringing with him a medal which was given him for services at Chicago in 1893 by a young native of India? The doctor hunted up the medal and hurried to St. Louis, the advertisement requiring that he should be there before November 24. The Kittanning physician was at once handed presents from the new rajah Tipo Sahib, who, it seems, was the lad whose foot he saved at Chicago. The Indian dignitary proposed that the American doctor would accept his poor presents, and would come to India to live as his private physician. The presents amount to about \$10,000. Dr. Flower will go to India in April.

Remedy Worse Than Disease.

Music may be a cure for nervous troubles, but in the case of compositions like "Hiawatha" and "Bedelia" the opinion will prevail that the remedy is worse than the disease.

A SEEDLESS APPLE.

GROWN BY COLORADO MAN AND EXHIBITED AT FAIR.

Much Like the Jonathan But as Solid as a Potato—Trees Said to Be Almost Immune to Frosts and Insects.

St. Louis, Mo.—That it is just as easy to grow an apple without seeds as it is to grow an orange is demonstrated by John F. Spencer, of Grand Junction, Col., who had an exhibit of seedless apples in the Horticultural building at the world's fair.

The variety, as yet not technically named, is much like the Jonathan. Experts have examined the apple and have pronounced it a wonder. It has been the desire of apple raisers for years to produce a variety without seeds. The core of an apple takes up a goodly portion of the bulk, and the husks surrounding the seeds are disagreeable when taken into the mouth, not being easily dislodged if caught in the throat.

The strange thing about the Spencer apple is that it is absolutely without seeds or even cells. All the way through the meat is of the same firmness and juicy quality.

Placed in another orchard, however, where bees are gathering stores, it is sometimes the case that a speck of pollen from blossoms in the orchard containing the "seed" apples may be deposited by an insect in one of the "seedless" buds.

The result is a solitary seed in the heart of the new wonder in pomology. This is without core or even the usual husk, proving that the seed of an apple has no relation to the fruit, except from the standpoint of germination, neither the flavor nor texture being in the least affected.

Nobody knows exactly how Spencer perfected his seedless apple. It was done by a series of grafting or budding, the intermingling of varieties, until the desired result was attained. All that anyone has been able to find out from the originator is that varieties were crossed and recrossed, the ones containing the least number of seeds being used in experimenting.

But why apples containing a minimum number of seeds, should, by being budded, produce a variety absolutely seedless is what is puzzling pomologists.

A peculiar feature of the Spencer pomological wonder is that the trees do not blossom. A conical-shaped bud, dark green and very compact, makes its appearance, assuming shape of the apple without opening. This, it is claimed, renders it almost immune to frost or ice and makes it impossible for moths or other insects to deposit their eggs, as is easily done when the ordinary tree is in bloom.

WILL DISCOURAGE TRAMPS.

Authorities of New York Town Will Endeavor to Keep City Free from Road Wanderers.

Hornellsville, N. Y.—Chief of Police Hickey has adopted what he intends to be effective methods to prevent tramps making this city one of their stopping-off points.

He has issued a request to all residents to refuse all requests for assistance unless they know the applicant personally and to be deserving. The police have been ordered to arrest at once all men found on the streets who cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves.

The railroad officers are watching all freight trains coming into the city and the hoboes coming in are not allowed to leave the railroad property and go into the city.

The police will temper this severity with reason and unfortunates who reach the city at night and are without funds to receive a night's lodging will be cared for at police headquarters and allowed to continue on their way the following morning.

Should they return the second night for lodgings they are considered vagrants and sentenced the next morning as such.

LEASES CHILD FOR \$5 A YEAR

Resident of Rock Grove, Ill., Turns Over Daughter to Learn House-keeping for Seven Years.

Freeport, Ill.—Grace A. Bolander, a nine-year-old girl, binds herself to serve a seven-year apprenticeship to the housekeeping art, and will take her lessons from Jacob Lauck, according to a unique paper that has been filed with the recorder of Stephenson county. Grace is the daughter of Frank J. and Hat.e E. Bolander. All the parties to the agreements are residents of Rock Grove.

In the paper that has been placed on record the girl binds herself to serve in the Lauck household until she is 16 years old. During that time she is to "serve her master faithfully, honestly and industriously, to keep his secrets and obey his command." The party of the first part agrees to teach the art of housekeeping, to have her instructed in the "ground rules of arithmetic," and at the end of her apprenticeship to give her \$20, a new Bible and two dresses. Aside from this, the father of the girl is to receive five dollars a year for the service of the child.

Famous Female Anarchist.

Louise Michel, the famous French anarchist, has almost entirely recovered from the severe attack of pneumonia which nearly ended her stormy career recently. She is 74 years old.

SOCIETY GIRL A HOUSEMAID

Philadelphia Heiress Takes a Place as Servant to Cook and Do Other Menial Work.

Philadelphia.—Miss Marion Honeyman Wood, a member of the city's most exclusive social circles, a former hospital nurse and actress, is at present engaged in a new venture, and the set in which she moves has been given a new theme for conversation. She is donned the costume of a housemaid, and is serving in that capacity for wages at the house of her cousin, Miss Louise Wood, an artist. She has held this place for the last five weeks, and the matter has been kept secret from most of her friends. Members of her family—she is a daughter of Edward Randolph Wood, declined to give any information about Miss Wood's present venture.

Miss Wood spent the summer with a theatrical company in Canada. This organization failed, and the young woman who had aspired to histrionic honors, returned to her home. While serving as a trained nurse in the Pennsylvania hospital she learned to cook, and this work is included in her duties at the Kittenhouse street home. She wears the usual black, tight-fitting costume with a small apron and cap of white. She has light hair and blue eyes. On every afternoon except Thursday she acts as hallmaid and takes the cards of callers at the door.

She also makes herself otherwise useful about the house. She says she likes the place, and, although the pay is not so good as that received by stars on the stage, she intends to continue as a maid until she has an opportunity again to take up the life of an actress.

Miss Wood says she is very happy, and is not thinking of giving up her place in spite of family protests. She grants, however, that with all its drawbacks, stage life is preferable.

BLIND BOYS PLAY FOOTBALL

Three Members of Kentucky Team Entirely Sightless—Opposing Players Required to Yell.

Louisville, Ky.—The latest addition to the list of things that the blind can enjoy is football. Last summer the sightless wards of the state of Kentucky organized a baseball team and played many exciting games.

This year football was "adapted" for the blind boys, and the other morning they played a tie game of 10 to 10 at straight football against a team that could see.

The game was taken up about a month ago and soon the students had perfected a code of signals and mastered the principle of guards, back tackles and buck formation. For their backs they selected the boys with the best vision, including several who have a fair measure of sight in one eye. Their quarter backs soon acquired such aptitude in passing the ball that fumbles were reduced to a minimum of frequency.

The center, two guards and one of the tackles of the institute team are entirely blind. Most of the members of the team can distinguish an opponent by the color of his sweater. The only regulation laid upon the opposing team is that the quarter back shall call "pass" when he puts the ball in play. At the opening the full back of the opposing team kicked off deep into the territory of the blind asylum team.

Rogner, captain of the blind boys, caught the ball, called to his men to form their interference about him, and plunged 20 yards down the field, running low, swiftly and with utter fearlessness.

FISHES WITH ELECTRICITY.

Pole Seeks Patent on New Time-Saving Device—Bell Rings on Approach of Fish.

Berlin.—The Berlin patent office has had some strange propositions presented to it, but never a more eccentric one than that just handed in by a Polish inventor living here, who has already invented a number of useful machines or modifications of others already existing. This time Polevsky, the Pole in question, asks for a patent on an apparatus which he has just perfected.

It consists of what he calls a telephone fishing device. A microphone and detonator are submerged, but attached by wire to the ordinary telephone in the house of the person who desires to do his fishing in this way. A group of fish pass at a certain distance from the microphone, which, under the influence of the water's motion, causes a ring at the telephone bell in the house. Thus warned of the presence of fish, the "fisher" leisurely turns on the detonator by pressing an electric button, whereupon the fish, suddenly electrocuted, rise dead to the surface.

Polevsky explains that he does not mean this to replace the sport of fishing; it is intended for purely commercial use in seaside cities, where restaurants will find it saves time and is more convenient than the old-fashioned method of fishing immortalized by Izaak Walton.

Might Mistake Wife for Daughter.

At Farmington, Me., recently a girl 15 years old was married to a man who had ten children. He should be compelled to put a tag on her so that there may be no danger of a mix-up.

Good Place to Die.

Gen. Stoessel can't understand why any Russian soldier should be so base as to have doubts about the desirability of Port Arthur as a tomb.

A MARVELOUS VOICE.

NEW YORK BOY MAY BECOME WORLD'S GREATEST TENOR.

Is Nineteen Years Old and the Son of a Saratoga Blacksmith—Lad Can Reach High C Without Effort.

New York.—At the Metropolitan Opera House singing school there is a young American pupil, and neither Heinrich Conried, manager of the opera house, nor Mme. Jaeger, director of the school, will be greatly surprised if in a few years the world recognizes the pupil as the greatest tenor of the time.

The voice belongs to a husky, handsome boy of 19, Romeo Fenton. He comes from Saratoga. The lad's brief history reads like fiction rather than fact. He is the son and grandson of a blacksmith. His mother is a devout woman and an excellent housewife.

So far as anyone knows the boy harks back to no musical genius. When he reached high school he caught the attention of the singing master and became the show boy singer at the school entertainments.

He grew rapidly and in childhood his bulk distributed itself over a big frame. He stands six feet in his socks, has shoulders as broad as Pol Plancon, and a chest as deep as Edouard de Reszke. He has big, deep blue eyes, wavy brown hair and a complexion of the kind women sometimes try to buy in shops.

If he attends to business, and doesn't get a swelled head, he will probably be chosen as one of the six or eight picked from the school each spring to go abroad with Mme. Jaeger, visiting France, Italy and Germany, and spending the summer in study at Mme. Jaeger's home in the Austrian Tyrol.

Mme. Jaeger's son said about young Fenton:

"The boy has an unusual voice. It is a most natural young voice and of beautiful quality. When he opens his mouth a stream of melody seems to flow from his throat. He sings B flat now, and is sure to go above high C with training, and that note is as high as the greatest tenors sing. I have known the beginnings of some of the greatest tenors, and young Fenton has a much better voice to begin with than they."

"It is literally true that he starts with no bad singing faults. If he keeps his head and devotes himself to hard, conscientious, intelligent work he has a great future. But all the singing possibilities of the future do not appeal much to the boy's father. When anything like a career is mentioned to him he replies: 'That's all very well. The boy can try it for awhile down here in New York, but the place for him is at home.'"

THIS MULE BIGGEST EVER.

Comes from Missouri, of Course, and Bears the Well-Known Name of Folk.

Philadelphia, Pa.—For an hour the other day Broad street was all but blocked by a crowd of several hundred men that had gathered about a mule that stood in front of the Betz building, placidly gazing over the heads of the throng.

The mule, which had just been purchased by Vare Bros., is believed to be the largest animal of its kind in the world.

It was born in Missouri seven years ago, weighs 1,900 pounds, and stands 19 hands, or 7 feet 11 inches, high, and has been on exhibition at the world's fair in St. Louis.

It was there that Senator George Vare first saw the animal, and it did not take the senator long to decide that folk, as the mule is called, in honor of the governor-elect of Missouri, was just what he wanted for work on the South Philadelphia boulevard.

Folk had won blue ribbons at the fair for size, weight, strength and general conformation, and came high, but Senator Vare had made up his mind to have him and the purchase was made.

The mule reached here, and about noon the other day it was driven up Broad street as far as the Betz building, where it was admired by hundreds of Senator Vare's friends and acquaintances.

The mule is so large it cannot get between the shafts of any ordinary vehicle, so it will be used as a "lead" for the horses that are working on the boulevard.

Jails in Disuse.

Columbus.—The state board of charities makes a commendatory report upon the morals of the villages of Hollansburg and Webster. Darke county, as secured from information given by the board of visitors of that county. When the members of the Hollansburg jail wanted to inspect that prison the town constable was unable to open the lock, as it had become so rusty from long disuse. At Webster the key to the "lock-up" could not be found, and the oldest inhabitant did not know who kept it.

Tramp Is Wealthy.

Detroit, Mich.—Otto Ganz, a tramp, was arrested for begging on Grand River avenue the other day. Police-men went through his clothing and nearly fainted when they found 1,400 shares of western mining stock, 600 shares in a salt works, deeds to 13 lots in New York city, and \$11.65 in cash. Ganz claims he came to Detroit from Columbus, O., but declined to give a history of himself. He was sent to jail. It is believed he is mentally unbalanced, and may have wandered away from home.

The First Shackles.

The first thing the zemstvos should ask of that proposed Russian legislature is authority to change their names.

KEEPS COW IN HER PARLOR

Buffalo Woman's Home Also Houses Her Pigs, Goats, Dogs, Chickens and Children.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Dr. William B. May, an inspector for the health department, and Detectives Condon and Shook, under orders from Capt. Ward and Health Commissioner Greene, investigated a case of unsanitary living the other day, which they say is beyond belief in this age of unlimited soap and water and rigid sanitary regulations. The case was at the seawall at the foot of Michigan street, in the house of one Ludwig Staronski. The house is a small frame dwelling of three rooms.

Dr. May's report on the conditions in substance is as follows: "The premises were in the most unsanitary condition possible. Adjoining the house on the rear is a small summer kitchen. In that apartment was a closet in which a pig was quartered. The improvised sty was so narrow that the animal was unable to turn around. In the front room, what might be termed the front parlor, was a cow."

"While we were on our tour of inspection," said Dr. May, "two goats dropped in to see what was going on. The stench was unbearable. Four dogs comprise the rest of the menagerie, not to mention the numerous chickens which were allowed to roam at will around the house. We were informed that eight persons, including some small children, lived in the small rooms, along with the cow, the pig, the goats, the dogs and the chickens."

"As it was a violation of the health ordinances to keep a cow within the city limits without a license," said Dr. May, "I informed Mrs. Staronska that she would have to dispose of the animal. That she promised to do. She also said she would kill the pig within a few weeks. It could not be learned that the Staronskis sold any of the cow's milk."

PENSION LIST INCREASING.

More Than a Million Names Added to the Roll, and More in Prospect.

Washington.—The pension roll of the United States has reached the high water mark, now containing 1,000,81 names, an increase of more than 4,000 since June 30. In his last annual report Commissioner Ware stated that the pension rolls then carried more than 997,000 names. That was in June of this year. For the first time in history the pension roll is above the 1,000,000 mark, and it will be further enlarged as a result of the operation of order No. 78, the issuance of which precipitated a partisan debate in congress last winter.

Adding to the rolls thousands of veterans who were previously ineligible is not the only effect of the rule providing for old age pensions. Announcement is made unofficially that on account of the falling off in work in the pension bureau, due to order No. 78, it will soon become necessary to dispense with about 500 clerks.

Many of these will be dismissed, and some given appointments in other departments by transfer. The age rule will have another effect more far-reaching and widespread. There is a pension board of medical examiners in nearly every county in the United States. Under order No. 78 a veteran is placed upon the rolls immediately upon application when he reaches the age of 62 years. This, of course, obviates the necessity of medical examination, and hence will result in a reduction in the number of boards.

HEADSTONE FOR HORSE.

Lover of Steeds at Le Sueur, Minn., Erects Marble Shaft Over Grave of Pet Animal.

Le Sueur, Minn.—George M. Touseley, of Le Sueur, is a great lover of horses, and his love for them takes a different trend than is usually the case with horsemen. He cares not particularly to use or drive them, but merely to have them in his ownership, and see that they have a good time.

He has a very large farm adjoining Le Sueur, and on the farm he has a drove of horses that roam about the broad acres practically in a state of nature, wild and untrammelled.

They never do any work, and are not even broken.

He has about 18 of them in this condition, and several of them are seven years old, but never had a strap on them.

For several years he had a favorite horse, old Prince, who lived to be 25 years old, was raised by Mr. Touseley from a colt, and died in harness one day. Mr. Touseley buried the faithful old horse not far from his house and set up a marble headstone over the grave.

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Winning a Home.

A Chicago man transferred a house and lot to his fiancée before the wedding. There's one woman who really has won a home.