

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERY DAY LIFE.

Queer Episodes and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A BUFFALO man who recently did Chinatown while in San Francisco received a shock the other night that he will not forget for some time to come. Returning home late in the evening he felt a stinging sensation on the surface of his right leg. He examined the spot and was dumfounded to discover a large brown patch on the skin, which his wife at once pronounced to be Chinese leprosy. Doctors were hastily sent for and after four of them had been in counsel for an hour no decision was arrived at. The patient was put to bed, where he lay and groaned as he thought of his skin drying up and his limbs dropping off at the joints. His heart-broken wife sat by his bedside and forgot in her grief the aggravating toothache from which she had suffered all day. But the tooth finally made its presence known, and she hesitatingly asked, "George, dear, did you forget to bring the toothache drops I asked you to get?" "No, Mary," feebly answered the afflicted husband. "You will find it in my right-hand trousers pocket." But, alas, for the toothache, there was not even one drop left, for the bottle had become uncorked, and the brown patch on George's leg had absorbed all that the bottle originally contained.

"It is a well-established fact," said a Buffalo man the other day to a Buffalo News reporter "that some dogs will eat almost anything in the way of food, and we also frequently hear of cases where the animal displays a marked appetite for intoxicating liquor, but I've got an Irish setter that caps the climax in my opinion. 'Did you ever hear of a dog liking onions? No! I thought not. Well, this setter of mine would, I firmly believe, run a mile if he thought he could get an onion at the end of the journey. We gave him one for fun two years ago when he was very young. He snapped it up at once, and ever since he has been growing fonder of them. 'He will wade into two or three old, rank fellows and demolish them with the tears starting from his eyes, and when the light spring onions come around he is never satisfied until he has a plateful with his dinner.'"

THOMAS CLEMONS, a farmer, who has been living in Paul's Valley, Indian Territory, recently went to Kansas City, Mo., to seek medical aid for Rose Lee Clemons, his eighteen-year-old daughter. The girl is slowly becoming ossified. She was born in Tulare County, California, and at birth weighed only one pound, but was well formed. Since then her development has been slow. She is now four feet tall and weighs twenty-eight pounds. She has not a bit of flesh, her skin being drawn closely over the bony framework of her body. She cannot talk because of a malformation of the tongue, but understands what is said to her and answers by signs. She has never been at all ill and eats heartily. Her head is well formed and she has bright brown eyes. The work of ossification has been slow. She can still move her arms and legs, but they are becoming stiff. She has of late been perfectly helpless, and her death is only a question of time. Mr. Clemons sold his farm and has spent almost all the money he had in a vain effort to cure the child.

In the Susquehanna River, near Laceyville, Penn., the other day, two fishermen saw a pair of black bass giving battle to a wall-eyed pike till the water of the pool was churned into foam. The pike was much larger than either of its pugnacious enemies, but it was no match for them. The bass hammered the pike's head for twenty minutes, and the pike turned on them savagely a number of times, but was too slow to strike them. Then the pike tried to dart at him, but he became helpless and floated to the surface. The fishermen hauled the pike into the boat and found that the bass had put out his eyes and pounded one side of his head till it was as soft as a wet sponge. The pike weighed nearly seven pounds.

ONE of the few civilians receiving a pension from the United States Government is an Irishman of peculiarly tough physique, who has the record of having come alive through an astounding accident. He was carrying a torpedo under his arm one day at Newport while he and an officer went in a boat to a point where the explosive was to be sunk, when by some accident the electric connection was made and the torpedo exploded. The man went skyward and lit in the water an eighth of a mile away with one arm shattered, one side shockingly mangled, and an eye blinded. He managed to keep afloat until aid came, and in time he recovered sufficiently to return to work, although not at his former dangerous job.

WORKMEN at the Baltimore and Ohio elevator saw a fight between a crab and a rat at Baltimore. The rat went down a stringer to get a drink and a crab caught him by the head. A fierce tug followed, the rat apparently having the better of it for a while. He could steady himself by his foothold. The crab used his method of propulsion with energy, and churned the water about him. The rat's power of endurance finally gave way, and he fell overboard, but he still did his best to release himself. He struggled hard, but the crab held on until the rat was drowned. The crab was so exhausted by the fight that when the rat floated to the surface the crab swam away.

THERE was a disastrous fire at Freienwald, in Prussia, at which eight people lost their lives. A young man was actively engaged in rescuing men and valuables when part of the house fell in and two rafters caught him by the legs. Both his legs were so tightly wedged between the timbers that he could not be extricated and he was surrounded by flames in a minute. In his terror of having to die a slow death by being burned he cried out to the men to shoot him or kill him in any way so as to save him from burning. But there was none to respond to his prayer. In desperation he fetched his claspknife out of his

pocket and deliberately cut his throat in full sight of all the people surrounding the burning pile.

A **WOODEN-LEGGED** veteran living at Shelton Centre, Conn., set to work recently to make a frame for the support of his tomato vines. In order to keep the posts steady while he nailed the slats, he placed his wooden leg against them and drove the nails in with a vim. After nailing one end he started to go to the next post, and was surprised when he found that he could not move. Visions of paralysis passed over his mind, until, on examining, he found that he had driven the nails through slat and post into his wooden leg.

WHEN a sailing master wishes to buy oysters in the ports of the Chesapeake he runs up to the masthead an oyster basket, and presently has plenty offered at the vessel's side. Down at Chincoteague island the basket at the masthead is sometimes accompanied by a flag of concentric squares in different colors. During the closed season for oysters the basket and flag indicate that the master wishes to buy clams. The Chincoteague clam digger works during the greater part of the year, and a very spry man in a spot where clams are thick can tread out a great many hundred in a day. Clams fetch from \$1 to \$1.50 per 1,000 at Chincoteague.

In Castro, Sicily, a wealthy wine merchant named Billotte and a servant were recently captured by bandits. They demanded \$500,000 ransom. Billotte sent the servant with a letter to his banker requesting him to forward the money. The servant told the police and they started in pursuit. Friends of the bandits wanted them, and after hastily killing Billotte they escaped to the mountains. The soldiers on reaching the spot found only Billotte's body in a pile of burning wood.

STOLEN kisses may be sweet, but they are rather dear at the present market price at Valparaiso. Senor Talca, of that town, kissed a lady without asking permission while walking in the Plaza. The lady appealed to the law, and the gay Talca suffered imprisonment for six days. In an evil moment he also appealed, and was kept in jail two hundred days, while his appeal was being considered. The result of that consideration was the addition of thirty days more to the original sentence.

JUST across the Berkeley County line at Cedar Grove, Va., lives Jacob Lanck. He is sixty-five years old, and one year ago he possessed a heavy suit of snow-white hair. Since then his hair has by degrees turned to its original color—black—and there is only an occasional strand of white remaining. Mr. Lanck has been in perfect health, and his inability to account for the strange change.

AN equine that would have attracted attention even in old Acadia is that driven by Uncle Dennett, of Cape Elizabeth, Me. It consists of a two-year-old bull, harnessed by means of a crooked yoke to a light cart, which is also a boat. By means of reins of rope attached to rings in the bull's nose and nose through most of his horns, he is driven as easily as a dog, and the watertight cart-body easily supports the driver and load.

A SEVENTY year old lady who lived with her son near Lancaster, Wis., was found dead in the garden early one morning last week. Her arms and legs were broken, and her body horribly bruised. Near the corpse was an unruly sheep, which she had evidently tried to drive out of the garden, when the animal had turned upon her and killed her.

The Khan of Bokhara recently decided to help the famishing Russians by means of a bazaar, at which costly articles would be sold by the ladies of his harem. Consequently he ordered several booths to be erected in the hall of his palace, and as etiquette forbids him to admit any stranger, he attended the bazaar alone and bought whatever his seraglio beauties had to sell.

A PHOTOGRAPHER in the Tyrol made a negative of ten tourists against a background of pine woods. When he developed the plate a faithful presentment of a large bear in the act of making for the denser timber appeared in the edge of the forest. Neither the man with the camera nor any of those in the group had known that the brute was near.

ENGLAND'S Queen since the beginning of her reign has only signed one death warrant, which was for an execution in the Isle of Man, the act passed for relieving Her Majesty of the signing of death warrants having, by an oversight, not included that part of Her Majesty's dominions.

An Englishman stalking deer in Glen Tana forest dropped two fine stags with one bullet. The ball struck the first animal in the backbone, killing him instantly, and passed on into the breast of the second.

An Electric Frying Pan.

It is now possible to cook with electricity. The bottom of an ordinary frying pan is coated with an insulating enamel, in which is embodied a zig-zag wire conveying the current. To prevent radiation from the insulating enamel the plate on its under surface is protected with asbestos. The wire is made of an alloy which can stand great heat, and becoming very hot it makes the iron pan hot—about 480 degrees to 500 degrees. The pan does not become incandescent. Meats, etc., can be cooked quickly, and coffee made in a jiffy, while the expense is almost nothing, as the electric current can be switched from an ordinary sixteen-power incandescent lamp. There are no unpleasant fumes and no danger from fire. With an electric frying pan and an electric teakettle a bachelor could prepare his own meals and live well for comparatively nothing. —[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

SPONGE PUDDING.—Two cups of flour; one tablespoonful of melted butter; one cup of powdered sugar; six eggs, whites only, whipped stiff; two cups of milk; one teaspoonful of rose water or other preferred colorless extract; two teaspoonfuls baking powder.

Rub butter and sugar to a cream, stir in gradually the milk, then the frothed whites, lastly, and very lightly, the flour, which has been sifted twice with the baking powder. Bake in cups or a mold and eat with liquid sauce.

DEAD MEN TURNED TO STONE.

Away up among the sagebrush of White Pine, far removed from the shriek of the locomotive and only disturbed by the occasional prospector is a strange, silent city. Once more than 35,000 people carried on all kinds of business and traffic there. It was during the phenomenal rush to White Pine in 1867. Many hundreds of buildings were erected. It was a wild, new city, which never slept, and where were enacted all the scenes which in the telling made Mark Twain and Bret Harte famous. This was the story which an old White Pine man recounted: "Now, if you go there," said he, "you see only a few of those buildings, for most of them have fallen in and decayed. Scattered log cabins yet remain where mountain squirrels scurry to and fro at the sound of man's footsteps. But it is not of this that I started out to tell you, out of asced, silent city where hundreds of men lie buried and where scarcely a headstone marks their last resting place. The headstones, where there were any at all, were of wood and they quickly rotted away. The formation all about there is largely of limestone. Water percolating through it partakes of the nature of lime, and this in many cases has petrified the bodies.

"So if one were to dig here and there in the great graveyard he would find on every hand petrified men. In many cases they are petrified so completely that the entire remains, even down to the features, are intact. The quiet graveyard, stretching over many acres, numbers among its sleepers all classes. There are those who died in midwinter of pneumonia and typhoid fever, for in those wild times men could not take good care of themselves. Desperadoes are there also. Numberless persons, of all degrees, died with their boots on.

"The men who came there on fortune bent embraced all classes. There was the hardened prospector and the tenderfoot, the professional man, the farmer for the first time turning his attention toward mines, and the adventurer. Death settled upon them, high and low alike. Many an eastern family perhaps to this day are waiting for the return of father, son or brother. They have dropped out forever, and there, caught by the underground elements and turned to stone, they lie till the end of time. It is a lonely city to visit now, but twenty-five years ago it was a humming, roaring place, not unlike Creede, only larger. It looks uncanny now and I do not often visit it, but when I do I am constantly impressed with the uncertainty of all human affairs. The old wooden headstones that yet remain are exceedingly suggestive." —[San Francisco Examiner.]

Queer Notions about Snakes.

The African cobra is regarded somewhat reverently by the natives of that country, who, once a year, kill a cobra-de-capello and hang its skin to the branch of a tree, tall downward. Then all the children born during the past year are brought out and made to touch the skin. This, their parents think, puts them under the serpent's protection. The cobra-de-capello divides with the horned viper of Africa the questionable honor of being the "worm of Nile," to whose venomous tooth Cleopatra's death was due.

The Kafirs use the venom of this snake's cousin, the puff-adder, to poison their arrows; and when they have any small quantity left they swallow it, having a theory that it will protect them from the bad effects of future bites.

The Snake Tribe of the Punjab say that the bites of snakes do not hurt them; and if they find a dead serpent, they dress it in clothes and give it a superb funeral.

Some one has discovered that the leaves of a bitter aromatic plant, *Aristolochia ludia*, if brewed into a pulp, mixed with a little water, and swallowed, will often cure the bite of the India cobra. It has been known to cure even when the victim showed no sign of life save warmth of the body; but the most general remedy is the snake-stone. Professor Faraday has found this to be made of charred bone. It is applied to a bite, and when it drops off of its own accord, the patient is said to be out of danger. These stones are used also in Mexico.

Our own North American Indians will not kill a snake in their path. They hold it in reverence, and although they select great numbers of them to use in their snake-dances, they never kill them, but, when the ceremony is finished, take them out on the plains and release them. Some Zuni Indians from New Mexico, with whom I became acquainted, refused to repeat their folklore out of doors for fear the rattle-snakes would hear. —[St. Nicholas.]

AROUND THE HOUSE.

Where ice is a scarce commodity various expedients may be adopted for keeping provisions fresh and for cooling water, etc. Every one knows how much cooler water may be made by putting it into a stone bottle, hanging it to a string and twirling it around, wetting the bottle from time to time with a spray from the watering-pot. A good way of keeping butter or milk cool in hot weather without ice is to fill a box with sand to within an inch or two of the top, to sink the milk or butter in jars in the sand and to thoroughly wet it and keep the box in the cellar.

The good housekeeper is not the one who indulges in periodic scrubbing and overhauls, but one who keeps her premises so scrupulously clean, while she is about her work, that there is never any need to the superficial observer for the stated cleaning days, which like the good workman's systematic care of his engine, keeps the machinery always in working order. The housekeeper whose scrubbing is a continual accompaniment of her housekeeping, must be a careless, shiftless manager. It is the art of keeping a house clean, not of making it clean, that characterizes good housekeeping. It is a disentanglement of the snarls of work, that wear out time and patience, and break down the strength of body and nerve.

The average woman who has not yet learned how to manage her work, wastes about one-half her strength in useless energy, in unmethodical ways, taking ten steps where she need take but one. When work is once reduced to system

and each part follows properly the other, when the housekeeper has learned the true economy of time and strength, we will hear little of broken-down housekeepers unable to withstand the weight of the daily toil which comes to their lot.

A Gigantic Irrigation Scheme.

Beyond all question, the irrigation scheme being pushed in Florida by a number of capitalists of Cincinnati, O.; Philadelphia, and New York is to be the greatest North America has ever seen. It is exclusively a private enterprise, conducted by a stock company that has no bonds to float, no stock to sell, no mortgages to negotiate. At present it is only a big land syndicate, but it may develop into the giant monopoly of the world. The company has had an existence for months, and through its agents has secured at a few cents an acre a tract of land on the St. John and Indian rivers eighty-three miles long and from three to six miles wide. It has three feet of rich muck, and it is estimated, will be worth one hundred dollars an acre when drained. The surveyors have been at work some time preparing plans, it being the intention to drain in sections, so that a part of the land may be available next spring. The entire cost of the improvement is estimated at \$4,000,000 and two years the time necessary to complete the entire work. As fast as prepared the land will be planted in sugar cane. It is believed that on this reclaimed swamp enough sugar can be raised to supply the whole of North America. Truck farming will be indulged in to some extent, and on the higher knolls small fruits. S. A. Jones, of Tampa, Fla., one of the agents of the syndicate, says the improvement will have almost a revolutionary effect on Florida, and will commercially, in the line of sugars, affect the whole world. —[Chicago Herald.]

The Elephant's Delicate Palate.

An elephant's palate is very delicate and the animal is whimsical in selecting or rejecting morsels of food. Sir Samuel W. Baker in his "Wild Beasts and Their Ways," tells an anecdote illustrative of the whims of a tame elephant belonging to the police of Dhulri.

This elephant was fed with rice and plantains. The stems of the plantains were split and cut into transverse sections 2 feet in length. Three-quarters of a pound of rice was placed within each tube of plantain stem. One day, while the elephant was being fed, a lady offered the animal a small, sweet biscuit. It was taken in the trunk and almost immediately thrown on the ground.

The mahout, or driver, thinking that the elephant had behaved rudely, picked up the biscuit and inserted it in a parcel of rice within a plantain stem. This was placed in the elephant's mouth, and at the very first crunch it showed its disgust by spitting out the whole mess. The small biscuit had disgusted the animal, and for several minutes it tried by its inserted trunk to rake out every atom from its tongue and throat.

The Best Talking Bird.

The mina, a bird which is found in tropical and sub-tropical countries, is said to far excel any other animal in its power of imitating human speech. When tamed, the parrot is not to be compared with it, either in readiness in learning or distinctness of pronunciation. So distinct, in fact, is the utterance of the mina, and of some species of parrots which most nearly approach it, that persons hearing them speak at once look round for the human being they believe to have addressed them, and have some difficulty in realizing that the voice was only that of a bird. A specimen of the mina, or hill-mina, as it is called, may be seen at the Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, London. On its arrival it was placed in the tortoise-house. The hill-mina is a small bird, shining coal-black in color, with a bright orange stripe about its head, orange legs, and a sharp, salmon-colored bill, and can speak and laugh in perfect imitation of man, joining in most intelligently in conversation. —[Picaunce.]

Little Curious Things.

If you could cut sections out of the side of soap bubbles, and then had some delicate contrivance with which you could handle the pieces, you would find that it would take 50,000,000 films laid one upon the other to make a pile one inch in height.

The "Coincident Clocks" live at Carondelet. Daniel, the head of the family, his wife and each of their three children were born on the same day of the month. The wedding anniversary of the old folks falls on the same interesting date.

If the boundaries of Custer County, Montana, have not been recently changed they still surround 36,000 square miles of territory, making that one country larger than the five States of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

Dr. Kaysor from his lofty station on the summit of Mt. Rizi, Switzerland, has succeeded in taking some fine photographs of the aurora borealis.

One million dollars in gold coin would weigh 3,685.8 pounds. The same amount of silver coins would weigh 58,929.0 pounds.

In the fall of 1890 G. C. Sexsmith, a farmer living near Atchison, Kas., found an ear of corn which showed an odd number of rows of grain—19.

A Mr. Goodman of London bet that he could smoke 86 cigars in an inch in less than 12 hours. He did it with 42 minutes to spare.

Chemical action formed a stone in the stomach of La Marshale, the famous hurdle-jumping horse of Paris. He died, and the stone, a ball nearly 8 inches in diameter, is in the museum of a Parisian veterinary.

Vulcan, the British ironclad, is provided with a rudder weighing 23 tons, or something like six tons heavier than the rudder used on the Great Eastern.

Charles D. Young, of Denver, Col., has built a perfect miniature locomotive, which is but five feet long and weighs but 235 pounds.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ACCORDING to Chicago authorities the little ones are going to be well looked after at the big World's Fair. There will be a children's home and reche where the little ones can be left in safe hands during the day of sight-seeing. In many cases it will be impossible for the mothers to visit the World's Fair without taking their children, and in so doing they will wish the little ones as well as themselves to take the fullest advantage of the educational facilities there offered. No plan having been made by the Board of Directors for a children's building, and no funds having been appropriated for this purpose, the Board of Lady Managers has taken up the work of building and equipping a beautiful structure which shall be devoted entirely to children and their interests. The Board has secured a desirable location adjoining the Woman's Building on which to build the children's home. The building will have an assembly-room containing rows of little chairs and a platform, from which stereoscopic lectures will be given to the older boys and girls about foreign countries, their languages, manners, and customs, and important facts connected with their history. These talks will be given by kindergarten, who will then take the groups of children to see the exhibits from the countries about which they have just heard.

The question whether a man under twenty-one years of age could lawfully withhold his wages from his father and use them for the support of his wife recently came before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. The son had married without the consent of his father. Both the father and the wife claimed to be in actual need of the young man's wages for their support. The law is well settled that where a minor son marries with the consent of his father, that consent emancipates the son and permits him to apply his wages to the support of his wife, but it was argued that such a marriage without the consent of the father did not have the same effect. The Massachusetts Supreme Court, however, entertained a different opinion on this point and declared that an infant husband is entitled to his own wages so far as they are necessary for his own support and that of his wife and children, even if he marries without his father's consent. The Court also intimated, but did not decide, that in such cases the husband would be entitled to all his earnings, even if more than sufficient for the support of himself and his family.

The United States geological survey has been for ten years engaged in making a great map of the United States, parts of which will be on exhibition at the World's Fair. The piece, six feet in length and four feet in width, now ready, includes the state of Connecticut and a bit of Long Island and eastern New York. This vast map will take at least twenty-five more years to complete. Its detail is such that upon it will be indicated every stream, brook, hillock, mountain, valley, farm, village, and city. It will show every public and private road as completely as a surveyor's map of a small township. This map, when completed, would, if spread out, cover a little over three-quarters of an acre in superficial area. Of course it would be impossible to suspend such a map as to make it available for practical use, and therefore it will have to be published in sections.

Locusts have been doing great damage in some of the districts of Cape Colony, and the Legislature has been considering how to deal with the plague. Some of the Cape farmers believe that nothing should be done. The following clipping is a report of what took place at a meeting of a village council. It is from a Cape newspaper: "Mr. S. Grobler said he had heard about the making of a locust law, and spoke in solemn terms of the godlessness of such a plan. Mr. I. Greeff said that if they would make a law to destroy locusts they must take into account which king is their ruler. Mr. C. Scheepers spoke in the same spirit, whereupon the following motion was proposed by C. Scheepers and seconded by I. Greeff: 'Seeing locusts are a plague which cannot be looked upon otherwise than as a punishment sent us from above, this meeting most strongly condemns the proclamation of a law for the eradication of the said plague.' This was carried."

Mr. W. H. ALLEN of Brooklyn, who has recently investigated the matter with some care and in detail, writes to the New York Press making an estimate that 200,000 aliens annually return from this country to their native lands carrying \$200 each, or \$40,000,000. Many of these are Chinese, who are estimated to have carried out of America \$700,000,000 in the last forty-two years. The annual drain of \$40,000,000 by all the returning aliens, and of \$100,000,000 by European travel of the well to do, however, so far as it actually consists of United States money, is offset by the exportation of goods in exchange for the returning cash, which does not circulate abroad.

MAJOR J. M. BRYAN, of the Indian Territory, seems likely to get the biggest fee on record soon, being no less than 35 per cent of \$8,000,000. This is contingent on the success of the "old settlers' claim," which has been before congress and the Court of Claims for the past seventeen years. It has been allowed at last by the Court of Claims, and an act of Congress has made it a specialty, so that it will take precedence of all others on the docket of the Supreme Court, which has to review the decision, and will be passed upon at its next session. At the late meeting of the old settlers, at Talequah, I. T., Major Bryan's contract, conceding him 35 per cent of the property if the suit was successful, was renewed.

AS the blind person's only association with the world about is by means of sound it is not at all surprising that it is through a musical training that the great majority of them are fitted to earn a livelihood. In various parts of the United States there are now 150 blind people employed as piano tuners. There are fully as many more who are teachers of music in schools for the blind, nearly 500 who are private teachers of music, 100 who are church organists, 15 or 20 who are composers and publishers of music and a large number who are dealers

in musical instruments.

A GERMAN authority says that almost a third of all humanity, that is 400,000,000, speak in the Chinese language. Then the Hindoo language is spoken by more than 100,000,000. Fourth, the Russian, with 89,000,000, while the German language is spoken by 57,000,000. Of the European languages the French is fifth in place.

The pneumatic sulky has come to stay on the race track. Robert Bonner says so, and he is presumed to be able to speak authoritatively on the subject. He is also of the opinion that it is going to revolutionize trotting records, as it enables a horse to travel from two to three seconds faster in the mile. The striking thing about the new sulky is the low wheels. In the old-style vehicle the driver sat between them. Now he sits above them. The wheels average thirty inches in height, about the same as a safety bicycle seen on the roads and tracks. A sulky with the pneumatic tire attachment gets down in weight to about forty pounds, while the decrease in draught is at least 50 per cent. It is Mr. Bonner's idea that a record of 2:05 is entirely possible with this new racing machine.

HISTORY has just made one more addition to the roll of famous Americans whose names begin with "Mc." It is a McLean, the one in whose house Gens. Grant and Lee signed the armistice of Appomattox. Mr. McLean lived so near Manassas, Va., when the war broke out, that his house was soon shot all to pieces. He moved to Mississippi, where a cavalry skirmish converted his back yard into a cemetery. Then he went back to Virginia, and "the surrender" took place on his premises. He was a very peaceful-minded man, too.

The pension agency in Topeka is the largest in the country. It pays out annually \$15,000,000 to the veterans of Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado.

Rats That Catch Eggs.

"Do you want to see something funny?" said a drug clerk to a reporter last evening. Of course the reporter was not averse to seeing something in the humorous line, and so informed the mixer of pills and powders.

"Well, if no one comes in for a moment I'll show it to you," said he, placing a basket of eggs, used in making egg phosphates, from the top of the soda fountain to the counter. "Now stand here and watch the rats," and the newsman stood where he could get a view.

It took but a moment's silence, and then out popped a hoary old rat, soon followed by three more. They seemed to understand their part, and climbed nimbly up a box about a foot high, used in covering pipes, and from that to the tray under the counter where the glasses were washed. Up on top of another box they went, and then to the top of the counter. They looked around, and began to scamper down. The first descended to the floor, the second remained on the box, the third in the tray, and the fourth on the high box. Seeing they were all there, the old rat on top walked to the eggs and picked up one, carrying it with his front legs, walking on his hind feet like a squirrel. He dropped it over and it was caught by the rat beneath, who in turn gave it to the one beneath him. This rat jumped down and rolled the egg under the soda fountain. In this manner they carried down six eggs in exactly one minute, when, thinking the fun was expensive, the clerk drove them away.

"They will steal them by the dozen if I'll let them," said the clerk, "and we have to keep them on top of the fountain." —[Washington Post.]

How Indians Kill Whales.

Life at Neah bay for the next six weeks will be a glorious feast. The Makah Indians have captured another whale, making eight in the last four months. The whale was sighted last Thursday a few miles off Cape Plattery, by some members of the tribe living on Tatoosh Island. Word was sent into Neah bay, and within a few hours seventeen canoes, with an average of five men in each, gave chase to the leviathan, and he led them a merry one, since his capture was not finally effected until nearly noon of the next day, when the tired swishes found themselves over twenty miles off the cape. As the whale proved too heavy to be towed, even by the united efforts of all the canoes, the tug Tyee was engaged, and Friday evening saw the monster safely beached at Neah bay. By this time the bare bones of that same orqual are scattered by wind and wave or lie bleaching in the sun, for, on such occasions, the services of the entire tribe, including men, women and children, are required in stripping the flesh from the huge skeleton, in return for which service each receives a fair apportionment of the delicious meat, long festoons of which will be hanging along the joists and beams of the houses for weeks to come, drying in the smoke of the fires, to be hoarded up for use in the winter months. —[Port Townsend (Wash.) Graphic.]

A Serpentine Mound in Ohio.

One of the greatest archaeological discoveries of years, one that will excite antiquarians throughout the world, has been made near Lebanon, Ohio.

In has been known for a long time that there were evidences of mound builders on the old Stubbs farm, but from the peculiar location and the varied character of the finds they were not identified until Dr. Scoville discovered that they were arts of a single earthwork—a serpentine mound.

Professor Putnam of the Peabody Museum verified the discovery, and pronounces it one of the greatest of American antiquities. Mr. Metz of the Peabody Museum and World's Exposition has surveyed it, and with Professor Putnam is making explorations in it.

The serpentine mound is 1,900 feet long and about ten feet through. The famous Adams county mound is much smaller, and was supposed to be the only one in existence. The find is in a rich archeological district. —[San Francisco Examiner.]

Narrow leather makes very attractive trimming for cloth dresses.