

FOR THE LADIES.

WOMAN'S CHANCE TO MARRY.

A woman's chance to marry at from 15 to 20 years of age is said to be 144 per cent. From 20 to 25 the chance is increased to 52 per cent; from 25 to 30 it diminishes to 18; from 30 to 35, to 154 per cent; from 35 to 40 the chances of an unmarried woman sink to 34 per cent; from 40 to 45 a still greater diminution is seen, her chance being but 24. From 45 to 50 the old maid's chance of getting a husband is but 1 per cent, while from 50 to 55 she is supposed to have but 1/2 of 1 per cent. of a chance.—[New York Journal.

LACE CAPES FOR SUMMER WEAR.

Lace capes fashioned very much like the winter models, with velvet or jetted yokes and collars, have made their appearance, like many other of the season's fashions, long before they are required. These capes are very handsome, indeed, especially those which are jet garnished with expensive cut jet ornaments and fringes. Some costly French capes have yokes and collars of gold and jet net, dotted with cabochons, and a few models are lined throughout with rows of jetted galleon in stripes falling over the cape from the yoke. The cape is thus stiffened to such an extent that it falls in lines that are altogether different from the soft, natural folds in which lace should fall.—[New York World.

MOROCCO REVIVED.

Morocco, an old-time favorite that has not been quoted for many years, is again in the market under its proper name, announces Ada Bache-Cone. It has always been there, but in disguise and degraded to a pretense of something it is not.

Morocco and French kid are the skin of one and the same animal, but morocco is from the grown kid and "French kid" is from the young animal while it is still fed on milk. Grass feeding makes a coarser skin. Cheap grades of French kid shoes are morocco in disguise. It wears as well, I believe, but is not as choice.

But morocco in its own proper guise is not without its beauty. Formerly it took well only such simple dyes as red, but recent experiments have enabled the dyers to produce in it fine mixed tints, and it promises to be popular for house wear.

The slipper de luxe for bedroom wear is of quilted satin outside and fur within. The top is cut to roll over with charming effect.—[Chicago Record.

PARASOLS OF '93.

Lace, chiffon and silk, either singly or in dainty combinations, go to form the parasol of the season of '93. All shades and tones are seen in profusion, both in the sturdy-handled but very well coaching affairs, with their covers of silk, or the fluffy bit of prettiness that will add grace to the elegant toilets of the dame of fashion.

The white ones, suggestive of brides in their snowy wedding garments, promise to be very much in favor with the light and airy costume of the summer girl. A Viennese novelty, which has a fall of delicate chiffon from the under side of the sunshade, is certainly to please, as there is something peculiarly picturesque in the drooping material. The outer portion is very much beruffled and at the very top gathered into a full choux of fine lace that gives a perfect finish to a most exquisite creation.

A bit of Parisian fancy is of copper-colored silk overlaid with fine black point d'esprit. Each rib is outlined with narrow copper-colored velvet ribbon, and the net caught in festoons between them and wandering in half-length jabots from the point of the golden-tipped ribs to the top. An ecrú affair, with the lace of the same hue artistically disposed in gathered leaf form, is another beauty in the notable collection.—[New York World.

QUIET LIFE OF AN EX-EMPRESS.

The widowhood of ex-Empress Frederick of Germany is passed in semiretirement and in the performance of acts of charity. She is one of the few royal ladies of Europe who may be said to take more than passing interest in scientific things, and though by no means a bluestocking, she devotes considerable time to literary studies. Since Frederick's death she has wielded but little influence in public affairs, although the San Francisco Report, says she possesses marked ability in that direction. Of course everybody remembers the diplomatic story crediting her with procuring the downfall of Bismarck and his withdrawal from his commanding position in German politics, and that it was brought about to even up an old score she owed the grim chancellor. Ex-Empress Frederick's years of widowhood are passing quietly and uneventfully. Her devotion to Frederick's memory and her love for her books are the predominant features of her life. She treasures jealously the desk at which her husband wrote his diaries. She is greatly liked by the poor of Berlin, to whom she is a veritable Lady Bountiful, with a big private list of pensioners. Her hair is slightly silvered, but she still has the same quiet soft voice and fascinating smile that made her look like an angel to those who saw her by the bedside of her husband at San Remo four years ago. Three brief months of imperial honors have been followed by a life of sadness, unrelieved save by her studies and her love for her son's children.

THE DISPLAY OF BRIDAL GIFTS.

Fashions in New York remind one of the scriptural allegory relating to the brevity of human life. A new mode springs up in the night-time, is freshened into blooming by the dew of popular favor, then, like a fragile flower, withers in the noontide heat of neglect, or is set down and cast into the fiery furnace of oblivion. I was last week moved to this profound reflection at a fashionable wedding-reception, where all the bridal gifts were displayed.

It is not so very long ago that the practice was voted vulgar, ostentatious, and indiscreet. Without a word of warning whatsoever, we found our honest prejudices cast in our teeth, and an irresistible demand made that we accept the

new regime with shouts of joy. Yes, to-day it is highly commendable to display wedding gifts for the edification, amusement, or admiration of one's guests.

The library is now deemed the proper place for the holding of the exhibition, and no ordinary amount of taste is shown in the grouping and placing of it. China, silver, glass, napery, bric-a-brac, books, pictures, bronzes, marbles, and even ponderous pieces of furniture, are set about with admirable taste. Here, after congratulating the bride, guests hurry to see what has or has not been given, and to gauge the state of the De Jones' finances by the present they offered. Everyone's card is carefully laid on or near the gift given; and at the last wedding of the kind I attended, a flunky in simple livery lingered carelessly in the doorway. He was there ostensibly to render any services needed; but from excellent authority I hear he was in reality a private detective.—[Demorest.

HOW TO MAKE A MILLINER'S BOW.

In an article on home millinery a London journal endeavors to impart to the amateur in cold print the fleeting, intangible essence of a successful "bow," as follows:

"When making a bow, never skip your ribbon. Three yards should be allowed if you wish to trim a fair-sized hat. Never cut the ribbon until the bow is finished. To make a nice full bow of six or eight loops, take the end of the ribbon in your right hand, the wrong side uppermost, holding it toward you. Then plait it, keeping the plaits as straight as possible. Change the ribbon into the left hand while—with the right—you join the plaits by winding them tightly round with thick (No. 18) cotton. Change it back to the right hand, and make a loop, as long or short as you desire, by bringing the ribbon over to where the first plaits are fixed. Plait this loop, and join again. Turn the loop and hold it toward you, make another loop, and proceed in this manner until your bow is as large as you require. To keep velvet, etc., the right side outward, before plaiting give it a half twist. Pass the remaining end round the centre of the bow, being careful to hide the cotton, and then slip it through, drawing it tight. If using one of the popular buckles, pass the end through the buckle, and, in either case, cut it sharply off or secure it at the back.

"In making velvet bows, be careful not to crush the velvet when passing it through the buckle or in knotting it. The tighter your ribbon is tied the better your bow will stand up. The length of the loops can be varied according to fancy or requirements, sometimes cutting some of the loops to make sharp ends. In piece velvet such ends must be neatly hemmed.

"For the straight bows, now so much worn on hats and bonnets, the loops on each tie—bow—should exactly correspond in length, though you may have two short loops and two long ones, a long and short on each side. For practicing bow making get some long strips of colored glazed cambric, and make as many different-shaped bows as you can desire, or secure it at the back.

"When a bow is once made, and firmly tied, it can be pulled into any position. In narrow ribbon, it is not necessary to join each loop; turn the loop each time, holding it firmly, as in the broader bows, and when as large as required, form the bow by passing the end through and drawing it tight.

"Remember that much of the success of your hat lies in the manner in which the bow is fixed. If badly fastened on, it will not stand up in the professional way, and that home-made effect you were so anxious to avoid will be produced. Cheap ribbon is seldom a success in millinery, and good ribbon should never require moving."—[New York Times.

FASHION NOTES.

Cherry-ruby and geranium are two favorite tints in ribbons.

Every-day and business dresses are made of heavy camel's hair in durable qualities.

Some new dresses of woolly looking camel's hair are trimmed with ruffles of black satin ribbon.

The sleeve has at last begun to shrink, so a private letter from a society woman now in Paris says.

Turn-down collars and large puff sleeves are revivals of Louis XVI. and English Charles II. periods.

The use of lace for trimming will constantly increase from this time on throughout the summer.

The latest thing in fans have an outer edge of bat wings in neutral colors. The stem is of white and gold.

A pretty trimming for an evening skirt is a deep flounce of lace, headed with two or three narrow puffs.

Plumets, a French dotted Swiss, with tinted designs, is one of the dainty things in fabrics for summer gowns.

A novelty in evening dresses for the season's wear will be spotted colored tulle, draped over silk of the same color.

The long vamped button boot, with perforated patent leather tip, is the accepted style for walking or carriage wear.

The vogue of wearing bodices contrasting in material and color with the skirt has a constantly increasing popularity.

Plain materials are employed more largely than they would otherwise be, because of the many beautiful trimmings.

Crepon wrought in small dots is the fashionable thin fabric for summer, and will be used by June brides for calling dresses.

Eton jackets, with pelerine ruffles falling across the shoulders in the back and giving a rever effect in front, are seen in new costumes.

The French organadies, shown in all-over designs, with a larger figure of flower thrown to the surface, are charming novelties for the summer.

Irish poplins are among the attractive fabrics shown for handsome costumes, and in the soft gray shades with shot effects they are very beautiful.

Handkerchiefs of pale pink, blue, lavender, green, or yellow chiffon, hemstitched and finished with a very narrow bordering of black lace, are shown.

The lorgnette case has appeared in charming designs of white, rose, azure and violet kid, trimmed with gold and provided with a golden chain and clasp.

New gowns from the gay city of Paris show a careful lack of crinoline. Three scant ruffles flaring at the bottom, which is frequently scalloped, are seen on the skirts of these frocks.

Gorgeous little house jackets, closely copying those worn by the Turkish ladies, show rich embroideries of untarnishable gold thread upon a blue, black, or scarlet velvet background.

Among the new, very soft and beautiful woollens are those covered with small flower-sprays in colored silks. Costumes made of these fabrics have vests and pipings the color of the flowers.

Fancy pins for hats and bonnets have taken a new lease of life, and real gems and clever imitations are seen, while cats' eyes, turquoises, pearls, and bugs and insects in Russian enamel are much in favor.

Efforts are being made to popularize dress skirts gathered or plaited at the waist, but as yet the attempt has been ineffectual, for the majority fit closely at the top, even though they flare at the bottom.

New stationery shows a pale lilac, with address or monogram in darker tones, while light and dark green are also shown, and a dark blue, with white lettering, is a novelty, while gray in the softest dove tints has the address in silver.

Black bordered stationery is no longer the correct thing for mourning. A thick, dead white paper, with the address engraved in rather heavy script, and the envelope closed with black sealing wax, is what the fashionable woman now uses.

The cape promises to be the outer garment of the season. Of velvet, velveteen, cloth, silk, ribbon, and lace, indeed any combination so that the said garment but possess at least three capes, and the wearer may don the garment with serenity.

The Empire coiffure has a strong hold on the feminine fancy and is very generally becoming. It is formed by gathering the hair together at the crown of the head, fastening it there and then disposing the ends in coils and puffs, keeping all close together.

A lovely morning gown for a bride is of heliotrope cashmere with short zouave jacket of white guipure lace. It is confined at the waist with white velvet ribbons. For a simpler gown a striped pink and gray French flannel, with pink and gray ribbon, is pretty.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

A wringer can be cleaned in two minutes by saturating a cloth with kerosene oil and rubbing it over; it will look like new.

Flatirons that show a disposition to rub, while yet a trifle warm, be rubbed on edges and face with tallow; when next put to heat they should, as soon as warm, have the tallow wiped off with an oil cloth, when they will be found bright and smooth.

A splendid fuke for taking out grease is as follows: Take two ounces of ammonia, one teaspoonful of saltpetre, one ounce of shaving soap, scraped fine, and one quart of soft water. Repeat if necessary. This is excellent for taking grease out of carpets, to exterminate bed bugs and to take out paint that was mixed with oil.

Don't sweep with the broom in front of you, as though you were shoveling the carpet. As sure as you do the dust will rise to the ceiling and you will dig the nap from the carpet and shovel it up in the dustpan. More carpets are worn out by hard sweeping than by regular "wear and tear." Sweep with a downward, regular stroke, keeping the dust under the broom. Wring out a house-cloth or mop in soda water, and wipe over your carpet after the dust has settled, and see how clean and bright it will look.

Blowing up Condemned Cannon.

Near Monocacy, Penn., parties were recently engaged in the novel business of breaking to pieces with dynamite the monster steel guns made by the manufacturers of cannon for the government which, after being cast, are found to be imperfect. The slightest flaw, abrasion or crack cause the inspectors to condemn them. These discarded guns cannot be remelted unless they are reduced to small pieces.

The cannons are taken in an out of the way place, where holes are drilled into them and then set off with dynamite, of which material a ton is used per month. Nearly all the guns are shipped to Monocacy station and Birdsboro, whence they are carted to the place where the dynamiting is done. They weigh all the way from four to twenty-five tons, and eighteen to twenty-five horses are frequently required. From a half to three pounds of dynamite is used per blast. Some days as high as 200 blasts are made, and none of the blasted pieces must be larger than a cubic foot. After being reduced to pieces they are sent back to the gun foundries.—[Cincinnati Enquirer.

Which Was First Admitted.

It will never be known which was admitted first—North or South Dakota—says the Detroit Free Press, which makes this explanation: "When the two proclamations were presented for the President's signature, somebody raised the question of priority, and the President, finding it hard to decide which to sign first, ordered the documents, which were exactly alike, to be covered down to the blank left for his name. They were turned face downward, and rapidly changed about until nobody could tell which was which. After this they were turned over, and the President wrote his name on each. The ink was allowed to dry without the use of blotting paper, and then the documents were again turned down and again shuffled about. They were then taken up and the coverings removed. One of them came into the Union before the other the length of time it took the President to write his name."

A single tobacco plant will produce 300,000 seeds.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction.

According to the Chicago Horseman, the question of color of a horse is a very important one with a Russian, and gentlemen of means would never permit other than a white, gray, or black horse to occupy a position in their stable. Their particular fad is to drive a cross-match span composed of a black and a white horse. The majority of Russian horses, however, are grays. Of course there are some mixed colors, but these are used only by the poorer classes of peasants for rough work in the interior districts. So high a value does the Russian place upon color that the Government will have none but white or gray stallions on their breeding farms. In Russia horsemen believe that the gray horse possesses far more courage, is capable of standing the rigors of their Winters better, has greater powers of endurance, and better blood than that of any other color. Their 125 years of Government control of breeding has so nearly reduced the question of transmitting colors to a science that the Government will have only white or gray stallions in service, claiming that color goes with the sire almost universally. Seventy-five per cent. of the Russian race horses are white or gray.

IT APPEARS from British consular reports just published that there is a place on the face of the globe where intoxication, instead of being regarded as a vice, is looked upon as a virtue, and where drunken laborers are actually at a premium. This peculiar condition of affairs prevails in the Portuguese possessions of South Africa. It seems that the natives there, when employed for any definite object, have to be carefully and laboriously instructed how to perform their work. If a man be temperate in his habits he will in one or two months earn sufficient to maintain himself in idleness for nearly a year, and the consequence is that he returns to his home, and the instructions which have been given to him are entirely lost. With an intemperate native the opposite state of affairs exists. Month after month, on the receipt of his wages, he spends his entire earnings in liquor, and never having sufficient funds to take him home, remains with his employer for years, becoming more and more valuable as time passes by reason of the fact that the repetition of instructions becomes gradually less necessary.

The town of Warrenton, Ga., was treated to some excellent music a few days since and the producer was a one-armed colored lad who hails from Florida. The wonderful feature about this talented musician is that he performs splendidly on three instruments at the same time, guitar, harp and a call bell. Having only one arm it seems impossible for him to perform this great feat. His arm his off near the elbow, so to this he fastens a stick about the size of your little finger and eight inches in length, which he uses to beat on the guitar strings instead of picking them. On his shoulder he has a rack to hold the harp in place and he works the bell with his foot. It is indeed wonderful how he can handle these instruments with such accuracy. He is also a splendid dancer.

Says a medical practitioner of long experience: "I believe that a good many people who are supposed to die of hydrophobia scare themselves to death. They are bitten by a dog—perfectly harmless dog, usually—and they brood over it and worry about it until they develop all the symptoms of hydrophobia. I should test every case of alleged poisoning by rabies by putting the patient under chloroform and watching him during the stupor when he is coming out of it. If the convulsions continued then the case would be genuine, but if, in that interval, the patient had forgotten what ailed him, I should laugh him out of it. Dog bites are the commonest of injuries. Even a rabid dog may bite a man without producing any ill effects."

In other countries than England there are peculiar and unaccountable pronunciations of proper names. The island of Terra Nuova, off the coast of Honduras, is called "Turneff." The Boca d'Agua, in Jamaica, is called "Bogwalk," and the Agua Alta, in the same country, is known as the "Wag water." In Scotland there is a county called "Kirkcubright," of which the correct spelling is Kirkcubright. Then there is the Toliver family in this country, whose name is properly spelled Taliaferro.

Four miles southwest of Mount Vernon, Texas, is a great phenomenon on the farm of Marvel Holbert. Last July he dug a well. Going to the depth of fifty feet and getting no water, work was suspended and the well covered up. One day recently Mr. Holbert, passing by, uncovered the well, and to his surprise hot steam gushed out in his face, and on examination it was found that a vein of hot water about six inches in diameter had burst in through the bottom and stands at a depth of eighteen feet, boiling like a teakettle over a slow fire.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S fondness for domestic pets is indicated by the fact that in the grounds of the royal dairy there are two monuments erected by her Majesty's order to the memory of two dogs who she once held dear. One of these canine favorites was a dachshund named Boy, which departed life in 1863; the other a Scottish terrier, Boz, once the property of the Duchess of Kent and afterwards the Queen's favorite. Her Majesty is nowadays especially interested in collies.

The office chair occupied by ex-Postmaster-General Wanamaker, although of the ordinary size, has been found to be so inconveniently small for the Hon. Wilson S. Bissell that he has secured a requisition for a new chair, which will be made of heavy quartered oak, thirty inches across the seat, supported on straight legs, three by four inches, weighing about as much as the heavy mahogany desk before him.

It is contrary to law in Mexico for a woman to take the veil. The Govern-

ment is so strict in enforcing this law that a young woman of the City of Mexico who started the other day to enter a convent in this country was arrested by the authorities and taken back to the city. The plea was that her relatives were opposed to her taking the veil.

An earnest hand-clasp caused the death of Dennis O'Leary, of Bristol, Pa. He was walking in a Boston park, where he met a robust friend. The latter squeezed his hand so forcibly that the nails entered O'Leary's palm, causing a slight wound, from which a few drops of blood issued. Blood-poisoning resulted, and in a few days O'Leary was a corpse.

STATEN ISLAND has its double at the southern extremity of South America, and the name, like that of the New York island, is manifestly of Dutch origin, for its near neighbor is Cape Horn, more properly Hoon, named for a village on the Zuider Zee, and not far away are the straits of Magellan, not of Irish but of Dutch discovery, and properly spelled Magalhães.

An Ohio man has a queer hen. Near the barnyard there is a large "cooler" hanging on a crane; and the hen in question insists on regarding this cooler as her nest. She does not get into it, however, but sits perched on its rim, in consequence of which her eggs are all broken by the fall.

A MEDICAL gentleman in Kansas has succeeded in an agricultural experiment which will interest all classes. He has crossed the tomato with the potato, and produced a vegetable which possesses some of the qualities of both articles. He calls it the "potomato."

WEE HUN PEEK, who was cook in a mining camp only three years ago, is no longer wee in the financial sense. He owns the whole of one and the half of another important mine in Arizona, and is reputed to be worth at least \$3,000,000.

THE BODY AND ITS HEALTH.

A GOOD DENTURIST.—Strawberries eaten after meals make an excellent denturist. Besides cleaning the teeth there is just enough acid to make an antiseptic. One berry crushed and used on the brush will leave a deliciously clean taste in the mouth.

NUTRITION AND CONSUMPTION.—Consumption is the process of pulling down tissue, and the great needful to check and counteract it in its work is to have perfect nutrition so that tissue building will go on as fast as the destruction. Tissue building is the foundation treatment of tuberculosis in all its stages. It must be understood, however, that feeding is not nutrition, and the best of diet may not be assimilated and hence tissue building is not progressing. Formerly consumptives were stuffed with food, and yet they grew thinner; but this treatment is now abandoned. Only such foods are given as can be assimilated. Nearly all cases differ. Every consumptive formerly was fed upon cod liver oil, but now it is given only to selected ones. There must often be given oxygen to stimulate the nutritive organs to the proper performance of their duties. Proper food and proper feeding are now generally supplemented in the treatment of consumption with a good supply of oxygen artificially given. Such patients cannot as a rule live out of doors enough to get sufficient oxygen.

"SLUMPING" IN THE CHAIR.—Grown people and children alike are inclined to fall into a very bad habit of sliding down into a chair and sitting for hours with the spine bent almost in a half circle. That this is injurious thousands of people who indulge in it never so much as dream, but a medical authority asserts that those who have investigated the subject are well aware that it is the cause of many serious ills. The continual strain upon one side of the spinal column, with the corresponding compressions on the other, gives rise to nervous difficulties and affections of the brain. Dizziness, nausea and blind spells are not infrequently the result of this practice. While the strictly upright position is undoubtedly the most healthful, it seems rather hard work to persuade the young and indolent to maintain it. Lazy people and those who love luxury have a habit of "slumping," so to speak, into their chairs and remaining in a semi-recumbent position, with the spine as nearly telescoped as may be. That portion of the human anatomy generally known as the backbone was intended to be worn in an upright position, and the constant pressure of the sections of the vertebrae upon each other is productive of various ills.

Meat Extracts in Sickness.

We have witnessed many changes of opinion respecting some of the commonest articles of diet for the sick. The old view, that calves'-feet jelly was of exceeding nutritive value, was at one time so controverted that the jelly ceased to be much used. It is now sanctioned as having a place in dietetics, and I believe it may be safely regarded as a temporary form of nourishment of no inconsiderable value.

Beef-tea has been in and out of repute, but we have, or should have, no doubt now as to its stimulant and reparative properties. We can not think lightly of it as commonly prepared, for it can certainly prove harmful, when not desirable, as in the case of rheumatic fever. I believe it is right to withhold it in such cases. Again, it is so far apt to act as an aperient that it is best not to employ it in enteric fever, or in diarrhoea, when the bowels are in an irritable condition. Mutton, veal, or chicken essences can, however, be used, having no such aperient action. We have to distinguish between a dietary suitable for acute disease, when we have to wait and tide over difficulties, and one that may be better adapted to restore a convalescent or weakly patient. The highest nutritive value may not be (I think it is not) the most essential point to have regard to in selecting a dietary in acute diseases.—[Popular Science Monthly.

If a horse touches his ears in going under a low bridge, or through a tunnel, he will invariably throw his head up and receive a hard knock. When a mule's ears touch anything his head goes down.

EUROPE OUTSTRIPPED.

The United States Now the Leading Manufacturing Country.

R. H. Edmonds, in the Engineering Magazine, says:

The United States is now the leading manufacturing country in the world. We have far outstripped all other nations in the magnitude of our industrial operations. It is almost incomprehensible that in ten years the increase in capital invested in manufactures should exceed the total value of our manufactured products. The value of our manufactured products increased about 60 per cent; add 60 per cent. to the output of 1890 and we would have \$13,700,000,000 in 1900—but that is too much to expect. The same ratio of growth in mining interests in this decade as in the last would make our mineral output in 1900 nearly \$1,200,000,000, while a smaller percentage of gain only equaling in volume the total increase in 1890 over 1880 would bring the figures to over \$950,000,000. If our coal miners add to the output of 1890 as many tons as they added to that of 1889, ignoring in this the percentage of growth, 217,000,000 tons will be the production of 1900. No other country in the world ever advanced in population and wealth as the United States is doing. The progress of the past shows no signs of halting. In fact, the development of our foreign and domestic trade and commerce, and of our industrial interests is steadily broadening out.

Contrast our position and condition with Europe, with resources surpassing those of all Europe, with wealth-producing possibilities in soil, minerals, timber and climate unequalled by Europe, and practically without limit to their profitable utilization, with a homogeneous population of 65,000,000 people unvexed by the arbitrary regulations of half a dozen different governments, and free from the drain of standing armies, the United States justly commands the wonder and admiration of the world.

Great Britain is no longer the manufacturing center of the world, for we have taken the foremost position in that line. Its vast iron and steel business is yearly increasing in cost of production, while ours is decreasing. It cannot meet the world's growing demand for iron and steel because it cannot increase its production to any great extent. It produces less pig iron now than it did ten years ago. Much of its ore it imports from distant countries. Its cotton is all imported. It spends about \$750,000,000 a year for foreign foodstuffs. On the continent every nation is burdened with debt, and none of them can ever hope to pay off its obligations. Measured by their natural resources and advantages for continued growth against their debts and the many disadvantages under which they labor, they are practically bankrupt. In all of them the cost of production and living must steadily increase. In the United States we have scarcely laid the foundation for our future greatness. In natural resources we are richer than all of Europe; we are paying off our debts faster than they are due, we have barely scratched the ground in the development of our mineral wealth, and our agricultural growth can scarcely be limited.

Fishes That Do Not Move.

A great many of our well-known fishes do not move from Christmas to Easter, and often for a much longer period. I paid a visit to the chief Canadian fish hatchery, which is under the superintendence of Mr. Wilmot, at Newcastle, Ont., early in December. In some of the tanks were carp, and in others were eels. One large eel was in the form of a letter S, and poised midway in the water; when I returned to Newcastle, early in March, the eel had not changed its place or its form, and Mr. Wilmot assured me that it had not moved in all that time. The carp lay close to the bottom of the tanks, and did not move either. They like to go into deep, reedy lakes or ponds, get close to the bottom, and remain there till the ice above their heads has melted. Unless they are disturbed, I doubt if some of these hibernating fishes move so much as a fin during the winter. A frog will remain for four months looking apparently into the heavens with wide-open eyes, without once moving them or any other portion of his body.

At the New York Hospital they related to me a curious occurrence bearing on the hibernation of fishes. In the conservatory in the upper part of the building they had several glass jars in which were gold-fish, which is a species of carp. One morning the caretaker found a jar broken and the water frozen through and through, the fish, of course, being as rigid as ice. The lump was taken away and thrown into an old rubbish barrel, where it remained several weeks. One March day the sun was unusually strong and it split the cylinder of ice, but what was the astonishment of the caretaker to see the tail of a fish wriggling out of a part of the broken block. The actual freezing had not killed the fish, which was removed to another tank, where it swam about as if nothing had befallen it.—[Our Animal Friends.

African Pluck.

Mr. Alfred Coope Here, in his Eleven Years in Central Africa, speaks well of the tribes of the Tanganyika region, which he finds are peaceable and industrious for the most part, but turbulent and aggressive when they have learned to dread molestation by strangers. "It seems hard," he says, "that a man should be called lazy because he has ample leisure between his busy times; who has made with his own hands from Nature's raw materials, his house, his axe, hoe, and spear, his clothing and ornaments, and his furniture and corn-mill, and all that he has, and who, though liable often in a lifetime to have to commence the whole process over again, has the energy and enterprise to do so. Too often have the same people been called savage and bloodthirsty who, through all experience and by all their traditions regarding armed strangers as enemies, defend themselves and their own with the desperate energy which, as displayed by our own ancestral relations, we term patriotism and courage."