

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The original patents on the telephone have now expired and the companies operating wires are only protected by patents on various improvements. It is legal for any one who wishes to build a telephone for himself if he uses only the devices covered by the original patent.

MURDERS and suicides by mere children in France are reported to be very frequent. Nine murders of boys and girls under 10 years of age, committed by boys under fourteen, are noted within the past few months. Suicides are about as numerous. Two occurred a couple of weeks ago, one of a boy, who hanged himself, and the other of a girl, who threw herself into the Seine.

SAYS Captain G. W. Grant, of the English army, who has recently been in Washington: "I have seen most of the armies of the great nations on review, and I consider that the American regular troops are a fine body of excellently drilled and well-officer men; though, of course, the army in this country does not receive the attention bestowed upon the armies of the older nations."

THE Canton, South Dakota News gives an example of how much money there is in poultry raising if carried on by a man who knows how to adapt means to ends. The example cited is that of Charles Majerus. This gentleman owns 211 chickens, and during the year received for eggs, fowls and chicks, breeding stock and eggs for hatching, \$3,228.52. The expenses amounted to \$279.14, leaving a net profit of \$1,349.38. This, divided up among the 211 fowls, gives a return from each of \$3.33.

THERE seems to be no limitation of reckless expenditure for race horses in this day and generation, not only in America, but in the whole of Europe. Enormous prices for stallions are common enough, but when a man offers \$100,000 for a mare, it is time to sit down and wonder. The English horseman does not understand, apparently, why Chevalier Ginstreil should have refused the offer of \$100,000 for his famous brood mare, Signorina, and now they are inclined to smile at him, as she has lost her foal by Sheen. They speak of his fondness for the mare as "infatuation."

THE discussion is still hot over the question whether the highest peak in the State of Washington should be called Mount Tacoma or Mount Rainier. The latter is the name used in the standard atlases and on the maps of the United States Geological Survey. But the citizens of Tacoma maintain that while Rainier may be the historic name, having been given to the peak by Vancouver in 1792, Tacoma is the prehistoric name, having been the Indian name for it from time immemorial. For this reason, and because Tacoma is much more euphonious, they urge that it be officially adopted as the name of the proposed park which is to include the mountain.

A RESIDENT of New York who passed nearly twenty-five years in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania says that few miners can easily shake off the horror that seizes a man upon finding himself alone at the bottom of a mine, with the knowledge that there is no other human being within call. It sometimes happens that a miner absorbed in his work suddenly realizes that all but himself have gone. The place is as safe from ordinary accidents then as at any time, and no other living creature more dangerous than a blind mule shares the miner's solitude, but he finds it impossible long to keep off the pressing terror; and, half ashamed, but completely conquered, he picks up his dinner pail and gropes his way to upper air.

A REPORT has been received at the Department of Agriculture from Colonel C. J. Murphy, its European corn agent, in which he acknowledges with much gratification the co-operation of several dealers in Indian corn products on this side, several of whom have during the past few months established agencies for their goods in the countries in which the propaganda has been most energetically conducted, and some of whom have sent their own agents to push their interests abroad. Colonel Murphy reports that an exhibit of corn products is now being held in Berlin under the auspices of two or three millers and bakers. An American woman experienced in the cooking of maize products is engaged regularly in cooking various dishes.

A FRENCHMAN states that there are 51,000 breweries in the world. Germany easily leads with 25,210, which produce 4,750 million litres of beer yearly, a litre being equal to about 1 1/2 pints. England comes next with 12,874 breweries and an output of 2,500 million litres; then the United States with 2,300 breweries and 3,500 million litres; Austria, with 1,942 breweries and 1,300 million litres; Belgium, with 1,270 breweries and 1,000 million litres; and France, with 1,044 breweries and 800 million litres. In Bavaria the annual allowance of beer per head of the population is 221 litres; in Berlin, 191; in Belgium, 169; in England, 143; in Switzerland, 31; in Denmark, 33; in the United States, 31; in Sweden, 11; and in Russia, 5. These are not offered as temperance statistics, because beer is not the principal drink in all countries. The Russians are not a beer-drinking people, nor are they an especially temperate nation.

THE appearance in Chicago of the wily Sioux chief, Rain-in-the-face, the slayer of Capt. Tom Custer, roused considerable interest in the World's Fair city. The aged warrior is now a cripple, hobbling about on crutches, and there is nothing in his looks to indicate that he is superior in any way to the most un-kempt braves. When the battle of the Little Big Horn was fought Rain-in-the-face was a reckless youth with all the characteristic cruelty of his race. At the close of the engagement, when there was but a handful of the Seventh left, he dashed forward from amid his red companions and fired the shot that stretched young Custer dead almost at the feet of his brother. At that moment a bullet from a carbine struck the reckless brave in the knee and inflicted the wound that permanently crippled him. His visit to Chicago is the first experience Rain-in-the-face has had with civilization. St. Paul, with its bustle, shocked his nerves somewhat, but the roar of Chicago's crowded streets upset his equanimity completely.

AMONG SILENT MEN.

THE TRAPPIST MONKS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Their Monasteries in Iowa and Kentucky—Their Daily Life—Dead to the World.

Mr. Rufus R. Wilson contributes the appended interesting sketch of the Trappist Monks of America and their monasteries to the New Orleans (La.) *Picayune*. Amid the rich Iowa prairie land, on an eminence some twelve miles from Dubuque, stand a long white granite turreted building, which is visible for many miles in all directions. Surrounding it are 2,600 acres of orchards, vineyards, garden and farm, interspersed here and there with clumps of trees, the whole giving evidence of rare horticultural skill. Still farther beyond are rich fields and dense woods. Even in winter the place looks attractive; in summer it is a rural paradise.

It is now nearly forty years since the building on the hilltop was erected and inhabited by some threescore monks, who duly christened it the Abbey of New Mellary. Under Abbot Clement Smith, their leader, they left the famous Irish Abbey of Mellary on a pilgrimage to the New World, where they hoped to establish themselves. They had been encouraged to undertake the journey by Bishop Loras, of Dubuque, who had secured the necessary land and placed it at their entire disposal. When the writer, a short time ago, visited the abbey, he was struck with the vastness of the work accomplished by Abbot Clement's little band, many of whom have now passed away. Yet it is a work which is known to but few outside of the order itself and its immediate neighbors.

After the guests had been presented to the Father Abbot, who extends a cordial welcome to the properly accredited stranger, he is chaperoned through the abbey and grounds by some monk chosen for the purpose. My companion was a young, fresh-faced, pleasant-spoken Trappist, an accent which at once proclaimed his Hibernian birth. His dress was a white serge coat, not unlike the Roman toga in general shape, belted at the waist and with ample sleeves. On his breast hung a wooden cross, and the monkish skull-cap covered a well-shaped head. Despite his austere air, I fancied I detected a lurking humor in eye and mouth, and subsequent experience showed that I was not deceived, for he proved one of the most entertaining guides I have ever met.

The rules of the order, I was informed, are of the severest character imaginable. The novice at the outset is not limited to the simple diet of the monks, nor is he expected to work. He spends the first week or ten days in inquiry and observation, acquainting himself with the real character of the life of a Trappist. He is then subjected to a rigid examination by the superior, which in many cases leads to rejection; but if successful, he is surrendered to the charge of the master of novices, who trains him in the monastic duties for three months. If he acquires himself creditably he then assumes the monkish habit and a new name. But even yet he is not a monk, but ranks as a novice for two years more, taking only what are called the "simple vows." At the end of that period he takes the further vows, which, once spoken, can never be recalled. Nothing short of absolute apostasy can sever the relation after the final vows have been taken.

Yet the life of a Trappist is not one of unmitigated hardship, if appearances count for anything. It is true that, under his vow of perpetual silence, he surrenders the right of speech except to the abbot, but the manual of finger-speech is used so deftly by the monks, that it has become an art and an effective substitute. He rises at 2 a. m., goes to chapel, and chants his breviary until 4 o'clock; then comes private devotions, and at 8 a. m. breakfast. He works in the fields or indoors until 11 o'clock, then he steps for a three hours' rest, which generally includes a refreshing nap. Work is resumed till 6 p. m., when supper is served. Then an hour of leisure, followed by devotions, and at 8 o'clock he retires. His is a peaceful, silent life with ample leisure for reflection. There is no truth whatever in the grossly exaggerated stories of austerities practised by the monks upon themselves. Though they have retired from the world, they are not above human feelings and experiences. Their lives are calm and placid as a summer sea. For worldly comfort they care not little, having renounced earthly pomp and vanities; but no one can look at the clear-skinned, bright-eyed faces of a majority of the Trappists and consider their substantial surroundings without the conviction that there are many people worse off. Buried alive, to all intents and purposes, they still seem happy, despite closed lips and poor diet, and thick, coarse, hob-nailed shoes, their brown serge gowns and the rope of flagellation for personal use which they wear at their belts.

Of the fifty brothers at New Mellary, fifteen are choristers and forty-five lay brothers, the superior being Father Alberic, a man of remarkable attainments and fine presence. Father David and Father Placid are his aids, the first being the prior and the second the sub-prior and guest-master. Only from these two is the ban of silence removed at any time, as far as the outer world is concerned. They see all the visitors, transact all the business connected with the management of affairs. They also oversee to some extent the work of the others, although little oversight is needed as long experience has made the monks almost perfect in agriculture and gardening. The grounds surrounding the abbey are enriched in summer with great beds of flowers and tall, rare plants, and the magnificent sea of bloom, including almost every variety known to the connoisseur, would make the average agriculturist envious. At this season, however, the grounds are denuded, the trees bare and leafless, and the whole aspect cheerless, except within the walls of the monastery itself.

It surprised me somewhat, I confess, to learn that the ignorance of these pious men in everything that related to the world without was almost absolute. One of the founders of the abbey, Brother Kairan, I was assured, had not been out-

side of the limits of the place for thirty-seven years, and in all that time had not read a newspaper or conversed with a stranger. There are others, too, who are still ignorant of the fact that there ever was a civil war, or that Lincoln or Garfield ever existed.

Besides New Mellary there is only one other Trappist Monastery in the United States—the Abbey of Gethsemane, hidden among the blue Kentucky hills, not far from a hamlet on the Lebanon branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and distant forty-eight miles from Louisville. Gethsemane is in the heart of a district that has long been noted for its beautiful scenery. It is an offshoot of the Abbey of La Melleraye, in the Blue Grass State, as long ago as 1775, but it was not till many years afterward that a second band of monks came from France and founded the present monastery. There are about 1,700 acres of land in the Gethsemane domain, which is completely shut out from the world by a high brick wall. In the centre is a flat three-story building, with two chapels and an inner court, and here the peaceful, silent colony lead an existence similar in all respects to that of the monks at New Mellary. Father Benedict is the abbot. Father Edward, the next in authority, is said to be of royal Bourbon blood, and was a noble of France before he took monastic vows. Brother Joseph, one of the leading monks, now dead, was formerly a famous tenor in French opera. He sang in this country and taught music in Washington, among his pupils being Miss Nellie Grant, now Mrs. Sartoris. Other members known to visitors are Father Hieron and Brother Honorius; but like all Trappists, the great body of the monks hold neither converse nor intercourse with the world. Their lives are passed at work, at devotions and in meditation. On one of the walls in the abbey is a famous painting by Vandyke of "Mary in Egypt," which was presented to the abbey by friends in Europe many years ago, and is doubtless a priceless art treasure. Another is a Reubens, the subject being the "Stoning of St. Stephen."

As at Mellary, Gethsemane is a little world self-contained. Within its boundary walls is all that is needed for the wants of the monks, so that they are independent of the exterior world. The death of a brother is an occasion not for sorrow, but rejoicing that the close of the earthly pilgrimage has been reached, and heaven won. At the obsequies all attend dressed in white robes and cowls. No coffin is used, but with a spotlessly white cloth robe for a winding sheet the body is committed to the earth and the grave is marked by a little black wooden cover, white lettered with a simple inscription. At the close of every such service, several of the monks dig a new grave, and it is left open for the next day—a startling reminder of the uncertainty of life. One of the graves in the little cemetery is that of Baron de Hodianor, of Belgium, a benefactor and life-long friend of the Trappists and of Gethsemane in particular.

John Barry's Commission.

The New England Magazine for May publishes a fac-simile of the first commission ever granted to an American naval officer, the bearer being the Irish hero, Commodore John Barry. The paper reads as follows:—

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO JOHN BARRY.

I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Fidelity and Abilities, have nominated, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the SENATE, appointed you CAPTAIN in the NAVY of the UNITED STATES, and Commander of the FRIGATE, called UNITED STATES; to take Rank from the Fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Captain and Commander, by doing and performing all manner of things thereto belonging. And to strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your command to be obedient to your Orders as Captain and Commander. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from the PRESIDENT or THE UNITED STATES, or any superior Officer set over you according to the rules and discipline of War and the usage of the Sea. THIS COMMISSION to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States. GIVEN under my hand at Philadelphia, this Twenty-second day of February, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States the Twenty-first.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President.

JAMES MCLENNY, Secretary of War.

He Never Caught Anything.

I remember years ago a seventeen-year-old cousin from the country unexpectedly joining a family party in town at tea.

He had brought his portmanteau, and, like one of Mr. Smiles' young men arrived in London to make his fortune, had evidently "come to stay."

"Glad to see you, Jack," said the hostess, "but to what are we indebted for this condensation?"

"Oh, such a lark!" Old Dobbin (his tutor) and half the pupils are down with scarlet fever."

There was a dreadful scrimmage. The elder children snatched up the younger and fled from the room. The hostess clasped her babe to her breast and glared at the intruder as though he had come purposely to deprive her of her offspring.

"Do you come here from a house full of scarlet fever?" she gasped.

"Don't be frightened about me," returned that awful boy; "I never catch anything."

But he did that time.—[Sheffield Sun.]

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

MAN AND HIS WORKS.

ETHNOLOGICAL EXHIBITION AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The Development of the Human Race from the Earliest Times—A Wonderful Collection From All Parts of the World.

Man's accomplishments at the World's Columbian Exposition are truly wonderful, and it seems fitting that there should be a department devoted especially to him and his development from the earliest times to the present, writes Dr. Harlan G. Smith, in *Detroit Free Press*. Such is the department of ethnology, of which Prof. F. W. Putnam, curator of the Peabody Museum and professor of American archaeology and ethnology at Harvard University, is the chief.

Objects illustrating the life and manners of the advanced human race of today will be contrasted with those of natives of distant countries and all ages. We may obtain some idea of the way man once lived, or of the various stages of evolution of the human race, by observing the native peoples of the present as they now live in various stages of progress.

Of great interest under this department will be the ethnological exhibit, or the illustration of man geographically considered. This section will be arranged along the eastern borders of "South Pond," and will consist of representative individuals from the various native peoples, all living in their own characteristic habitations and engaged in the various occupations peculiar to them in their native homes. Here will be seen the Winnebago and his mat house; the Omaha in his sod hut, and the Sioux with his buffalo hide tepee. The Flat-heads, Pend de Oreille, Nez Perce, Blackfeet and Kootenai will be represented through the assistance of the Montana exhibit under the direction of Gen. Miles, and Colorado will bring the Apache with his wickup, and the Navajo, whose blanket has become noted because it is so well woven. New York State will send a representation from an Iroquois village with several bark houses. The Penobscot Indians of Maine will be here, and the Eskimo village will furnish a family to make more complete the representation in this section. The Canadian native people will represent their modes of life, and the natives from the region of Vancouver Island are now on the grounds, reconstructing one of their houses, which they have brought from home in sections. In front of this house they will erect their curious totem pole, which is over thirty feet high. It is an interesting fact that one of the assistants was once entertained in this very house while he was studying the language and folk-lore of these interesting people. They have also brought a number of their boats and some of their fishing tackle, and will here illustrate their life at home. The writer has been much interested in these natives. They are a happy, and good-natured lot, singing and laughing much of the time. They are also very strong and agile. Before leaving home they made, under the direction of one of the assistants of the department, a complete model of their village, Skidegate, which will be exhibited with the ethnological collections under cover.

The native peoples of Central and South America will also be represented. Some of the Aymaras, from the region of Lake Titicaca, are already en route. Leaving the villages, the visitor will next come to the reproductions of the ancient ruins of Yucatan. These represent sections of several of the most noted ruins of that country, and are made of staff from piece moulds taken under the direction of Mr. E. H. Thompson, the United States consul to Yucatan.

They are arranged in a group around the famous "Portal of Labna," which has been so often described. Besides these there will be represented idols, altars and monoliths from Honduras, taken from paper moulds made by the Peabody Museum Honduras expedition. After studying these various outdoor exhibits, the visitor will be ready to turn his attention to the anthropological building, in which are to be exhibited the collections. This building is 425 feet long by 215 feet wide, with a spacious gallery. The suggestive legend, "Man and His Works," will adorn this building. On entering you will see the exhibit of ancient Grecian art and archaeology, made by the Grecian Government, and all arranged in chronological order. This will form the central group on the main floor. From this exhibit, arranged as it will be, visitors cannot fail unconsciously to learn much of ancient Greek customs. Here will be seen many representations of the art from which most of our modern architecture is derived. The Roman display and the exhibits from Egypt and Assyria will be located at the flanks of the Grecian exhibit, and although not as large, they will doubtless be of great interest and of proportionate value in inspiring a desire for more extended knowledge of these classic peoples.

At the northern end of the main floor and extending along the eastern side will be arranged the collections illustrating North American ethnology. These have been sent by various states and by private exhibitors, as well as from the field by the many assistants of the department who have carried on investigations and made collections under the direction of Prof. Putnam. The collections will consist of implements, utensils, costumes and various objects of adornment, as well as many other articles illustrating the daily life of native North American races.

Considerable space will be devoted to the North American archaeological collections, which were obtained in the same manner as those of ethnology. Here will be shown specimens from the shell heaps of Maine and Florida. These heaps or mounds are found at places where the prehistoric inhabitants gathered shellfish and are formed chiefly from the shells which were cast aside after the removal of the edible portion of the animal. In these mounds are found, intermingled with the shells, the rude tools used in opening the fish and in preparing them for food. Many fragments of pottery are also found.

In Ohio active explorations in the

mounds, earthworks and ancient village sites were carried on by several expeditions during the two years previous to this. Much of interest was discovered, which will be exhibited, bearing upon the life of the primitive peoples of the Mississippi Valley.

One of the exhibits, a concession under the department, is in a separate building, the outside of which represents a mountain, while the interior illustrates a canyon with its curious little cliff houses and pueblos. Then there will be shown specimens of implements, utensils, etc., from these dwellings. Several of the houses are to be reproduced in full size. The architecture of these cliff dwellings draws in her 10,000 square feet of space, a large portion of the collection from Mexico, Central America and other Spanish-American countries, that was recently exhibited at the Madrid Exposition.

Some wonderful collections were made by one of the assistants in Chili, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, including the Island of La Plata. These consist of over 100 "mummies," with their belongings, wound in gorgeous fabrics, which have retained their colors even to this time.

The dry Peruvian climate is a great thing for the archaeologist. Everything is wonderfully well preserved, even the most delicate fabrics. With these dried human remains, many of which are buried in a sitting posture, having the knees drawn up to the shoulders and the arms, are found pots of food, wooden tools and weapons, besides little gold ornaments and feather plumes. Some of the clothes and winding fabrics are exquisitely woven and colored in beautiful designs. One piece, which the writer noticed in particular, was stamped, the beautiful design being made in that way instead of by weaving. Some of the very looms which were used to make these garments have been found in the graves, and they will be exhibited together with the mummies to which they belonged.

Many models, plans, maps and photographs of ruins, mounds and modern peoples, together with their works of art and commonplace belongings, will be exhibited. These were taken by the assistants in all parts of America from Greenland to Tierra del Fuego. One section of the department is devoted to religious, games and folk lore. This section will be of unusual interest. Some of the altars from the Ohio mounds and idols, charms, fetishes, etc., from all parts of the world, will be exhibited. The religions of the world will be represented for comparison. It will be seen that the American Indian is ahead of some of the natives of Africa and Asia in his religious views. He prays to a good spirit for help, while they, having no idea of good spirits, offer sacrifices to the evil spirits, which they imagine are continually about and pray that they will not harm or molest them.

It will be noticed that all men of every race recognize an unknown element, or, in other words, have a religion. Thus, great opportunity will be offered for study of this line of anthropology.

Shakespeare's Anachronisms.

Virgil made *Eneas* land at a port which had no existence until a couple of hundred years after the poet's own time, and in three separate places revives characters killed earlier in the poem. The anachronisms of Shakespeare are legion. In the "Winter's Tale," he speaks of the coast of Bohemia, an inland country, and in "Coriolanus" calls Delphi an island, whereas it is a city of Greece. The "beetling cliffs of Elinore" are mentioned, but Elinore has no cliffs, while although the Danes were in Hamlet's time, pagans, the Ghost in "Hamlet" speaks of absolution and purgatory. In "Twelfth Night" the Clown in Illyria speaks of St. Bennet's Church in London. In "Julius Caesar" Brutus tells Cassius, "Peace, count the clock," and Cassius answers, "The clock has stricken 3," when striking clocks were not invented for 1,400 years after that time. Hamlet is said to be educated at a school which, in his time, had no existence, and Menenius, in "Coriolanus," mentions Galen over 600 years before the latter was born. In the play of Henry IV., turkeys are spoken of 100 years before the discovery of America, whence they came. Hector is made to quote Aristotle; Cleopatra's palace is fitted out with a billiard table, and Tunis and Naples are spoken of as though at an immeasurable distance from each other.—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

A Fascinating Game With Figures.

A fascinating game by which I have whittled away many a pleasant hour is the following: It is played with an antagonist, each in turn placing a number on paper from one to six, adding them up mentally as they proceed. The person who succeeds in placing the last figure, which shall make the column add up, wins the game.

The player unacquainted with the secret always loses. The explanation involves No. 9. Your friend has written, say 6. You put down, say 3, which will add up 9. Your friend puts down, say 1. You put down 6, for the second addition must equal 9. Again, he puts down, say 5. You make it 7 by adding 2. He puts down, say 3. You again make it 7 by putting 4. The addition foots up 30, and as you have put down the last figure you have won. Be careful to make the first addition 9 and the following three 7 each, and victory will never desert you.—[Philadelphia Times.]