

THE WHITE MAHATMA.

WHAT PROF. BALDWIN DISCOVERED CONCERNING EASTERN MAGIC.

By the Use of Natural Laws and Some Humbug He Mystified and Frightened Adepts in the Mystic Art.

And what is a Mahatma? Prof. Baldwin explains it etymologically as meaning "a great soul." In its technical sense in India and Tibet it designates a person who can do wonderful things that border upon the supernatural, and who is looked upon as an expert or adept in the occult sciences. It is not an official title, but is bestowed by general acclaim. In this a Mahatma differs from a Yogi, who is a priest by profession. A fakir is a lower order of religious mendicants, who impose on the public by mere sleight of hand.

How did the Professor become a Mahatma? Starting in life as a public exposé of the frauds of spiritualism and the tricks of conjurers, he gradually became interested in mesmerism, hypnotism, telepathy and all kindred subjects. While he emphatically repudiates any belief in the supernatural, he yet holds that there are unexplained forces in nature which can be utilized in a manner that seems supernatural to the vulgar, and are not within the mental powers of the race to explain on any known scientific basis. That that

The private seance was given. The Yogis did their best to eclipse all the former brethren whom the White Mahatma had seen. Some of their exploits were undoubtedly marvelous. Still the Professor refused to see anything in them save the operation of natural laws. He leaned over to the Maharajah and said:

"I can scatter all these men with a mere wave of my hand."

"Do it," replied the Maharajah, with an incredulous smile.



The Professor bade his interpreter address the Yogis as follows:

"How dare you come before me, who am the king of all supernatural workers, with such transparent tricks as these? With a wave of my hand, I can summon fire from heaven to burn you."

And then he brought his hands together and instantly flames burst

forth from the linen garments that they wore around their loins and their backs. Shrieking, they snatched off their garments, thrust them away and fled from the scene. This exploit earned him a great reputation. Ever after when any Yogi or fakir met him on the street, they would flee from the presence of the man who had hell fire at his command. The Professor explains that this is one of his own inventions in the way of conjuring tricks. Indeed, he acknowledges that in all his connection with the Hindoos he mixed up trick-



MAHATMAS IN PRIESTLY COSTUME.

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Postal Card Failures.

The "return" postal card—that is, the double one with the prepared attachment for the answer—is a failure, as the postoffice authorities predicted that it would be, and although only 12,000,000 of them were printed, several years ago, the demand has been so small that the greater part still remain on hand, and 12,000,000 is a small edition. The total number of postal cards used last year was 520,505,606, and 13,339,000 of these were the foreign or international cards bearing a 2-cent stamp. There was a great pressure for the double card from certain agitators who thought business interests demanded it, but it is a flat failure. The officials at the Postoffice Department think the reason is that the return card gets very much soiled during its first experience in the mails, and people pre-

fer to pay one cent for a new and clean one.

The "dude card" is also a failure. The "dude card" is the familiar name which the authorities have given to the little postal card which is made of fine paper and printed with blue ink. It was made especially for the use of the ladies and costs more to manufacture than the large one, but the ladies, as well as everyone else, seem to prefer the latter, probably for the reason that they get more for their money.—[Washington Letter.

"Stretch!"

Your thoroughbred base ball crank is one of the most genial and accommodating of men. He loves his neighbor as himself, and loves his brother. One of the loveliest indications of the broad spirit of humanity

which throbs and pulsates through his bosom may be seen any day at the grand stand at the ball ground. Yet he has never seen it noted before. It is clear to anybody who knows the fine points of the game that if people kept popping up and down in orders to take the creaks out of their joints, and unlimber themselves generally, they would be howled down as public nuisances. Therefore, the old spectators have cultivated a subtle sympathy which teaches them when the majority of them want to stretch. Some man will discover this by inspiration and call out:

"Stretch!"

Then the whole audience will rise slowly, stretch its collective limbs, inflate its aggregated lungs, and then slowly subside on the hard benches with a long drawn sigh of relief. It's a beautiful little bit of human nature.—[New York Press.

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

INTERESTING NOTES AND MATTERS OF MOMENT.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A school district in Grant county, Kansas, contains only one family. The father, mother and eldest son have elected themselves trustees and appointed the eldest daughter, at \$35 a month, to teach the younger children.

A KENTUCKY calf, one day old, performed the wonderful feat of jumping from a cliff to the river below, a distance of 500 feet, without rumpling a hair. The calf was taken down the river and hauled home in a wagon safe and sound.

THE Indians of Guiana have a curious numeration. They count by the hand and its four fingers. Thus, when they reach five, instead of saying so, they call it a "hand." Six is, therefore, a "hand and first finger," and so on to twenty, which is called a "man."

A FOUR-LEGGED chicken came into the family of Dave Myler, of Johnson City, Mo. As two of the legs were for forward locomotion and the other two always insisted on walking backward, that unfortunate chicken found it difficult to advance in the world and gave up the effort in despair.

A crow with one foot four inches longer than the other was captured and tamed by Abe Cartwright, a trapper in Sullivan County, Penn. Cartwright made a crutch still for the bird, which was at first strapped to its foot. This became unnecessary as soon as the crow learned what an assistance the crutch was as a means of defense as well as locomotion.

ONE of the residents of Cherry street, Geneva, N. Y., is the owner of a dog that imitates the sound of the Cereol company's steam whistle. The whistle gives the musical scale, and when sounded in the morning and at noon the dog catches the notes and repeats them with wonderful accuracy. He has mastered the rising scale, but is now practicing on the falling scale which his owner expects him to acquire.

SURGERY'S discovery of a way to obliterate facial blemishes has given the detective forces a great deal of difficulty in locating well-known criminals. By these operations the whole character of the facial expression is changed by a few deft jabs of a lancet. The wounds heal in a very short time, and in most cases can never be noticed. The criminal fraternity are not slow to take hold of this knowledge, and in consequence the descriptions in the possession of the detectives cannot always be depended upon.

A VERY curious temperance society exists in the Siberian village of Ashlyka. Every year, in September, the members meet in the church, and make a solemn promise to abstain from wine and spirits for a whole year. They also sign an agreement that any person breaking the pledge shall pay a fine of twenty-five rubles to the church, and submit to be spat upon by his more temperate fellows. The most peculiar feature of the whole business, however, is that the members on the day of the year when the pledge expires allow themselves wine and brandy during the few hours which intervene before the pledge for the ensuing year is made.

ONE of Uncle Sam's most faithful servants, in Maine, but one that draws no salary, lives at the Portland Head Lighthouse. This is a large, gray parrot, brought from Africa some time ago and presented to the keeper of the light. The bird soon noticed that when the fog began to blow in from the ocean, somebody would cry out, "Fog coming in; blow the horn!" One day the fog suddenly began to come in thick, and no one noticed it, as they were all busy. Poll noticed this and croaked out, "Fog coming in; blow the horn!" and now, whenever fog is perceptible, Poll never fails to give warning.

EDWARD BELL and John Merkert went gunning for a hornets' nest located in the swamp near Abbott avenue, Morristown, N. J. Merkert was the marksman, and, after partly destroying the nest with a load of shot, dropped into a clump of bushes to escape the angry onslaught of the disturbed hornets. A nest of bees was concealed in the clump of bushes, and, between the attack made upon him by the combined forces of hornets and bees, Merkert found himself in very warm quarters. Bell succeeded in driving away the stinging insects, but not before his companion had been stung so that his face puffed up to twice its normal size and both eyes were closed.

THE French papers have been noting the curious way in which the career of President Carnot was connected with the figure "7." He was born in 1827, was admitted to the Ecole Polytechnique in 1857, was elected by virtue of Article 7 of the Constitution to the office of President of the Republic in 1873, was assassinated at the age of fifty-seven years, in the seventh year of his presidency, in a carriage containing seven persons (four inside and three outside, a coachman and two footmen), on the seventh day of the week, by an Italian (a word of seven letters). Finally, he was borne in triumph to the Pantheon on the first day of the seventh month of the year, seven days after his death.

An exciting incident occurred the

other day while General Count Musin-Puschkin, Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Province of Russia, was reviewing the troops at Nicolaleff. There was a park of forty guns on the field, and their simultaneous discharge startled the General's charger, which bolted at a terrific speed toward the railway just as a train was approaching. An aide-de-camp vainly endeavored to overtake the animal, when Lieutenant Daniloff, a mounted military officer, placed himself directly across the path of the runaway. The impact was terrific. Both men and horses were bowled over in a scrambling heap, and for a minute or two were hidden in a cloud of dust. Fortunately, both the Commander-in-Chief and the lieutenant escaped with some severe contusions, the former having one of his ankles sprained.

THE Savannah (Ga.) News tells this remarkable story: Near Idlewild Park, Thursday, while John J. Burrus, a farmer, was engaged in preparing ground for sweet potatoes, he discovered a chicken snake about five feet long, which he killed. Noticing that it was of unusual size in proportion to its length, he cut it in two to make a post-mortem examination, and found that the stomach contained two large-sized opal glass eggs. Mr. Burrus says that when a boy he was visiting a cooper who lived near Tallahassee by the name of Wells Hamlin, and while there, a setting hen had been driven from her nest by a large chicken snake. The snake was soon after killed, opened in his presence, and eighteen eggs taken from its body. He furthermore said that the eggs were put back under the faithful old hen, and that every egg hatched out a lively young chicken.

IT is dangerous to gratify curiosity or violate precedent at the Chinese Imperial Court. The Empress Dowager is a great stickler for etiquette. Recently she required the services of Dr. Li Te-chang, Vice-President of the Imperial Academy of Physicians at Peking, for one of the members of her suite at Eho Park Palace. The learned doctor had never been inside these famous palace grounds, and his curiosity was fired to see the many wonderful tales. So he bribed a eunuch to show him around the grounds. While the two were leisurely walking about and enjoying themselves, the Empress spied them. She at once despatched servants to punish their effrontery. The eunuch was seized, thrown on his face, and accompanied with fifty blows of the bamboo on the calves of his fat legs. The doctor was docked three months' pay and received a severe reprimand, while his assistant was ordered never to venture again into the Empress's presence. The affair created a sensation, because of the high position of the physician and of the humiliating punishment dealt out to him.

THE most striking cases of lapses of memory are to be found in persons who have had a severe illness, or are temporarily diseased mentally. The more common form of the malady, too, is the forgetting of every incident of the past save one, on which the morbid mind never ceases to harp. A very pathetic case of the kind is recorded in Beck's "Medical Jurisprudence." It is that of a young clergyman who was accidentally shot in the forehead just two days before his marriage was to have taken place. For a long time his life was despaired of. He recovered, but his mental faculties had become impaired. He remembered nothing but the idea of the approaching marriage. Everything was absorbed in that one recollection; his whole conversation related to the preparation for the event. He would never speak on any other subject; it was always within two days of his wedding. Years went on, youth passed away, and still in a couple of days more his marriage would take place. In this condition the unfortunate man reached his eightieth year, and no doubt sank into the grave with the one lifelong idea as the last thought of his mind.

A REAL infant phenomenon keeps all the medical men and pedagogues of the good old town of Brunswick, Germany, in a state of wonder and delight. The little son of a local butcher, a baby just two years old, can read with perfect ease anything written or printed in German or Latin characters. A few weeks ago three Brunswick doctors had the baby introduced to them at the house of one of the learned gentlemen. The first thing the little one did when brought into the consulting room was to stand on his toes at the table, reading out from the books that were lying about. All that could be ascertained as to the why and wherefore of this uncanny accomplishment is that, when the baby was eighteen months old, and his grandmother took him out, he always immediately caught sight of the inscriptions over shops, and asked about them as only a small child can ask, till he had fathomed the meaning of the letters. It was the same at home; books and newspapers had greater fascinations than lollipops and toys, and whatever the parents playfully told him he remembered, with the result that at the age of two years, he reads with perfect ease. Apart from his accomplishment in reading, the boy's development is quite normal.

An inhabitant of Voro, in Finland, named Sellquist, who for a long time past has been living on bad terms with his wife, had lately a narrow escape from being poisoned by her. She called at a chemist's, and asked for some rat poison. As these creatures are very rarely seen in that neighborhood, the chemist had his

suspensions aroused, and gave the woman a perfectly harmless drug. On second thoughts he decided to mention the matter to the husband, and requested him to say nothing about it to his wife. In the evening, as she was preparing the porridge, the man kept a watchful eye on her movements, and noticed that she scattered something out of a paper into the saucepan. When the porridge was ready he sat down to the table and began to eat. After a while he got up in great excitement, paced up and down the room and at last fell fainting on the floor. This was what the woman expected. She now pulled down a rope through a hole in the ceiling with a noose, which she placed round her husband's neck, whereupon she ran up stairs into the garret in order to pull up the rope and hang her husband in that fashion. Meantime the husband got up and tied a few chairs to the rope. The wife did not return to the room, as she dreaded the sight, but went out into the village to raise an alarm, saying that her husband had hanged himself in her absence. When she came back with a host of neighbors and crocodile tears in her eyes, there was her husband sitting at the table, laughing till his sides ached. The chairs were still hanging on the rope.

SAT ON THE HOT RAILS.

A Band of Apaches Given a Surprise on a Train.

"For real hot-weather stories you want to go to a hot-weather country," says W. F. White, passenger traffic manager of the Santa Fe Railroad. "Now you can find hot weather that is hot weather in New Mexico and Arizona. It's one thing to go through that country now on a train which carries the conveniences for keeping cool, but it was quite another thing when the railroad was being built and there was nothing between you and the sun but fiery alkali dust.

The Atchison road reached Deming, N. M., in 1881 and it was a hot summer. It had been hot right along for days in that steady, energetic fashion that would make a man melt in an hour in a Bessemer steel mill to cool off. The first construction train pulled into Deming on a day that was so scorching as to stand out even among those other blistering days. The train was made up of a long line of flat cars, and along the center of the cars ran a pile of steel rails a foot high. The rails had been in the full glare of an unblinking sun until they were about as hot as when they first came through the rolls at the mill.

"When the train came into Deming it was, of course, an object of great interest, and no one was more interested than a lot of Apache Indians. They were peaceful enough and filled with curiosity, and were quick to assert the birthright of the American Indian to ride free on a railroad train. The conductor in charge was something of a joker and saw an opportunity for some fun. He urged the Indians all to climb up on the flat cars and have a ride. The engineer was in the scheme, and as soon as the Indians were upon the cars, he backed his engine with a jerk. They could ride a bucking pony under any condition of unsteadiness, but this motion was new to them and the entire party sat down on the rails.

"Well, my idea of Indian stoicism was shattered. There were shrieks that added new notes to the regulation war whoop, and the Apaches left that train and started off across the hot sands in a way that would have turned us all gray if they had been coming toward us instead of running away. They undoubtedly to this minute remember that as the hottest day they ever knew."—[Chicago Tribune.

What Soda Will Do.

In washing dish towels, brushes, the sink and other utensils, dissolved soda will be found most useful, cleaning and sweetening all that it touches. It should be kept in a large olive bottle and should be labelled "washing soda."

To prepare it put one pint of the dry soda in a saucepan kept for this purpose, and add to it three quarts of boiling water. Let this mixture stand upon the stove, stirring it frequently, until the soda is dissolved. When cold put into bottles. This preparation when hot is an excellent agent for cleaning and sweetening the plumbing in the house. Pour a pint of the hot liquid into each bowl, basin and sink about once a fortnight. As the liquid unites with grease it keeps the kitchen sink pipes free of greasy deposits. It is well to buy this soda by the quarter barrel. It is extremely cheap when bought by the quantity.—[New York World.

Cost of Growing Wheat.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a summary made from estimates of 25,000 farmers of the West and Northwest, and of 4,000 experts of the department on the cost of growing wheat. The average cost per acre for the region covered is \$11.69, while the average for Wisconsin is more than a dollar higher, or \$12.98. Ground rent is the heaviest single item, and is estimated at nearly \$3 per acre. The principal items of cost have remained about normal during the past four or five years, being slightly higher where any change is noted, owing to the increase of cost of labor during the prosperous times from 1890 to 1893. During that period, however, the price of wheat fell nearly one-half. As a result, either wheat production must be restricted or a large part of it must be done at a loss.—[New York World.