

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A REPORT from Russia states that it has been found that "strychnine can cure men of the appetite for drink." It cures them in this country also if they take enough of it.

BECAUSE the Reichstag was spiteful against Bismarck, conservative Germany is roaring against universal suffrage. But it is well to remember that only a few years ago the Emperor himself was spiteful against Bismarck.

A PHILADELPHIA street railroad now operated by electricity saves \$3,915 a month as between the cost of coal and that of horse feed. It is said that this is only one of numerous items in which the trolley system has greatly cut down operating expenses.

ORDINARY vigilance would prevent nine-tenths of the bank defalcations. But the vigilance which does not see anything suspicious in the personal deposits of a \$1,200 clerk reaching \$10,000 in a recent case, is not ordinary; it's extraordinary, in the opinion of the Hartford Journal.

THERE are a great many medical missionaries, but Dr. Jennie M. Taylor is the first person to go to a foreign land as a dental missionary. She is the daughter of the Rev. A. E. Taylor, a Methodist minister of Martinsville, Pa., and is working in Africa as a missionary and dentist.

A NEW YORK woman, whose name is held secret, has endowed the chair of history in the National University, to be built at Washington, with \$107,250. The intimation of the offer was made on an old postal card, and within twenty-four hours the head of the university was leaving New York with securities to the required amount in his possession. For expeditiousness this surpasses the endowment record. When the woman was asked why she selected the chair of history she said: "Men can give for bricks and mortar, I'll give for brains."

THRIFT is not an extinct trait in the original home of the thrifty, New England. A young woman writes to a Boston paper to tell how well a family of three can live on \$10 a week. "My mother," she says, "is an invalid. My father is foreman in a factory and earns \$21 a week, and I stay home and do the work. Every week we put \$12 away. I dress well and can play the piano. I attend the theater twice a week, but the 25 cent seats are good enough for me. Saturday I cook a quart of beans and buy a loaf of brown bread and one-half pound of salmon, and that does us until Tuesday. Tuesday a pint of oysters is sufficient for dinner. Wednesday I buy a chicken or a small piece of lamb, which does until Saturday with a little fish. We use a small quantity of pastry and bread and cake and vegetables. We run two fires, burn gas; we use matches and pepper. My father only spends 10 cents a week for pleasure. When my company stays to tea Sunday we have a few extras. I do all my dress-making, and average four dresses a year." But the poor father's 10 cents' worth of "pleasure!"

THE power of hypnotism has been made responsible for almost everything, and now a writer in the Pittsburg Dispatch attempts to show that sleeping in church is often due to this subtle force. The conditions under which the phenomenon is most frequently observed are described as follows: "There is a dim and subdued light in the room; the atmosphere is somewhat close, the temperature is high; somewhat behind the speaker, in a position which compels the eyes of the congregation, is a jet of gas or a sharp gleam of electricity, into which they look as the sermon proceeds; and the preacher goes on and on, in a gentle and monotonous voice, and down and up, like a mother's lullaby; and behold, our eyelids are pressed down against our will by soft, invisible fingers, and everything is deliciously vague and far away." This, the writer would have his readers believe, is hypnotic sleep. Most people, however, will be inclined to think that poor ventilation in the churches, or natural fatigue on the part of the sleepers, is responsible for more of this kind of somnolence than can be traced to any mysterious power.

THE importation of beans at the ports of New York, Boston and Philadelphia last year was 244,776 bags of 200 pounds each, and yet this country is admirably adapted for bean culture. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says: "Where the crop is grown on a large scale so that machinery can be largely used the cost of growing should not be materially greater than that of growing an equal area of wheat. They may be planted by machinery, harvested by machinery, threshed by machinery, and the large buyers in bean growing districts use machinery largely in picking over the product. The yield will probably, on the average, equal that of wheat. Then look at the price per bushel compared with that of wheat. The straw, too, is a valuable food for sheep, as well as for other live stock, far exceeding wheat straw in this respect. Bean prices, usually high, are likely to be higher this year. The domestic demand always exceeds the home grown supply, and large quantities are annually imported. It is not creditable to the farmers of this country that these large importations are permitted to continue."

FORMOSA, which Japan will claim and probably get as a part of her war indemnity, lies about 100 miles off the Chinese coast, between the 20th and 21st degrees of latitude, almost within hailing distance of the cities

of Canton, Amoy and Tuchan, and will be surrendered by China with more reluctance than any amount of money she is obliged to pay over. The island is about 400 miles long and 50 wide, inhabited by a mixture of races, some of them not yet emerged from their primal barbarism, and if Japan gets it her first duty will be to give it a civilized administration and bring its wrangling tribes into subjection, which the Chinese have never been able to do. It is in the main a mountainous and rugged territory, not very fertile nor otherwise valuable, but is of great strategic importance, lying between the China and Eastern seas, and will give important naval advantage to the country that possesses it. France has interests in those regions, and may have something to say about the transfer, and perhaps other countries will be interested in the discussion. But Japan has earned it; it is important to her, and she will probably get it.

THE great battleship Indiana, which has cost the government over \$3,250,000, is nearly in trim to leave the ways, but in all our navy yards and splendid harbors there is no drydock that can float the new vessel. If anything should happen to the bottom of the Indiana it would be necessary to take her elsewhere or else drop anchor and allow the ship's sides to gather barnacles while the half completed docks at the Brooklyn navy yard, at Port Royal and at Port Orchard are being finished. The last named will probably be ready for use within a year, and each of those now in process of construction will be able to float the Indiana or any one of the monsters in the new fleet. Following the launching of the Indiana, it is expected that the Massachusetts, Iowa and Oregon, battleships of nearly the same size and cost, will speedily be completed and set afloat, and then the need of more capacious docks will be imperative. The three which are being built are of timber, it is surprising to learn, and the reason is to be found in the fact that the stone docks are easily disjoined by the action of the frost, while the timber docks are more enduring and less expensive. The construction of timber docks, however, requires thorough workmanship and not a little experience on the part of the contractor. One which was at tempted at Portland, Ore., and which swallowed up \$240,000 without disgorging a penny in profits, was finally abandoned, and remains to-day a costly ruin. It leaks like a sieve, and is in no way fit for the purpose for which it was designed.

THE Neighborhood Club which has been organized recently at Newton, Mass., will be watched with interest, for it promises to supply a social want without infringing upon the privileges and duties of home life. Its plan is to bring together a considerable number of families, including men, women and children, and to provide evenings of social pleasure for their common enjoyment. It is not proposed to allow church and party lines or social caste to keep out any respectable family, and no accomplishment in literature or art is required for membership. The meetings are made as informal as possible, and mutual acquaintance and friendship are promoted. The business man who joins such a club has a place where he and his wife and his grown children may meet the families who live in the neighborhood, without going to the trouble and expense of a special reception or dinner with the attending annoyances. The average resident in the suburb does not desire to entertain all his neighbors in his house many times during the winter, although he is usually glad to meet these neighbors. It is just in that connection that the Neighborhood Club proves useful and convenient. Among the enthusiastic advocates of this new social movement is Dr. Edward Eggleston, who takes the ground that the highest intellectual satisfaction is to be derived in assemblies in which men and women come together. If a gathering is made up wholly of men there is apt to be a lack of restraint that wars against the best mental results. If women meet by themselves, they grow opinionated. But the meeting of men and women together at a Neighborhood Club is subject to none of these objections.

THE ALLIGATOR'S SMALL COUSIN. The iguana is a very little fellow who belongs, like his cousins, the gecko and the chameleon, to a very big family. This family includes such large animals as alligators, crocodiles, lizards and many other strange creatures.

THE iguana has a long, slender body, tapering in a curious way into a long tail which in turn tapers into a point. He has a queer crest running from his head to the end of this tail, and his body is covered with small scales. A soft pouch or bag hangs from below his chin, but for what purpose it is used naturalists seem to be divided in opinion.

SOME iguanas live in trees, other dig themselves holes in the ground, and some varieties live upon the seashore and are quite fond of swimming about in the water. The eggs of the iguana are usually laid in the sand and are not hard like a hen's egg, but soft, like leather, and yellow in color. The iguana's tail, like that of most of his cousins, is very useful to him. He uses it for a weapon, slapping and inflicting severe wounds upon his enemies by means of his sharp notches. In the water he uses his tail like a snake, drawing his legs closely to his side and projecting himself along by means of the tail alone.

THE iguana is a fierce looking little reptile when attacked. He raises himself upon his forelegs, looking very savage, but he is not really brave, and if you should come across an iguana nodding his head at you and trying to frighten you to death by wagging his tail, just stamp your foot at him and he will quickly lower his crest and scurry off into his hole.

THE TALKING DOG. There was once a ventriloquist so poor that he was obliged to travel on foot from town to town to save expense, much after the manner of the gentleman of adventure in Grimm's tales. One day he was joined on the road by a dog as forsaken as himself, but who seemed desirous of becoming his companion.

They journeyed together to the next town and entered the tavern tired, hungry, and penniless. Not being troubled with the inconvenient refinement which comes from a long line of gentle ancestors, the man had developed the quality known as cheek, so he and the dog sat down to eat a supper for which they could not pay.

The room was full of loungers, and the stranger took a conspicuous seat. "What will you have?" asked the only waiter the place employed; and the order embraced nearly everything on the bill of fare.

"But I want something for my dog, too," he added. "Ask him what he will have." The waiter muttered something about "Whatever giving us," so the stranger said, "What don't you like to? Well, Bruno, will you have beef or fish?"

"Beef, every time," said Bruno, looking with mild brown eyes at the waiter.

"And what to drink?" "Water, thank you," said Bruno. By this time the landlord and every one in the place were eager with suppressed wonder, and gathered about to hear a dog talk.

The ventriloquist feigned indifference by eating with avidity, while the landlord was evidently considering something. His cogitation resulted in his offering the stranger three hundred dollars for his wonderful talking dog.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

Little Jimmie Watt watched the cover of a lot dancing up and down like a dandy; then he went and learned a trade, and the first steam engine made, and the whole world found it very handy.

COURTESY AT HOME. No pleasanter sight is there than a family of young folks who are quick to perform little acts of attention toward their elders. The placing of the big armchair in a warm place for mamma, running for a footstool for aunt, hunting up papa's spectacles, and scores of little deeds, show un-suppressed and loving hearts. But if mamma never returns a smiling "Thank you, dear," if papa's "Just what I was wanting, Susie," does not indicate that the little attention is appreciated, the children soon drop the habit. Little people are imitative creatures and quickly catch the spirit surrounding them. So, if when the mother's spool of cotton rolls from her lap the father stoops to pick it up bright eyes will see the act and quick minds make a note of it. By example, a thousand times more quickly than by precept, can children be taught to speak kindly to each other, to acknowledge favors, to be gentle and unselfish, to be thoughtful and considerate of the comfort of the family. The boys, with inward pride of their father's courteous demeanor, will be chivalrous and helpful to their own young sisters; the girls, imitating their mother, will be gentle and patient, even when big brothers are noisy and heedless. In the home where true courtesy prevails, it seems to meet you on the very threshold. You feel the kindly welcome on entering. No angry voices are heard upstairs. No sulken children are sent from the room. No peremptory orders are given to cover the delinquencies of housekeeping or servants. A delightful atmosphere pervades the house—unmistakable, yet indescribable.

A Modern Portia. A modern Portia with a fortune of \$25,000,000! Miss Helen Gould is the Portia. Miss Gould has just completed the full course of the law school of the University of New York, and at a private examination held last Thursday secured a brilliant average. Early next month she will receive from Chancellor McCracken's hands a diploma of LL. B. But Miss Gould has no intention of practicing law. She has simply fulfilled her theory that a woman endowed with brains and money should use the one for the protection of the other. Hereafter she will be better fitted to manage her vast property. During the last years of her celebrated father's life Miss Gould was his constant companion. Since his death she has lived comparatively alone, and the world would have heard but little of her but for her many acts of charity.

Miss Anna Gould also studied law, but abandoned it after Court Castellane became a suitor for her hand.

A Remarkable Swapper. A clergyman of Gainesville, Ga., has a boy who is a remarkable swapper. "Not many months ago," says his father, "I bought him a knife. Like a boy, he left it out one night and it got rusty. Then he lost interest in it and began at once to swap it off. Well, the little rascal has naturally a knack for trading, and, sir, he took that rusty knife, and with a little work on it and a good deal of talking he succeeded in changing it for two good knives. These knives in turn he traded for three knives, worked considerably on them and got a cheap watch for the three. He kept trading till he had completed forty-seven different bargains, most of them in his favor. At the end of the forty-seventh trade he owned a shot gun, a hound puppy, two jack knives and 65 cents in money, besides other smaller trinkets too numerous to mention."

A Lincoln Anecdote. At one time Lincoln and a certain judge were bantering each other about trading horses, and it was agreed that the next morning at 9 o'clock they should make a trade, and there was to be no backing out, under penalty of \$25.

At the hour appointed the judge came up, leading the sorriest looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a wooden sawhorse on his shoulders. Great were the shouts and the laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased when Mr. Lincoln, on surveying the judge's animal, set down his sawhorse and exclaimed: "Well, judge this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

Queen Victoria's Oldest Subject. The oldest living subject of Queen Victoria is said to be a Mrs. McLaughlin, of Linnavaddy, Ireland, the home of Thackeray's famous "Peg." She is said to be in her 111th year, and to be in full possession of all her faculties.

Signs of the Times. There was once a ventriloquist so poor that he was obliged to travel on foot from town to town to save expense, much after the manner of the gentleman of adventure in Grimm's tales. One day he was joined on the road by a dog as forsaken as himself, but who seemed desirous of becoming his companion.

They journeyed together to the next town and entered the tavern tired, hungry, and penniless. Not being troubled with the inconvenient refinement which comes from a long line of gentle ancestors, the man had developed the quality known as cheek, so he and the dog sat down to eat a supper for which they could not pay.

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hesitate a moment, then said, abruptly, "Yes, you may have him for three hundred dollars."

When the money was paid and the ventriloquist was about to leave, he turned to the dog, patted him affectionately and said, "Good by, old fellow, you've been a good friend to me."

"You are no friend of mine," returned the dog, "to sell me to another master. As you were mean enough to serve me such a trick, I'll have revenge. I'll never speak another word as long as I live."

The ventriloquist then made off with all possible haste.

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THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Hush Money--His Aunt's Visitor--Within Bounds--A Birthday Surprise, Etc., Etc.

HUSH MONEY. "What is this hush money I've heard so much about?" "Er--well, it's the kind that speaks for itself?"

HIS AUNT'S VISITOR.

Little boy--Mr. Baldie comes here pretty often, doesn't he? Does he come to see you? Maiden aunt--Te-he! I suppose he does.

Little boy--Mebby he wants you to adopt him.

WITHIN BOUNDS.

Mother--So Mrs. Nextdoor treated you to cookies? I hope you did not make a pig of yourself.

Johnny--No, indeed. A pig could eat about a bushel. I didn't have over a peck.

A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE.

Little Fannie--Mamma, this is your birthday, and I'm going to surprise you with a bunch of flowers.

"Where did you get them, Fannie?" "Off your Easter hat, mamma."

FOREWARNED.

Dashway--Did you tell the Bride-locks that I was going to call there last night?

Cleverton--Yes. How did you do?

Dashway--The wedding present I gave them was in the front parlor. I

A SAFE RULE.

"I don't know whether you'll like this. It's a peculiar mixture of mine--half English breakfast and half Oolong."

"It certainly ought to be right. One of the first rules I learned in school was that we should always cross our teas."

HIS PET GRIEVANCE.

"What makes you look so unhappy while you are singing?" asked a friend of the tenor of a prominent church.

"Put yourself in my place," said the tenor, crossly. "As soon as I reach my solo the soprano begins to flirt with the bass and the members of the congregation are so diverted by them that they pay no attention to me. Is it any wonder I look unhappy?"

DOES SEEM QUEER.

"No," said Smallwort, "I hardly feel justified in saying that Peppers is inordinately vain, but when a fellow has a music box in his room arranged to play 'Hail to the Chief' as soon as he opens the door, what is one to think of him?"

A RELIABLE GUEST.

Proprietor--Seems to me you were rather careless to give the best room in the house to an utter stranger without baggage.

Hotel clerk--Oh, he's all right. He's worth a million at least. He's here as defendant in a suit for breach of promise--damages to the plaintiff's injured heart, \$200,000.

AN OFF DAY.

Miss Newgate--What was done at the New Woman International Progressive Club to-day?

Bachelor girl--Nothing, you see, Mrs. Sweetie happened to come in with her baby, and before we all got through kissing the little cherub it was time to adjourn.

DANGEROUS SYMPTOMS.

"I fear that Maud is developing 'new woman' tendencies," said the anxious mother.

"What has she been doing?" asked the father, in genuine alarm. "Been wanting bloomers?"

"Oh, not so bad as that. But she used a buttonhook instead of a hair-pin this morning to fasten her shoes."

HERE'S TALENT.

Agnes--Great mimic, the Count. Gives wonderful imitations.

Jack--Yes; he gave one a year or so ago that cost him three months in jail.

Agnes--Impossible! What was it?

Jack--Gave his landlord an imitation of a \$20 bill.

AFTER THE CIRCUS.

"I'd like," said the elephant, reflectively, "to get hold of that idiot who fed me a fake macaroon with a gob of tar in the middle of it. I'd--"

"But it was no doubt kindly meant," interrupted the laughing hyena. "Tar is good to keep the moths out of your trunk, you know."

The laughing hyena knew that the elephant was securely chained.

IN THE FUTURE NOVEL.

"Adolphus," said the new girl, in tones of strong, vibrant tenderness, "be not afraid, sweet one; look up, and tell me you will share my lot! I cannot offer you fame or fortune at present, but the path to both is opening before me. This very week I have been made attorney for the Maidens' and Matrons' Bank, the Salesladies' Trust Company (limited) and the Shoppers' Railroad Association. Rely upon my strong heart and willing hand, dearest, and be mine!"

Adolphus, trembling and blushing, toyed with the flower in his button-hole. It was her gift. She drew nearer to him; their eyes met, and with one yielding sigh he dropped his head upon her stalwart shoulder and whispered "Yes!"--Harper's Bazar.

NOT SURPRISED.

Bass--Do you know that Fender-son is a regular lady killer? Cass--I suspected as much from what he said about the woman in the big hat just in front of him at the theater the other night.

ENOUGH FOR THE CEREMONY.

Sweet girl--Papa says you can't afford to marry. Ardent youth--Nonsense! I can get a preacher to perform the ceremony for \$2.

Sweet girl--Can you? How foolish papa is!

WILLING TO OBLIGE.

Dick--I have a dreadful cold. Tom--Why don't you take something for it? Dick--I'd like to, but I can't get any offers. I'll let you have it away below cost if you want it.

LOOKING FORWARD.

"I thought you were paying attention to Willie Bright?" "I was, but he is too womanish in his ways for me. He thinks he ought to have a vote, same as a woman."

CURE FOR LOCKJAW.

Dr. Paul Gibier Believes He Has a Remedy.

Science may have mastered the secret of coping with the terrible disease known as lockjaw, death from which is often said to be more terrible than from the worst form of hydrophobia. Before the Medico Legal Society of New York a paper was read by Dr. Paul Gibier, director of the New York Pasteur Institute, in which he presented the interesting facts of a discovery in which he claimed that anti-toxine of tetanus is a positive preventive, if not an absolute remedy for lockjaw. He entered at length into the details of the preparation of the anti-toxine, and cited numerous cases where the introduction of the fluid into the system both prevented lockjaw and effected cures. Through a large microscope, which Dr. Gibier had previously set up on the platform, his hearers were enabled to peep at magnified "bacilli" of tetanus, which he had charged the glass.

"These are the germs which produce the terrible tetanus," said Dr. Gibier. "The bacilli of tetanus cover all sections of the earth inhabited by man or beast. The germs are indigenous, I might say, to the soil where man or animal live. Particularly in the stable myriads and myriads of these germs of disease have their being. The horse, more than any other animal, is susceptible to tetanus, and this may be accounted for from the fact that the filth of the stable is more conducive to the development of the tetanus bacilli than any other condition."

"The disease is not contracted by inhalation. It is the result of the germs being introduced into a wound or opening of the skin. Once in the wound the germs of tetanus thrive wonderfully, and in a few days produce that awful condition which results in the stiffening of the muscles of the jaw, terrible convulsions and rigidity of frame and ends in death."

Dr. Gibier quoted statistics showing that sixty-five per cent of the cases of tetanus resulted fatally, these figures including deaths on the battle field and in railroad accidents. The development of tetanus among victims of railroad disasters, he said, was due to the introduction of the germ-charged rail into the wounds.

The Enormous Sun, Arcturus.

If the earth were situated midway between the sun and Arcturus it would receive 5,198 times as much light from that star as it would from the sun! It is quite probable, moreover, that the heat of Arcturus exceeds the solar heat in the same ratio, for the spectroscopic shows that although Arcturus is surrounded with a cloak of metallic vapors proportionately far more extensive than the sun's, yet, smothered as the great star seems in some respects to be, it rivals Sirius itself in the intensity of its radiant energy.

If we suppose the radiation of Arcturus to be the same per unit of surface as the sun's, it follows that Arcturus exceeds the sun about 375,000 times in volume, and that its diameter is no less than 62,350,000 miles! Imagine the earth and the other planets constituting the solar system removed to Arcturus and set revolving around it in orbits of the same forms and sizes as those in which they circle about the sun. Poor Mercury! For that little planet it would indeed be a jump from the frying pan into the fire, because, as it rushed to perihelion, Mercury would plunge more than 2,500,000 miles beneath the surface of the giant star. Venus and the earth would perhaps melt like snowflakes at the mouth of a furnace. Even far away Neptune, the remotest member of the system, would be bathed in torrid heat.

Poison in Its Spur.

Ornithorhynchus paradoxus, the unique Australian duck billed water mole, has lost its character for harmlessness, but has an added peculiarity, a sting like a bee. The male has on its hind leg a powerful spur connected with a gland. When attacked it does not scratch with the spur, but digs it in; and now an Australian naturalist has discovered that a virulent poison is ejected from the spur. He has found two men who were poisoned in handling the animal, and a number of dogs, four of the latter dying.