

ALL NIGHT SHELTERS.

Metropolitan Lodging Houses for Poor Women.

Places in New York Where Beds Can Be Obtained at Small Cost Together with Food to Keep Body and Soul Together.

The average New Yorker who hears the words "Bowery lodging-house" pictures to himself scenes of sneak-thievery, debauchery, depravity, and privation. The newspapers have informed him that these are the homes, sweet homes of a variety of individuals known technically as "pan-handlers," "jail birds," "grafters," "roustabouts," "hamfatters," "flim flammers," "stool pigeons," "fakers," "hobos," "tramps," "bums," and other equally choice terms.

There are some two hundred or more of these lodging-houses in this city, out of which but six are devoted to the exclusive use of women. And concerning these the general public knows but very little, if anything. With but few exceptions, if any, the lodging-houses for women far excel, in nearly every respect, the abodes of the Bowery, and as a rule Gotham's financially embarrassed daughters are a superior set of individuals, compared with their similarly situated brothers. Their shelters are kept scrupulously neat and clean, the floors are scoured daily, the sheeting and pillow cases are often immaculate in their whiteness, the surroundings generally are snug and homelike, and, in short, everything is as good as any one might expect under the circumstances.

Women's lodging-houses are of three distinct sorts, and if shipping terms were applicable they might be rated as of the cabin, intermediate and steerage, for that would come nearer describing them than anything else. Those of the cabin, or first class, should hardly come under the head of what is generally meant and commonly known as a lodging-house. Most of them are expensive affairs, far beyond the means of those really very hard up to patronize. They are often luxuriously furnished with moquette carpets, lounges, portieres, bric-a-brac, mahogany tables, brass and enameled bedsteads, oil paintings, etc., and usually a piano. Those of the second class are the abiding places generally of respectable, more or less friendless women, who secure from their masters penurious compensation for their toil, and are, therefore, compelled to seek shelter where their scanty means will permit. The establishments of the third class are what is known as shelters, and are the dwellings of the poorest of the poor, and correspond to the Bowery lodgings for men.

One of the most interesting of these last is located at 6 Rivington street, just off the Bowery. The glass transparency over the door reads: "Women's Lodging House." It is a five-story, tenement-appearing, brick building, with ugly iron fire escapes in front on each floor.

The place affords shelter nightly for about one hundred women. The rules are very strict. The price for a bed in the dormitories is 15 cents, and for single rooms 20 cents per night. The sleeping rooms are opened at 6 P. M. and closed at 8:30 A. M. sharp, except on Sunday, when they are open all day for those who desire to rest, but no talking is permitted.

In cases of illness, not contagious, beds are provided in one of the back dormitories, but 15 cents a day extra must be paid in advance, and on application to the matron meals may be ordered from any of the neighboring restaurants, but must be carried up stairs by one of the female attaches, as no man, unless he be a minister of the gospel, is ever permitted to enter.

Children, twelve years old or more, occupying a bed with their mothers or any one else, are charged full price, and any one wishing to keep her closet or private room key is allowed to do so only by leaving a deposit of 20 cents with the matron, who refunds it "if the key is returned in good order."

Any one may wash and iron clothes in the house laundry by paying in advance 10 cents, for which soap and starch are provided. Those desiring to leave anything in the closets or lockers during the day are required to pay for that night's lodging before 8:30 A. M., and those who leave bundles in the office or storeroom are charged 30 cents for each bundle, and the same must be paid in advance, but if the goods are removed before the expiration of thirty days the money is refunded at the rate of 1 cent a day for the days remaining. The house is closed for the night and the bell detached at 11 o'clock, and anyone desiring to gain admittance after that hour must give notice to the matron before 5 P. M. and pay double.

Everything about the place is clean and cozy, and waxed and polished are the halls and dormitories. The sitting room is nicely carpeted, and can boast of an organ, tables covered with turkey-red cloths, and a goodly supply of books and newspapers. Religious services are conducted each Sunday afternoon by a clergyman from the Protestant Episcopal General Theological Seminary.—New York News.

Dynamite for Icebergs.

Polar expeditions are to carry ice-breakers and to deal destruction to icebergs in future, if the plans of Vice-Admiral Makarof, of the Russian navy, succeed.

He proposes to use a machine called an ice-breaker, which will force a passage through frozen Arctic seas and make the trip for a strong steamer as easy as a voyage across the Atlantic in the ordinary vessel. Admiral Makarof's invention is said to be powerful enough to crush through ice

twenty-two feet thick, and as the average thickness of ice in the polar regions is considered to be not over twenty feet, he is thought to have an easy way before him. The nature of the mechanism of the ice-breaker has been carefully kept secret, but it is thought that dynamite is used. The vessel used will probably be constructed with a double hull. By means of a series of steel tubes the dynamite will be exploded as soon as the ram touches the ice.

WHY HE GAVE UP HOME.

A Settler's Reasons for Giving Up His Claim.

Some time ago the register of the United States land office at Wa-Keeney, Kan., called upon a settler to show cause why his claim should not be forfeited. The settler had abandoned his homestead claim in Kansas and moved into Tennessee. His answer is now preserved as a valuable relic among the archives of the general land office here. It follows:

"Answering your favor of the 2d instant, referring to my entry No. 19,005, under the homestead law, will say, that I have no cause to show within the prescribed thirty days (nor weeks, nor months even) why my claim should not be forfeited to said piece of land in that arid region where rains are as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth and as far between as angels' visits; where water is more precious than diamonds; where the lean and hungry coyote barks ever to the majestic silence of the lonely and unpeopled prairies; where the festiverabbit wanders unmolested, lordly monarch of all he surveys, and mourns for his lost companions, the Indian, buffalo and settler, who are not.

"I voluntarily surrender all my right, title and interest in said land forever and irrevocably to the eminent domain of our Uncle Sam. Blessed be his magnanimous great heart for that beneficent homestead law, that plants the settler on his lonely claim, forty miles from nowhere, and out of God's knowledge, to delve to the tune of blizzards, cyclones, grasshoppers and chinch bugs, and after a few short and fitful years full of sorrow and hard work he seeks his last and only rest in the bosom of that same mother earth, his only companion in his isolation.

"I congratulate his excellency, the President on this magnificent addition to the public domain. I thought it forfeited years ago."

Swinging Bridge.

The Sanitary Trustees of Chicago are about to build the most stupendous swing bridge across the drainage canal at 21st street and Campbell avenue, the construction to be under the direction of the most eminent engineering skill. The total length of the structure as planned is 400 feet and its width 120 feet. The centre columns will reach a height of 68 feet; headway under the trusses for trams, 18 feet; headway under the bridge, 18 feet; and a depth of 24 feet of water in the channel. The bridge will be of steel, involving a weight of 7,000,000 pounds, and capable of supporting the enormous weight of 8,000,000 pounds. Three railways, it is expected, will use this structure, crossing on eight tracks. The turntable will have a diameter of not less than eighty feet, and the bridge will be swung in one minute's time, probably by electric power.

Big Poultry Farm.

The largest poultry farm in the world belongs to Mr. Isaac Wilbur of Little Compton, R. I. Mr. Wilbur ships about 150,000 dozen eggs a year. He keeps his fowls on the colony plan, housing about forty in a house 8 by 10 feet or 8 by 12 feet in size, these houses being about 150 feet apart, set out in long rows over the gently sloping fields. He has 100 of these houses scattered over three or four fields. The food is loaded into a low wagon, which is driven about to each house in turn, the attendant feeding as he goes. At the afternoon feeding the eggs are collected. The fowls are fed twice a day. The morning food is a mash of cooked vegetables and mixed meals. The afternoon food is whole corn the year round.

Meat Cooked by Cold.

Any one who has ever picked up with a bare hand a piece of intensely cold iron knows that the touch burns almost as badly as if the metal were red hot. Indeed, the action of great heat and extreme cold are so similar that, according to London Tit-Bits, a Hungarian chemist has turned the latter to account to prepare meats for food. He subjects the meat to 60 degrees of frost and then seals it up in airtight cans. The result is that the meat, which is practically "cooked by cold," will keep any time and can be eaten with very little further preparation.

Geniuses, Giants or Dwarfs.

Mr. Havelock Ellis has been investigating the connection between genius and size. He comes to conclusions extremely disconcerting to the average man, for he shows quite conclusively that great mental powers have always been prone to reside in extremely large men, like Thackeray, or extremely small ones, like Thomas Moore. Of 241 men of genius whose measurements Mr. Ellis looked up, 142 were more or less giants and 125 more or less dwarfs. How to be clever, though of medium height, he finds a problem seldom successfully solved.

Adopting Indian Tactics.

A French colonel is teaching his officers and men to crawl on their stomachs, and has invented a leather glove to help the process. The regiment can now travel 100 yards in this manner without fatigue.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Calves—Pure Stock Water—Improvement in Fowls by Selection—Gapes on Old Farm—The Cabbage Louse—Washing Butter, Etc., Etc.

CALVES.

When the calf is three or four weeks old commence to feed it a little hay, for it will develop its first stomach; clover hay is the best. Then force the calves rapidly all summer by giving good pasturage, and they will be in condition to be kept through the winter without loss.

PURE STOCK WATER.

How many farmers and breeders have the proper watering facilities for their stock, especially their pigs? Nearly every one in these days of agricultural papers like the American Agriculturist, appreciates the value of plenty of pure water for the animals of the farm, but few have proper places to furnish it. The well to be safe should be at least twenty feet below the surface, so that it goes through one stratum of clay. Take the surface soil away from around the well for four feet and replace it with clay packed hard. Let the clay come up around the curb to make it tight. Have the watering trough tight, with a drain so that there will be no sloppy place around the well. Keep it clean and pure.—E. T. Riddick, in American Agriculturist.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOWLS BY SELECTION.

To increase the egg-producing capacity of a flock requires selection. The mistake made is not in the selection of the hens, but of the male, as he is the sire of all the chicks hatched. Eggs from the best layers only should be used for hatching, and the male should be hatched from an egg laid by the best hen in the flock, using only pure-bred fowls, and avoiding kinship if possible, as prolificacy can be transmitted to the progeny. If this rule is adhered to, there will be in a few years a marked improvement in the number of eggs laid by each member of the flock. The difficulty is to discover which hen in a flock lays the largest number of eggs. This cannot easily be done, excepting by watching the hens, which is impossible; but the difficulty is lessened by using small flocks, as then the hens are known. One method is to have the nests in a location so arranged that after a hen lays she cannot get back into the yard from which she came, but must pass out of an entrance leading into another yard. At night all the hens that have laid will then be together, leaving the others in the front yard.—Farm and Fireside.

WASHING BUTTER.

Years ago it was generally supposed that in order to make really fine butter one must now allow a drop of water to touch it. Of late years, since we began to hear so much about granular butter, we have been instructed to wash it in successive waters until this was drawn off clear or free from milkiness. It is my opinion that neither one or these policies is the right one to follow. I have tested this matter of washing butter for a number of years, and have come to the conclusion that either extreme is to be avoided. To wash it, even in granular form, until the water runs clear off, will give us a butter that will not decay or turn strong so soon as that not washed so thoroughly, but it washes out much of its flavor. On the other hand, while the flavor is enhanced by not washing, the butter milk left in after working will tend to putrefaction, for, as we all know, there is nothing which more quickly spoils and becomes ill-smelling than butter milk.

To work out all the butter milk breaks the grain, makes the butter salty. Of course we do not want to do this, so we will wash it in granular form through two or three waters (depending upon the quantity of the water used and also upon the temperature of the butter), work in the salt until thoroughly incorporated and call it finished.—Mrs. E. R. Wood, in Jersey Bulletin.

GAPES ON OLD FARMS.

Gapes prevail on old farms more than on new locations, due to the fouling of the soil during years of occupancy. Chicks should be kept on clean board floors, or on new plots of ground, the object being to avoid any location that may have been occupied by fowls or chicks during any former year. One of the methods adopted by those who have been successful is to spade a piece of ground and scatter a mixture of one part salt and ten parts air-slaked lime on the surface, raking it well with a fine-toothed rake.—Farm and Fireside.

THE CABBAGE LOUSE.

In a bulletin devoted to injurious plant lice, issued from the Maryland station, attention is attracted to the old time enemy, the cabbage louse. This pest appears early in the season, even attacking young cabbage grown for transplanting. It also attacks turnips and radishes to a greater or less extent. The winged viviparous female is greenish gray in color. Flight usually takes place during very warm weather, and it is not an uncommon sight with us to see the air filled with them in August. The complete life-history of the pest is still unknown. The same remedies suggested for the melon plant louse can be used for this insect. They congregate on the underside of the leaves in great numbers, where they can be reached to best advantage by a spray directed with the bent brass extension.

SELECTION OF SOWS.

The time is now at hand when we can make an intelligent selection of young brood sows that should be discarded. The strongest growers and best feeders and grazers, and those possessing an active, vigorous disposition, with other individual merits, should be selected. We may find a good grower that will lay on flesh fast, but a lazy, sluggish habit, which seldom makes a good mother. Great care should be taken to learn if their heartiness to select a sow that seems right in all particulars, but have her in after life overlay and kill all her pigs, which often results from defective hearing, and, besides, that defect is likely to be transmitted to her progeny. The more uniform as to size and build (the selection can be from year to year) the greater the beauty of the herd, which adds materially to the selling price when the herd is inspected by the buyer.

And we should take well into consideration the sow that bred those we now select. We would not select breeders from sows that did not harmonize with our idea of what a breeder should be. It is always safe, and tends towards improvement, to select from those that have filled our antipathic as breeders and mothers for several generations, and that are of that general build and form that shows improvement. It is better to hold to one or two lines, of the same breeding, for the desired characteristic will then become more hereditary, while the change of sires will bring about the necessary changes in breeding to insure vitality, while retaining many of the desired characteristics of a line of sows. We can hold the uniformity of a herd of feeders, designed for market from year to year, by careful selection of sows, and in this way secure a steady improvement.—Farm, Stock and Home.

STRAW AS AN ABSORBENT.

Where only a limited amount of stock is kept and there is plenty of straw, there is absolutely no excuse for a muddy barnyard. A large barnyard is usually a mistake, anyway. It is far more unsafe as a place of exercise for horses in the winter than a small lot. The smaller the lot the less temptation to chase each other, and the less risk in every way. For half a dozen horses an inclosure four rods square is sufficiently large. The same place may serve for a bunch of cattle, each kind of stock being let out of the stables at different hours. This inclosure should adjoin the stables, and should have a substantial board fence around it five or six feet high. The straw from part of the wheat crop should be stacked in this lot, and enough used each week to keep every foot of the ground well covered and dry. The ground should be scooped out sufficiently to prevent any drainage, and if no water runs into the lot except what falls upon it, there will rarely be more than the straw can absorb. In this way all the droppings of the stock while out of their stables are saved, and the rotted refuse, with these droppings, makes a large quantity of fair manure. Refuse cornstalks can be scattered over the straw, and as the moisture rises in the surface mass, and the stock tramps and breaks it, the stalks will rot, and all this coarse manure may be drawn out of the lot and scattered the next summer without any such inconvenience as those experience who feed fodder long and let the refuse lie uncovered in piles on the ground. I am far from advocating this method of handling coarse feeds in sections where they are limited in quantity, but where they are as abundant as on many farms in the great Ohio and Mississippi valleys, the farm horses and cows should never be permitted to touch muddy ground and waste manure while out of their stables during the winter for exercise or water. The small lot, with a straw-stack in it, means comfort to the stock and to its owner, and an increased supply of manure.—Farm and Fireside.

Rattlesnake Superstitions.

The rattlesnake, because of its venomous bite, is universally dreaded, and writes Dr. W. J. Hoffman, in an article quoted in Current Literature, numerous curious beliefs are current respecting this reptile, also the use to which the various parts may be put, and the treatment of its bite. The rattle, if tied to a string and suspended from the neck of an infant, will serve to prevent convulsions; if carried by an adult, it will guard against rheumatism. The oil is employed as a remedy for deafness, and the venom, diluted, mixed with bread, and made into pills, has been administered internally to cure rheumatism. Another curious superstition held by young men is that if one places a snake's tongue upon the palm of his hand—beneath the glove—it will cause any girl, regardless of her previous indifference, to ardently return his passion if he be enabled but once to take her hand within his own. This resembles to a certain extent the former use in Germany of a dove's tongue, which was similarly employed, and furthermore, if one became aware that the choice of his heart failed to respond to his affection, he had only to place a dove's tongue within his mouth and snatch a kiss, when the girl's objection or indifference to him instantly vanished.

Highest Bridge in Europe.

The bridge over the Wupperthal at Mungten, Germany, which was opened to railway traffic July 1st, is 300 feet high, 1,630 feet long and has a central span of 530 feet, it being the highest European bridge, with the exception of the Garabit viaduct, in Southern France, which is 505 feet in height.

THE NATION'S CAPITOL.

Care of the Great Building Occupied by Congress.

Functions of the Police and the Guides—Strictness of the Regulations—Evils That Have Been Abated—Obnoxious Persons Kept Out.

The strictness with which the police regulations of the Capitol are enforced now calls attention to the great change that has been brought about at the Capitol during the past few years. The interest attached to this great building renders it more than a mere meeting place for the national legislature. It is the chief attraction at Washington to all visitors. Nobody ever visits Washington as a tourist without spending some time in the Capitol building, and the presence of the two legislative bodies in session is scarcely less a chief attraction. While comparatively few persons are in the galleries of the House and Senate from day to day, the corridors and ante-rooms, the rotunda and the statutory hall are nearly always pretty well filled with people. About a dozen guides make a good living by showing people around. Every picture, every statue, however poorly executed, every column and almost every stone and piece of plaster in the internal decoration is an object of interest. Even the echoes that vibrate from the vaulted ceilings seem to be an endless source of curiosity and entertainment.

The result is that the public loss of sight of the fact that the Capitol is primarily a business building, and that work is being done there which it is not always convenient to have interrupted. Certain privacy that has to be secured in parts of the building during business hours excites more or less resentment, but Congress would be much slower in its work than it is if the visiting public were allowed to have their way.

Moreover, if it were not for the rigid observance of police regulations the building would be neither a safe nor a reputable place. Many thousands of persons are in the building nearly every day; there is a vast expanse of corridors, running in many directions, with sharp angles and secluded retreats. A considerable army might be concealed in the underground passageways along the foundations, and even an explosion might occur there without being heard in the occupied portions of the building, and in the hundreds of committee rooms heaven knows what might be going on. It is only of comparatively recent years that gambling has been broken up in the Capitol building.

It was largely on account of the amount of gambling and other disreputable things that were going on in the building, though the public knew nothing of it, that the police force was reorganized a few years ago and a rigid police patrol instituted. While gambling houses were strictly prohibited in the city of Washington and strict laws were passed by Congress to destroy them, many games for big stakes were being played in the committee rooms of Congress, not always by people who had a right to be in the building and not always the social congenial poker parties, but serious games for the money that was in them.

Frequently carouses of an extraordinary character occurred in committee rooms. All sorts of characters haunted the building. Strangers were liable to be taken in by crooks pretending to be official guides, and ladies were not at all sure of being free from insult. At one time it seemed as if the building might get a reputation for evil which would be a disgrace to the capital of the nation.

Now there is no building in the country where greater order and propriety is observed. Gambling in the committee rooms is a thing of the past. When the building is closed for the day no one is permitted to remain in it unless it is made very clear that he is required to do so to engage in work which he is employed by the government to do. During the hours that the building is open police are so stationed that there is no corridor or corner of the interior of the building that some one of them does not overlook constantly.

No one is permitted to play the part of a guide except the men who are duly appointed to that position, and who are provided with badges. Any man seen openly or impudently accosting a stranger is subject to immediate arrest, and he cannot escape it unless he has some perfectly valid excuse for his action. Begging or canvassing in the building is not permitted, and all disreputable characters found in the building are immediately escorted to the outside and notified not to return. A certain class of loafers who used to haunt the corridors have been blacklisted, and are compelled to keep away. Certain other former habitués who used to carry on flirtations in the corridors and galleries and lie in wait in the ladies' reception rooms have been notified, one after another, not to again appear in the building. The Capitol is still not free from lobbyists, but the lobby is a very powerful institution, and it would be difficult to tell where to draw the line between the lobbyist and the distinguished visitor, and any prohibitive measure would affect a number of distinguished former statesmen and might prove embarrassing to men of present position. Nor are office-seekers prohibited, though they are held in restraint whenever the senators or representatives whom they are worrying ask for protection against them.—Washington Star.

Clocks for the Deaf.

One of the interesting items of the State expense charges for July, says the St. Paul Globe, appears in the cur-

rent lists of the State school for the deaf at Fairbault. It is an item of \$252 for a clock, which is remarkable in more elements than in that of its expensive character.

But this mechanism is certainly a wonder, for it is so arranged that it calls the pupils' attention to the school programme and the calendar, in spite of the fact that they are all deaf and the usual alarms do not affect them in the least.

Of course one clock would not be visible to all the pupils, so there are ten secondary clocks, with 12-inch dials, which tell the teachers and scholars who cannot see the main clock what class in mathematics is now due to count up fractions on its fingers, or when the scholars in English grammar will write their lesson lessons.

The secondary clocks are included in the original item of \$252, as are five 5-inch fire-gongs, the utility of which in a school for the deaf has aroused the curiosity of some of the State departments, which fear that the precedent thus established may result in the establishment of the purchase of Melisnoniers and Bouguereaus for the dormitory in the school for the blind, and standard works on the integral calculus in the school for the feeble-minded library.

ANNUAL LOSS BY FIRE.

It Has Been Very Much Reduced by Improved Methods of Fighting Fire.

Mr. Charles T. Hill, the artist, who has been writing a series of papers for St. Nicholas on the New York Fire Department, has a final paper on "The Fire Patrol." Mr. Hill says:

The annual loss by fire in the United States amounts to one hundred millions of dollars, and fully one-half of this loss is caused by the water used in extinguishing the fires. Before the introduction, in 1872, of controlling or shut-off nozzles used on the fire-hose, the percentage of loss by water was even greater—at least two-thirds of the total loss. Previous to the introduction of this much-needed device, there was used what was known as an "open pipe," a plain open nozzle, with no contrivance for shutting off the water. When it was necessary to shut off, the order had to be passed to the engineer, sometimes a long distance from the fire; and unless the nozzles could be thrust from a convenient window, the water would go pouring out, spreading destruction in all directions. In small fires, especially in "up stairs" fires in private dwellings, or in business houses stocked with perishable goods, such as feathers, silks, etc., the unnecessary destruction of property was very great.

To-day, fires are fought much more scientifically, and with a great deal more system, than were those of ten or twenty years ago; and officers in command of engine companies are usually very careful not to use any more water than is absolutely necessary. Nearly every hose-wagon in the New York Fire Department to-day carries three sizes of hose—the regulation size, 2½ inch, used at all ordinary fires; 3-inch (known as "third-alarm hose," and only used at fires of considerable magnitude), and a small hose carried on a reel under the wagon. This hose is 1½ inches in diameter, and very easy to handle, and on account of the ease with which any number of lengths of it can be carried about, it is that often used at small fires in dwellings, office-buildings, and flats. With a controlling nozzle on the end, the fireman can dash up several flights of stairs and into a bedroom or closet, and extinguish a small fire before it has time to spread, using the water only where it is absolutely needed. To drag the regulation size (which weighs about eighty pounds to the length) up and around winding stairways, etc., would take much longer, and perhaps give a fire time to get just beyond the point of easy control; besides, when the water is finally started, a great deal more is used by this hose than is necessary, especially in the case of a small fire. It has been practically demonstrated that a considerable amount of fire can be extinguished with a small amount of water applied effectively, and the use of the small hose has done much to reduce the damage by water at fires in dwellings and flats.

Cupolas Made of Paper.

Paper cupolas for building are remarkable for their lightness. A cupola of that kind consists of from twenty-four to thirty separate pieces, and is produced over a wooden model by pasting huge rolls of suitable paper one over the other. Every separate piece runs from the base to the top of the hemispherical roof of the cupola, thus forms a vault-like strip which is broad at the bottom and narrow at the top.

For the production of these separate parts of the cupola roll paper of very good quality is used, which is first cut, says the Philadelphia Record, into the requisite length and breadth, then moistened and stretched over the wooden model. Upon the first strip is pasted another, also moistened, over this a third, and so on until the necessary thickness is reached. The moistened strips of paper adhere firmly to each other and retain their concave shape, and after being dried constitute hard, resisting pieces, which are made waterproof by oiling, polishing with wet iron, asphaltum and varnishing, and are then put together in the shape of a round cupola.

The revised returns of the Russian census give the total population of that country as 129,000,000. This makes Russia third in rank among nations, China coming first with an estimated population of 400,000,000, and the British Empire next with 298,000,000.