A Bit of Sentiment Indulged in Just Before the Performance-Danger Dreaded to More than Half Invited-Japanese

Jugglers. The Varli staters are two pretty English girls who do some very good trapeze work. One of them performs a dive, head foremost, from the very top of the proscepended just above the heads of the specta ors in the parquet. That is one of the most thrillingly effective feats ever shown here in public, but, in point of fact, is very little if any more dangerous than a number of things that they do together on the trapeze before that finale. So long as the performer comes down into the net there need be no fear. There is more danger in the breaking of a tightly strained guy wire at a critical moment by which the trapeze might be violently jerked out of place and the performer thrown off, away outside of the net, to fall upon the backs of the orchestra chairs and be picked up a mass of broken bones and mangled flesh, perhaps dead. To guard against this as far as possible the greatest care is exercised in the stretching of the wire and rope guys, which is all gone over and examined before each performance. This, with the staching of the net. takes several minutes.

A BIT OF SENTIMENT.

While these things are being done the two sisterse stand waiting in the first entrance, on the "prompt" side of the stage, with big cloaks draped about their scantily clad forms, and their mother close behind them When the signal is given that all is ready, the mother draws off their cloaks. Then the two girls embrace and kiss each other's hands. After that they dart out on the stage, and a moment later they are up in the air risking their necks. If that little bit of sentimental business were done in public, it would be understood as a tawdry conceit for effect, like many other things in which gymnasts and acrobats indulge, with a view to impressing the spectators. But it is not. The embracing and kissing are all done "in the wings," where it is only by accident that a person near the footlights in the parquet on the opposite side of the stage may perchance see it. The general disposition to ascribe to superstition of some sort the motive impelling people to do somewhat unusua things naturally suggests that as a reason for the Vaidi gfris' demonstration. But upon inquiry it is learned that this is prompted by simple affection, nothing more. Each knows that it is well within the range of possibilities that the slipping of her hand, the failure by a hair's breadth of the other's grasp or a break of the ap-paratus may cause her sister's plunge to death, or that that fate may be her own, within the next few minutes. With that feeling in mind, the hand clasps, embrace and kisses between the girls are simply a tenderer demonstration of the impulse that prompts comrades, when going into battle, to shake hands silently. It may

There is little superstition among the limb and life venturing classes of public performers, far less than exists among people in the histrionic profession. Whether it is that the vigorous life of the former develops a more healthful and consequently sounder philosophy, or that their training has drilled them into a higher confidence in themselves and appreciation of the possibilities of human control over what weaker natures deen fate and luck, need not be discussed here The fact is enough for present consideration. Of course there are exceptions to this, as to every other rule, but even when they do occur they are not violent, and generally have some pretty fair res son back of the seeming superstition al-leged. Mattie Jackson, for instance, will not ride in the circus ring on Good Fri day. She avows a fear that some accident will happen to her if she does, as one did once upon a time when she broke the rule, or perhaps before she made it. But the fact is that she has a vague idea that it isn't right. And several other well known riders have the same notion.

be for the last time, and they know it.

A DANGER DREADED. It indeed appears that the dread of having a superstition is more rife among circus people than any superstition is, for the excellent reason that they know a danger dreaded is more than half invited. A man whose nerves are to the slightest degree unstrung by expectancy of accident is likely to realize his expectation when attempting some feat that demands all the strength, skill, coolness and nerve that he possesses. Very often a rider's performance is made timid and measurably ineffective simply by a groom's report to him that his horse "does not seem to be feeling all right." There is no superstition about that, but a consciousness that if the horse is not "all right" and up to good remembrance and observance of his training. the breaking of his rider's leg, or perhaps his neck, may be the consequence.

It may hardly be fair to classify as superstitious the practice of carrying potatoes or horse chestnuts in the pockets as fetiches against rheumatism. If it is so, then there is a good deal of that sort of superstition among show folk, but they vehemently affirm that it is prompted by knowledge of the proved medicinal virtues of these articles.

Japanese show people have superstition enough for not only their own share, but for all the others. Each of their troupes of jugglers and acrobats includes in its membership one grave, earnest, bald headed old heathen supposably accustomed to tussling with devils who would fain obstruct the work of the performers or bring them to grief. It is his business, before each important feat involving personal peril, to go about the stage scattering salt and volubly exploding prayers in his firecrackery lingo, to drive the demons away In addition to his potent official efforts for the discouragement of the malign spirits thronging the surrounding ether, each performer carries about with him some sort of an amulet, and the fans that they so constantly employ have charms against the mischierous impa-painted upon them.—New York Sun.

Naval Carrier Pigeons

The French authorities are attempting to make use of carrier pigeons for conveying information from war ships at sea to certain stations on land, and with this object have fitted upon the St. Louis a dovecote, painted the most gorgeous colors, in order to permit the birds to recognize their home from a great distance. Scientific American.

A Herole Girl.

Miss Clara-Oh, Ethel, I had my ears Miss Ethel-Weren't you dreadfully

frightened? Miss Clara-A little at first, but I kept saying "solitaire," "solitaire," "solitaire" to myself, and before I knew it it was all over.-New York Sun

A new vegetable fiber, called "gamoo tic," is imported from Celebes into Holland, and is made to take the place of moss and hair in upholstery.

Our word blizzard is said in England to be a corruption of the phrase hard," applied to a severe gale.

COL ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD.

The Attention He Is Attracting as an Editor and a Politician. Editor and a Politician.

Col. Elliott F. Shepard, son in-law of the late William H. Vanderbit, and amateur author, lecturer and politician, has attracted much attention by his method of conducting The New York Mail and Express, which he lately bought of Cyrus W. Field. His nomination of Chauncey M. Depew for president in a highly characteristic speech before the Federal club has also attracted much notice. This club is what The New York Sun calls a Republican organization of the Sun calls a Republican organization of the brown stone district in New York; and when the club formally opened its new as, corner Madison avenue and Fiftyrooms, corner Madison avenue and rity-ninth street, many eminent men were invit-

ed guests, among them Gen. Sher-man. Hon. Theodore Roosevelt speaker, and dis-cussed the ques-tion as to whether other than American flags should be displayed in New York on pub-lic days. Then Col. Shepard ELMOTT P. SHEPARD.

spoke, and devoted his time to beoming Mr. Depew for the Republican nomination. When he bought The Mail and Express he astonished many and amused some by beginning the publication of extracts from the Bible at the head of his editorial columns. He declared his intention to publish a paper for gentlemen and ladies, and his belief that no journalist should write and no proprietor print anything he would not feel free to speak in a parior. He maintains that a clean paper will command respect and win support, and pro poses to achieve success in that line or not at all. This was all very well; but after the first astonishment and amusement subsided, several very good people begun to murmur against his treatment of the Bible, and many more to

shake their heads ominously. They said it had a tendency to bring the sacred text into contempt. When cynical con-temporaries sneered at his missionary methods he explained in language inti-mating that the Bible was "news" fo them. Criticism was, however, confined to quiet talk until The Mail and Express referred rather flippantly to Matthew Arnold's death; then the Rev. R. Heber Newton, of All Souls' Church, spoke out in the pulpit.

This is what he said: "An evening paper, which, under the thin guise of honoring the Bible by printing miscellaneous extracts from it at the head of its editorial columns, is malevolently seeking to bring our sacred Scriptures into contempt—an aim to be reprobated by all pious people who do abhor such a shepherding of the masses into infidelity—coarsely remarked the other day that Matthew Arnold had ere this found out whether the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was only a stream of tendency.

The preacher went on to criticise rather sharply the sytem of using Bible texts and religious phrases in a cheap commercial fashion, exciting a keen interest in his congregation and much discussion out-

On the same day Col. Shepard spoke at the regular Young Men's meeting at Association hall in New York.

"Providence," said Mr. Shepard, "is simply the evidence of what God has done. God, for instance, caused printing to be invented in the early part of the Fifteenth century. Did any one doubt it? The very first book printed was the Bible. Then the Lord, in 1848, had the first tele graph line erected between Washington and Baltimore. Let the skeptic scoff, but can he gainsay the fact that the very first message flashed by electrical agency was: 'What hath God wrought?'

Do you not see that God Mr. Shepard continued, triumphantly. "We ought to have our conversation in heaven, and heaven is about us." A little later he ventured the opinion

that Sunday papers were the work of the devil, to defeat the good designed by Providence in establishing good papers. Col. Shepard was born in 1833, July 25, in Jamestown, N. Y., was graduated from the New Jersey university in 1855, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. After enjoying a moderate practice at the bar he married Miss Vanderbilt and branched out into politics and literature. He is a very ready and terse writer, and personally a very genial, pleasant gentleman.

St. Paul's Y. M. C. A. Building.

The Young Men's Christian association, of St. Paul, Minn., is to have new quarters. Over \$45,000 has been raised and the work of building will soon be com-

We give the accepted elevation plan of the new building. The site for this hand-some edifice is the northwest corner of Tenth and Minnesota streets, purchased last year at a cost of \$51,500. The lot is 150 by 150, and all the ground will be used excepting a part on Minnesota street, 80 by 80 feet. The building will be constructed of stone, five stories in height, having a frontage of 150 feet on Tenth street and 60 on Minnesota, making an L shaped building, with entrance on Tenth



ST. PAUL'S Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

In the basement will be two bowling alleys, swimming pools and baths. On the first floor will be the reception room, reading room, parlors and office. There will also be a gymnasium and auditorium. The latter, with its gallery, will accommodate 1,000 persons. The second floor will be used for class rooms, committee rooms and library. On the third and fourth floors there will probably be apartments to be rented to young men.

Early Marriages in China. In China early marriages are the rule. The match is arranged by the parents, and is in the nature of a commercial transaction. The groom is expected to make presents of money and clothes to the bride, who, however, brings no dowry or anything in return. The calendars are consulted solemnly for lucky days, and the blessings of the tutelary gods sought by various propitiatory measures. If the signs fail to turn out auspiciously the wedding is postponed again and again. The ceremony of marriage consists in drinking a cup of samshoo together in the nuptial chamber.-Thomas Stevens' Let-

Fifteen Hundred Foot Seaweed.

Californian big trees will have to take a second place as botanical giants now that the ocean has undertaken to beat the land in the size of its products. Capt. John Stone, of the ship Clever, picked up a seaweed on the Atlantic near the equator that was 1,500 feet long. It was an alga, and has been identified as a specimen of macroceptis pyrifera - Philadelphia

GEN. JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON.

He Has Become a Contributing Membe of the Grand Army.
Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, highest in rank of surviving Confederates, has become a "contributing member" of E D. Baker Post of the Grand Army of the Re-

public, in Philadelphia. The real significance of this action on Gen. Johnston's part is to be seen in the general's letter and the hearty reception thereof by the post. The general wrote that he desired to participate in the noble work of charity performed by the post, and therefore inclosed \$10, one year's dues as a contributing member. The letter was received with cheers, and the proposition accepted by a unanimous vote of the 200 veterans present. This act may be said to round out a career which is in itself a most im-

pressive com-mentary on the mentary on the history of the United States for the past fifty years. Here is a man who was a pupil of the United States, and then an officer in her service, gallant and honored

in a foreign war; then an officer GEN. JOS. E. JOHNSTON. high in rank among those fighting against the nation, then a paroled prisoner, once more a citizen and finally a legislator for the nation against which he had fought, an accepted friend, "honorary member," as it were, of those who defeated him. In all history there is no parallel instance. If ever the motto, "Friendship in marble, enmity in dust," was completely practicalized, it has been in the relations of the United States with the late Confederates. The national Union is today far stronger than ever before, and the government is more universally loved than any other government in the world.

Joseph Eggleston Johnston was born near Farmville, Va., Feb. 3, 1807, graduated from West Point in 1829 in the sam class with Robert E. Lee, and was at once commissioned second lieutenant in the Fourth United States artillery. He served in the so called "Black Hawk war" in 1832; in topographical and exploring expeditions in various sections; in the Semi-nole war in 1836-38; in the northern boundary, lake and coast surveys and settlements and Texas boundary and other settlements, and in the Mexican war. Here he won high honors and was made colonel. In 1858 he was inspector general in the Utah expedition of that year. June 28, 1860, he was commissioned quartermaster general of the United States army, and resigned it April 22, 1861, to enter the service of Virginia. The rest is known. He was, after July, 1863, under the ban of Jeff Davis, and the fortunes of war were always against him. He is a childless

Death of Clemence Lozier.

Mrs. Dr. Clemence S. Lozier, the distinguished advocate of woman's suffrage and a pioneer in the field of medical education for wo men, died recently at her home in New York. Mrs. Lozier was born at Plainfield, N. J. Dec. 11, 1813, She

was an active

member of the

DR. CLEMENCE LOZIER, ety, and engaged Anti-Slavery soci in work of moral reform with the American Female Guardian society. She was graduated from the Eclectic Medical college of Syracuse, N. Y., in 1858, and practiced successfully in New York for more than thirty years. She was for many years president of the National Woman uffrage society and president of the New York City Suffrage society.

In the beginning of her professional ca reer she began a familiar course of medical lectures to the women of New York, from which sprang the Woman's Medical Library association. This became the nucleus of the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women, which received a special charter in 1863, and of which Dr. Lozier was almost continuously dean to the time of her death.

One of the Old School. Mrs. W. G. Noah, the distinguished actress, whose professional career covered a period from 1826 to 1857, died recently at her home in Rochester, N. Y. Mrs. Noah was Anne Meek. She was born in 1808, in Brooklyn, N. Y., and when about 16 developed a remarkable voice; but she had never received any training for the stage when, in 1826, she joined a theatrical

first apr arance was in barn at Pittsbu as Volante in "The Honeymoon."

From Pittsburg the party went tobile

lante in "The Honeymoon."
From Pittsburg the party went to Mobile, where Miss Meek was married to Mr.
McClure, a mem-

McClure, a mem- THE LATE MRS. NOAH. pany. Mrs. McClure rose rapidly in the profession. She supported the elder Booth and Edwin Forrest. Having met and formed a strong attachment for Charlotte Cushman, the two played a protracted engagement together, which was a great success.

Mr. McClure died, and in 1845 his widow married Mr. W. G. Noah, then a prominent business man of Rochester. At his request his wife left the stage. In 1854 she made a reappearance on the boards, playing successfully in the principal cities of the United States for three years. Then she quitted the stage forever. Since her retirement she has lived at Rochester. N. Y., appearing occasionally at entertainments for the benefit of local charities.

Mrs. Noah possessed a strong constitution, and, notwithstanding her great age, gave elecution lessons till quite recently. Her husband died in 1881. Her daughters, Rachel and Kate, are achieving success on the stage.

The Trials of an Artist. Young Mother (to photographer)-I am

sorry, Mr. Camera, but the negatives you sent of baby don't suit. Photographer-None of them? There

Young Mother-Yes; I like this one very well, although it doesn't do baby justice, but mother thinks it's horrible The one she likes I wouldn't consider for a moment. Baby's papa thought this one would do, but his groundma became indignant at the idea and I agreed with her. The dear little fellow's Aunt Kate thought they were all bad, and I guess-er-that baby will have to sit again.-Life.

Some of the high rollers of the town have a particular fashion in lighting parlor matches. They scorn the rough edge of a match safe, and, for that matter, any hard substance. In a natty way the match rests between the thumb and the index finger, and by a quick dig of the thumb nail a tiny part of the phosphorus is ripped off until the match is ignited. Some of the eigarette fiends are particularly adept at the trick .- New York Sun.

JOHN BROWN'S DEATH.

CHAT WITH THE MAN WHO LED IN THE PROSECUTION.

Interesting Reminiscences of the Last Act in the Tragedy-A False Statement Corrected - "Porte Crayon's" Sketch-Politeness on the Scaffold.

The only time during the whole time of his captivity that John Brown showed temper, according to Mr. Andrew Hunter, was when his wife visited him the day before the execution, and Gen. Taliaferro, who was in command of the troops, refused to let her remain over night.

"Brown did show right smart temper over that," said Mr. Hunter. "But he soon calmed down and acquiesced in the arrangement. Mrs. Brown stayed in the all two or three hours and was then sent lown to Harper's Ferry, where she waited until next day, when the body of her hus-band was delivered to her. She was a woman of very little sentiment, I think, for while she was at Harper's Ferry waiting for the body she was getting receipts to make particular dishes."

Of the last act in the tragedy Mr. Hunter tells some interesting reminiscences, He, with Mr. Smith, of the military institute, went out the afternoon before the execution and selected the location for the gallows, which was immediately put up by Capt. Cockrell, the town carpenter. THE EXECUTION

"We chose an elevated place, just out of town, where there wasn't a tree or anything else to serve as a landmark.
Our idea was that the exact spot should be forgotten as soon as possible. And we were eminently successful. There isn't a man living, except myself, who can tell you just where John Brown was hung. I can put my hand on the spot, but I wouldn't. The gallows was put up the afternoon before, and it was taken down as soon as the execution was over, and the timbers were stored in the jail yard. Afterwards the gallows was erected as wanted for Brown's companions, but not in the same place. As soon as one hanging was over the gallows was taken down. When the war came on the timbers were moved from the jail yard and built into a porch to hide them from the Yankees. There they remained until a few years ago, when their owner, Capt. J. W. Coyle, sold part of them for more than his whole house cost him. They were taken north to be distributed among admirers of old John Brown."

Some things which have been printed about the execution were utterly untrue, according to Mr. Hunter.

"That story of John Brown stopping on the way to the scafford to kiss a little negro child is utterly false," he said. "No negroes were allowed to be near. I saw him all the way from the jail to the gallows. I was close beside the scaffold when he mounted it and I heard him say in a plaintive tone, I hope they will not keep me standing here any longer than necessary.' The military were going through a lot of movements. While Sheriff Campbell and Capt. Avis were binding him and adjusting the rope I heard him say, 'Make haste!' 'Make haste!' When I heard that I dropped my handkerchief as a signal for them to cut the rope which held the drop, and they obeyed The military kept on moving about, but before they got into position and knew what had happened John Brown had been hung and was as dead as Henry VIII." THE LAST SKETCH.

Strother, the artist and author, best known to the literary world as Porte Crayon, until recently in the diplomatic service of this country, was a nephew of Mr. Hunter. He died a few months ago at Charlestown. He was here during the trial reporting and sketching.

"Strother," said Mr. Hunter, "was with me when the drop fell. He slipped up, raised the cap from John Brown's face and commenced making a sketch of the dying man's face. On my asking some question, Strother replied that Lydia Maria Childs had published her wish to have a picture of John Brown in every condition of life to hang in her room, and se was taking the sketch that she 'might have him when he was finished." Mr. Hunter says that he immediately

had Brown's body packed and sent it off that afternoon to Harper's Ferry. "Not one of them was buried here," he added. "I shipped the bodies north to friends and was very giad to do so. Stephens' sister and sweetheart came here from Connecticut and were with him the night before he was hung. They took his body back with them.

"There was one thing in connection

with the execution of Brown I have always regretted," said Mr. Hunter, as he concluded his reminiscences' "and that is this: As he ascended the gallows he bowed to me very politely. I was looking in another direction and did not see him, but was told of it afterward. If I had seen him I should certainly have returned Mr. Hunter said this with the sincerity

of a Virginia gentleman of the old school, who felt that by accident he failed to sustain on one occasion his reputation for good manners.—"W. B. S." in Globe-Democrat.

Pleasures of Life at Honolulu. This is truly a tropical land, the climate and temperature being somewhat marvel-ous. It is entirely different from Californis, or from anything I have yet seen. There is no winter there, yet it is never too hot and never cold. The temperature is between 70 degs. to 90 degs. all the year round, with a few extra showers of rain to emphasize the winter months. The fragrance is intense after a shower, for the Japanese lily, cocoanut, bananas and palm trees seem to distill perfume. Such fruits as cocoanuts, date palms, bananas, mangoes, oranges, bread fruit, lemons, limes and sweet potatoes grow here in abundance. The principal productions, however, are sugar, rice and bananas.

The natives are a strong race, have the bronze skin of the Chinaman and the black curly hair of the negro. They are an affable and affectionate people, but are extremely lazy, and much prefer the tinkle of their gay guitars to work. They dress very gaudily, the women especially.— Edinburgh Ladies' Journal.

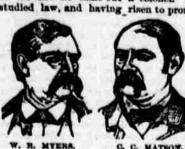
Russian Convicts and Their Chains, While a number of convicts were engaged in games of hazard in the corridor, most of those in the rooms were absorbed in another occupation. Heavy metallic strokes rang through the prison, the falling of chains upon the floor could be heard from time to time, but the noise disturbed nobody, neither those who were fast asleep in the same rooms nor the commanding officer or the soldiers who slept in the same building. The convicts worked on the solution of one problem, namely, on making the chain rings embracing their legs so extended as to be in a position to take them off or push them on over the ankles and the foot heels at any time. Thus the chains could be carried on the soldier or around the waist, instead of around the legs, and walking was much easier.

Of course, the soldiers and their commander knew well what the metallic sounds meant, but they did not care to interfere. Some of the escort officers were good natured men, and paid no attention o these "little transgressions" of the law; others were strict and rigid, not tolerating any such liberties on the part of the convicts and se the latter had a marvelous ability for "six up" their commanders, they marched one day with the chains around their legs and another with the chains around their waists. Many of the convicts managed to throw off the chains even from their arms. These being very short, give such a posture to the wearer as to render his ten or twelve hours' march extremely difficult. The contact of the iron of the chains, moreover, occasions, in the bones during the intense Siberian heats or frosts, an insupportable rheumatic pain, which after several weeks of walking becomes a real torture.—Michael Malkoff in Chicago

NOMINATED IN INDIANA.

Democratic Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
The Democratic nominees for governor and lieutenant governor of Indiana, Courtland C. Matson and W. R. Myers, are both Union veterans.

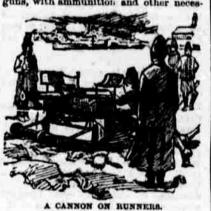
Mr. Matson, the nominee for governor, was born in Franklin county, Ind., in 1841. He was graduated at De Pauw university and entered the army as a private. It was his fortune to take part in a number of important engagements, and at the end he came out a colonel. He studied law, and having risen to promi-



sence in the profession was elected prosecuting attorney of his district on the Democratic ticket for several terms. In 1880 he defeated the Republican-Green-back coalition ticket in the race for congressman in the district. He was several times re elected. In congress he devoted himself largely to the interests of veterans. Col. Matson is a very "nent stump

Mr. Myers, nominated for lieutenant overnor, is an Ohioan by birth, though he has lived nearly all his life in Indiana. Hq, too, is a lawyer, and rose to be a cap-tain in the war. The Republican party claimed Capt. Myers till 1872, when he went over with Horace Greeley. In 1878 he was chosen to represent his district in congress, and was re-elected in 1882 and 1884. He has also served as secretary of state of Indiana. He owns and edits the Democratic organ of Madison county.

New Snow Gun Carriage. We give with this a cut of Canadian artillery officers esting a new sleigh carriage for field guns. Its principle is a separate sleigh or "bob" for the gun carriage, and one for the limber. Each "bob" is so built as to be alterable to suit the gauge of any snow road, as the width of the track varies in the different Canadian provinces. The "bobs" are each provided with a "toboggan" bottom to prevent them from sinking into the deep snow. The draught and equipment are the same as on wheels, and there is the same drill; the gun carriage and limber are merely lifted off the wheels and put on the sleigh When not in use the sleigh is easily packed for transport, and two wagons carry all the sleigh outfit for a field battery of four guns, with ammunition and other neces



saries. The arrangement is so designed that the gun, whether on wheels or on the sleigh, is always ready for action. In firing it the recoil is checked by iron chains passed under the runners, as in the old pattern sleigh. This new sleigh has been thoroughly tested in deep snow, over the heaviest and roughest roads. It has been fired with service charges, and, in fact, tried in every possible way, and has been found to work most satisfactorily in every respect. It has been favorably reported upon to headquarters in Canada for the winter equipment of the field batteries throughout the Dominion.

A novel bet was won and lost in a Vine street resort the other evening. A party of gentlemen were indulging in a social glass, and finally the conversation turned upon the quality of liquors and the ability of certain persons to judge them by the sense of smell and taste. One man in the party claimed that the best judges could be fooled by the compounders, and, after the argument became quite warm, made the astounding assertion that a large percentage of bar patrons did not know what

they were drinking.

The debate grew hotter and hotter, and finally the man who had advanced such outrageous ideas offered to bet a basket of wine that he could confound any one of the party so that he could not tell water from whisky. John Hummel, the circus man, who has had a varied experience in the drinking line, accepted the wager, and the preliminaries began. John was first heavily blindfolded, and then a number of glasses, containing water, milk, whisky, sherry, claret, Rhine wine and gin were set out on the bar. They were handed to the blindfolded man one at a time, and he was told to name the liquor after tasting it. He got through the list bravely until he came to the gin, which he called port wine. Then the man started him back, but it was soon very evident that Hummel's palate had lost its power. He called milk water, and finally was forced to admit that all the liquors tasted alike, and that he had lost his bet. It was some time before he was able to enjoy the wine he had lost.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Excessive Eating in Gotham. From the 1st of December to the last of

April, dinners are in order, and many

fashionable folk scarcely dine at home once a month unless they play host under their own roof. How they manage their digestion I know not, for a season's elaborate dinners are enough to disturb the interior of an ostrich. I am aware that cooking of the Careme kind claims to insure cupepsy; but, while this may be true in theory, it is not in practice. Scores of men die here annually from excessive dining out, and I am acquainted with dozens who have lost their health from the same cause. Women seldom suffer, because they are not educated, and cannot be educated into epicures, If they are tortured by gout it is usually an inheritance; most men earn their gout by protracted stomachic abuse. Excessive eating, say experienced physicians, destroys as many constitutions as does excessive drinking. And excessive eating is the bane of New York society men and men of leisure, who are represented by round, protruding eyes, double chins and oleaginous complexions-"Deuceace" in Globe-

Wabits of the French Bourgeoisie. It is the middle class that gives the best example of the average habits of the nation. And, judging by the standard, I should say that we Americans were the most self indulgent people on the face of the earth. I wonder what the wife of a well to do American shopkeeper in a small way-a grocer, a dealer in trimmings, or a petty retail dry goods mer-chant—would say to the home of one of her social equals in Paris. In the first place, carpets are unknown in the little home, except, perhaps, a square rug in the center of the drawing room. Bits of car-

pet, or little cheap rugs at the sides of the beds, are alone in use in the bedrooms. Gas is not known outside of the kitchen, and possibly the dining room.

In many households tablecloths are not used except at dinner time, and knives and forks are never changed during the course of a meal. One very curious instance of economy that came under my own observation was that practiced by a dressmaker of good standing, who, by reason of her exquisite taste and moderate prices, had a large and excellent American custom. She was a woman of slucation and of very gentle and refined manners. Yet she never wore undergarments of linen or percale, because they cost too much in the washing, having every article of that kind made in dark flannel. She never sat down to a regu-larly served meal, but lived on surreptitious snacks, eaten whenever and wher-ever she could snatch a moment's leisure.

Seeing the Color of Stars.

Hooper's Paris Letter.

She made a fortune in a few years, retired

from business and married a doctor. I wonder if she keeps up her oddly eco-nomical habits to the present day.—Lucy

This matter of color is one of the great est mysteries of sight. We frequently read that in Arabia, Australia and the Cape of Good Hope the stars are not only much brighter than in our misty northern sky, but they show their different colors with great splendor. Very few people here remark much difference, even in the colors of planets. "Mars," says Newcombe in his "Popular Astronomy," "is easily recognized when near its apposition by its flery red color." I have seen Mars, of course, all my life, but my eyes decline to think it flery red. It is to me yellow, and only a little more so than some of the stars. The silvery radiance of Venus is proverbial, yet if its rays incline at all to one of the primary colors, it may be said that they are faintly tinged with blue. People differ much as to the color of fixed stars. I never heard any one deny that Lyra was white, but I have met with those who declared that Aldebaran was not a fine red star; not red at all; and, in short, that in the whole heavens there was to their eyes no difference between the color of one star and another. Reading over the last two sentences to an observer of the stars, he said: "I consider Venus rather a warm colortal you speak yellow. The bluish tint that you speak yellow. Lyra." We then Venus rather a warm colored star, slightly spoke of Sirius. "Sirius is about the same tint as Venus," he continued, "also rather a warm colored star." To my eyes Sirius burns with a splendid white light.

—Jean Ingelow in Good Words.

Losses Through Shoplifting. "All the way from \$10,000 to \$50,000 a year," said the detective, "are lost to prorictors of large stores through shoplifting. In some of the Sixth avenue stores where no detectives are employed three, four, and even five sealskin cloaks are stolen in a day, and rarely do the detectives in the stores where they are employed search a person for stolen goods that they do not find concealed about them articles belonging in other stores all along the avenue. In some of these stores a plumber is regularly employed to keep the ladies' toilet in order, for into the sinks are thrown pocketbooks from which the money has been taken, small parcels, when the shoplifter finds she is being watched, cards and tags on goods, and a whole piece of lace or embroidery is sometimes crowded down out of sight to avoid detection. About 90 per cent. of the pilferers are women. In a store where 470 prosecutions are recorded for one year, only 48 of the culprits were men."—New York Sun.

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The New Educational System. The experimental course of the manual training system was begun the other day in ome of New York's public schools, and if the new system proves to be what its friends claim for it, it will most likely be made a permanent feature of the regular school course. This system is not to be engrafted upon the old course of study, but combined with it in such a way as not to increase the demand upon the time or energy of the pupils. Hours formerly devoted to other exsrcises have been either shortened or are wholly given to practice in some branch of

the new system.

All pupils must begin at the beginning of the alphabet, so to speak, of this course; but naturally those who are sufficiently advanced will pass rapidly on to what is set down for the grade to which they belong. For instance, those who know how to sew will not arry long in the third primary grade, where they are taught, according to general directions in the manual, "the use of the thimble stc." They will go through the eighth grade of the grammar school, learn to sew on buttons (bless them!) and how to put on patches neatly and todarn stockings, and so on to the higher branches of sewing. In the third grammar grade the cooking lessons begin. Special teachers will be employed to instruct not only the pupils, but their regular teachers as well. In the departments of drawing, modeling, "shop work" and carpenter work, the same scope and purpose which govern the other branches will prevail.—New York World.

Social Progress in India. Some enlightened natives of India are taking active steps to put an end to the scandals of infant marriage and enforced widow-hood. Legislation has hitherto been withheld on this subject in deference to what has been conceived to be the customary and religious law of India. The learned Brahmins of the reform party now maintain that true Hindoo law is repugnant to these scandals, and call upon the government, if it will not so declare, to appoint at least a commission to inquire into the true state of the case. A memorial is being signed by the natives, asking the appointment of a commission composed of Hindoos and Europeans of op-posite views, official and non-official, old and new Sanscrit pundits or learned men, to as-certain whether the principles of a bill submitted with the memorial are not perfectly consistent with the Hindoo law. This bill would date the marriage from the time when the bridegroom took home his bride, instead of from what is practically only a betrothal; and thus at one stroke would afford relief to millions of unhappy Indian women.-Chicago News.

The Thermometric Scale. The scale in use in any thermometer is more or less arbitrary. It is necessary to fix two definite temperatures, and assign their positions on a scale. Water, being one of the most common bodies in nature, is usually employed, and freezing and boiling points are taken as definite points, especially as the temperature of freezing water or of melting ice is almost absolutely fixed-pressure alter ing it only very slightly. The thermometer generally used in the United States and Great Britain is of the Fahrenheit scale, which places the freezing point too great by 23 degs. In Germany the scale used is Raumer's, which places the freezing point at zero, as does also the French measurement, which is known as the centigrade scale, and is used almost exclusively by scientific men of all nations. It is supposed that Fahren-heit fixed his zero at the point of greatest cold that he had observed.

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