TRICKS IN BANK NOTES.

STORIES TOLD BY AN OFFICIAL IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

Clever Counterfeits—Detective Skill of Clerks—Redeeming Mutilated Bills—Stories of Crime.

A Washington letter to the New York *Mail and Express* says: There is a white-haired, sharp-eyed little man in the Treasury who has been one of the features of the place for years. Into this gentleman's hands, speaking metaphorically, I happened to fall, and it required no particular effort to make the official talkative. He was inspecting at the moment a spurious $100 note, and this circumstance gave rise to his first anecdote.

"I tell you," he said, "there is apparently no limit to the clever tricks of counterfeiters. Just look at this note. It doubtless deceived over a hundred people before it came into our hands. I know for a fact that it was accepted as genuine by a bank teller in high standing, and yet the instant a certain young woman in one of our departments let her experienced eye fall upon it, she detected its worthless character. The neat workmanship on the bill reminds me of a case which came to our notice some time ago. A counterfeiter had got up a number of $100 notes on six separate banks. The copy used was on a bank which made its $100 notes in this style. On one end of the paper was an engraving of a ship, the yard-arm of which ran between two delicate flourishes underneath the word 'the,' which was the first word of the name of the bank of issue; as, for instance, The National Bank of the Republic, or The First National Bank. The fraud would have been a particularly neat one had the counterfeiter made his notes payable by the same bank from which he obtained his original specimen. Instead of being sufficiently shrewd, however, to avail himself of that precaution, or perhaps through an excess of caution, he made them payable by six other banks. Each of these latter institutions had one distinctive feature on their one hundred dollar notes. The yard arm of the vessel instead of running between the two minute flourishes barely touched the outside of the flourish nearer the top of the note, and approached closer to the word 'the' by the sixteenth of an inch. Of course the counterfeit, which was a capital piece of workmanship, with the one exception mentioned, deceived merchants easily, and deceived many bank tellers as well. The moment the notes passed through the hands of a lynx-eyed young lady at the Treasury, she discovered their spurious quality in a twinkling."

"It must be difficult, then," I remarked, "to hoodwink your clever female clerks?"

"Yes, indeed, it is. Their eyes are so thoroughly educated as to make a mistake almost impossible."

"How do they educate their eyes?"

"By constantly running over money. To casually watch these women at work you would probably imagine that their sole aim was simply to count the money as rapidly as possible. Not so. A clerk will take a pile of bills, tightly fastened together by rubber bands, and without so much as loosening the fastenings, she will begin to count at a lightning rate by merely turning over quickly the upper right-hand corner of each note. Still, though she has only such a small portion of the note for her guide, she will discover a counterfeit readily. Let me relate a little incident which happened while the Seventh regiment was in the city. Some of the boys, among them a paying teller from a New York bank, paid us a call, looking very elegant in their tasteful uniforms. They were engaged for several moments in watching the clerks count money in the manner described. Suddenly one of the young women snapped a note from the package which she was running over. After she had thrown it aside in an apparently careless manner, I picked it up and handed it to the visitors for inspection. It was passed from one to another without eliciting any special comment. Finally it reached the man whom I knew to be a paying teller. He examined it for a moment and returned it to my possession without a word. I asked him if he had noticed anything peculiar in regard to it. He replied in the negative. And yet it was an ingenious counterfeit, as the experienced eye of the clerk had detected the instant she had turned up a corner of it."

"Is it possible?" I asked, "for a note to be so split in two as to show both sides of it intact?"

"Oh yes, and it is very easily done. You procure a certain kind of gum, and paste the note face downward to a piece of paper. Then you paste another piece of paper over the back of the note. By carefully pulling the two pieces apart the fibre of the note will split, and what looks like a difficult transaction is easily accomplished. Nothing, however, can be gained by the operation. If one-half of such a bill were forwarded to us for redemption, we would return to the sender one-half of its face value. Sharpers indulge occasionally in a little game which consists of piecing notes. That is, they will make nine notes out of eight, each note being pieced once. When you come to measure them you will find that they are precisely one-eighth shorter than they should be. Merchants are readily duped by them, but rarely a bank cashier."

"What is the rule relative to the redemption of mutilated currency?"

"We redeem nothing smaller than one-half of a note, and we pay in proportion to the quantity of the note sent, except where there is only one-tenth missing. In the latter case we pay the full face value. If you were to send us a one-dollar note, one-quarter of which had been torn away, we would give you seventy-five cents for it. If within six months, not later, you succeeded in recovering the missing part, we would, on its presentation, pay you twenty-five cents more. Suppose you brought us a shred of a note, with the edges singed, and asserted that it was the remnant of a $100 bill which had accidentally been destroyed by fire. We would request you to make an affidavit in support of your story. If you could still further substantiate your statement by the affidavits of several reputable persons who had witnessed the destruction of the bill, we would then accept the shred and give you $100. Of course, people frequently try to impose upon us, but they invariably come to grief. A man once sent us a lot of small pieces of various denominations which were very ragged looking. He wrote that they were the remaining portions of bills which had been carried from his money drawer by mice and nibbled into shreds. They were turned over to some of the female employes, women so experienced that, although they have only a tiny shred to go by, can tell positively from that shred the face value of the note of which it was a portion, its origin and the date of its issue, even should there be not a single letter or figure upon it. It took these experts only a trifling space of time to discover that the nibbled fragments had formerly belonged to counterfeits. However, as the sender had made no affidavit in the matter, he escaped punishment."

"Can you show me some curious specimens of notes which have been redeemed?"

"Certainly. Here is an odd-looking affair which is a $1 note. A man carelessly left it in the pocket of a white vest, which garment was shortly after both washed and ironed. You can imagine the state of a legal tender after undergoing such a thrilling ordeal. Here is a $2 note pierced with four holes. It was found carelessly folded in the pocket of a murdered man. He had been shot several times, one of the bullets tearing its way through the folded note, which was shortly afterward sent here for redemption by the dead man's relatives. We did our best to alleviate their grief with a brand new bill. Still another specimen comes from the Chicago fire. It is simply a quantity of ashes pasted on a sheet of paper, and represents a $1 note. Your inexperienced eye cannot discern a figure or a letter upon it, but our clerks displayed little embarassment in recognizing it as an old friend. We received a vast amount of charred money from the Chicago fire, and redeemed the larger portion of it.

Apropos of fires, I recall an interesting case which occurred in 1870. In that year a steamboat was burned on the Mississippi. Among other valuables which went to the bottom of the river was an Adams Express safe containing over $300,000. The company offered as a reward to whoever would raise the safe one-half of such amount of its charred contents as should be redeemed at the Treasury. A diver went to work and, after some trouble, landed his prize, which was at once forwarded to us. Our clerks found the numerous packages of money in a condition much resembling bricks composed of solidified ashes. This did not disconcert them in the least. They went faithfully at their tasks and, with the aid of exceedingly thin-bladed knives, manufactured solely for this purpose, they patiently separated note from note, or rather ashes from ashes, until they had completed their work with infinite honor. So well did they accomplish it that out of the original amount we were able to redeem $260,000."

"How about destroying notes which have been withdrawn from circulation?"

"We have destroyed in a single day $385,000,000."

"What is the method of destruction?"

"We have a curious contrivance which does the work much in the same way as you would grind coffee. This has been decided upon as the safest plan. We formerly burned it, but discarded that method for various reasons, one being that sometimes, after one of our periodical conflagrations, small shreds of charred notes would occasionally be found in the streets adjacent to the Treasury. The supposition was that draughts carried them from the furnaces up through the chimneys, and so into the outer air."

A Sleepy Old English Village.

An odd account is given by the *Western Morning News*, of Yealmpton, an English village within seven miles of Plymouth, with a population of nearly a thousand:

Newspapers are not delivered till thirty-four hours after they are printed, and the delivery of letters is of a very meager kind. This obliges the inhabitants to resort to all sorts of shifts to obtain "a bit of news." Interesting items are scribbled on pieces of paper by those who travel from Plymouth to Yealmpton, and these are pushed under the doors of lead-inhabitants, who communicate the contents to their neighbors. The vicar, who receives £480 a year, has long been practically past active work, and was not particularly active when he had health and strength. Services are conducted in a fashion on Sunday mornings and afternoons, yet they are of such a kind that few beyond the vicar's household attend. The vicar knows so little of his parishioners that quite recently he directed that some clothing should be sent from a local charity to a man whom he had buried four years ago.

Electrical Cremation.

An electrical crematory is said to have been devised by a process described as follows: The body, being shrouded in sheets made of asbestos, is laid upon a frame composed of fire brick, while at the head and foot are large copper plates, to which the leads from specially constructed dynamos of large electro-motive force are attached. The body apparently occupies the position of the filament in an incandescent lamp, and upon the current being passed through it, would be instantly carbonized; while, as the air would have free access to it, the process of destruction, or rather decomposition, would be immediate. The process appears to have the recommendation of great rapidity of action, and freedom from many of the objections to cremation in the ordinary way, and admits of several little improvements upon all recognized forms of burial.—*Free Press.*

Against Arguing too Much.

Here is an illustration of the line, "Striving to better, oft we mar what's well!"

After defendant's counsel had concluded his argument, the Judge said to plaintiff's, advocate, who rose to reply: "Mr. ——, the Court is with you." Instead of resuming his seat he resumed the argument, beginning in these words:

"Yes, your Honor, I knew you would be with me for the following reasons."

He then proceeded to argue the case fully. When he closed the Judge said: "After hearing all that defendant's able counsel could urge I was with the plaintiff. But now that I have heard all that the plaintiff's advocate has to say, I will —take the case—under—advisement."

A LITTLE SEASIDE BELLE.

AN INFANT HEIRESS WITH A ROMANTIC LISTORY.

Worth $1,000,000, and a Great Traveler—A Strong Fancy for Dolls—Her Wardrobe.

A recent issue of the Philadelphia *Times* says: There is now staying at the Beach House, Sea Girt, N. J., with her mother, Mrs. Sharpsteen, formerly of Philadelphia, the daughter of Mr. Abbott, a retired merchant, a little girl, five years old, who has crossed the ocean seven times, seen every European and American watering-place of note, and is worth $1,000,000 in her own right. What is more, she is a beauty, is brim full of brightness and intelligence, and should she grow up to womanhood must make a noise in the great world of fashion and society, where beauty and wealth, when combined in a woman, exercise such tremendous sway. May Sharpsteen, the little baby in question, possesses outside of these peculiarities a personal history that is equally interesting. Her father was the Paris partner of Arnold Constable & Co., the great New York dry goods concern, and when he died there a few years ago he left to this, his only child, his entire fortune. Her mother, who has a fortune of her own, regards the child as the greater treasure and lives but for the one object of bringing up the little girl so that she may be able to adorn society and enjoy to the greatest extent the unusual opportunities that will be at her disposal. Having been born in Paris, and her father's death occurring soon after, Mrs. Sharpsteen brought the little girl with her across the ocean to Philadelphia, but after traveling with her here she has three times, within as many years, returned to Europe and visited the German and French spas, the Spanish, Italian and other resorts and the mountains of Switzerland, each time taking the child with her. She is a fine little traveler and loves the changes, but at times has shown a delicacy of health that, being very responsive to climate influences, leads the mother to change her quarters as soon as her daughter betrays any indisposition. Accordingly, in this country she has frequently gone North in the summer and South in the winter, so that it may be said there is probably not a mature person of extended social experience anywhere who has seen so many of the gay watering places of the world as this little maiden of five summers. Mrs. Sharpsteen has found that Sea Girt, with its combination of sea air and dry pine woods, agrees with the modern little Miss Ariel better than anywhere she has been, so that last season she was there some time before going to Europe and she will spend most of this season there.

Little May is a semi-brunette, with brown hair and eyes, a remarkably fine complexion and an exceptionally beautiful mouth, shaped like a Cupid's bow—that species of mouth which has the lips parted when in repose and showing pearly teeth within. She is what is called "old-fashioned," having seen and heard so much traveling that her expressions and the action of her mind are at times startling, but she is, nevertheless, thoroughly a child and loves and seeks child companions. She has a wonderful English nurse, who was present at her birth and whose life seems wrapped up and blended in the child's. Under the circumstances and with all the means awaiting her it is natural that this little American princess should have an unusual wardrode, but more than once Custom-house officers have been astounded at the number and character of the trunks carried by the party, and the last time Mrs. Sharpsteen arrived in New York from Europe with eighteen trunks she found herself, to her great astonishment, suspected of being a famous female smuggler for whom the officers were on the lookout. To begin with, Miss May had a passion for dolls, and she picked them up in every foreign country where she has been and not dolls only, but doll's wardrobes and every conceivable thing that can be thought of for doll housekeeping. She has German dolls, and French dolls, and Flemish dolls, and Swiss dolls and Japanese dolls, blondes, brunettes, brides, peasants of all sorts, complexions and sizes. Then she has everything in diminutive that fair femininity clothes itself with the world over—traveling suites, bridal trousseaus, seaside costumes, full evening dress and chignons, boots and gloves almost beyond number. She makes it a point to have gloves for every doll in her collection and there is a glove-maker in Paris who makes them for her especially.

This fancy extends to herself and is the one point about which she is particular. Never, except when eating or sleeping, is she seen without gloves. She has gloves to play in, gloves to drive in and gloves for all occasions, almost all of them of kid and of shades to suit her dresses. Everything that a little girl five years old worth a million of dollars all her own can have this little girl has. She has a watch, many rings, some beautiful clasps and brooches and bracelets and even diamonds. Her dolls' wardrobe alone represent a large expenditure, while her own clothing is as a rule the finest that can be procured. She has now with her over a hundred dresses. Her hats are particularly cute and different from the common and are mostly French. Yet anyone sitting on the Beach House sea decks and sand piazzas might see this wonderful little maiden playing in the sand or running with the dogs to the woods and notice nothing more in her than any of the children around her. She is fond of play and is never so happy as when engaged in some sport with children of her own age. Master George C. Boldt, Jr., the five-year-old son of the well-known proprietor of the place, has a fine team of Rocky Mountain goats. The other day he got a cute little wagon and was presented with a $40 suit of harness and celebrated the event by taking Miss May out for a drive and the two five-year-olders driving along the beach behind the nimble and well-trained goats were well worth a sketch.

The human vertebræ found at Sarasota Bay are regarded by Professor Heilprin as conclusively proving the existence of prehistoric man in Florida at a very remote period.

The Knot and the Mile.

The "knot" and the mile are terms often used inter-changeable, but erroneously so. The fact is that a mile is less than eighty-seven per cent. of a knot. Three and one-half miles are equal, within a very small fraction, to three knots. The knot is 6,082.66 feet in length. The statute mile is 5,280 feet. The result of the difference is that speed in miles per hour is always considerably larger than when stated in knots, and if a person forgets this and states a speed at so many knots, when it was really so many miles, he may be giving figures verging on the incredible. When we hear parties say that such a vessel is capable of making twenty knots per hour, we usually take the statement with a very large grain of salt, for twenty knots is 23.04 miles per hour, a speed which very few vessels have made, and it is doubted by some who have the best opportunity for making actual measurements, whether any vessel has ever made twenty-five miles in sixty minutes. It has been said that some of the English torpedo boats have made as high as twenty-four or twenty-five knots. Twenty-four knots are over twenty-seven and a half miles per hour, and twenty-five knots are upward of twenty-eight and three-quarter miles an hour, distances that are incredible.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

The Earliest Bank.

The term bank is derived from the Italian banco, a seat or bench, because the early custodians and dealers in money in Italy were accustomed to sit on benches in the market places of the principal towns. The earliest public bank established in modern Europe was that of Venice, which was founded in 1157. About the year 1350 the cloth merchants of Barcelona, then a wealthy body, added the business of banking to their other commercial pursuits, being authorized so to do by an ordinance of the King of Aragon, which contained the important stipulation that they should be restricted from acting as bankers until they should have given sufficient security for the liquidation of their engagements. In 1401, a bank was opened by the functionaries of the city, the first of the kind ever established in Europe.

A leading citizen of Hagerstown, Md., Mr. George W. Harris, has suffered for some time with facial neuralgia and toothache, when he tried St. Jacobs Oil. He says: "It gave me instantaneous relief, and I consider it a wonderful remedy."

PARIS is cleared of cats by her municipal council offering a premium for their skins. Two years ago the premium was about $3 per 1,000, in order to get the city cleared of these pests. The skins when collected are sold to glove makers for four cents each, and 20,000 skins are said to have been made into "genuine kid" gloves last year.

Prof. Chas. P. Williams, Ph. D., of Philadelphia, says there is neither morphia, opium nor minerals in Red Star Cough Cure. Price, twenty-five cents a bottle.

SLOTH makes all things difficult, but industry all easy; and he that rises late must trot all day, and scarce overtake his business at night; while Laziness travels so slowly that Poverty soon overtakes him.

Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute.

This widely celebrated Institution, located at Buffalo, N. Y., is organized with a full staff of eighteen experienced and skillful Physicians and surgeons, constituting the most complete organization of medical and surgical skill in America, for the treatment of all chronic diseases, whether requiring medical or surgical means for their cure. More than usual success has been achieved in the cure of all nasal, throat and lung diseases, liver and kidney diseases, diseases of the digestive organs, bladder diseases, diseases peculiar to women, blood taints and skin diseases, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervous debility, paralysis, epilepsy (fits), spermatorrhea, impotency and kindred affections. Thousands are cured at their homes through correspondence. The cure of the worst ruptures, pile tumors, varicocele, hydrocele and strictures is guaranteed, with only a short residence at the institution. Send 10 cents in stamps for the Invalids' Guide Book (168 pages) which gives all particulars. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

SIX thousand volumes are added to the Yale Library annually.

Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" is not extolled as a "cure-all" but admirably fulfills a singleness of purpose, being a most potent specific in those chronic weaknesses peculiar to women.

THE discovery has been made that a beetle, common in Southern Europe, is a never-failing antidote in cases of hydrophobia.

No trouble to swallow Dr. Pierce's pellets.

THE Government loses $1,000,000 a year in the smuggling of opium.

Hints to Consumptives.

Consumptives should use food as nourishing as can be had, and in a shape that will best agree with the stomach and taste of the patient.

Out-door exercise is earnestly recommended. If you are unable to take such exercise on horseback or on foot, that should furnish no excuse for shutting yourself in-doors, but you should take exercise in a carriage, or in some other way bring yourself in contact with the open air.

Medicines which cause expectoration must be avoided. For five hundred years physicians have tried to cure Consumption by using them, and have failed. Where there is great derangement of the secretions, with engorgement of air-cells, there is always profuse expectoration. Now Piso's Cure removes the engorgement and the derangement of the secretions, and consequently (and in this way only) diminishes the amount of matter expectorated. This medicine does not dry up a cough, but removes the cause of it.

When it is impossible from debility or other causes to exercise freely in the open air, apartments occupied by the patient should be so ventilated as to ensure the constant accession of fresh air in abundance.

The surface of the body should be sponged as often as every third day with tepid water and a little soft-soap. (This is preferable to any other.) After thoroughly drying, use friction with the hand moistened with oil, Cod-Liver or Olive is the best. This keeps the pores of the skin in a soft, pliable condition, which contributes materially to the unloading of waste matter from the system through this organ. You will please recollect we cure this disease by enabling the organs of the system to perform their functions in a natural way, or, in other words, we remove obstructions, while the recuperative powers of the system cure the disease.

We will here say a word in regard to a cough in the forming stage, where there is no constitutional or noticeable disease. A cough may or may not foreshadow serious evil; take it in its mildest form, to say the least, it is a nuisance, and should be abated.

A cough is unlike any other symptom of disease. It stands a conspirator, with threatening voice, menacing the health and existence of a vital organ. Its first approach is in whispers unintelligible, and at first too often unheeded, but in time it never fails to make itself understood—never fails to claim the attention of those on whom it calls.

If you have a cough without disease of the lungs or serious constitutional disturbance, so much the better, as a few doses of Piso's Cure will be all you may need, while if you are far advanced in Consumption, several bottles may be required to effect a permanent cure.

The purest, sweetest and best Cod Liver Oil in the world, manufactured from fresh, healthy livers, upon the seashore. It is absolutely pure and sweet. Patients who have once taken it prefer it to all others. Physicians have decided it superior to any of the other oils in market. Made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York.

CHAPPED HANDS, face, pimples and rough skin cured by using Juniper Tar Soap, made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York.

Hall's Hair Renewer is cooling to the scalp and cures all itching eruptions.

For ague, bilious, intermittent, break-bone and swamp fevers, use Ayer's Ague Cure.

THE peasants of Servia refuse to pay the taxes levied since the war with Bulgaria, and treat the collectors with violence.

If you have a Cold, Cough, (dry-hacking) Croup, Cankered-throat, Catarrh, Dropping cough—Dr. Kilmer's Indian Cough Cure (Consumption Oil) will relieve instantly—heals and cures. Price 25c., 50c. and $1.

STRAIGHTEN your old boots and shoes with Lyon's Heel Stiffeners, and wear them again.

3 months' treatment for 50c. Piso's Remedy for Catarrh. Sold by druggists.

A Cure of Pneumonia.

Mr. D. H. Barnaby, of Owego, N. Y., says that his daughter was taken with a violent cold which terminated with pneumonia, and all the best physicians gave the case up and said she could live but a few hours at most. She was in this condition when a friend recommended Dr. WM. HALL'S BALSAM FOR THE LUNGS, and advised her to try it. She accepted it as a last resort, and was surprised to find that it produced a marked change for the better, and by persevering a permanent cure was effected.

Poisoned by Scrofula

The taint of scrofula in the blood should be got rid of or serious consequences may result. Consumption is undoubtedly scrofula of the lungs, and in its early stages may be cured by purifying the blood and building up the system. For this Hood's Sarsaparilla is unequaled. It also cures scrofula when it appears in the form of running sores, boils, bunches in the neck, catarrh, or in any other manner. While it purifies, Hood's Sarsaparilla also vitalizes and enriches the blood.

"I have been taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for about three months. Before that my blood was in a terrible condition. After using it for about one month my appetite was better and my general health greatly improved. For a medicine as good as Hood's Sarsaparilla too much cannot be said."—L. L. LISSEY, Boothbay, Putnam, Ct.

"I have been troubled with scrofula for three years, having running sores on my leg. After taking one bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla I am getting well rapidly."—ASA ELBEL, South Bend, Ind.

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Grind your own Bone, Meat, Oyster Shells, GRAHAM Flour and Corn in the SCHANDLER (F. Wilson's Patent). 100 per cent. more made in keeping poultry. Also POWER MILLS and FARM FEED MILLS. Circulars and Testimonials sent on application. WILSON BROS., Easton, Pa.

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Blair's Pills, Great English Gout and Rheumatic Remedy. Oval Box $1.00; round, 50 cts.

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In from one to twenty minutes, never fails to relieve PAIN with one thorough application. No matter how violent or excruciating the pain, the Rheumatic, Bedridden, Infirm, Crippled, Nervous, Neuralgic, or prostrated with disease may suffer, RADWAY'S READY RELIEF will afford instant ease.

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It will, in a few minutes, when taken internally, according to directions, cure Cramps, Spasms, Sour Stomach, Heartburn, Sick Headache, SUMMER COMPLAINT, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Colic, Wind in the Bowels, and all internal pains.

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