

Table with advertising rates: One Square, one inch, one insertion, \$1.00; One Square, one inch, one month, \$3.00; One Square, one inch, three months, \$8.00; One Square, one inch, one year, \$28.00; Two Squares, one year, \$50.00; Quarter Column, one year, \$20.00; Half Column, one year, \$30.00; One Column, one year, \$100.00; Legal advertisements, ten cents per line each insertion; Marriages and death notices gratis; All bills for yearly advertisements collected quarterly; Temporary advertisements sent by mail in advance; Job work—cash on delivery.

Ninety-one per cent. of the farmers in Utah own their farms.

Encouraging reports continue to come from the cotton manufacturers of the South.

The average time spent by the British House of Lords in the Nation's work, according to a contemporary, is fifteen minutes per day.

Australia is a country without orphans or an orphanage. Each waif is taken to a receiving house, where it is kept until a country home is found for it.

The new programme of public instruction adopted in France devotes more time to the study of English and less to the study of German.

In thirty-six State prisons in this country solitary confinement is used as a punishment, and in twenty the prisoner is handcuffed to the wall.

An English widower returns thanks to a choir for their sweet singing at his wife's funeral, "thereby enlivening and brightening up the dullness and monotony which not unfrequently characterizes a funeral service."

Russia has decided to spend a quarter of a billion in the improvement of her navy. This is a pretty expensive outlay in pursuance of a plan to keep the peace; but the leading powers of Europe are not stopping at expense. England will have to meet these figures, and France can be relied upon to slide several big war ships into the water. It looks to the Detroit Free Press as though the test of modern naval improvements was not far off, and it may be followed by very material changes in the map of the eastern continent.

Says the New York Observer: "The poor we have always with us—and the lazy. To discriminate between them is somewhat of a task. In some cases the wood-pile marks the division. They go to the right or left according to their disposition. Some of the hungry go right to work, while by others the opportunity to labor, and to earn a breakfast, is left severely alone. If the newspapers are to be believed, and we see no reason for doubting their statements, then while in Chicago the unemployed number tens of thousands it is hard to get men to labor at fifteen cents an hour on canal work. When men were recently asked for from Milwaukee by a Chicago business firm, the answer came that while there was plenty of steady work in the Wisconsin woods for willing men at fair wages, the men were not to be had. There was work, and there were workers enough, but the men were shy and refused to be introduced."

The New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, which keeps a daily record of the fires in this country, and is deservedly high authority on all questions of insurance, reports the total losses by fire in the United States and Canada in the year 1893 at \$156,445,875, against \$132,740,700 in 1892. In but one month of 1893 did the total of fire losses sink below \$10,000,000, and that was in February, when the returns of the Journal of Commerce place the figures at \$9,919,900. The same paper reports 235 fires in December of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each. It says that the underwriters attribute much of the loss to careless installation of electric light and power plants. Under these circumstances it ought to be the occasion of more than insurance interest to learn that the electric risk is being investigated by experts who are gathering particulars of all the fires traceable to electricity. Electricity is a good servant who will bear a lot of watching.

The Baltimore Sun's tribute to the South is worthy of reproduction: "Less complaint has been heard from the South during the last eight or ten months than from any other part of the country, but this is not because the people of this section have not felt the financial stringency, but because they have learned to suffer and be strong and silent, too. They are not given to making an outcry every time they come to rough places in the road of life. For a people who, prior to 1860, enjoyed an exceptionally luxurious existence, the manner in which they bore the poverty and privations that followed the war was amazing in its calm strength and quiet endurance, and was fully as heroic as their bearing during that conflict. The bravery and patience with which they have since struggled to redeem their fortunes have been no less admirable, and their progress toward prosperity has been noted with heartfelt interest by their friends in other sections."

ON THE ROAD TO DREAMTOWN.

Come here, my sleepy darling, and climb upon my knee, And lo! all in a moment, a trusted steed 'twill be To bear you to that country where troubles are forgot, And we'll set off for Dreamtown, Trot, Trot, Trot!

RESCUED AT LAST.

FORWARD, I see a counter!" shouted the floor-walker. "Miss Garrick, what are you thinking of? Show these ladies heliotrope chiffon and be quick about it!" Isola Garrick hurried to her post, with one hand pressed to her forehead. All day long she had suffered from a racking headache, but in this promising dry goods firm headaches were not "business," and no allowances were made for them. "Why, mamma," whispered a tall, red-cheeked young woman, in a seal coat and velvet toque, nodding with jets, "it's Cousin Isola!" "Hush—sh!" said the other lady, who was stout and short, with a gold eyeglass and big diamonds in her ears. "We are not supposed to recognize her now. No"—to the young girl behind the counter—"this is not the right shade. This is violet, and I inquired for heliotrope. Some people seem to be absolutely color blind!" Isola looked wistfully at her aunt. Surely—surely she could not intend entirely to ignore her! But Mrs. Pierson Garrick's gaze was wholly unrecognizing. "We have heliotrope also," said she, taking down another box. But the tall young lady tossed her head impatiently. "It isn't the right color at all!" said she. "Come away, mamma." The floor-walker administered a sharp rebuke to Miss Garrick, when the customers were gone. "Really," he said, "it would seem as if a sale might have been made."

THE POSTAL GRAVEYARD.

The English language contains forty-one distinct sounds. When oxygen is in a liquid state it is strongly attracted by a powerful electro magnet. The beef extract factories in South America make one pound of extract from thirty-four pounds of meat. A cubic foot of new fallen snow weighs five and one-half pounds on the average, and has twelve times the bulk of an equal weight of water. It is strange, though true, that in Asia and Africa, where grass will not grow, the most beautiful flowers and shrubs flourish in perfection. In filing band saws, tie a string where you begin to file, and then you can tell when you get around, and therefore all the teeth will be sharp, and you will not file any of them twice. Dr. O. V. Thayer, of San Francisco, has successfully used the solar cauterium—burning glass—in removing facial discolorations of the skin of large areas, also in removing tattoo or India ink marks. At the two large abattoirs of Lyons, France, the guards protect the animals to be slaughtered from seeing anything connected with the slaughtering of other animals; a terror is found to have an injurious effect upon the secretions and flesh of dumb creatures. Refined crystallized sugar, whether made from the beet or the sugar cane, is almost chemically pure and saccharose, and is the same substance in both cases. Few articles of food are so generally free from adulteration as granulated—not powdered or coffee-crushed—sugar. The rate of mortality of London is shown by a recent report to have steadily decreased with the introduction and perfection of adequate means of disposing of the sewage of the city. At the end of the eighteenth century the annual average mortality was estimated at fifty per 1000, and in 1892 it had dropped to 10.1 per 1000. In South America among the mountains the evergreen oak begins to appear at about 5500 feet, and is found up to the limit of the continuous forest, which is about 10,000 feet. The valuable cinchona tree, from which Peruvian bark is obtained, has a range of elevation on the mountain slopes running from 4900 to 9500 feet. In the process of extracting gold from its ore molten lead is used instead of mercury. The lead is melted on a shallow hearth and the powdered ore is fed at one end and carried forward as a film over the surface of the lead by means of an agitator moving over it. It is thus brought to the other end, where it escapes through a hopper. In order to prevent oxidation of the lead the chamber is kept filled with carbonic oxide from a gas producer. A Man With Three Legs. Of late years I have lost all trace of my old and oddly malformed friend, George Leppert, whom I first met at Tiffin, Ohio, in 1884. George was a Bavarian by birth, and came to this country twelve years ago, settling at Baltimore, where he followed the trade of a wood-carver. Should you happen to meet him on the street you would notice nothing peculiar either in his gait or general make-up, unless it was that the right leg of his trousers was something near twice the size of the left, and too full to wrinkle besides. This lopsided appearance was caused by a remarkable malformation, Mr. Leppert being born with only one leg. The extra member was slightly paralyzed, probably the result of being bound to his companion, an operation that was necessary in order to get both into one trousers leg. When I last heard from him, in 1891, he was at the Bellevue (N. Y.) Hospital, undergoing treatment for rheumatism.—St. Louis Republic. The First Iron Bridge. The first iron bridge ever erected in the world, and which is in constant use at the present time, spans a little river to the County of Selop, on the railroad leading from Shrewsbury to Worcester, England. It was built in the year 1778, is exactly ninety-six feet in length; total amount of iron used in construction, 378 tons. Stephenson, the great engineer, in writing concerning it, said: "When we consider the fact that the casting of iron was at that time in its infancy, we are convinced that no blushing artisan alone could conceive and carry into execution such an undertaking."—St. Louis Republic. Effects of Electricity on Lunatics. It is said that when the electric current was turned on the circuits at Long View Insane Asylum, at Cincinnati, Ohio, for the first time, the insane patients were much affected. They tossed their hands about, fell into each other's embrace, danced with glee and displayed an exaltation such as irrational animals sometimes do when stirred by emotional music. Improvement in many of the patients has been noted, due, it is believed, to the buoyant effect on the system of the surprise.—New York Telegram. The Sultan of Turkey has issued a decree that three copies of every book and pamphlet issued since he ascended the throne must be sent to his new library at Constantinople.

THE WORKINGS OF THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

A System of the Postoffice Department About Which There is Always Something New to be Told. THE infinite pains taken by this great Government of ours with even the most trifling interests of its 60,000,000 of people is most forcibly illustrated in the workings of the Dead Letter Office. The scrawl of the illiterate receives as close attention as the polished chirography of the university graduate, a modest penny at much care in the handling as pretensions \$100. Six million pieces of undelivered mail matter are annually received at the Dead Letter Office, and not one, however insignificant, is overlooked or slighted, according to a writer in Harper's Young People. Early each morning the great Government wagons marked United States Mail may be seen lumbering through the stone archway leading into the court of the Postoffice Department Building. Here they are speedily unloaded, and the great leather pouches quickly disappear, being borne by the messengers to the elevator, and then to the Dead Letter Office. Each one of the 20,000 dead letters received daily passes at least through the hands of three clerks, and should it chance to contain anything of money value, through at least three more. A "dead" letter, strictly speaking, is one that bears a correct address, is fully prepaid, and has been duly delivered at the office of destination. Remaining there unclaimed for one week, such letters are advertised for the period prescribed by law, and then sent to the Dead Letter Office. Here, first of all, each day's "dead" mail must be accurately counted, and a correct record made of the number of letters and packages. There are usually four clerks employed on this work. Should any ignorant or careless postmaster send in with his "dead" a letter bearing a written or printed card or request, a letter with no address, one without a stamp, or one bearing a foreign stamp, the counting clerk must winnow them out and recify, as far as he can, these errors. Being counted, they are tied in bundles of usually 100 each by the messengers. They are now ready for the second set of clerks, whose duty it is to "violate the sanctity of the seal" with the long, keen knives with which they are provided. It is curious to watch these men. With one quick stroke the envelope is split lengthwise and in the next instant the contents are deftly extracted and examined, and if of no money value quickly laid aside and another taken up. Each opener averages about 2500 letters per day. Should the letter chance to contain money, even a single cent, a stamp, a postal note, a money-order, greenbacks, notes, drafts, checks or any legal tender, he immediately seizes a pencil, notes the kind and value of the find on the envelope, and beneath it places his own initials. Besides this he has a small blank-book in which he makes a duplicate entry, and in addition adds the name and address found on the letter. This work he usually does at the close of the day, and then both letters and book are given in charge to the chief of the division. Whenever it is possible the letter with its contents is returned to the sender in care of the postmaster, who is responsible for its safe delivery, and who must return a receipt for it to the department. Every possible precaution is thus thrown around it. When the money cannot be thus returned, on account of the failure of the writer to sign his name or address, then it is held in the office for a year, in the hope that it may be applied for. Failing in this, the money is turned into Uncle Sam's already corpulent money bags. The carelessness of the people is sending money is almost incredible. About 1500 letters that bear no address whatever are received each month, and, curiously enough, they very often contain money or its equivalent. I recall one that came under my own observation that revealed, when opened, drafts to the amount of \$2500. Accurate records are kept of all valuable letters and their final disposition. In round numbers about \$30,000 are received in cash annually, and \$1,400,000 in drafts, notes, etc. The remaining dead letters, that have only their literary merit to commend them, or want of it to condemn them, are given one last chance before being consigned to the waste paper dealer. They are placed in the hands of clerks, who do their utmost to return them to their writers—thankless task at best. Each clerk is expected to average at least 250 per day, and the supply is never exhausted. In addition to the "dead" there is another class termed "unavailable," that includes such as are held for postage, sent from hotels, fictitious and misdirected. The oldest class of unavailable letters are the misdirected. These form a curious study, and are accorded careful special treatment. They number about 2000 daily. They are forwarded daily from the mailing offices, not being detained or advertised as dead letters are. Postmasters are unable to deliver them on account of some error of deficiency in the address, or because the writing is illegible. The clerks on this work have from long experience become very expert in handling these letters, and deliver many thousands yearly. 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SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The English language contains forty-one distinct sounds. When oxygen is in a liquid state it is strongly attracted by a powerful electro magnet. The beef extract factories in South America make one pound of extract from thirty-four pounds of meat. A cubic foot of new fallen snow weighs five and one-half pounds on the average, and has twelve times the bulk of an equal weight of water. It is strange, though true, that in Asia and Africa, where grass will not grow, the most beautiful flowers and shrubs flourish in perfection. In filing band saws, tie a string where you begin to file, and then you can tell when you get around, and therefore all the teeth will be sharp, and you will not file any of them twice. Dr. O. V. Thayer, of San Francisco, has successfully used the solar cauterium—burning glass—in removing facial discolorations of the skin of large areas, also in removing tattoo or India ink marks. At the two large abattoirs of Lyons, France, the guards protect the animals to be slaughtered from seeing anything connected with the slaughtering of other animals; a terror is found to have an injurious effect upon the secretions and flesh of dumb creatures. Refined crystallized sugar, whether made from the beet or the sugar cane, is almost chemically pure and saccharose, and is the same substance in both cases. Few articles of food are so generally free from adulteration as granulated—not powdered or coffee-crushed—sugar. The rate of mortality of London is shown by a recent report to have steadily decreased with the introduction and perfection of adequate means of disposing of the sewage of the city. At the end of the eighteenth century the annual average mortality was estimated at fifty per 1000, and in 1892 it had dropped to 10.1 per 1000. In South America among the mountains the evergreen oak begins to appear at about 5500 feet, and is found up to the limit of the continuous forest, which is about 10,000 feet. The valuable cinchona tree, from which Peruvian bark is obtained, has a range of elevation on the mountain slopes running from 4900 to 9500 feet. In the process of extracting gold from its ore molten lead is used instead of mercury. The lead is melted on a shallow hearth and the powdered ore is fed at one end and carried forward as a film over the surface of the lead by means of an agitator moving over it. It is thus brought to the other end, where it escapes through a hopper. In order to prevent oxidation of the lead the chamber is kept filled with carbonic oxide from a gas producer. A Man With Three Legs. Of late years I have lost all trace of my old and oddly malformed friend, George Leppert, whom I first met at Tiffin, Ohio, in 1884. George was a Bavarian by birth, and came to this country twelve years ago, settling at Baltimore, where he followed the trade of a wood-carver. Should you happen to meet him on the street you would notice nothing peculiar either in his gait or general make-up, unless it was that the right leg of his trousers was something near twice the size of the left, and too full to wrinkle besides. This lopsided appearance was caused by a remarkable malformation, Mr. Leppert being born with only one leg. The extra member was slightly paralyzed, probably the result of being bound to his companion, an operation that was necessary in order to get both into one trousers leg. When I last heard from him, in 1891, he was at the Bellevue (N. Y.) Hospital, undergoing treatment for rheumatism.—St. Louis Republic. The First Iron Bridge. The first iron bridge ever erected in the world, and which is in constant use at the present time, spans a little river to the County of Selop, on the railroad leading from Shrewsbury to Worcester, England. It was built in the year 1778, is exactly ninety-six feet in length; total amount of iron used in construction, 378 tons. Stephenson, the great engineer, in writing concerning it, said: "When we consider the fact that the casting of iron was at that time in its infancy, we are convinced that no blushing artisan alone could conceive and carry into execution such an undertaking."—St. Louis Republic. Effects of Electricity on Lunatics. It is said that when the electric current was turned on the circuits at Long View Insane Asylum, at Cincinnati, Ohio, for the first time, the insane patients were much affected. They tossed their hands about, fell into each other's embrace, danced with glee and displayed an exaltation such as irrational animals sometimes do when stirred by emotional music. Improvement in many of the patients has been noted, due, it is believed, to the buoyant effect on the system of the surprise.—New York Telegram. The Sultan of Turkey has issued a decree that three copies of every book and pamphlet issued since he ascended the throne must be sent to his new library at Constantinople.

POET AND PEASANT.

A poet and peasant, side by side, Together dwell within the self-same town; The poet's fame was noted far and wide, The peasant's not beyond the township's bound. The poet sang of love and household joys, But neither wife nor children made him glad; The peasant had a wife, two girls and boys, Who with him lived and his small cottage shared. The poet mused, "What is this gift of mine? 'Tis but a dream, a hollow dream of bliss; I would exchange it gladly at the shrine Of Hyman's altar for a young child's kiss." The peasant sighed while at his daily task, Turning the furrows while he held the plow; "Had I my neighbor's gift I would not ask For higher honors to bedeck my brow." Ah! such is life, common fate of all, With pain and pleasure ever strangely allied; The gifts we crave on others lightly fall, And with our own we never seem content. —Boston Post.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The man who labors under a delusion works for a bad paymaster. Anybody can see through people who make spectacles of themselves.—Dallas News. The borrower is a good deal like pie-crust—he is very "short" and very sweet.—Truth. When a man has no bills against him he must feel as if he belonged to the nobility.—Texas Sittings. Eating one's own words isn't exactly a love-feast, but sometimes our friends enjoy seeing us do it.—Truth. A man's worth and what a man's worth are, it frequently happens, widely different things.—Pack. If a man gets up when the day breaks can be said to have a whole day before him?—Minneapolis Times. Sneezing is probably an effort of nature to force lazy people to take some exercise.—Milwaukee Journal. Cholly—"Yaas, we missed each other in the crowd." She—"That's just like her. She's always losing things."—Life. A large part of the average back-man's success is doubtless due to his knowing how to take people.—Buffalo Courier. Clarissa—"I owe you an apology, dearest." Fred—"Don't speak of it. I wish to remain a preferred creditor."—Pack. "And do you ever invite your poor relations to visit you?" "O yes, indeed. You see they are all too poor to get here."—Judge. "Bilken's is a strong face, or I'm no judge of physiognomy." "It ought to be. He and his whole family are living on it."—Buffalo Courier. Mamma—"Aren't you home from school earlier than usual to-day?" Bobby—"Yes, mamma, I wasn't kept in to-day."—Harper's Young People. "I wonder what this image represents." "The god of humor, probably. Don't you see that it is full of little funny cracks?"—Indiapolis Journal. "Why in the world do you want to get your daughter a violin, Jawson? She is not musical, is she?" "Not at all; but violins have chin rests."—Judge. Jinks—"I don't think it looks well for a minister to wear diamonds." Elkins—"Why not? Aren't there sermons in stones?"—Kate Field's Washington. "I wonder how it was discovered that fish was a brain food?" She—"Probably by the wonderful stories that men tell who go fishing."—Chicago Inter-Ocean. He—"Did you ever hear that Jagson's wife speaks two languages?" She—"Yes." He—"What are they?" "The one for company and the other for Jagson."—Inter-Ocean. "Now, what must I do with this wedding cake to dream of it?" asked a gushing dame, of a matter-of-fact young man. "Just eat it; that's all," was the reply.—Tid-Bits. She—"Tell me, now, have your affectionate always remained constant?" He—"I can truthfully say that they have, though I admit that their object has often changed."—Boston Transcript. Muggins—"Some people are never satisfied to know that certain things are so, but are continually wanting to know the why and whereof of it." Buggins—"Yes, I wonder why it is?"—Philadelphia Record. "It's bad luck," said the bad boy, "to give a person something sharp or pointed. I shouldn't be a bit surprised if young Mr. Jinkles and I were to part friendship after I leave this pin in his chair for him."—Washington Star. Bartender—"Look here, there! That'll do! I've counted ten crackers and seven junks of beef you've eaten already." Hungry One—"They hire you to tend here, don't they? One lynch counter is enough—see?"—Boston Transcript. Timid Young Author—"Haven't you read my poem too hastily? I'm sure, sir, it has some good features about it that you would see on a more careful reading." Editor (with a sudden suspicion)—"You are not trying to work off an acrostic on us, are you, miss?"—Chicago Tribune. Penelope (triumphantly)—"I heard last night that Jack was head over ears in love with me." Grace (jealously)—"You cannot believe all you hear." Penelope—"No, but I should not wonder if there was something in it." Grace—"Why? Who told you?" Penelope—"He did."—Vogue.

Poisoned Arrows.

Poisoned arrows have been in use since time out of memory. We have it on the authority of both Strabo and Aristotle that the ancient Gauls poisoned both their arrows and the shafts of their spears with a preparation of vegetable poison extracted from a species of hellebore. The Scythians went a step farther, and used the venom of serpents intermixed with the virus of putrid blood, the latter being one of the most active and incurable of the poisons known even to-day. The natives of Japan, the Ainos, prepare their arrow poisons from the secretion of the bambou, and the same may be said of the Aborigines of Borneo, Java and New Guinea. In Central and South America the "Woorara" poison was the terror of the early explorers, as well as of the modern scientific expeditions. Analyses of several specimens of arrows rubbed with this poison prove it to be a mixture of rattlesnake venom, putrid blood and juice from the plant or tree which produces the strychnine of commerce. Among the North American Indians the Sioux, the Apaches, Comanches, the Bannocks, the Shoshones and the Blackfeet were the chief tribes which used poisoned war implements. The Sioux obtained their supply of venom and virus by forcing large rattlesnakes to strike their fangs repeatedly into the liver or kidney of a deer or buffalo, and then allowing the meat to putrefy. When a war party went out, one of their number was made bearer of this putrid, venom-soaked mass, and whenever a battle was imminent each brave would take turns at jabbing his arrows into the poison. Among the other tribes mentioned, although the process of obtaining the poison supply was not always identical with the above, the general mode operandi and results were very similar.—St. Louis Republic. Much Like a Man. The Kulu Kamba is more like a human being, according to Professor Garner, than any other animal. The principal difference between the physical organization of a human being and a gorilla, according to the same authority, is that the spine of the gorilla is not so regularly jointed as that of a man, some of the joints having seemingly gone into partnership. The difference, or to put it more finely, the distinction, between the chimpanzee and the Kulu Kamba is still a matter of conjecture. Professor Garner says, as he does not possess a skeleton of the Kulu Kamba. Skeletons of gorillas and chimpanzees are the same to him as a varied collection of pipes are to some men, and he expects to be just as well supplied with the inanimate remains of Kulu Kambas some day. Having been in Africa on scientific exploration bent, he naturally intends to go again. The African fever seldom leaves a man upon whom it has once taken a grip.—Pall Mall Budget. Remarkable Little Magnets. A magnet which the great Sir Isaac Newton wore as a set in his finger ring is said to have been capable of raising 746 grains, or about 260 times its own weight of three grains, and to have been much admired in consequence of its phenomenal power. One which formerly belonged to Sir John Leslie, and which is now in the Royal Society's collection at Edinburgh, has still great powers. It weighs but little more than Newton's curiosity—only 24 grains—but it is capable of supporting 1560 grains, and is, therefore, the strongest magnet of its size in the world.—St. Louis Republic.

Rescued at Last.

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The Postal Graveyard.

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This work he usually does at the close of the day, and then both letters and book are given in charge to the chief of the division. Whenever it is possible the letter with its contents is returned to the sender in care of the postmaster, who is responsible for its safe delivery, and who must return a receipt for it to the department. Every possible precaution is thus thrown around it. When the money cannot be thus returned, on account of the failure of the writer to sign his name or address, then it is held in the office for a year, in the hope that it may be applied for. Failing in this, the money is turned into Uncle Sam's already corpulent money bags. The carelessness of the people is sending money is almost incredible. About 1500 letters that bear no address whatever are received each month, and, curiously enough, they very often contain money or its equivalent. I recall one that came under my own observation that revealed, when opened, drafts to the amount of \$2500. Accurate records are kept of all valuable letters and their final disposition. In round numbers about \$30,000 are received in cash annually, and \$1,400,000 in drafts, notes, etc. The remaining dead letters, that have only their literary merit to commend them, or want of it to condemn them, are given one last chance before being consigned to the waste paper dealer. They are placed in the hands of clerks, who do their utmost to return them to their writers—thankless task at best. Each clerk is expected to average at least 250 per day, and the supply is never exhausted. In addition to the "dead" there is another class termed "unavailable," that includes such as are held for postage, sent from hotels, fictitious and misdirected. The oldest class of unavailable letters are the misdirected. These form a curious study, and are accorded careful special treatment. They number about 2000 daily. They are forwarded daily from the mailing offices, not being detained or advertised as dead letters are. Postmasters are unable to deliver them on account of some error of deficiency in the address, or because the writing is illegible. The clerks on this work have from long experience become very expert in handling these letters, and deliver many thousands yearly. The Sultan of Turkey has issued a decree that three copies of every book and pamphlet issued since he ascended the throne must be sent to his new library at Constantinople.

Scientific and Industrial.

The English language contains forty-one distinct sounds. When oxygen is in a liquid state it is strongly attracted by a powerful electro magnet. The beef extract factories in South America make one pound of extract from thirty-four pounds of meat. A cubic foot of new fallen snow weighs five and one-half pounds on the average, and has twelve times the bulk of an equal weight of water. It is strange, though true, that in Asia and Africa, where grass will not grow, the most beautiful flowers and shrubs flourish in perfection. In filing band saws, tie a string where you begin to file, and then you can tell when you get around, and therefore all the teeth will be sharp, and you will not file any of them twice. Dr. O. V. Thayer, of San Francisco, has successfully used the solar cauterium—burning glass—in removing facial discolorations of the skin of large areas, also in removing tattoo or India ink marks. At the two large abattoirs of Lyons, France, the guards protect the animals to be slaughtered from seeing anything connected with the slaughtering of other animals; a terror is found to have an injurious effect upon the secretions and flesh of dumb creatures. Refined crystallized sugar, whether made from the beet or the sugar cane, is almost chemically pure and saccharose, and is the same substance in both cases. Few articles of food are so generally free from adulteration as granulated—not powdered or coffee-crushed—sugar. The rate of mortality of London is shown by a recent report to have steadily decreased with the introduction and perfection of adequate means of disposing of the sewage of the city. At the end of the eighteenth century the annual average mortality was estimated at fifty per 1000, and in 1892 it had dropped to 10.1 per 1000. In South America among the mountains the evergreen oak begins to appear at about 5500 feet, and is found up to the limit of the continuous forest, which is about 10,000 feet. The valuable cinchona tree, from which Peruvian bark is obtained, has a range of elevation on the mountain slopes running from 4900 to 9500 feet. In the process of extracting gold from its ore molten lead is used instead of mercury. The lead is melted on a shallow hearth and the powdered ore is fed at one end and carried forward as a film over the surface of the lead by means of an agitator moving over it. It is thus brought to the other end, where it escapes through a hopper. In order to prevent oxidation of the lead the chamber is kept filled with carbonic oxide from a gas producer. A Man With Three Legs. Of late years I have lost all trace of my old and oddly malformed friend, George Leppert, whom I first met at Tiffin, Ohio, in 1884. George was a Bavarian by birth, and came to this country twelve years ago, settling at Baltimore, where he followed the trade of a wood-carver. Should you happen to meet him on the street you would notice nothing peculiar either in his gait or general make-up, unless it was that the right leg of his trousers was something near twice the size of the left, and too full to wrinkle besides. This lopsided appearance was caused by a remarkable malformation, Mr. Leppert being born with only one leg. The extra member was slightly paralyzed, probably the result of being bound to his companion, an operation that was necessary in order to get both into one trousers leg. When I last heard from him, in 1891, he was at the Bellevue (N. Y.) Hospital, undergoing treatment for rheumatism.—St. Louis Republic. The First Iron Bridge. The first iron bridge ever erected in the world, and which is in constant use at the present time, spans a little river to the County of Selop, on the railroad leading from Shrewsbury to Worcester, England. It was built in the year 1778, is exactly ninety-six feet in length; total amount of iron used in construction, 378 tons. Stephenson, the great engineer, in writing concerning it, said: "When we consider the fact that the casting of iron was at that time in its infancy, we are convinced that no blushing artisan alone could conceive and carry into execution such an undertaking."—St. Louis Republic. Effects of Electricity on Lunatics. It is said that when the electric current was turned on the circuits at Long View Insane Asylum, at Cincinnati, Ohio, for the first time, the insane patients were much affected. They tossed their hands about, fell into each other's embrace, danced with glee and displayed an exaltation such as irrational animals sometimes do when stirred by emotional music. Improvement in many of the patients has been noted, due, it is believed, to the buoyant effect on the system of the surprise.—New York Telegram. The Sultan of Turkey has issued a decree that three copies of every book and pamphlet issued since he ascended the throne must be sent to his new library at Constantinople.

Poet and Peasant.

A poet and peasant, side by side, Together dwell within the self-same town; The poet's fame was noted far and wide, The peasant's not beyond the township's bound. The poet sang of love and household joys, But neither wife nor children made him glad; The peasant had a wife, two girls and boys, Who with him lived and his small cottage shared. The poet mused, "What is this gift of mine? 'Tis but a dream, a hollow dream of bliss; I would exchange it gladly at the shrine Of Hyman's altar for a young child's kiss." The peasant sighed while at his daily task, Turning the furrows while he held the plow; "Had I my neighbor's gift I would not ask For higher honors to bedeck my brow." Ah! such is life, common fate of all, With pain and pleasure ever strangely allied; The gifts we crave on others lightly fall, And with our own we never seem content. —Boston Post.