The average death-rate of the world's shipping is about four per cent. and the birth-rate five per cent.

There are estimated to be at present 40,000 elk, 1500 deer, 400 buffalo, 1000 black tailed deer, 800 mountain sheep and plenty of bear, beaver and other varities of animals in the Yellowstone Park.

William Morris, the English Socialist poet, says poets ought not to kick if they don't make money by their rhymes. They ought to feel repaid by the pleasure they derive from them, and earn a living by other means.

The quarry where the material for making the "staff" used in the World's Fair buildings is obtained is the vast chalk and lime region of Texas, which is said to be full of possibilities of unlimited wealth for future capitalists.

It is well known that the sanitary conditions of Hungary are not the best in Europe, but medical circles were somewhat surprised by a recent statement made in Hungarian journals to the effect that 23,070 cases of diphtheria, with 9137 deaths, had occurred during the year 1892 in Hungary.

The San Francisco Examiner remarks: The British have adopted a gun that will send 100-pound missiles four miles, and fire so rapidly that four of the unpleasant things will be in the air at once. The layman, knowing little about guns, wonders what the fourth missile will find to strike.

According to the annual report of the Toynbee Hall settlement, in the east end of London, there has been an improvement in the housing of the poor, and also in the condition of the streets; a large increase in the rate of wages; libraries and baths have also become more numerous, and, altogether, the standard of living has greatly improved.

A Good Will Farm, which is being tried in Maine, is meeting with quite a degree of success. A number of cottages have been erected, and in these the "bad boys" are placed in carefully selected groups, with the hope that the influences of a home life may prove beneficial. The boys help with the household work, as well as with that in the shops and on the farm.

Miss Ella Wilson, of St. Louis, claims to have originated the idea of execution by electricity. "She wrote a piece," says a friend, "which showed a man in the death chair undergoing electrocution. Well, it seems Kemmler, the first victim of electricity, was put to death in New York Miss Wilson discovered that they had used her idea entirely in the construction of the chair. She secured an injunction against the State, and after quite a legal battle the Warden of the penitentiary was compelled to change its mechanism in order to comply with the law and still not infringe on Miss Wilson't idea. Bright girl for nineteen, that, isn't she?"

The plan to reclaim a part of the Mojave desert of California is not so chimerical, argues the New York Tribune, as one might fancy who remembers only the desolate waste that stretches away to the horizon on each side of the Atlantic and Pacific railroad from the Needles to Mojave. All that this land needs is water, as has been proved on numerous oases that form the fringe of the Mojave and Colorado deserts. The building of storage dams in the neighboring mountain canyons will furnish ample water to irrigate a quarter of a million acres. The desert soil is rich, and when water is used vegetation grows as it does in the Nile valley.

Says the New York Sun: One of the greatest authorities on coal, Herr Nasse, the official mining expert of Prussia, has just published the result of his long investigations as to the probable duration of the coal strata of the world. He believes that the next five or six centuries will exhaust the coal of Europe; that the supply of Austria-Hungary, France and Belgium will be the first to give out; that the coal mines of Great Britain will be exhausted next, and finally those of Germany. Herr Nasse does not believe the American product will outlast that of Europe. There are, however, sources of supply which do not enter into these calculations, and may eke out the world's coal resources for some centuries longer. Coal is found in many of the newer parts of the world. Recent discoveries encourage the belief that other finds of importance may be made as exploration goes on.

Old Friends.

There are no friends like old friends,
And none so good and true;
We greet them when we meet them,
As roses greet the dew;
No other friends are dearer,
Though born of kindred mould;
And while we prize the new ones,
We treasure more the old.

There are no friends like old friends,
To help us with the load
That all must bear who journey
O'er life's uneven road;
And when unconquered sorrows
The weary hours invest—
The kindly words of old friends
Are always found the best.

There are no friends like old friends,
Where'er we dwell and roam;—
In lands beyond the ocean,
Or near the bounds of home;
And when they smile to gladden,
Or sometimes frown to guide,
We fondly wish those old friends
Were always by our side.

There are no friends like old friends,
To calm our frequent fears,
When shadows fall and deepen
Through life's declining years;
And when our faltering footsteps
Approach the Great Divine,
We'll long to meet the old friends
Who wait the other side.

—[David Banks Sickles.

FLOTOW, THE BANNOCK.

BY ED. TOWSE.

Flotow, a Bannock outcast who led a desperate band of renegade Arapahoes, was easily the worst Indian in all the mountain country in 1869. The marauders made annual trips from Wind River in Wyoming to White River in Colorado, and always left a frightful trail. They murdered, plundered and burned, carrying on the work of devastation with appalling thoroughness. Emboldened by the success of a series of raids, the band essayed to sack the town of Rawlins. They were driven off, and left two dead braves as bodily evidence of the marksmanship of courageous citizens who had quickly responded to the alarm.

Flotow and his gang had become a standing and awful menace to the settlements of central Wyoming. It was quite generally agreed that the extermination of the cruel old fox and his followers was the only recourse of the whites. The existence of the latter was one of alarming uncertainty. The mob of savages travelled rapidly and under cover. They would kill a family, not sparing women or children, burn ranch buildings and leave with the horses at daylight. In 24 hours they would swoop down upon another pioneer home a hundred miles away and repeat the work of murder, incendiarism and theft.

A cheerful bit of barbarism little known to the world was practised when Flowtow and his men happened upon a flock of sheep. The tenders were shot down as they ran, and the dogs knocked in the head and laid aside for a feast. Then the braves, each carrying a big knife with sharp point and keene blades, ran among the trembling, bleating sheep. They would grasp an animal by one hind leg and run the knife through the member just below the joint. The other hoof would be inserted in the slit. Here they had the humorous paradox of a three-legged sheep with all four feet in sight. The poor brutes would die in great agony in about four days. It was simply impossible to extricate the uncut hind leg. This ingenious cruelty was sometimes varied by cutting a hole in one ear and thrusting a foreleg into it. Thus was destroyed the ability to travel, unless the ear was torn, which happened too often to suit the redskins. In half-a-day these Indians would destroy a band of 5000 sheep. They considered the work a great lark.

This Flotow, whose name has never been interpreted, was the biggest, cheekiest, shrewdest and most repulsive-looking Indian I ever set eyes upon. He was more than six feet tall, straight, broad-shouldered, thick-necked and well-muscled, with a deep chest. In battle with Indians he was reputed the equal of five combatants. No white man ever lived who could handle him. Added to his unsurpassed strength was incredible agility and perfect knowledge of all styles of warfare. His craftiness kept his own men on their guard. He understood English well, but would converse only in his own tongue. Flotow did not sport any of the remarkable toggery issued to his people by the government, excepting not even the blankets, for these he exacted from the Navajoes. The wretch would come boldly into settlements to trade, with blood still on his hands, and was the cleverest of swappers.

As soon as possible after Flowtow's descent on Rawlins, a party of men, sworn to kill him, started on the trail of the band. They were followed by a detachment of cavalry from Fort Steele. Lieut. French, as brave a man as ever wore the uniform, assumed command of all when the civilians were overtaken.

In just a week—and it was an exciting season—the pursuing party landed on Flotow in camp at evening. The reds were in a wild and isolated mountain ravine, and had neglected to place sentries. Though surprised, the Indians made a gallant fight, but the assaulting force was the stronger in numbers and was simply determined to win.

A full score of dead and dying Indians soon lay within fifty yards of the central tepee. Great was the delight of both citizens and soldiers to find Flotow just recovering from the shock caused by a bullet which had grazed his side. In ten minutes he was all right physically, but his mental distress was deep. His chagrin threw him into a silent rage. He only glared at his captors and held his tongue. Flotow was made a prisoner of war. He was allowed to ride his own pony, and had an escort of four men.

At night, after the first day's homeward march, the captive chief was given a place and a blanket beside the camp-fire. His guard was six citizens and an equal number of regulars. Lieut. French made the squad quite a speech. He said it was beneath the dignity of an American soldier to maltreat a captive foe. Abuse of Flotow would result in discipline of him who did it. To allow a prisoner to escape was an ineffaceable blot on the honor of the army.

"I charge you," said the officer, "to treat the big Injun with all the consideration due a prisoner of war, but if he makes a move to escape, shoot him down without hesitation. Remember, let there be no escape."

It was pretty well understood among the men that they were to put Flotow out of the way before daylight.

About eleven o'clock the camp was quiet. A fun-loving veteran, who had been with Grant in the Wilderness and who had fought Indians on Platte, thrust his bayonet in the fire and let it come to a white heat. Flotow was sitting with his head between his knees and dozing. The soldier fished his bayonet from the embers with a couple of twigs, and very carefully laid it across the sleeping chief's feet. In a twinkling the steel sank into the moccasined toes. Flotow, with a shriek of pain, jumped high into the air. Five or six shots broke the stillness, and the dead body of a red-skinned fiend fell across the camp-fire. The corporal of the guard reported that the prisoner had made a wild jump, as though to break for the bushes. Lieutenant French complimented the men on their watchfulness.—[Romance.

Excitement in a Dutch Village.

One night in October we were startled by the ringing of the alarm-bells. We expected to find a fire, but the peasants, as they tumbled out of their doors, shouted, "The cows! The cows!"—which brings us back to a curious bit of local history and custom. As is well known, the Zuyder Zee is kept back from these villages by a great dike that connects sand-dune with sand-dune. During the low water of summer the sea retires for a long distance, and the uncovered shore becomes fine pasturage, giving the farmers a chance to convert their own meager grass-patches into hay for the winter. Unfortunately, this provision of nature cannot be enjoyed by all. It is a bequest to these villages from a countess who died in the year 1642; to speak exactly, each descendant of a resident of the villages of Laren, Blaricum and Huizen, of that date, has inherited the right to pasture seven cows.

This privilege cannot be bought or sold; it can be acquired only from an ancestor of the village of that date. When the spring comes, the cattle are driven to the pastures, where they remain for the summer. Their owners commonly live miles away, and it necessitates two daily milking-trips, on which they jog over in a cart with the cans and pails at midday and midnight. The pastures are hundreds of acres in extent, and for a long time it puzzled us how an owner could find his cows on a dark night; but we discovered that they have trained their animals to come to a certain place at the same hour each day and night by always carrying to them some dainty in the shape of salt and potatoes. During the summer these pastures are used without danger, but in the autumn the succession of northerly gales in conjunction with a high tide, will put the land many feet under water. Sometimes the inundation is so sudden that the cattle are caught by the rising waters and drowned.

So, at the beginning of September, watchmen are always stationed on the dike to keep a sharp lookout upon the sea. The church towers of the villages are all in sight of one another, and the Huizen tower is in close communication with the dike. With a rise of the sea, the man on the dike hangs up a lantern; if the sea rises more, he hangs up two, which is a danger signal; but if it rises fast, three, which says, "Great danger; come quickly." Similar lights are flashed from tower to tower by watchers in the belfries, and at three lights the alarm-bells are rung. This was the alarm we heard, and in ten minutes the roads were thronged with people on foot and on horse-back, rushing to the rescue of the herds. This year none were drowned; but it it was perilous work and the peasants heaved long sighs of relief as they told us the details and announced that the cows were safe in the stables for the next six months.—[Century.

How Mail Clerks Assist the Memory.

The railway postal clerks have a unique method for learning the routes on which post-offices are located. Take, for example, the State of Pennsylvania, in which there are over 5000 offices. The prospective mail distributer buys a quantity of blank cards—about the size of the ordinary visiting card—and on each of these he writes the name of an office. On the back of the card he writes the name of the route by which the office is served with its mail. Taking in hand a pack of these cards—say from 50 to 100—he goes over them one after another studiously, looking at the back each each time and getting the name and route clearly associated in his mind. The second time he goes through the pack he finds that he knows the half of the routes by reading the name of the office. It is a dull student who, upon going over a pack of cards a dozen times, does not know them thoroughly. The method is so simple and such an aid to memorizing that it is adopted by all railway mail clerks. By it clerks have been known to memorize a State like Pennsylvania inside of two months.

On all large routes clerks work but half time, the other half being devoted to rest and study. The mail clerk at home, continually reminded of coming examinations, carries his cards wherever he goes, conning them over at every opportunity. One demonstrative clerk on the New York and Pittsburg R. P. O. is famed for having learned the State of Ohio in four days. As he shuffled over his cards he walked from garret to cellar, and vice versa, from dawn until the shades of twilight fell. On the fourth day he went to the examiner's office and separated Ohio without an error.

It is related that the wife of a postal clerk adopted the card method for increasing her vocabulary in French. On one side of the cards she wrote the French word and on the other the English equivalent to be learned. Another lady, hearing of this, used the same system successfully for learning mythology, placing the word "Mars," for instance, on one side of the card and "war" on the other. The method has so many advantages over the old and tedious way of learning from the pages of a book that it might be utilized with advantage by teachers in search of new methods of imparting instruction.—[Philadelphia Record.

Electric Heating.

Electricity generated for heating or for any other purpose must be produced at the cost of the expenditure of some other form of energy, such as the burning of coal or the force of falling water. As the latter form of power is hardly available for use in New York, it follows that if electric heating is to become a commercial commercial phase of life in that city current will be supplied to consumers from central stations in which coal is burned under the boilers, precisely similar to existing plants for the supply of light and power. The conversion and transmission of heat by this process is not economical, and current from coal burning stations in sufficient quantities for heating could only be used by the wealthy, to whom its convenience and cleanliness would commend it. It is apparent, however, that the "coal barons" would have nearly as much to say about the supply of fuel to such stations as to individual consumers at present, although it is probable that the mere cost of coal and labor would be proportionately reduced by the use of cheaper grades of fuel and by centralization. Doubtless electric heating has a great future, but at present it seems to be principally available in localities where water power can be utilized in the prime movers.—[Western Electrician.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

THE NEW POTATO CULTURE.

The main features of the new potato culture are: The seed is so planted that under ordinary conditions it cannot help receiving the moisture necessary to germination; level culture, thus exposing the least possible surface of the soil to the action of the wind and sun, saving a portion of the moisture that under other conditions would be rapidly carried off.—[American Farmer.

FEEDING BEES FOR HONEY.

Bees store honey, they do not make it. The poet was correct when he wrote that they "gather honey all the day from every opening flower." Consequently honey is not changed by the bees, as it is well known that it partakes of the character of the plant the bees gather it from. Thus buckwheat honey is dark in color and has a peculiar flavor, easily recognized by experts, while clover honey and that from basswood trees are much lighter in color and have a superior flavor. If the bees are fed on sugar they store it in their combs, and the product is not honey but sugar syrup. To make honey in this way is a fraud, and the cheapness of it is no excuse for thus using the bees dishonestly. Sugar syrup, however, may be properly used to feed bees from which the honey has been taken too closely in the fall.—[New York Times.

SPARE THE SHELTER.

It is natural that a farmer whose work has been largely the clearing of forest land to make grainfields and meadows, and who, later, has a continual time of guerilla war with briars and bushes that follow the heavy troops of trees and still dispute for possession of the soil—it is natural that he should seek to extirpate the whole, root and branch, and take pride in having entirely clear fields and fences. But another enemy then comes in—the parching wind. The bare areas that he has learned to admire are not pleasing to a lover of landscape. Some sheltering hedgerows, and here and there a little grove or clump of handsome trees, add both benefit and beauty, besides increasing value. A field without any sort of rim is like a picture without a frame, or a face without cap or curl.—[New York Tribune.

SANITARY STABLE.

First of all it needs a healthy cow, and then let the stable be well made, though this need not involve great expense. Let the floor upon logs and "cob-houses" give way to the floor made on the earth itself, either cement or well packed gravel, so that there shall be no cave of the winds under it or dungeon of foul smells, for of the many ills attributed to the confinement of cows in stables the most conspicuous cause of the troubles is the under side of the stable floor, and when this is remedied the chief cause of trouble is removed. Fresh air can be readily introduced, the only precaution being to prevent draughts of air directly upon the cattle.

The chief cause of effluvia is in not cleaning the stable frequently and well and abolition of absorbents in the gutters, and of use of a few quarts of land plaster each week behind the cows. The well ordered stable is whitewashed and all corners kept free from filth and decomposing substances.

Light should be made "glaringly" conspicuous, the windows frequent and large and so set that there shall be all the sunshine possible in the stable. A roomy boxstall should be provided for the cows about to calve and well littered with straw.—[Practical Farmer.

TO KEEP COWS FROM KICKING.

It is an old saying that habit becomes a second nature, and this is pretty well exemplified in the case of many kicking cows. The trouble usually arises from permitting it to become a habit, and this can in most cases be prevented by gentle usage from the milker, beginning with the first calf. Where gentle treatment does not succeed and the cow is on the way to become an habitual kicker, or lifts her foot to knock over the pail without any provocation, her legs should be securely tied before beginning the milking, so that the operation can go on just as though she was not trying to prevent it.

Any device that restrains the cow so that the milker does not quit or show signs of being inconvenienced by her attempts at bad behavior, unless she is naturally incorrigible or has been made so by scolding and cruel treatment, will generally result in a reformation. Even a cow is not likely to long continue a disagreeable habit unless its effects are shown by the conduct of the milker. If her legs are tied a few times until she sees that she is not annoying him or compelling him to stop milking, the straps may then be loosely wrapped around them and after awhile be laid aside altogether.—[New York World.

HOW TO KILL THE APHIS.

The most troublesome insect, yet the one easiest to destroy, is the aphis; it is readily killed by immersing the entire top of the plant in warm tobacco water, easily made by steeping tobacco stems in boiling water until the water is the color of rather weak coffee. Use it about as warm as one can bear his hand in. By placing the hands over the top of the pot, with the plant between the fingers, and inverting the plant and dipping the foliage in a bucketful of the liquid and immediately out again, the insects are instantly killed and no injury done to the plant, even if the water is too hot to put the hand in.

A few minutes after they have been so submerged the plants should be syringed with clear water to wash off the tobacco stain. This operation should also be performed in the evening. If the plants are exposed to sunshine soon after they have been treated the foliage is apt to be injured and become brown and spotted. This treatment leaves no offensive odor around the plants or in the room, as fumigating with tobacco does.

If these few directions are followed, remembering that all plants need all the light and sunshine it is possible to give them in the house, plants can be grown quite satisfactorily. Remember to select the plants that succeed best in the house, and also remember that roses are among the most difficult to manage either in house or greenhouse.—[Chicago News Record.

GROWTH OF CALLAS.

Whilst there seem to be differences of opinion as to whether it is wisest to plant out callas in the spring for the making of good summer growth, or to retain the plants in pots, I find, writes a correspondent, very many growers adopt the plan of keeping all their stoutest ones in pots, only turning them out at the proper season, removing side shoots, rubbing down the balls of soil, and repotting in so small ones as well can be at the first, keeping them in the pots all the summer, and pushing them along by housing early for the production of early flowers. In many cases a further shift into rather larger pots becomes needful during the summer. The market growers regard this as the best course where callas have to be forced.

That the weaker or smaller stems or offshoots when planted out into highly manured ground do relatively make the strongest growth there can be no doubt, but as these, even if the stems and leafage have become ever so stout, still being newly potted in the autumn are less fitted to stand early forcing than are those which have been kept in the pots all the season. It is very important, however, especially that callas are of a semi-aquatic nature, that very ample waterings be given, especially to pot plants, and also that the pots stand on a bed of ashes or cocoa fiber refuse. Liquid manures are of more service to pot plants where the roots are densely crowded than to plants out doors where, because of ample manure and root room, the chief want in hot weather is plenty of moisture. It seems absolutely improbable, come yellow or any other color, that the cultivation of the white variety will ever be materially lessened.—[Chicago Times.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Onion seed is scarce, and its price will come high.

Some day feeders will injure beeves partly with molasses.

The spinach bed, through cold weather, is grateful for a covering of cornstalks.

Best results are gotten from the soil when deep-rooted crops are followed by shallow roots.

Cover the bit with leather, or in any case be sure to take the frost out of it before putting it in the horse's mouth.

Where slugs are troublesome use cut potatoes for bait, and at night look for them with a lantern and destroy with salt.

An allowance of wheat bran and oats each day to the growing colts will more than pay in their growth and development.

In breeding look carefully to the predominating characteristics of the sire and dam, as it does not pay to breed colts with naturally bad tempers.