

PERILS OF GYMNASTS

THE RISKS THEY RUN WHILE GOING THROUGH THEIR ACTS.

A Fall Even Into the Net Which is Spread Beneath Them is Liable to Result in Serious Injury—Nerve and Confidence Necessary.

It doubtless appears to the onlooker at the circus that the mid-air gymnasts—"aerialists" in the vocabulary of the arena—are quite safe from injury so long as they have the broad, soft net spread beneath them.

A famous gymnast who is the head of a family of performers said that the mid-air gymnast branch of circus work, which appears so easy and safe of accomplishment, was so full of danger as to be fought shy of by faint-hearted people.

"Now," said the gymnast, "we are merely human. We can't all be perfect in action all the time, so from time to time the machine goes to pieces, but we are so well schooled that we soon put it together again."

"There's as much danger in our work as in any circus," said a certain star one of the best acrobats in the business.

"When the revenue cutter pass system was originally introduced, nobody in the government employ seems to know."

"Several years ago at a time of general labor troubles a certain railroad got no less than five reports from its confidential men informing them that an employee who was several degrees higher in the secret service of the road than any of them, had but known it, had been making incendiary speeches."

"This was true. Matters had so shaped themselves that the man accused had to appear as a radical in order to gain admittance to inner councils where the important questions would be finally decided."

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Failure to the man who learns means experience, and experience is equipment, and equipment is wealth.—Saturday Evening Post.

MEETING A BIG LINER

NOT EASY TO BOARD AN INCOMING VESSEL IN NEW YORK BAY.

Uncle Sam Grants Few Requests For Passes on the Revenue Cutters Which Go Out to Meet the Steamships From European Ports.

When it is generally understood, as it generally is not, that fully 300 persons make application daily in season for passes to board incoming ocean steamers from revenue cutters and that not more than 2 per cent of the requests are granted, it may be understood how valuable the treasury department considers these privileges.

The treasury department trusts few, a fact that has increased Uncle Sam's revenue a great deal, as the majority of the boarding officers know.

"I understand you are connected with so and so. I have a small package here that I would like to take ashore. There is nothing dutiable in it, but you understand how the government piles it on."

"Not only did this pass holder not take the package, but the first thing he did upon landing was to point out the passenger to a member of the surveyor's staff, who very promptly demanded and received the package."

"This permission is understood to be subject to the assent of the master of the steamship and of the health officer as guardian of the public health, and boarding is strictly forbidden until after the customs officers are in charge, according to the following extract from the passenger act, 1882:

"Section 9. That it shall not be lawful for the master of any (such) steamship or other vessel not in distress after the arrival of the vessel within any collection district of the United States to allow any person or persons except a pilot, officer of the customs or health officer, agents of the vessel and consuls to come on board of the vessel or to leave the vessel until the vessel has been taken in charge by an officer of the customs nor after charge so taken without leave of such officer until all the passengers, with their baggage, have been duly landed from the vessel."

A few years ago it was possible for all sorts of idlers to gain admission to a pier while the passengers of a ship from foreign parts were landing. This has been the practice for some years, and the steamship gatekeepers had the sole and exclusive right of deciding who should enter.

"Why don't you bookstore clerks know more about books?" "Madam, we don't dare be intellectual, for customers would ask us so many questions that we couldn't make any sales."—Chicago Record.

To a youth of 20 middle age is from 40 to 45. To a young man of 40 middle age is from 55 to 60.—Somerville Journal.

Rice, raw eggs, and boiled venison require only one hour to digest. At the other end are pork, roast beef, cabbage and hard eggs, which require four to five hours.

The present population of Athens, in Greece is only 80,000. There is no accurate census of the city when in its ancient glory but it is supposed at one time to have contained 500,000 inhabitants.

RAILROAD SPOTTERS.

THE SECRET SERVICE THAT ONE BIG SYSTEM MAINTAINS.

Members of It in Every Department From Yardmen Up—Curious Complications When Spotters Unknown to One Another Cross Lines.

"Probably the most perfect spotter system achieved by any private corporation," says S. H. Adams in *Almanac*, "is that of one of the big eastern railroads, which is to some extent modeled on the secret service system of some of the eastern governments, though by no means so complex."

"So far-reaching and so direct, however, are its lines of communication that the president of the organization is himself kept constantly informed of the trend of affairs and the changes of sentiment among the employees of every division and subdivision of the whole railway system, and that without the knowledge of any other persons but his own special corps of clerks and secretaries."

"Nobility but himself knows the entire personnel of the wonderful service that he has perfected. His agents are drawn from every branch of the road's operating staff. They are engineers, freight brakemen, passenger trainmen, conductors, signalmen, yardmen, station agents, truck walkers and even division officials."

"To keep track of the shifting mental attitude of his employees is the aim of this railroad president. If a certain division superintendent has made himself unpopular with his subordinates, information to that effect comes by underground wire to the central office, and the matter is taken under advisement."

"Some of the admirer coworkers of the head of this system declare that in two minutes' reference to his collected funds of information he can unroll the family history of the woman who washes the windows of car No. 41144X and tell whether, in her estimation, he himself is an oppressor of the downtrodden or a perfect gentleman."

"Where so many invisible lines radiate from the same office it is inevitable that some of them should cross. Curious complications result from contact between spotters as unknown to each other as they are to those whom they watch."

"Several years ago at a time of general labor troubles a certain railroad got no less than five reports from its confidential men informing them that an employee who was several degrees higher in the secret service of the road than any of them, had but known it, had been making incendiary speeches."

"This was true. Matters had so shaped themselves that the man accused had to appear as a radical in order to gain admittance to inner councils where the important questions would be finally decided. To the charge of the authorities they were obliged to transfer him. Had they not done so the suspicions of the men who make the reports would have been aroused."

"Dynamite. Four tons of it." "Good Lord!" I exclaimed. "There wouldn't have been much left of that team, would there?" "No, nor, neither, I reckon," he said, shaking his head.

"What did you think of as you were running up the road?" "Not much of anything, I guess, but mostly of the wuz going to be able to get enough by Jerry Simpson's ment out of that nut meant to have a famer at wuz."

"I don't know where Jerry is now," concluded the senator; "dead, I suppose, but I never told him who rolled that rock down the hill, nor did I ever tell anybody in that town who did it, because it came altogether too near being a tragedy for it ever to be considered a joke."—New York Sun.

Wall paper having an apparent value of \$400,000, but in reality worth nothing, decorates the study of a New York business man. It is composed of thousands of 6 per cent bonds, engraved and printed at a cost of \$2,500 for company which, failing to attract investors, died before it could be its.

THE PRONUNCIATION OF CUBA. N. Y. Senator Teller always pronounces "Cuba" as if it were written "Cuby," and thereby lapses a tale. Mr. Teller was born in Allegheny county, N. Y. The chief town in that county is Cuba, but from time immemorial its people have called it "Cuby." Mr. Teller grew up with these people, and Cuba has always been "Cuby" to him.—Washington Post.

DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

A BOWLER THAT WAS STARTED ROLLING JUST FOR FUN.

The Senator's Story of a Thoughtless Act That Barely Escaped Resulting in a Tragedy—A Lucky Bound Into the Air.

"More than 20 years ago," said the senator in reminiscent mood, "I was doing clerical stunts at Hamilton, Nev., and having about as enjoyable an existence as I have ever known, before or since. The blue skies, the big mountains, the invigorating air, the wholesome food and the interesting people all around me made my life about as good as life ought to be this side of the pearly portals."

"I had a particular object in view, and with my dog I wandered along up the mountain, which was without vegetation except a fuzzy thicket in places, and the surface was covered with rocks of various sizes from a football to a haystack. After a while, for something better to do, I began to roll the stones down the mountain side, and it rapidly developed into a most exciting sport for the mountain was steep and the rocks went down with a whoop and a hurrah that stirred the blood to watch them as they bounded along."

"Naturally enough, my success with the smaller stones made me ambitious, and I essayed something larger. It was a dandy, too, a great big, round boulder that would have weighed a ton if it weighed a pound. It was a job to get it started, but by pulling the rocks from under it on the lower side and loosening it up all around I got it going at last and stood back to enjoy its progress down the mountain."

"The team was driving two wagons, as was the custom with the mountain freighters, and it was driven by old Jerry Simpson, one of the best known men in the mountains. It simply paralyzed me, for I didn't see anything but destruction for everything in the way. There was no turning back or whipping up to get out of the way, for the load was heavy and the road was rough and narrow. I stood speechless, scared white, but the driver had seen the rock coming, and, dropping off the saddle, he broke back up the road as hard as he could run."

"I slipped around another way to town and got in all right without having any questions asked where I had been, and that evening I went over to the post-office, which was a general loafing place, and there found Jerry telling of his wonderful escape."

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The one-legged man can never hope to get there with both feet. The other man can never hope to get there with one foot.

Their Wooden Wedding.

It was after the evening rush hour in one of the many but respectable unpretentious restaurants of Herald Square, says the New York Herald, when an old man, gray, wrinkled and bearded who was finishing his meal, found himself, facing a young man and woman, who took seats on the opposite side of the table from him.

"Their conversation, in quiet low tones interested him, and he lingered as he sipped the dregs of his coffee cup."

"Now, Tom," said the young woman, "we must not spend much for we have but little, and not telling where more is to come from until you find work again. Of course, you must have coffee, because you enjoy it so much."

"But the money, Tom?" "I have a dollar, and half of it shall be spent on this meal, and we will forget our troubles for a few minutes at least. I hope for work to-morrow."

"Tom, you are very kind, but I fear only more disappointment to-morrow." "Let us not think of it now. You shall have the chocolate, and pie, too."

"The old man had heard every word as he leaned forward over his empty coffee cup and appeared to be almost choking while pretending to drink from it. He put down the cup, began feeling in his pockets and showed agitation that attracted the attention of the two opposite. Both looked at him, and he leaned forward, with his elbows on the table."

"Excuse me," he said, "but I could not help hearing that this is the fifth anniversary of your wedding. I reached the fifth anniversary of my wedding, but it was the last, for the cruel sea took my wife and left me a poor shipwrecked sailor. Here is a little wooden match box that I got in Japan. See how nicely it is carved. Please accept it as an anniversary present."

"As he arose he laid the box on the table in front of them, and before either could speak he was gone."

"How strange," said the man, as he took the box in his hand and opened it. "See," he exclaimed. "Here is a twenty dollar bill in it."

"I recall now with horror," says Mail Carrier Burnett Mann of Levanna, O., "my three years of suffering from kidney trouble. It was hardly ever free from dull aches or acute pains in my back. To stoop or lift mail sacks made me groan. I felt tired, worn out, about ready to give up, when I began to use Electric Bitters, but six bottles completely cured me and made me feel like a new man."

"They're unrivaled to regulate Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by W. S. Dickson. Only 50 cents."

The commencement of the Mercersburg academy this year promises to be the biggest Mercersburg has ever known. The present graduating class is the largest in the history of the institution. The commencement exercises will begin on Saturday, June 1, and continue until June 6, the commencement exercises proper being held in the morning of Wednesday, June 6th. There will also be three portraits unveiled during the week, all of them being painted by artists of national reputation. The unveiling of the portrait of ex-President Buchanan will be a matter of national interest.

If people only knew what we know about Kodol Dyspepsia Cure, it would be used in nearly every household, as there are few people who do not suffer from a feeling of fullness after eating, belching, flatulence, sour stomach or waterbrash, caused by indigestion or dyspepsia. A preparation, such as Kodol Dyspepsia Cure, which, with no aid from the stomach, will digest your food, certainly can't help but do you good. Trout's drug store.

Friends: Have you seen our Spring Stock of Dress Stuffs? From the way they are moving out, they must be all right. Among the Special Attractions are the Mercerised Gingham New and Handsome Dimities, Lawns, Piques, &c. We also have a nice stock of Woollens for Dresses and Skirts. Our notion stock is complete with all the novelties of the season. For men and Boys we have a lot of Straw Hats to close out at half-price and less. 25 cent hats going at 12; 50 cent ones at 25 cents, and dollar hats at 50 cents. Don't wait. Not many of them. Look at this ad next week. Respectfully, G. W. REISNER & CO.

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