

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Before 1849 the south furnished the chief gold fields of the country.

Over 3,000,000 pairs of blankets are woven in Great Britain annually.

On the basis of real estate assessments the public parks of New York city are worth \$1,200,000,000.

Of all places of importance Sydney, New South Wales, is farthest from London as the crow flies, 10,120 miles.

Experiments with steam raising by means of peat have been made by the Swedish railways, but they have turned out a failure.

Aloys Dusch, a barber-dentist of Wunzenau, Germany, recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his entry into the double profession. He has extracted no fewer than 32,000 teeth, all of which he has preserved.

By the old method of salvage the rents and breaks in the hull of the vessel were closed and the water pumped out. By the latest system the ship is rid of water by pumping air into the holds, which floats the vessel.

The total quantity of radium which has thus far been recovered for scientific use throughout the world is estimated not to exceed one-fourth of a pound. The total stock in the London hospital is but sixteen and one-quarter milligrams.

In the vicinity of Concepcion and Talcahuano, Chile, there are more than 80,000,000 cubic meters of soft coal of fair quality within an area of 80,000 square meters, or about 30.7 square miles. The vein is 3.5 meters, or about 11.5 feet, thick.

Dr. Ponza, director of the lunatic asylum at Alessandria, Italy, has cured many of his insane patients by confining them in rooms of some uniform color. Patients suffering from acute melancholia have become cheerful after confinement in a red room.

To the formidable array of poisonous substances found in tobacco, among them carbon monoxide, prussic acid, nicotine, pyridine, sulphureted hydrogen, carbolic acid, a new one has lately been added, which is under suspicion of being dangerous—sulphocyanide of ammonia.

A grim argument in favor of letting well enough alone is found in a recent New York case. Not content with a verdict of murder in the second degree, the lawyer for the convicted man secured a new trial, at which the prisoner was found guilty in the first degree and sentenced to death.

The first real road in Korea, except that connecting Seoul and Chemulpo, connects the towns of Kusan and Chonji. This policy of building highways is being pursued all over the country, and an expenditure of several million dollars will within a very short time make itself felt in increased traffic and business.

Cairo, with about 700,000 inhabitants, has 124 pharmacies mentioned in the Indicateur Egyptian. The proportion, however, is no criterion, as three-quarters of the native population are poor and scarcely count as customers, and the pharmacies, being all crowded into the European and semi-European quarters, are sufficiently numerous for the amount of business.

The names of at least eight of the American states will soon become familiar to the inhabitants of the Levant, for according to Consul General Harris at Smyrna, an American merchant has purchased that number of steamboats from a Turkish company to trade in the Mediterranean, and he has changed the Turkish names to those of American states.

When Bryan Mullanphy of Joplin, Mo., died in 1851 he left one-third of his large fortune to be devoted to helping immigrants passing through St. Louis "on their way to the west." The fund has grown to about \$1,000,000, and the trustees have nothing to do but draw their salaries. The supreme court has denied the right to divert the fund to other public purposes.

About 2,000 imported empty camembert cheese boxes bearing the names of well known French cheeses were imported at New York on one steamer. Duty had to be paid on the printed matter on their 2,000 labels and another duty on the imported boxes. According to a New York trade journal, these boxes are filled in New York state and sold as coming from abroad.

Methuselah must have had appendicitis, according to Dr. Maurice H. Richardson, who made the statement in a recent address at the Harvard Medical school. Said Dr. Richardson, "Even in Methuselah's day appendicitis was as common as it is today, and a man could not have lived 950 years, the reputed age of that patriarch, without undergoing an operation for appendicitis."

South Africa has a brand new national anthem. The country endeavored for some time to secure a composition suitable for that purpose, and out of 150 compositions the work of Bernhard Kopolowitz was chosen, and the citizens of Johannesburg had the first opportunity of hearing it performed after it had been formally accepted. The composer is not a professional musician. He is a civil engineer.

Mexico is arranging to celebrate the centennial of her independence next September to December. The location of the buildings and the objective point will be at Puebla, a few hours' ride out of Mexico City. A national committee has been formed with Jose Casarin as secretary, whose office is in Mexico City. A great deal of enthusiasm has been shown, and the national committee estimates the \$250,000 gold will be raised in Mexico City alone.

THAW ON WITNESS STAND.

Says He Heard Hartridge Lost \$11,000 Thaw Money at Roulette.

New York, April 12.—Harry K. Thaw was a witness in the United States circuit court here in the trial of Clifford W. Hartridge's suit against Mrs. Mary C. Thaw to recover \$94,000 balance of counsel fees.

Thaw gave ready answers to most of the questions put to him, but they were often unduly prolonged and vague. He said he retained Hartridge as counsel because he was a friend. Up to December, 1906, he had paid Hartridge \$75,100 and then thought it was time to give over the charge of expenditures to John B. Gleason. He professed not to know that Hartridge had been spending his and his mother's money to prevent women of the Tenderloin from spreading stories hurtful to the Thaw interests, nor did Hartridge to his knowledge deal with any women who had claims against Thaw.

Thaw said that it was in September and October, 1906, that he heard about Hartridge frequenting gambling houses and losing \$11,000 of the Thaw money at roulette.

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CARE OF THE JEWEL CASE.

How to Clean and Brighten Rock and Artificial Gemstones.

Prepared chalk is the best all round cleanser for jewelry of all descriptions. A small box of the chalk is as a matter of fact, as important in the dressing case as a clean chambray handkerchief, with which silver buttons and buckles can be brightened. An excellent method of combining the two is that of enclosing the block of chalk in a leather bag drawn around the neck with a tape, which can be used both to keep it intact and to act as a polisher.

For gold chains there is nothing to equal a paste made of chalk and methylated spirit, while a fine brush must be used after the paste has dried on so as to clear it of powder and give a brilliant polish. Benzine is sometimes employed by jewelers in cleaning precious stones. It should not, of course, be allowed to touch pearls or even turquoises, moonstones or opals, all of which require the greatest care in their treatment and are the first to show signs of neglect.

In the case of diamonds, sapphires, rubies and emeralds the benzine treatment may be tried, however, provided great care is observed, as benzine fumes are very inflammable.

The rings, if set in claw settings and other small items, should be collected and laid to soak in a little benzine, after which the jewels should be washed in ordinary soap and water, rinsed in cold water and finally placed on a cloth to drain. Experts further dip the jewels in alcohol, so as to evaporate the remaining water, damp of any description being certain to dull the surface of the newly cleaned stone.

To keep jewelry in savdust is the very best method of obviating the constant cleaning which would otherwise be necessary, and it is an excellent plan to keep a small bag made of chambray leather in the dressing case, filling this with savdust and using it to hold all brooches, earrings and rings which are not actually in daily use.

It is not, however, only real jewels which put a tax on time and patience when away from home. The many secondary gems which are used for buckles, earrings and chains, as well as the hatpins, which seem to get more and more ornate every day, require even greater attention. Old paste is best cleaned with dry prepared chalk. The same treatment agrees also with such stones as peridot or marquisite. It is never advisable to allow imitation stones to become wet, while a damp paste, moreover, which in some cases would do no harm to the gem itself, might loosen the setting.

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WOMAN AND FASHION

Mourning Millinery.

Women who wear black have not been neglected by the arbiters of fashion. Although good taste insists upon a conservative use of decoration, there are attractive lines and styles in the new hats.

The close turban of very rough straw is swathed with dull silk and has a simple bow at the side. Frequently a frilling of black net softens the line against the hair.

A larger hat may be turned up at the side and a huge soft bow held there. The front of another chip is curled up on the low crown, simply caught by a plaited double fan of silk.

Dull black dahlias and silk flowers are used in simple wreaths around the crowns, white stiff quills for the tailored hat have come back for their share. Of course the best mourning hat is the one in which a refined simplicity is the keynote. Unobtrusive and elegant should be millinery of this type, and nothing should be more vehemently decried than the hideous bunch of jet and glass that is an offense in its failure to suggest the shrinking from notice, which, after all, is the message of black at this time.

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Vienna's Plague of Pigeons.

Vienna is suffering from too many pigeons, and the authorities are at a loss to know what to do to mitigate the nuisance. The birds, which number some thousands, have a privileged existence; nobody molests them in any way, so that they flourish and increase rapidly.

Recently so many complaints have been received from house owners of the pigeons that the Vienna magistracy decided something must be done to reduce the number. In their perplexity the magistracy appealed to the Vienna Society for the Protection of Animals to aid them in a legal slaughter of the offending birds, always having regard, however, to the provisions of the new birds protection law.

The society answered that it would be hardly consistent with their principles of friendliness toward animals to engage in a massacre of pigeons and therefore they must reject the official appeal.

The magistracy are now wrestling with the problem alone. Perhaps the unemployed of Vienna might help them.

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