

The population of Egypt increased from about six and a half millions in 1882 to over eight millions in 1894.

The use of trolley cars in connection with funerals is becoming quite common in some of the northern cities.

Chicago is not satisfied with its river, and is talking of digging another, which shall run from the lake and into the big ditch.

The Irishmen of Australia have notified the Irish politicians of the British parliament that if the councils of the party are not united they will not put up another penny.

In Mexico less than 5,000 murders were committed last year, or one to every 24,000 of the population, while in the United States there were 10,500 murders, or one to every 7,000 of the population.

Philadelphia has so many electric railways running in every direction that the United States Geological Survey is having considerable trouble in determining the magnetic variation in Philadelphia, as the earth beneath the city is so filled with electric currents that compass needles behave in a most eccentric manner.

New York City is the great center of the ready made clothing trade. In the manufacturing part of this business there are about 90,000 workers, while within a radius of twenty-five miles from the city hall there are probably 25,000 more. Of these, about 65 percent are American and foreign Hebrews, 25 percent Italians and the balance of American, English and other nationalities.

Calculations as to the speed of an electric locomotive and train of the weight of the famous Empire state express, running at a speed of seventy miles an hour, show that, without increased cost of coal, the electric motors could make a speed of 108 miles per hour, indicating a saving of over one-third the expense and that much higher speed is economically possible with electric motors.

Liechtenstein, the smallest sovereign state in Europe save Monaco, is having a constitutional crisis. The Prince lives at Vienna, leaving the care of the Government to a manager, who recently undertook to establish a censorship over the only newspaper published in the principality. The people and Legislature are up in arms for the freedom of the press, and demand that the Prince shall observe the Constitution. Liechtenstein used to send a contingent of 712 men to the army of the German confederation.

A man by the name of E. H. Kennedy, who lived in Philadelphia, died a few days ago, leaving an estate which was valued at \$100,000. According to the terms of the will the property is to be held in trust for the benefit of the woman's branch of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The trustee is to pay to the society the entire income from this large sum, unless the society shall disband, or cease to do the work which it is now doing, to protect animals from cruelty. In the latter event the net annual income of the trust estate is to be paid annually to the commissioners of Fairmount park, for the purchase annually of one painting, which shall be placed in the art gallery of Fairmount park. Mr. Kennedy, who died at Hahnemann hospital, had long been a devoted friend to the society which he made his beneficiary.

Says the Twentieth Century:—"Our large cities are becoming clearly more and more dangerous to live in. If it is not the trolley and the cable that slaughter people remorselessly, it is a manhole that bursts or a live wire that slays. It is far cheaper for monopoly to kill women and children than to put its implements of death where their destructive capacity is under control. The resource of damage suits is beyond the reach of the poor. Anyhow, the damage suit is a curious superstition. If a man loves his wife and child, what good will a few thousand dollars do him? What good would the entire coinage of the country do him for that matter? Of course, grown people can take care of themselves to a limited extent, but children are in constant peril. It is very odd that the peril always increases. One might suppose that the monopolies would try to kill less children every year, but the fact is that their young victims increase in number daily. Progress is a most serious thing."

The Isle of Long Ago.

Oh, a wonderful stream is the River Time,
As it flows through the realm of year
With a faultless rhythm and a musical
And a broader sweep and a surge so
As it blends with the ocean of years,
How the winters are drifting, like flakes of
snow,
And the summers like buds between;
And the years in the sheaf—so they come
and they go
On the river's breast, with its ebb and flow,
As they glide in the shadow and sheen.
There's a magical Isle up the River Time,
Where the softest of airs are playing;
There's a cloudless sky and a tropical climate,
And a voice as sweet as a vesper chime,
And the Junes with the roses are staying.
And the name of this Isle is the Long Ago,
And we bury our treasures there:
There are brows of beauty and bosoms of
snow—
There are heaps of dust, but we love them so!
There are trinkets and tresses of hair,
There are fragments of songs that nobody
sings,
And a part of an infant's prayer,
There's a harp unswept and a lute without
strings,
There are broken vows and pieces of rings,
And the garments she used to wear.
There are hands that are waved when the
fairly shore
By the mirage is lifted in air;
And we sometimes hear through the turbu-
lent roar
Sweet voices we heard in the days gone be-
fore,
When the wind down the river is fair.
Oh, remembered for aye be the blessed Isle
All the day of our life till night,
And when evening comes with its beautiful
smile,
And our eyes are closing in slumber awhile,
May that "Greenwood" of soul be in sight.
—Benjamin F. Taylor.

Wooing of Miss Anna Beggs.

BY KATHERINE BATES.

"No," said lawyer Anna Beggs, "no, I shall never marry."
"That is a great pity," replied the man to whom she was speaking, "for you would make a delightful home for some lucky fellow."
The lawyer looked at him in surprise.
"Do you think so?" she asked. "I hardly agree with you, for I am not at all domestic. You probably think so because it is your theory that women should make homes."
"No, that isn't it," interrupted her friend. "I think you would make a delightful home."
Miss Beggs was silent; she crossed her feet and slipped down in her chair, meditating for a little while. At last she said: "Oh, I think not."
"Why not?"
"Well, it is generally held that one of the essentials of a home is wifely admiration for the head of the family. It is not my custom to admire men."
"That is true," admitted the man; "but a man's admiration for his wife goes a long way toward making a home."
"That's another theory, isn't it? Did you ever see a home properly conducted without wifely admiration?"
"No; I can't say that I ever did. But I should be willing to try the experiment if you would take me."
"Take you? Are you proposing to me, Henry West?"
"That's what I am working up to—I have intended for some years to do it when you had time to listen. You seemed a trifle short of clients this afternoon—the extreme cold, no doubt—so I deemed it a good time to try my luck. That is why I introduced matrimony as a general topic; unless it is positively disagreeable to you, I'd now like to make it a special one."
The lawyer sighed. She was a handsome woman, with very long lashes to her dark grey eyes, and she dropped these convenient lashes as she considered the matter.
"Well, if you must talk it out I suppose now is as good a time as any; but I am disappointed in you, Henry. I have known you for years, and I have always counted on you as one of the men who would not want to marry me."
"For a good many of those years I did not intend to want to," said Henry, apologetically. "In fact, I thought the men who were anxious to in spite of your eccentricities, were great idiots, but I have changed my mind."
"And you a man!"
"Yes, but I am not very much of one, Anna. That's the plea I am going to advance this afternoon—the basis of my argument. I have gone over all the points in the case, and it seems my best chance. I know that I am no better looking, no more entertaining, have no better principles and no more money than some of the men you have already refused; but I do think I am ahead of them in that one point. You enjoy being a manly woman—well, I enjoy being a man with womanly tastes. Why shouldn't we be just the people for each other? No, that was only a rhetorical ques-

tion—I don't want an answer yet, for I should like to set forth the whole plan. That is the great advantage in proposing to a sensible woman—one doesn't want to get hurried and flurried. If you married me, you could go on just the same with your work; the housekeeper and I could manage the house well enough, I am sure—"

"You and the housekeeper!" interrupted the lawyer, impulsively.

"Yes; no doubt we could get a capable woman to help us out. I have quite good taste in the furnishing of a house, the equipping of a small conservatory, and so on; and I could confer with her on the points I am weak in. She could manage the cuisine with hints from me about game, fish, and a few other matters in which I am well up. I know quite a little of landscape gardening, and if she had taste, too, no doubt we could manage to make the whole place quite attractive."

"I thought you said I would make a delightful home."

"So you would; the housekeeper and I are only going to see to the house."

"May I ask why you don't marry her?"

"Because I am, unfortunately, in love with you."

"And yet you don't count me in your plans at all!"

I am dwelling merely on the material side now. When you came home at night, after dinner (about which, you remember, you need have no thought whatever) if you had no references to look up, and if there was nothing you cared to go to, why you and I could talk. I am a good listener, Anna."

"And what should we have to talk about? Every possible common interest would be monopolized by the housekeeper, it seems to me."

"Oh, no, not at all. I read a great deal—especially fiction—and we could discuss current literature. I know little Mrs. Hardy and her husband often read the magazines to each other in the evening—after she has attended to the ordering breakfast and other household matters—and they seem very happy in doing so."

"After she has attended her household affairs," mused the lawyer.

"Yes; but of course you would not have any household affairs to mar your enjoyment. You could feel exactly as if you were in a hotel."

"I haven't the faintest doubt that I should," said Miss Beggs, warmly.

"All the details of our life together would soon fall into shape—there are a good many things I should like to do if I were established in a home of my own, but I should never think of insisting on your sharing them. For instance, I should like to have a visit from Aunt Lætitia, the dear old lady back in the East who brought me up; but if we had succeeded in getting a pleasant woman as housekeeper, Aunt Letty would not be in the least a drain on you. She is a chummy old soul, and very likely she would grow fond of the housekeeper and they could go on all sorts of larks together. Then I should like to take a pew in the nearest church of our—of my persuasion. My father had one as long as he lived, and some way an interest in a church has always seemed to me a part of domesticity. I dare say I should not go often, but if she were a Christian woman, and that is the sort we should like to get, shouldn't we?—why, she could use the pew."

"Do I understand that you are going to church with her, while I—"

"Oh, not at all, of course not, Anna. I merely wished to have the pew in my name, and I hoped she would care to attend that church because—well, because I should like to think of a good woman in the West pew—my bringing-up cropping out, you see. Then there are other things—books are my hobby, you know, but we could have two libraries, one for your legal books and political science and all the other things you know so much about, and a little den for my novels and books of verse. I confess to liking some one to judge a new book with me—but I promise not to bore you in that way, Anna."

"The housekeeper, in the intervals between beautifying the home and going to church, could probably read them with you," said Miss Beggs.

"Isn't it queer, I had thought of that very thing—if we should chance on a cultured woman. Now, Anna, doesn't it seem a possibility? Won't you consider—"

"I consider," said the lawyer, rising to her feet with sudden vim, "that you are insulting me, Henry West! After our long friendship, I should not have expected this of you. I may have been indifferent to marriage, from a personal point of view, but I

have always considered it a sacred institution. To be asked to join with you in such an arrangement as you propose"—she broke off and for the first time since she had been admitted to the bar tears came into her eyes, and her voice trembled.

The man with womanly tastes was pleased at the sight of the drops on her cheeks, and he bent over and kissed them away.

"Dearest," he said, "will you be my housekeeper?"—The New Bohemia.

Some New Diseases.

The intensity of present-day life has developed new and curious ills that act principally upon the nerves and brain. There is one malady that is peculiar to cities. It is called the elevated-railroad disease, and has become sufficiently common to attract the attention of scientists. Among the leading symptoms are nervous irritation and a habit of hesitation in speaking. Many people who live on the line of the elevated railroads are suffering from nervous systems that are almost entirely shattered.

An eminent surgeon is authority for the statement that there are about half a score of new diseases developed by the high-pressure methods of present-day living. Writer's cramp and telegrapher's cramp and paralysis are not new, but they are becoming modified and complicated with other diseases. A number of telegraphers have become insane from the nervous strain of their occupation, and several have committed suicide.

With the introduction of the typewriter, writer's cramp grew less prevalent, but in its place came muscular cramps, nervous difficulties and brain troubles, half a score of them.

A new disease is called railroad shock, and is a nervous affection induced by fright and the shock caused by being the victim of an accident. There is a flute-player's disease of the throat, and medical men tell us of piano paralysis and cramps. The violinist has his peculiar ills to battle with, and now somebody has discovered that street-car conductors are subject to an illness caused by touching brass railings with their bare hands and then bringing them in contact with the eyes and face.

These are only a few of the outgrowths of our artificial method of living, but they are quite enough to furnish occasion for serious thought as to whether our manners and habits are not in urgent need of modification and reformation.—New York Ledger.

Story of a Poultrie.

Family discipline is still maintained in some American families, as of course it ought to be in all. The Rehoboth Herald furnishes an instance. A small boy got a silver in his foot, according to the writer and his mother expressed her intention of putting a poultice on the wound. The boy with the natural foolishness which is bound up in the heart of a child, objected to the proposed remedy.

"I won't have any poultice!" he declared.

"Yes, you will," said both mother and grandmother, firmly. The majority was two to one against him, and at bedtime the poultice was ready.

The patient was not ready. On the contrary, he resisted so stoutly that a switch was brought into requisition. It was arranged that the grandmother should apply the poultice while the mother with uplifted stick, was to stand at the bedside. The boy was told that if he "opened his mouth" he would receive something that would keep him quiet.

The hot poultice touched his foot and he opened his mouth.

"You—" he began.

"Keep still!" said his mother, shaking her stick, while the grandmother applied the poultice.

Once more the little fellow opened his mouth.

"I—"

But the uplifted switch awed him into silence.

In a minute more the poultice was firmly in place, and the boy was tucked in bed.

"There, now," said his mother, "the old silver will be drawn out, and Eddie's foot will be all well."

The mother and grandmother were moving triumphantly away, when a shrill voice piped from under the bedclothes:

"You've got it on the wrong foot!"

It is charged that Succi, the fasting man, managed to get raw beef and other such trifles without the knowledge of the attendant physicians during his late phenomenal fast at Vienna.

OSTRICH FARM.

A Picturesque and Profitable Industry in Florida.

The Eggs of The Big Birds Fetch Twenty-Five Dollars Apiece.

During the Atlanta exposition last fall major H. C. Tiffin, of Courtenay, on the Indian river in Florida, while he was in Atlanta, bought fifteen ostriches, seven females and eight males, and carried them to his Indian river home.

This was the initial move toward the establishment of this most picturesque and profitable industry in the South. The ostriches soon became acclimated and are now as happy and thrifty a colony as one would wish to see. Thirteen of the birds were raised on a farm in southern California, and the other two were raised in South Africa and were imported to this country. The hens have been laying since early last spring and forty-two eggs are now hatching.

Major Tiffin uses an ordinary chicken incubator for hatching, and just forty-two days are required to hatch an ostrich egg. A number of eggs are being hatched by the hens in the nests.

The incubator is heated by a kerosene lamp with thermometer attachment. A temperature of 110 degrees will kill the eggs, and an electric bell contrivance warns major Tiffin in his house of any undue rise in the temperature. "Mineral wool," a composition of slag and other rocks, is used as packing around the eggs. The vitreous substance is converted into a fibrous condition for this purpose. In appearance it consists of innumerable tiny air cells formed by the intertwining of the fibres.

The birds are separated by pairs, each pair or family requiring a half acre run. The runs or lots are provided with plenty of gravel, dry sand and grain food. A hose furnishes cool and fresh water for the pool and stall in each run.

The gravel was secured in Atlanta. The ostrich house is a round structure, sixty feet in diameter, and is located in the centre of the ten-acre farm. Radiating from the centre of the house are sixteen stalls extending to the limit of the enclosure, giving each bird a room to itself, the sixteenth stall extending into the house yard of major Tiffin and serving for an avenue into the ostrich domain. In the very center of the ostrich house, under a large central draught shaft, is a circular chamber, with doors opening into each stall thus affording a means of transference from one stall to another without going outside of the enclosure, and through which the ostriches may be changed at will. A three-foot opening extends along the walls near the eaves. A similar opening is left in the cupola, and these openings will be screened with fine netting. The house entrance to each stall is closed by a heavy door, thus shutting up the ostriches at night and keeping the mosquitoes out. The ostriches are permitted to run during the day, and at night they are confined to their rooms for repose. A female ostrich begins laying usually when she is five years old, laying after that period during each year exactly 50 eggs, weighing 34 ounces each. These eggs sell for \$20 apiece anywhere in the world that there is a market for them. Thus, after a hen reaches her fifth birthday she earns by her laying \$1,000 a year, as much as a railway clerk or as much as some bank cashiers—to say nothing of a newspaper correspondent's earnings.

This is not all the earning capacity of this famous bird, for the ostrich feather is always sold at good prices. The fertilizer that is obtained from an ostrich farm is very valuable, and major Tiffin will hereafter use it exclusively on his extensive farm. Major Tiffin will soon begin the training of two of his ostriches to draw a cart on his farm. In Africa ostriches are frequently put to such use, and the same is done in California to some extent of late. The ostrich is very strong, standing from five to six feet high, and is sometimes vicious and unmanageable. A careful and experienced trainer soon gets even the most vicious of the birds in control, after which the birds become much attached to the keeper.—Atlanta Constitution.

New Woman's Year.

De la Ware—Ah, well! "Man proposes and—"

Erie Depough—Not this year, Miss Ware. It's your innings now.—Buffalo Journal.

An Antarctic iceberg has been seen that was twenty miles wide, forty miles in length and 800 feet in height.

Magnetic Torpedo for Ships.

Experiments are being made with an invention for the torpedo service, at the torpedo station in Narragansett Bay, of which remarkable results are expected. The torpedoes now in existence, so far as their destructive qualities are concerned, are perfect when a vessel is struck by one of them, but should one of them miss the torpedo is lost.

The device which is now being experimented with consists of a magnet, delicately constructed and intended to be hung on an arm at the bow, which is in turn fastened to the rudder. The two arms are connected by crossed wires or chains, and the idea of the invention is that, when approaching a vessel the magnet will be attracted in that direction, and in turning will move the arm to which it is fastened and so operate the rudder, thus steering the torpedo toward the ship. It is said that the magnet is so delicately constructed that should it come within one hundred yards of the vessel it would be effective.

The torpedoes will be painted water color and would be of immense advantage at night, when the enemy has distinguished the lights aboard ship. The improved torpedoes are cigar shaped, and would approach a hostile fleet with more stealth than even a submarine boat would.

The question has been raised as to whether the magnet would not be attracted to the vessel from which it is fired, but the mechanism is arranged so that the magnet will not be influenced at all until it has reached a certain distance from the vessel.

Caryl D. Haakins, of the General Electric Company, of Boston, is the inventor. The device is seven feet long and weighs 130 pounds. At a recent trial the magnet needle followed an iron steamer at distances of from fifty to several hundred feet. The boat against which the device was operated was a comparatively small iron one, and could not be expected to offer as great an attraction as the big battleships plated with armor.

The fact that these experiments are being made has been cabled abroad by the military attaches of foreign legations at Washington. With a view of offsetting the deadly power of these torpedoes, there is a talk of trying to demagnetize the big war cruisers. If watches can be demagnetized, it is thought that warships may be also.—New York Journal.

Fishes Eating All His Meadow Grass.

A rancher, whose place is on the bottom along the Willamette slough, below Holbrook station, was in the city recently to find out whether he had any recourse against the United States fish commission for the introduction of carp into the rivers of this section.

He says these fish are destroying his meadows by eating his grass and grubbing up the roots. As the water overflows his meadow, the carp follow it up in thousands, the small ones weighing about three pounds pushing their way up where the water is only three inches or so in depth, when the water recedes he will have mud flats in place of the meadows.

He says that while looking at the fish eating his grass one Sunday he got so mad that he took off his shoes and stockings and went out into the shallow water and attacked them with a hoe. He slashed a lot of them in two, but when the drove became alarmed and made for deep water they bumped their noses against his shins, and came near knocking him off his feet, and his ankles were all black and blue from the bumping he got. As for driving the carp away he says he might as well have tried to sweep back the rise of the Columbia with a broom.—Morning Oregonian.

Pre-Natal Influence.

"The most marked case of a mother's fright showing in her offspring is that of an Indian in my country," said D. L. Rogers of Vancouver, B. C., at the Howard. "He is known as the 'Bear-faced Indian,' and the resemblance to a bear is much more marked than that of the dog-faced boy who was exhibited for several years to a dog. The bear-faced Indian, which is the only name by which he is known, comes down from the north every hop season to pick hops, and his services are very greatly in demand. He can pick more hops than any two other Indians in the band. His companions have but little to do with him, seeming to regard him in a superstitious way, but the cause of his deformity is well established. His mother, while picking hops, was suddenly confronted by a large bear and was frightened into convulsions, the bear, however, not molesting her. In a few weeks the bear-faced Indian was born."—Washington Star.