Statistics show that women marry later in life than they used to.

Northern papers are just awakening to the fact that Mississippi is fattening a few cattle for the Chicago mar-

During the last 20 years the railways of the world have absorbed 50,000,000 tons of steel, or almost half the total product.

A French statistician has calculated that the eye travels about 6000 feet in reading an ordinary-sized novel. No wonder the eye gets tired.

Recreant men eashiers of several Minnespolis establishments have been replaced by women, and the action has led to a discussion whether women are more trustworthy than men.

The Boston library has 628,000 voiumes, with 13,000 separate editions of Shakespeare's works. It stands second to the Congressional library at Washington in the number of its vol-

Germany pays foreign countries about \$7,000,000 a year for fruit. The recent move against American apples may have been toward reducing expenses and not because the deadly bacillus was present in them.

President George Falloon of the Ohio fish and game commission sava that the supply of fish in Lake Eric will be exhausted in two or three years unless the existing laws regulating the catch are quickly revised and thoroughly enforced,

The chief proofreader of the London Times is a Cambridge graduate, who has a salary of \$5000; but then he is a great scholar, not only in the English language, but in all ancient and other tongues, not excepting Asiatic ones. He is permitted to query and suggest excisions or additions to the work of the writers and editors.

The jackrabbit, long regarded by the farmers of the great San Joaquin valley in California as a pest, may yet be esteemed for his fur. The hatters of the East are discovering that this particular kind of fur is excellently adapted to the manufacture of felt of the best quality, and in the near future we may see big shipments of the skins to the hat-making centres unless in the meantime we have the sagacity to utilize the product at our doors and engage in the manufacture of felt on our own account.

R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., a brother of Senator Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, who is a citizen of Arizona, says of that territory; "I would not exchange Arizona for any part of this Union. The man who goes out there to take a look at the country, as I did, generally becomes a permanent resident. I live in the extreme southern section, close to the line of old Mexico. Two weeks ago we were eat ing luscious strawberries raised in the open air. We are away ahead of Southern California in the matter of raising fine fruits, and ours mature three or four weeks earlier. In gold mining I am confident that Arizona is going to take a conspicuous place."

Some facts of an instructive nature relating to the stone industry are furnished by Mr. Day in the annual report of the United States geological survey. It appears from this that certain of the Southern states are gradually coming into prominence as extensive producers of stone, and also that the sorts of stone quarried have been modified of late years. An instance in point is to be found in Alabama, which in 1895 furnished more than \$250,000 worth of stone, mostly limestone, although some sandstone is worked there. A similar illustration is presented by Connecticut, which once divided the sandstone yield with New Jersey, but produced last year very little more sandstone than Massachusetts, while New Jersey showed only one-third as much as Connecticut and little more than Kansas or Michigan; and Pennsylvania, unknown a few years ago as supplying sandstone, recorded a product in 1895 about equal to Connecticut and New Jersey combined and more than any other state except Ohio, In granite production Massachusetts keeps the first place, with Maine not far off, while Vermont is rapidly overtaking Maine, and Rhode Island keeps up the output from its splendid quarries in and about Westerly to nearly \$1,000,-000 worth a year. New Hampshire comes fifth on the list, with about half as much. In marble Vermont, as usual, leads all the other states, its output being about double that of Georgia, which is second in amount; Tennessee is third.

A Beam of Light,

beam of light from the infinite depths of the midnight sky, Painted with infinite love, a star in a con

vict's eyes Then lo! the ghosts of his sins were ufraid and fled with a curse,

and the soul of the man walked free in the

fields of the universe! John J. Rooney in the Philistine.

GHOST OF A GALLOWS.

It was an extremely awkward situation. Even I, who am somewhat slow to think as a rule, realized that instantly. At my feet in the dusty roadway lay a revolver still hot and smoking from its discharge, the report of which had just startled the quiet of that country lane, while not forty feet away from me lay in the road the body of a man who had fallen from a dogeart to the ground, apparently stone dead. And the worst of it was that the man who lay there in the road was my bitterest enemy.

The horse stopped and swerved with terror at the discharge of the pistol and this action threw the man, dead or wounded from the eart. The groom who was sitting back to back with his master jumped from the vehicle and ran toward the prostrate figure, while the horse, left entirely to his own devices, came toward and went past me in a mad gallop-

As a drowning man thinks, so did I, in that brief period. When the groom reached the body of his master he saw in an instant that he was dead. Then he looked at me. I was still reviewing the situation. But there wasn't much time to spare,

It was not I who fired the fatal shot. The road at this point was lined on one side with a high hedge and I knew that the murderer had fired from this ambush and dexterously thrown the revolver to where it lay just at my feet. But I was quick enough to realize that no jury in the world would ever believe this unless proof of the real murderer could be produced.

Instantly I knew that my only hope lay in his capture, and I immediately dashed through the hedge in search of him, while the groom, thinking no doubt that I was attempting to escape, came in hot pursuit of me,

Inside the hedge there was no sign of any living being. The fair green fields stretched away to the hillside, beyond which the white walls of a farmhouse were just visible, as peacefully as if there could be no such thing as the tragedy which had just taken place on the other side of the hedge. I looked up and down the long hedgerow in vain. There was not the slightest clue to the murderer to be seen.

However, I determined that the man might possibly make for the railroad station, whence I had just come, for I knew that there was a train to the city due in a few minutes. Could the ruffian catch it? And could I overtake him before he did so? If not I reflected I might easily telegraph to the next station and have him apprehended.

I was running all the time as hard as I could inside the hedge and toward the railway station. The groom had given up pursuit of me, doubtless thinking it his duty to return to his master's body. It wanted six minutes before the train was due, as I saw by a hasty glance at my watch, but I did not know how far the station was from where the murder occurred.

I never ran so hard in my life before, but I felt that my life depended on the chance of securing the murderer, and consequently the effort cost me no strain. My wind began to tell on me, however, at the end of the first quarter-mile and I was just wondering vaguely how long I could keep it up when I came upon the empty dogcart with the runaway horse quietly cropping grass by the roadside. Here was luck indeed. I jumped into the cart as speedily as my exhausted strength would let me, and gathering up the reins I struck the whip and we were off as fast as the animal could run toward the station.

I estimated that there was still two minutes before the train was due and I felt sure that the station could not be more than's third of a mile distant, Suddenly I heard the whistle of the locomotive and with it came an in-

spiration. The murderer might never be found. At all events I could not lay hands on him just then. Why not take the train and make good my own escape while the opportunity presented itself? It seemed a terrible thing to thus flee from justice because of a crime which I had not committed, but I could not for my life see any other course open. So I urged the animal to still greater speed and pulling up at a bend in the road before I reached the station. I jumped down and ran, just in time to scramble upon the train as it was mov-

It was a curious freak of chance, if, indeed, it was chance alone, which had brought me down to Hopeville that morning and thrust me into the unenviable position of a suspected murderer. I had received a telegram from Randolph Cutting, the man whom I had just seen murdered, asking me to come down immediately to Hopeville, and in obedience to this summons I had taken an early morning train from New York. Hopeville is an unpretentions little New Jersey village, if indeed a country store and two small houses besides the station could be so described. When I stepped out of the train I looked about in vain for Randolph Cutting's carriage. As it was not to be seen and as anything in the shape of a hired conveyance was an atter impossibility at Hopeville, I set out at a brisk walk in the direction of Randolph Cutting's place, which I knew from a former visit was about a mile and a half from the station.

Randolph Cutting and I were secand cousins, and the very slight degree of affection which always existed between us was not increased materially at the death of an uncle of ours, who left his money to me, and whose will was so involved that there was a lawsuit between Cutting and myself. As it happened by the terms of the will, most of my uncle's property was left to me, and Cutting tried to have the will broken apon certain technical grounds which are not essential to this story. The courts upheld me, however, and declared the will perfectly valid, As a consequence Randolph Cutting and myself had not spoken for five years, and I, of course, had not been near his home since that eventful day, when I hurried down there in response to his telegram. True, I did think, that it was a curious thing for Cutting to do-to telegraph me to come down to Hopeville, but on second thought I concluded that some business of importance in connection with certain interests which were still mutual required that he should see me, and that perhaps he was unable from illness or some other cause to leave his home.

This brief explanation of the cause of my visit to Hopeville was only a small part of the thoughts which crowded my brain when I was safely seated in the train and whirling toward Jersey City. As I have said Randolph Cutting and I were bitter enemies, and the evidence which pointed to my having committed the crime seemed so blackly conclusive that I could almost feel the rope tighten about my neck. When the train stopped at the next station I trembled in every limb, fully expecting to see some one come into the car to arrest me. Nothing of the sort happened, however, and I passed several more stations in safety. However, I did not allow myself much hope, for I felt sure I would be apprehended at Jersey City. After some thought I concluded that it would be the best plan to go right in rather than get off at any of the out-of-town stations, as there would be much less risk of being noticed in the crowd which would get off the train there.

When the train pulled into the Jersey City depot I made my way with all possible haste toward the waiting room, and greatly to my surprise I was not molested. Suddenly I heard the trainman call out a train for Philadelphia, and acting upon impulse I hastily secured a ticket and was soon comfortably ensconced in a parlor car on the way to the Quaker City,

I can never describe that night of horror which I spent in Philadelphia. Some idea of my feelings may be imagined when I saw in an evening paper a dispatch telling of the murder of Randolph Cutting, a well known New Yorker, near his country place at Hopeville, N. J. The paper said that detectives from New York were at work upon the case, and that although they refused to give out any of the facts they were in possession of a clew which they felt sure would enable them to capture the murderer within a few hours.

I sought a quiet hotel upon a side street, registering under an assumed name, and then endeavored to compose myself to await results. I hardly think I slept a wink that night, but tossed feverishly upon my bed, wondering whether I had not acted very foolishly in thus running away when I was perfectly innocent. Undoubtedly by so doing I had strengthened tire chain of evidence against me, but under the circumstances I did not see what else I could do. There was still a chance for me, I thought, Cutting's groom was, no doubt, a new one, as his face was not familiar to me, and he probably did not know who I was, No one else in Hopeville knew me. 1 had not mentioned my intention of going down there to anyone in New

perfectly secluded until the thing had blown over, and this I thought I could do as well in my hotel as anywhere

Then when I would arrive at this point in my reasoning the thought of that clew that the detectives were working on would come to me, and I would break in a cold perspiration from nervousness and anxiety. How I ever got through the night I cannot tell. As soon as I could get into my clothes in the morning I procured a morning paper. There I found a fuller and more thrilling account of the murder, most of which I skimmed through harriedly until I reached the following words:

"Detectives Warden and Scabury of the Pinkerton force reached Hopeville shortly after noon, having been telegraphed for by Mr. Cutting's family. They at once set to work upon a clew furnished them by Davis, the groom, who was with Mr. Cutting trial, when the fatal shot was fired. Davis was sitting with his back to Mr. Cutting, but happening to look toward the side of the road he saw a man, whom he recognized as a discharged servant of his employer, level a pistol at Mr. Cutting's head and fire. jumped to his master's assistance, only to find him instantly killed. The in German Switzerland of a crown of horse had taken fright and run away, when Davis, happening to look up, saw a figure in the roadway. Instinctively he ran toward him, but the man darted behind the hedge and Davis lost sight of him. He was unable, however, to identify the murderer fully when he was arrested by the detectives late last night. The man, whose name is James Simpson, was found in an empty hay shed, not two miles from the scene of the murder. When confronted with his crime he became panie-stricken and made a full con-

And that was the nearest I ever came to being hanged, -Philadelphia Times.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The New York Elevated railroad is about to test an air motor. If successful, it will be introduced on the whole

M. Levat informs the Academie des Sciences that steel tempered in commercial carbolic acid is much superior to that tempered in water.

An electric underground railway under the present one is the latest project suggested in London. It would be used for express trains only.

A man who has tried it says that two or three dandelion leaves chewed before going to bed will always in- waist, and should have a made stock duce sleep, no matter how nervous or worried a man may be,

The fact should never be lost sight of in the home that a new-laid egg hemstitched hem and a lace edge, contains all the necessary elements to turns over the edge in place of the support the body, and, therefore, is in itself a complete food,

made on this continent for actual style of waist, which is very pretty business was the report from San Diego to Boston recently. The line | the wide linen collar .- New York Sun. was cut out the full 3400 miles.

San Francisco, Cal., is soon to have the largest plant in the world for cremating the city's refuse. There will be thirty-two furnaces, with a capacity of disposing of 400 tons of material a day.

tric street railways, as compared with wearing the guardian charm of the only three in 1891. Hamburg heads month in which they were born; and the list in the matter of equipment. It has 340 motors, while Berlin, which comes next, has only 114.

A new fluorescent material, much superior to all those hitherto used, has been discovered by Dr. Van Melckebeke of Antwerp, Belgium. It is composed of oxyfluoride of uranium and ammonium. By his process 128 grains of crystal can be made for 87 cents.

The pneumatic tube system for carrying small parcels and mail packages is to be haid down in Boston. The system has been in use in European cities for the past fifty years, but the majority of the tubes are only three inches in diameter. The Boston system will have eight-inch tubes.

For the separation of ores a new magnetic device has a funnel-shaped reservoir, into which the ore falls after it is crushed, the outlet at the bottom dropping the ore on a revolving disk, which carries it along past a magnet, which attracts the particles of iron from the other materials.

Nansen, the explorer, asserts that scurvy can easily be avoided in Arctic expeditions by the use of properly preserved meat and fish, supporting the theory of Professor Torup of Christiania that the disease is due to poisoning from bad meat. Scarvy was not so long ago the usual York. My only hope lay in keeping attendant of all sea voyages.



NAEROW BEDS AS BEAUTIFIERS.

Sleeping in a narrow, hard bed, is now considered conducive to a good figure. Throw away your soft mattresses and even your pillows, and you are promised freedom from round shoulders and double chins. Many women are giving the experiment a

BRIDAL WREATHS.

The bridal wreath is usually formed in Germany of myrtle branches, in France and England of orange blossoms, in Italy and French Switzerland Mr. of white roses, in Spain of red roses Cutting fell to the ground and Davis and pinks, in the islands of Greece of vine leaves, in Bohemia of resemary, ertificial flowers.

WHITE GLOVED MAID'S.

In Sweden, according to a sojourner in that country, the chambermaid performs her duties wearing white gloves and a white spron, in order that the snowy bed linen, the toilet articles and perhaps the delicate furniture may not be soiled by contact with grimy fingers or clothes.

The gloves are loose ones of wash leather, and as they are kept only for this purpose, they do not need to be washed oftener than once a week. The custom certainly furnishes a suggestion for the owners of white enamelled furniture and white painted wood-

PLOOD OF SHIET WAISTS.

The flood of shirt waists which has appeared in the stores is a pretty positive proof of their continued popularity. They are made of lawn, ginghem, linen, organdie, batiste and silk, in plaids and stripes, and all over conventional designs, in every color known, and while the manner of making them varies a little with the use of many tucks, the main features are the same-a pointed yoke in the back and a box plait in front, with the fulness on either side. White silk, flow ered in color, makes a lovely shirt collar in the same silk, buttoned on in front, where it ties in a bow. A narrow linen lawn collar, with a tiny stiff linen one. Ecru linen batiste, with a black stripe and Dresden flow-The longest known telegraph circuit | ers scattered over it, makes another with the plain black satin stock or

BIRTH MONTH STONES.

The very latest craze in many of the fashionable capitals is the wearing of birth month stones, and, strange to say, it emanated in remote Poland. Women there, according to an old Forty German cities now have elec- legend, are saved all manner of ills by men, too, if given such gems by s woman, are also saved and benefited. Here is the true list. There are varieties, but the one given is direct from Poland:

January-Garnet ; constancy. February-Amethyst; sincerity. March-Bioodstone; courage, wis-

April-Supphire or diamond; free rom enchantment, innocence. May-Emerald; success in love,

discovers false friends. June-Agate; health and prosper-

July-Ruby; corrects evils of mistaken friendship, discovers poison.

August-Sardonyx; meaning coningal felicity. September-Chrysolite; antidote to madness, free from sadness and evil

passions October-Opal; hope. November - Topaz ; adelity, prevents

bad dreams. December-Turquoise; prosperity.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SINGERS,

Mmc. Melba, who is naturally recognized as a most competent authority on all matters dealing with voice culture, says that few persons realize how much is added to the beauty of the natural voice by proper cultivation. Here the difficulty begins. The pupil must have computent teachers, imitations of the honeybee.

and here arises the first obstacle in the way of the average student. If practicable, apply to a competent singer to a sist in the matter.

Insist upon it, however, that the teacher chosen shall be a vocal teacher. Do not select a person who teaches various branches of music "and singleg." A good vocal teacher has studied the physiology and hygiene of the vocal organs, and has devoted much attention to the study of correct tone production, breathing, vocalization, and the many departments connected with the technical side of his profession, and will have given special study to the famous operas, oratorios and the sacred and secular music written for the voice. He will find that the branch of music he has chosen to master is too engrossing and too exacting to admit of his devoting a part of his time to any other. The pupil then must attempt to ascertain the acquired equipment of teachers and select accordingly.

But even then they may not be safe. The only absolute criterion is the progress made. Submit yourself absolutely to your instructor, follow accurately all his or her instructions, and if, after your lessons or practice times, your throat has any feeling of wearmess or strain, or should you find at the end of your first term of lessons that your powers are not increasing, that your voice is not stronger, your tones not firmer and your command over your voice not increased, there is likely to be some fault either with the method taught or with the teacher. - Chicago Times Herald.

PASILION NOTES.

Among the novelties in veils are those of very great size, which cover the entire face and are drawn under the chin. An unu snally simple frock of baby

blue net over satin, is trimmed with fluffy mink tails, set in full plaitings of chiffon A gown of American beauty satin

has a band of thickly embroidered spangles round the skirt, the square bodice trimmed with creamy lace and bands of dark fur.

A snug little toque is made of vellow velvet looped and twisted over a frame. The trimming is a wreath of vellow asters with black centres, and a standing plumage of bird-of-paradise feathers.

A neat and rather trying hat is, of white velvet. It is bound with ruby velvet, and loops of velvet ribbon are set edgewise around the crown. At the back is a large fan-shaped trimming of aigrets and bird-of-paradise

A new hat is turned down all around in scoop shape. The crown is rather high and narrow, and is trimmed with bands of fancy velvet set round and round. At one side of the crown is a large cluster of ostrich tips, the quills of which are concealed by a rosette of velvet.

A novelty veil is about three yards long. The middle of it is placed around the front of the hat and over the face; then the ends are crossed at the back, fastened with a jeweled pin, and brought down on either side of the face and tied in a large bow under the chin. The loops are fastened with stick pins. On some faces the effect is very pretty.

A handsome but has a low crown and a moderately wide brim slightly rolled up at both sides. The edge is bound with velvet, and there are thick bunches of velvet roses sewed close under the brim next to the hair. The trimming is a cluster of loops of velvet and wide, heavy ostrich plumes that sweep over and entirely conceal the crown of the but and droop over the hair at the back.

Colored handkerchiefs are coming into fashion. They are elaborately embroidered, and many of them are very expensive. One of the new patterns is a line of butterflies extending from corner to corner. Another has half a dozen butterflies in one corner; others have two or three in each of the corners. There are also fancy bordered handkerchiefs and those with wide hems. One of these latter is closely embroidered with excellent