

The Mysterious Tunnels of the Alamo.

The mysterious tunnel which leads in two directions from beneath the ancient Alamo building in San Antonio has never been explored. It is known that one branch of the tunnel runs south for at least two and a half miles, to the old Concepcion mission, and that another branch extends north from the Alamo to the ruins of the antiquated stone block house, which stands in what is now San Pedro Park. It is about two miles from this block house to the Alamo.

The early accounts of the string of ancient missions which are situated along the San Antonio River make no reference to the system of tunnels which was evidently constructed about the time the buildings were erected. It is evident that the existence of these tunnels was not known to the early settlers. It is certain that had the brave American defenders of the Alamo known that two passageways led from beneath the floor of the structure at the time they were being besieged by the forces of Santa Anna they might have escaped the horrible massacre that befell them at the hands of the Mexican horde.

When the American garrison of the Alamo were surrounded by the Mexican troops they knew of no way of escaping the death that surely awaited them. So well did the Franciscan Fathers who built and inhabited these missions keep the secret of the existence of the tunnels that this knowledge did not even come to the early Mexican settlers of San Antonio. It was not until about twenty years ago that the discovery was made that a tunnel led from the Alamo to the Concepcion mission and then it was quite by accident that the underground passage was found.

Louis Teborah was digging a well at his home on South Presa street when the picks of the workmen struck a hard substance that proved to be adobe plaster such as the Franciscan Fathers taught the Indians of this section to make in the early days. A few strokes of a pick made an opening in this concrete wall and a cavern was exposed to view. Teborah and the laborers who were digging the well descended into the opening and found that it was not a cave, as they supposed, but was a tunnel, with a width of about 1 1/2 feet and a height of seven feet. The concrete layer of two or three inches in thickness formed the walls and arched roof, while the floor or bottom of the passageway was of dirt. The tunnel was explored by Teborah and others for distances of several hundred yards in both directions. Further progress was blocked by cave-ins which had occurred, filling the passages with dirt and debris. One end of the explored tunnel crossed under the San Antonio River. In order to get a safe distance under the bed of the stream the tunnel was lowered several feet at the crossing point, flights of stone steps connecting the two levels. It is thought that the tunnel runs in an almost direct line between the block house on the north to the Concepcion mission on the south, by way of the Alamo, and if this theory is correct the river crosses above it no less than a dozen times.

The opening into the tunnel in the Alamo is situated in one of the cells of the monks. Centuries of disuse have caused it to fill with debris, and no effort has ever been made to clean it out and conduct an exploration so far as known. The same condition is true of the entrances beneath the block house and at Concepcion mission. Since the discovery made by Teborah the tunnel has been encountered at several other points on its course. While excavating for the out fall sewer that leads south out of the city the tunnel was broken into and considerable difficulty was experienced in building the brick sewer across it. It is not infrequently happens that the tunnel is struck while excavating for the foundations for houses.

It is curious that no systematic exploration of this ancient relic of the Franciscan Fathers has ever been attempted. It is believed that the tunnel does not stop at the Concepcion mission, but that it extends all the way to the San Francisco de la Espada mission, situated nine miles south of San Antonio, connecting en route the San Jose and the San Juan missions. All these ancient structures are built close to the San Antonio River, and are surrounded by little villages of Mexicans. These mission buildings were erected nearly two centuries ago and it is supposed that the tunnel, which probably connects the block house and the Concepcion mission, which was built at a later date, and it is considered likely that the branch tunnel which leads to it was built some time after the passageway to the missions was finished.

There is much speculation as to the original object of the system of tunnels. The Franciscan Fathers had little to fear from the Indians. They were beloved by the members of the tribes who inhabited this part of the country in the early days. Notwithstanding the fact that the venturesome missionaries made the Indians perform the hard labor of constructing the mission buildings, no trouble ever arose between the devout Franciscans and the redskins. It is probable that the real object of this tunnel, connecting some, if not all, of the missions along the San Antonio River, was to afford the monks an opportunity of visiting each other without the knowledge of the Spanish military and civil authorities who

made their headquarters in San Antonio.

An exploration and rehabilitation of this ancient system of tunnels might lead to many interesting discoveries, it is thought. In the imaginative minds of some persons the treasure room of the Franciscan monks is situated at some point on the line of the underground passageway, and perhaps it may still contain a store of vast wealth.

The Mexican inhabitants of the little villages situated adjacent to the missions have a superstitious dread of the mysterious tunnel. None of them could be induced to enter the dark and gruesome passageway. Old Don Pedro, as he is called, the veteran Mexican who is in charge of Concepcion mission, is visible as he shows the visitor through that ancient pile of stone and mortar until he comes to the entrance to the tunnel.

"And, pray, what is this?" the inquiring sightseer may ask.

Don Jose shrugs his shoulders and raises his hands as if in mute supplication that he be spared from further questioning. If the visitor persists in his efforts to learn something about the tunnel, Don Jose protests that the mysterious passageway could have served no good purpose in its time and that its construction was probably the work of the devil.

"It be full of s-p-e-e-r-i-t-s," he will say. "How came it there nobody knows. Have I not heard the rumblings of the s-p-e-e-r-i-t-s when the night is dark? Do they not hold high revelry in their dark home when the world above them is quiet and at rest? Perhaps they may be clamoring to be released from their imprisonment in the underground cavern, but it is not for me to do this. They might spread sickness and misfortune among us; it is best that they remain where they are," and Don Juan turns away from the spot and quickly leads the way to the outside of the crumbling edifice, where a flood of sunlight destroys the depressing effect of his recital. The superstitious belief of Don Juan may be assumed for the benefit of the tourists whom he escorts through the mission, but it is shared by many of his people in the village.

The Franciscan Fathers who established these missions also taught the Indians how to cultivate the soil. One of the oldest irrigation ditches upon the continent extends along the river valley adjacent to these missions. This "mother ditch," as it was called, is still in good condition, although it has been more than a century since it was used. Another relic of these missionaries is a stone aqueduct, which is situated near the San Jose mission. It spans the San Antonio River, and is still in use, although it was built two centuries ago. Search has been made from time to time for an opening into the tunnel that is believed to exist in the stone abutments beneath this ancient bridge, but none has ever been found.—San Antonio Correspondence of the New York Press.

Flying and Kite Trade.

"We are not taking the interest in flight that we should," said an aviator. "France, where the Wrights are established, to our shame, leads the world in aeronautics, and in consequence the French kite business has grown like an ill weed.

"Kitemakers have sprung up everywhere in France. Their little shops are full of long bamboo poles, bolts of scarlet silk and blue muslin, and in show cases lie folded kites that are as big, outspread, as an aeroplane.

"In studying the air, one must begin with the kite, as in studying mathematics one must begin with arithmetic. The enthusiastic and intelligent French know this, and many an automobile, halting far out in the Landes or Var country, discharges a young student and a folded kite that measures, when opened out, eighteen or twenty feet across.

"Yes, the French kitemaker is prospering nowadays, and clever he is, too, with his bamboo frames and curving planes of tight-stretched scarlet silk."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

BIG BUSINESS MEN EASY MARKS

Make Losses in Bad Speculations as Often or Oftener Than Average Citizen.

Another notion that is prevalent but erroneous is that successful men make no fool or bad investments. The world in general doesn't know about the foolish or bad investments made by successful business men. The man with a little money who dabbles in speculation and loses is apt to go around to his friends bewailing his hard luck, but the successful business man keeps his losses from bad investments a profound secret as a general rule. This is partly because he is ashamed to acknowledge that he made a mistake in his judgment of an investment and partly because it is some damage to a business man to have it known that he has sustained losses. When a report of that kind does get out it is generally exaggerated just as the wealth of a rich man is generally supposed to be a good deal more than it actually is.

However, if you get right next to the average business man you will find that he has frequently invested in speculations of one kind and another, and that he has lost on those

WOMEN OF KOREAN COURT.

Great Reduction in Their Number—Influence They Once Exerted.

The visit of three Korean court ladies to Japan is an indication of the striking changes that have resulted from the Japanese occupation of the Hermit Kingdom. Two years ago there were no fewer than 1800 ladies at waiting, now there are only 100.

This wholesale reduction naturally created consternation, and there was much lamentation among those whose services were dispensed with. Their lot, however, does not seem to have been altogether enviable. It appears that it has been the custom to take girls into the court from the age of ten, and thenceforth throughout the whole period of their natural lives they were never allowed to leave the precincts of the palace, so that they lived in absolute ignorance of the outside world.

The few who accompanied the Emperor on his recent tour gave evidence of the timidity which had resulted from their long confinement, for they could hardly be persuaded to enter the train, and they finally did so with manifest trepidation.

Hitherto the influence of these ladies at court has been very great. Having constant access to the ear of the Sovereign, on the one hand, and being, on the other, accessible to all the intriguing influences that prevailed in the unwholesome atmosphere of the court, their power exceeded even that of Ministers of State.—London Telegraph.

Advertisement as a Germicide.

Advertisement is expensive. The first thing an advertiser needs to make sure of is that the wares he offers are worth the cost of offering them. Sometimes they are not, and still the advertisement may be profitable because of the vast supply of folks in the world who are ready to be persuaded and do not know when they are fooled. It is a reasonable presumption, however, that commodities that are advertised impressively and long are worth advertising, because shrewd advertisers in trade are loath to spend good money in recommending bad goods. This presumption, unfortunately, does not extend to the persons upon whom advertising is forced. They may be superlatively worthy of attention or quite unworthy of it. Their examples may be directly profitable as examples to follow, indirectly as examples to avoid, or unprofitable because they possess a garish attraction which misleads the foolish. It is all one to their advertisers, whose only aim is to find a profit in satisfying public curiosity and who are as ready to do it by expounding the folly of the foolish as by expounding the wisdom of the wise. The best that can be said of advertisement of this sort is that publicity, like sunshine, is a great germicide and that some of the most pernicious social germs are blighted by it.—E. S. Martin, in The Atlantic.

"Adam and Eve's"

The papers referred recently to the erection of a "shaft" as a memorial to Adam, dwelling on the "fact" that it was the first monument to the first man. That may be so, but in Dublin, Ireland, there have been two edifices raised not to Adam alone but Adam and Eve.

In the end of the seventeenth century a saloon was opened in Cook street, "The Sign of Adam and Eve." So popular was the sign that when the Franciscan Friars opened a church near by their prior, Father Francis Walsh, adopted the name to draw the citizens to another kind of spiritual consolation. It was an ill-fated building, though, for in 1714 it fell, bringing death to a vast crowd which had assembled to hear a famous preacher, Sylvester Lloyd, bishop of Waterford.

The church was rebuilt through the efforts of Bishop Lloyd, and from time to time additions have been made, till now it stands one of the finest Franciscan convents in Ireland. Some busybodies not approving of the quaint old title had it officially changed a few years ago into "The Church of St. Francis of Assisi," but the Irish are no lovers of new things, so the old cognomen stuck, and to Dubliners all over the world it is still old "Adam and Eve's."—From a Letter in the Chicago Tribune.

AMERICAN PEOPLE THE MOST UNHAPPY.

If You've Prospered You Are Miserable, Says Prof. Small, of Chicago University.

According to Professor Albion W. Small, head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Chicago, every one is miserable who is prosperous. He told this to the Woman's Club.

"We modern Americans," he said, "are the most unhappy people that have ever lived on the face of the earth. Why?"

"Because we are the most prosperous people.

"Because we are the freest people.

"Because we are the most highly educated.

"Misery does not make people dissatisfied as much as prosperity. It is not those who are the most miserable nor those who lack the most of social or material wealth whose dissatisfaction over their condition breaks out into revolutions for reform.

"Take the great revolutions of modern history—the French Revolution or the Civil War, for example—and you will note that the respective countries in which these agitations developed were not ripe for revolution until they had come to a certain degree of prosperity, which developed the idea of personal rights and liberties.

"The main reason why, in my judgment, there will be no revolution in Russia for a long time to come is the fact that the common people of that country are so miserable that they have been, and will long be, unable to develop a dissatisfaction acute enough to break into forcible resistance.

"In the same manner freedom and education make for unhappiness. They bring serious responsibilities. They make the individual feel and see the actual inequality of men.

"They flood society with problems that tax the mind and sear the heart. So various are the appeals which they make to our intellects and our feelings that we reach for a remedy and then, lobster like, we travel backward to find how near it fits the disease.

"Our American forefathers hit upon political democracy as the remedy for all social wrongs. We have tried it. We have twisted it and stretched it and revised it and have in the end found that it has brought us graft, corruption and social unrest. The longer we have handled it the more complex and the more distressing have our political and social problems become.

"Now we have new doctors in the field. Social democracy is the cure-all they would have us swallow.

"But let us beware. We have been sorely disappointed in political democracy; may not social democracy bring just as many and just as trying complications?"

"Let us not despair. The talent for misery is the fountain of progress. It is only when man can picture to himself what they think and what they want, and can work up enough genuine dissatisfaction to get themselves into action that they accomplish anything worth while."

Clock That Tells Much.

One of the most wonderful clocks in existence is now in the possession of Louis Desoutter, who has had the honor of taking it to Buckingham Palace for inspection by the Queen. Her Majesty showed great interest in its beautiful mechanism.

The clock is fixed on a Louis Seize stand and has four faces. Besides marking the hours, it shows the tides at six different parts of the world, the mean time and the solar time, the age of the moon, the movements of the planets, all eclipses, and is a perpetual calendar. It was made by Janvier, of Paris, in 1789 for the French Academy, and took eleven years to manufacture; the workmanship is magnificent.—London Evening Standard.

He Couldn't Lose.

"All flushed and breathless, the well-dressed young man picked up the hat he had been chasing down the street and leaned against a lamp-post to rest. So the old cognomen stuck, and to Dubliners all over the world it is still old "Adam and Eve's."—From a Letter in the Chicago Tribune.

"I'm much obliged," he said. "For what?"

"This is my hat."

"Where's mine, then?"

"Hanging behind you at the end of a string."

Then for the first time the young man remembered his hat guard.—Success Magazine.

Trouble With Bowlegged Men.

"It wouldn't be so bad if people were merely bowlegged," said a tailor or over in the arcade the other day, "but what makes trouble for the tailor is that no two legs are bowed just alike. One knee will be bowed out further than the other.

"The tailor has to draw special plans and specifications for each trouser leg before he can go ahead to cut the goods."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Fleas From Mars?

The times are full of strange portents. A swarm of flying ants at Bloomfield, N. J., and a combined plague of fleas and aurora borealis in Waterbury, Conn., are taken to mean either that it is going to be a good year for fishing or Mars is trying to signal us.—New York Herald.

Europe has nine museums for exhibiting the dangerous parts of machinery.

POULTRY



DEPARTMENT

RAISING DUCKS.

Case in Point Where They Did Better Without Water.

We confess that after raising ducks in a small way for three years we cannot satisfactorily say whether it is profitable to raise ducks without giving them access to water. This year we raised them without letting them have access to water, excepting for drinking purposes. During the summers of 1906 and 1907 we raised 200 Mammoth Pekins and the youngsters took to the water within eighteen hours after being taken from the incubator or within twenty-four hours after the old hen came off the nest with them.

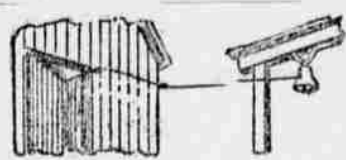
The water, a small stream, was within 300 yards of the hatching place and every duck, with one accord, took a bee line for it, says a writer in Farm and Home. We had good luck with them. This year we kept watch of the youngsters for several weeks, keeping them away from the water. In a few weeks they would range around the feed within twenty paces of the brook but have never taken a swim. We have the Pekin and the Indian Runner breeds, and for the past sixty days or more they have grazed in the pasture, often going almost to the edge of the brook.

They seem to be perfectly healthy and content and we have not lost a duck by disease, nor had any sick or ailing. After eating, they go through all the motions of a swim, dipping themselves and going through the motions as if they were in the water.

We like ducks because they are so healthy and so easily controlled. We aim to market the Pekins at ten weeks old and expect such ducks to average fully five pounds or over. To reach these figures they must not have too much range or too much exercise. It seems to me that the breeding ducks should have free access to water. I believe the eggs will be more fertile and the ducks healthier and stronger.

Alarm For Poultry House.

By arranging a wire to pass from the hen house door to a bell on the veranda of the house, after the manner shown in the accompanying illustration, warning will be given when



A Poultry House Alarm.

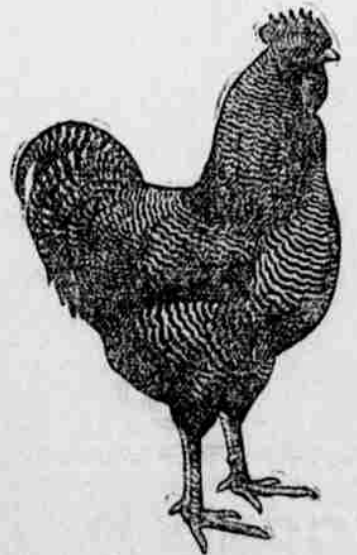
the door of the poultry house is opened. If anything is wrong in the hen house and the alarm is given, a man can close the door of the hen house while standing on the veranda by pulling the wire which is attached to the bell. During the day the wire can be unhooked and thus relieve the bell from duty.

If desired, suggests Prairie Farmer, the bell can be placed outside in a box, which will make it sound louder.

Cost of Food.

According to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, the cost of food per chick, to weigh one pound, on ground grain, is three cents; on whole grain, three and seven-tenths cents. After making repeated tests in feeding, this station says the ground grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole grain ration for the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight and age, fed alike before caponizing. No difference was noticed in health or vigor of chicks or capons fed either ration.

A Prize Bird.



BARRED P. ROCK COCK.

Good Morning Feed.

Two parts oats, two parts cracked corn and one part wheat, make a good morning feed to be thrown into litter. Feed what they need to keep them busy till noon—about a quart to ten fowls, amount needed varies with different breeds.

The beginner finds many stumbling blocks in the artificial methods, but experience shows the trick of how to easily step over them.

THE RIGID TRUTH

And Confirmation to Any Kidney Sufferer Who Asks It.

Mrs. W. H. Cobb, Nicholasville, Ky., says: "I will keep strictly to the most rigid truth in telling of my experience with Doan's Kidney Pills, and will be glad to give corroborative evidence to anybody. A catch or stitch in my back was followed with dull, constant backache and pain in the hips. Throbbing headaches took all the 'go' out of me. I lost appetite and weight and grew weak. The kidney secretions became scanty and dropsy set in. I suffered so I hardly cared what became of me, but the first box of Doan's Kidney Pills made me better, and I used the remedy faithfully until all symptoms left me and I gained 14 pounds."



Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

A Unique "Dry" Argument.

The following offer, printed on a blotter and signed by a dozen grocery firms of Delaware, O., has been scattered by the thousand: "Any one who drinks three glasses of whisky a day for one year and pays 10 cents a drink for it, can have in exchange at any of the firms whose names appear on this card three barrels of flour, 30 bushels of potatoes, 200 pounds of granulated sugar, one barrel of crackers, one pound of pepper, two pounds of tea, 50 pounds of salt, 20 pounds of rice, 50 pounds of butter, 10 pounds of cheese, 25 pounds of coffee, 10 pounds of candy, three dozen cans of tomatoes, 10 dozen pickles, 10 dozen oranges, 10 dozen bananas, two dozen cans of corn, 18 boxes of watches, half a bushel of beans, 100 cakes of soap and one package of rolled oats for the same money and get \$15.00 premium for making the exchange in the expenditures."—New York Tribune.

Do Your Feet Ache and Burn?

Shake into your shoes Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It makes tight shoes feel easy. Cures Corns, Bunions, Swollen, Hot, Smarting and Sweating Feet and Ingrowing Nails. Sold by all Druggists and Shoe stores, 25 cts. Sample sent FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Artificial Eyes of Ancient Origin.

Artificial eyes were known long before spectacles were discovered. They have been found on the faces of Egyptian mummies, literally on, for the eyes were pasted onto the face and not inserted in the eye socket. The practice was to paste the half of a marble onto a piece of flesh colored cloth. The marble was then painted to resemble an eye, and the whole was pasted onto the face over the vacant eye socket. One well may imagine that the result was not untirely artistic, but the mummies do not appear dissatisfied with the artificial optics. Gold eyeballs came later, and these were in turn followed by glass eyes. The art of making artificial eyes has progressed so greatly that opticians can now supply eyes which the wearer may move in his head in a manner perfectly natural.

There are two classes of artificial eyes, those kept in stock and those made to order. The former are made largely in Germany and the art is confined to a comparatively few families. It is handed down from father to son. The made-to-order kind are found in this country as well as in Europe. The patient goes to the shop and sits by while the artisan fashions an optic which is an exact match for the natural eye in size and coloring. He makes it from a small glass tube. When the work is done the patient pays from \$25 to \$50 for the job.

Similarity.

Gunner—The latest creation in feminine gowns is covered with 500 buttons. What would you call such a dress as that?
Gayer—Whew! I think I'd call it the "contribution box."—Chicago News.

AN OLD TIMER

Has Had Experiences.

A woman who has used Postum since it came upon the market knows from experience the wisdom of using Postum in place of coffee if one values health and a clear brain. She says:

"At the time Postum was first put on the market I was suffering from nervous dyspepsia, and my physician had repeatedly told me not to use tea or coffee. Finally I decided to take his advice and try Postum. I got a package and had it carefully prepared, finding it delicious to the taste. So I continued its use and very soon its beneficial effects convinced me of its value, for I got well of my nervousness and dyspepsia.

"My husband had been drinking coffee all his life until it had affected his nerves terribly, and I persuaded him to shift to Postum. It was easy to get him to make the change, for the Postum is so delicious. It certainly worked wonders for him.

"We soon learned that Postum does not exhilarate or depress and does not stimulate, but steadily and honestly strengthens the nerves and the stomach.

"To make a long story short, our entire family continued to use Postum with satisfying results, as shown in our fine condition of health, and we have noticed a rather unexpected improvement in brain and nerve power."

Increased brain and nerve power always follows the use of Postum in place of coffee, sometimes in a very marked manner. "There's a Reason."

Look in pkgs. for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville." Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.