



STRANGE COINCIDENCES.

SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS OF THINGS THAT SEEMED INEXPLICABLE.

The Profound Impression Made by a Magician's Lucky Guess—Why a Firm Attached a Plantation—A Telephone Helps Out a Newspaper Man.

"Luck and coincidence explain away many a mystery," said one of a group of late workers the other night. "I remember a queer story along that line," he continued, "which I once heard from the elder Herrmann. In his earlier performances, as you may recall, he made a great feature of a very clever 'second call,' or mind-reading act. He would request people in the audience to select small articles, which would then be described by a blindfolded assistant on the stage. As a matter of fact, Herrmann really gave the cue to the descriptions in the way he framed his questions, but it was very dextrously done and not one person out of a thousand 'caught on.' One evening, as he told me the story, he was giving an entertainment in an Ohio city and was just returning to the stage after the mind-reading specialty, when an elderly man suddenly jumped up at the other end of the house. 'If this thing is genuine,' he called out in a loud voice, 'I want you to tell me what card I am thinking about at this moment.' The man was a wealthy merchant and known as somewhat of a crank on spiritualism. Of course, Herrmann had no idea what he was thinking about, but he replied without hesitation: 'It is the deuce of clubs,' his intention being to turn the laugh on the old fellow by some bit of repartee when he declared that the guess was wrong. But, to the magician's intense amazement, the man raised both hands in the air and bellowed, 'Correct! by thunder!' This miraculously lucky and wholly unexpected hit made a profound impression on the audience and no doubt converted many people to a belief in the reality of mind reading. Herrmann told me that the proprietor of the theater, who was an old personal friend, was very curious to know how the thing was done, and when he was finally informed in confidence that it was mere luck he declined to credit the explanation. It was too simple to suit him."

less, after all, but that doesn't affect the marvelous luck or coincidence of the 'phone episode."

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

A compressed air drill has proved very successful working under water on the sunken battleship of the Russian navy. The machine works as well when drilling with granite and hard substances as it does above water.

Powdered sugar is said to possess decidedly inferior sweetening properties to those of the coarsely crystallized article. In the process of pulverization it is claimed that the heat and electricity produced transform a certain proportion of the sugar into glucose, whose sweetening powers are two and a half times less than of saccharose.

At Kew, England, at the meteorological observatory, a watch is tested in every position, and its rate measured and recorded by the hour. It is hung upside down, hung from each side, placed dial down and back down, and at any number of angles, and to finish it is baked in an oven and frozen in a pall of ice. When it is considered that eighteen thousand vibrations an hour occur in a watch, and it must not vary a second a week, it is easy to see why no watch has ever been perfect.

Something new in fire alarms has been invented by the Chief of the Kansas City Fire Department. On a telephone circuit connected with the headquarters there are to be placed the usual thermostats, which give an alarm whenever the temperature in their neighborhood becomes dangerously high. The new departure comes from the addition of automatic phonographs to the other apparatus. By their agency, when the thermostat gives an alarm the phonograph proclaims over the telephone line the exact location of the fire.

The English have acquired the art of making balloons lighter and more compact than those of any other country. Other countries use oiled silk, but in England gold beater's skin is used. An envelope of 10,000 cubic feet capacity weighs only 100 pounds. The wire cable which holds it to the ground weighs only eighty-seven pounds for 550 yards. The total weight of a balloon that carries two aeronauts is less than 200 pounds. Hydrogen is used for inflation. It is carried in compressed steel bottles. It requires the contents of two and three-fourths bottles to supply one charge to a balloon.

In Austria a new method of utilizing sawdust has been invented and seems to promise admirable results. At the sawmills of Joseph Fialla the experiment has been tried of making briquettes of the sawdust for domestic heating purposes. The dust is heated to dryness and then to the point where the tarry elements begin to exude. These are used as the consolidating matter, the hot sawdust passing on steam-heated tables to a press which forms them into briquettes, five by three by one and one-quarter inches, weighing about one-half pound. It is said that they give four per cent. of ash and that their heating power is equivalent to that of lignite. The press makes nineteen bricks per minute, and with 300 days of work, produces 6,000,000 per year. The experiment has shown that the cost of manufacture is sixteen cents per thousand, while the selling price is one dollar per thousand.

Two generations ago, under the inspiration of Fourier, a great impetus was given to the community idea here and scores of colonies were founded in the Middle West, most of which were afterward disbanded. To the bent which the movement gave to social and religious theories, the State of Utah really owes its existence. The community idea attracted less notice as the national interests enlarged, but it is still true that America is the chosen field of communal experiments. Colonies of Swiss and Piedmontese occasionally enter the Tennessee and North Carolina valleys. Small German sects, following some whimsical religious tenet, are rising to prosperity in the Middle West. In the Northwest bodies of Russian peasants whose strange creeds show the same ferment working that is seen in Tolstoy's later novels, have found refuge from the injurious discriminations of the Greek Church.—New York Mail and Express.

President Monroe's Cannon.
Near Union, in Monroe County, Va., a couple of days ago the plow of a farmer turned up the greater part of a historic cannon that was presented to the people of Monroe County by President Monroe in recognition of the honor of having a county named after him. The presentation occurred many years before the division of the State of Virginia. Shortly after the close of the war, one Fourth of July, the cannon was used in a county celebration. To make its report louder young men rammed it full of shavings from a near-by leather shop. The gun exploded and injured several persons. For more than a quarter of a century all trace of the weapon was lost. Most of the fragments have been dug up from the land of Thomas Shaver and they will be given to the State Historical Society.—New York Sun.

Pay of Italian Mounted Police.
The mounted police, whose duty it is in Italy to prevent the illegal felling of trees, get only \$8 a month, out of which they have to maintain their horses. The result is that many of them wink at the unauthorized felling of trees and share the proceeds.

AWFUL FAMINE

That Is Now Making of India One Vast Charnel Pen.

The famine area in India is about 350,000 square miles, and extends over the central, south and northwestern provinces, says Leslie's Weekly. No pen could describe its awful horrors. Some of the things proved by photography are too realistically horrible to be reproduced in any publication, and we print only a few of the less frightful photographs taken by the missionaries, because many have not believed that such an awful condition could exist in this century of plenty and prosperity. Emaciated beyond belief, the starving natives crawl to the house of the nearest sahib, usually a missionary, to crave food; but 60,000 mouths have to be fed. Fifteen dollars a year will feed a Hindu, yet even this pitiable allowance is not to be had. The causes of the famine are the failure of the crops, the refusal of the native princes to allow their hunting jungles to be converted into fertile agricultural regions, and the mysterious disappearance of a special famine fund of \$100,000,000, collected by the government after the famine of 1877. The Hindu is a strict vegetarian. The low-caste Hindu is a fatalist. So, when famine stalks abroad the Hindu submits uncomplainingly. Day by day he will subsist on less food, until at last, when a mere shadow, he will drag his bony self to a relief station. There he may get food—or he may not. If not, he crouches in some corner, or out in the fields, under God's trees, and awaits the coming of death. The majority of the victims are women and children.

Leading Political Economist.
Professor de Gustav Schmoller, whose declaration that Brazil soon become a great state under German influence, has been the rector of the University of Berlin since 1897. He is one of the foremost political economists of Europe, and for years has lectured in German universities on political science, economics and history. Professor Schmoller was born at Heilbronn in 1838, and studied in the University of Wurtemberg. In 1864 he was called to a chair in Halle, and from 1865 to 1872 he was dean of the University of Strasbourg. In 1882 Prof. Schmoller was transferred to Berlin as professor of history of political science. His opinions upon national matters are of great weight.

Longest Canal in the Erie.
The longest canal in the world is the Erie, in New York, extending from Albany to Buffalo, a distance of 351 miles.

What Shall We Have For Dessert?
This question arises in the family daily. Let us answer it to-day. Try Jell-O, a delicious and healthful dessert. Prepared in 2 min. No boiling or baking! Simply add a little hot water & set to cool. Flavors: Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry. At grocers, 10c.

It is estimated that about 2,000,000,000 cigarettes have been made in Europe and America.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.
Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

North Carolina got along all of last year, ending May 31, without a strike.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Tarantulas are being raised in Australia for their webs, which are being used in making threads for war balloons.

You Look Cross

What makes you look that way? There certainly must be some good reason for it. If your tongue is coated, if you are bilious, if your head aches, if your food rests heavy on your stomach, and if you are constipated, then the whole trouble is with your liver.

What you need is a good liver pill, an easy liver pill, a purely vegetable liver pill. You need a box of Ayer's Pills, that's what you need. These pills cure constipation, biliousness, dyspepsia, and sick headache.

25 cents a box. All druggists.

"I always keep a box of Ayer's Pills on hand. There is no pill their equal for a liver regulator. Long ago they cured me of liver complaint and chronic constipation."—S. L. SPELLMAN, Columbus, Ohio, May 31, 1900.

Called the Wrong Man.
An Irishman arriving in Cincinnati one night found it impossible to get a bed to himself, but was permitted to share one which had been engaged by a barber. Pat noted that his bedfellow was very bald and proceeded to chaff him. This the barber endured in silence, but when Pat had fallen into a heavy slumber the other man got up and shaved every hair off his tormentor's head. The Irishman having a long tramp before him on the morrow, had left instructions that he be called very early, and, it being still dark when he rose, he did not notice the loss of his hair. When some distance on his way, however, he felt thirsty, and, coming to a spring, took off his hat and bent down to drink. Seeing the reflection of his bald head in the water, he sprang back aghast. "Be jabers," he exclaimed wrathfully, "they've called the wrong man!"

"Akzxxa" She Gasped.
A boy's magazine had offered an anagram for competition among its readers; the sentence to be transposed ran as follows: "Kruger's added policy of agrandizement will puzzle a sphinx." Tommy tried combination after combination, but always failed to utilize all the letters. At last a brilliant thought struck him, enabling him to dispose of any superfluous letters. Here is the solution: "With a gurgling cry of 'Akzxxa' Miss Nellie Pullen dropped dead." The editor awarded Tommy an extra prize for his ingenuity, remarking that, if the young lady spoke only English, her death must have been most painful.—Stray Stories.

Where the Paint Went.
The Philadelphia Press tells a story of a house painter who seems to have a very pretty wit. "I thought you were working on Jay Krank's new house," said the house painter's friend. "I was going to," replied the house painter, "but I had a quarrel with him and he said he'd put the paint on himself." "And did he do it?" "Yes, that is where he put most of it."

Favorable reports have been received from all parts of South Russia regarding the prospects of the coming harvest.

The native hen of New Zealand is an expert rat-killer.

The chief of police at Erie, Pa., proposes to have tramps make bricks and construct buildings.

Drugs have their use, but don't store them in your stomach. Deeman's Pepsin Gum aids nature to perform its functions.

The intense dryness of the South African air is very destructive of leather. Hence the soldiers' boots soon wear out.

Frey's Vermifuge is 60 years old. As the years advance it becomes more and more popular.

The imports of crude rubber to this country have in the last 30 years increased 431 per cent.

Jell-O, the New Dessert.
Dissolves all the family. Four flavors:—Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry. At your grocers. 10c.

The aging of timber, which formerly required long storage, is now completed by electricity in a few hours.

Fits permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. 25c trial bottle and medicine free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, 1490 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

There are 500 hotels and camps in the Adirondacks receiving guests. They have a combined capacity of 62,000.

E. A. Rood, Toledo, Ohio, says: "Hall's Catarrh Cure cured my wife of catarrh fifteen years ago and she has had no return of it. It's a sure cure." Sold by druggists, 50c.

A scientific person asserts that bagpipe-playing in the vicinity of a cowshed causes the cows to yield more milk.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

The catalogue of the National Exhibition will contain the names of nearly 90,000 exhibitors of all nations.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

The cemeteries around London cover 2,000 acres, and the land they occupy represents a capital of £20,000,000.

YOUR COW'S PRODUCTION will be increased 20 per cent. by using our aluminum Cream Separators and up-to-date churns. \$4 up. 10 days trial. Catalogue free. Address, Gibson-Stewart Mfg. Co., Gibsonia, Pa.

PISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

The risks of death faced by a soldier in battle are more than six times as great as the dangers of railway service.

Medical Book Free.
"Know Thyself," a book for men only sent free, postpaid, sealed, to any male reader mentioning this paper. 6c. for postage. The Science of Life, or Self-Preservation, the Gold Medal Prize Treatise, the best Medical Book of this or any age, 370 pp., with engravings and prescriptions. Only 25c. paper covers. Library Edition, full gilt, \$1.00. Address: The Peabody Medical Institute, No. 4 Bulfinch St., Boston, Mass., the oldest and best in this country. Write to-day for these books; keys to health.

Boston will utilize sea water to extinguish fires. An experiment with salt water has proved successful.

Are You Using Allen's Foot-Ease?
It is the only cure for Swollen, Smarting, Itching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures while you walk. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address: Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Has Five Knighthoods.
Sir George White, who has been made a G. C. V. O., has now no fewer than five knighthoods. He is Sir George White, G. C. B., K. C. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., G. C. V. O. Only two other British subjects, not of the blood royal, have five knighthoods. They are the marquis of Dufferin and Lord Roberts, and they have but four each, without their K. P.s. Among commoners, who cannot be K. P.s, Sir George White stands alone. Indeed, he is the only commoner with more than three knighthoods.

Conjurer Outwitted.
At a country fete a conjurer was performing the old trick of producing eggs from a hat, when he remarked to a little boy: "Your mother can't get eggs without hens, can she?" "Of course she can," replied the lad. "Why, how is that?" asked the conjurer. "She keeps ducks," replied the boy, amidst roars of laughter.

One Woman's Letter

SAYS
"I doctored with two of the best doctors in the city for two years and had no relief until I used the Pinkham remedies."

"My trouble was ulceration of the uterus. I suffered terribly, could not sleep nights and thought sometimes that death would be such a relief."

"To-day I am a well woman, able to do my own work, and have not a pain."

"I used four bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and three packages of Sanative Wash and cannot praise the medicines enough."—MRS. ELIZA THOMAS, 634 Pine St., Easton, Pa.

Mrs. Pinkham advises suffering women without charge.

Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

DON'T STOP TOBACCO SUDDENLY
It injures nervous system to do so. BAGO-CURO is the only cure that really cures. BAGO-CURO and notifies you when to stop. Sold with a guarantee that three boxes will cure any case. BAGO-CURO is vegetable and harmless. It has cured thousands. It will cure you. At all druggists or by mail prepaid. \$1.00 a box; 5 boxes, \$2.50. Booklet free. Write EUREKA CHEMICAL CO., La Crosse, Wis.

DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY gives relief in cases. Book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment free. Dr. H. H. GREEN'S HOME, Box 5 Atlanta, Ga.

If afflicted with sore eyes use Thompson's Eye Water

A DEAD LIVER

He thinks he lives, but he's a dead one. No person is really alive whose liver is dead. During the winter most people spend nearly all their time in warm, stuffy houses or offices or workshops. Many don't get as much exercise as they ought, and everybody knows that people gain weight in winter. As a rule it is not sound weight, but means a lot of flabby fat and useless, rotting matter staying in the body when it ought to have been driven out. But the liver was overburdened, deadened—stopped work. There you are, with a dead liver, and spring is the time for resurrection. Wake up the dead! Get all the filth out of your system, and get ready for the summer's trials with clean, clear blood, body, brain free from bile. Force is dangerous and destructive unless used in a gentle persuasive way, and the right plan is to give new strength to the muscular walls of the bowels, and stir up the liver to new life and work with **CASCARETS**, the great spring cleaner, disinfectant and bowel tonic. Get a box to-day and see how quickly you will be

BROUGHT BACK TO NEW LIFE BY

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CANDY CATHARTIC

BEST FOR THE BOWELS

ALL DRUGGISTS

10c. 25c. 50c.

To any needy mortal suffering from bowel troubles and too poor to buy **CASCARETS** we will send a box free. Address: Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago or New York, mentioning advertisement and paper.