

WET YEARS RETURN.

"Rain-belters" Are Going Back to the Semi-Arid Regions.

Venturesome and Foolhardy Elements of Southern Who Discovered Importance of Pioneers of the Early Nineties.

Just now there is a fever of speculation in farm lands in the northwest and the tide of immigration has set in strongly toward a region heretofore considered valuable only for grazing.

A peculiar note particularly in the semi-arid country is that it is subject to climatic oscillations, producing cycles of wet and dry years.

Newcomers, with small capital, tempted by the luxuriant vegetation of the plains during the moist seasons, and driven onward by the high prices of farm lands in the humid regions,

Promoting the development of a country wherein the annual rainfall ranges from 10 to 20 inches, with seasons of far less precipitation, should only be undertaken after a careful study of all conditions has been made.

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Gallantry of the King. How the pleasant eccentricities of one generation will persist in breaking out in another, defying time and ridicule and the change of manners,

The queerest "farm" in Greater New York is located on the ends of the long pier in the Harlem river on which the big draw bridge of the Madison avenue bridge swings.

South Africa Wants Humble. Great Britain announces that no persons not a resident of South Africa is to be permitted to go to that country unless possessed of at least \$500 in money and with a definite intention as to the business or calling he will pursue.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Europe builds nearly 7,000 new locomotives yearly.

The great cattle farms are putting up large packing houses in Texas.

A scheme for the manufacture of paper buttons is being put forward in San Francisco.

A considerable trade in live quails takes place yearly from Mexico to the United Kingdom.

A flexible metal hose is made at Phorahelm, Germany, by rolling up a metal band like a screw thread, the joints being made tight by a cord of rubber on asbestos.

Nature seems to have made Jamaica the home of the banana, but it remained for American enterprise to turn the fruit to gold.

After working for 22 years William S. Hughes, a New York machinist, perfected a smoke-consuming device for locomotive and other engine boilers.

CANADA'S WOODCHUCKS.

The Dominion Authorities Are Preparing to Make War Upon the Burrowing Pest.

The United States government has declared a war of extermination on mosquitoes and the common house fly.

"Ground hog" is the more familiar name by which the woodchuck is known and his misdemeanors are many.

Probably the simplest and most satisfactory method is that of the use of bisulphide of carbon, an inflammable liquid, which on exposure to air volatilizes into a vapor that is very destructive to animal life.

The equipment necessary for this sort of woodchuck hunt consists of a bottle of carbon bisulphide, a bundle of old cotton or other cloth, a pail and a spade.

This method not only kills the old woodchuck, but destroys in a humane manner the young in the burrow.

It has, too, the additional advantage that the animal is not only killed, but is buried and the hole is filled so that considerable time is thus saved.

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Chicago Chronicle.

THE HABIT OF LYING.

There Are Various Ways in Which a Person May Become Habituated to Lying.

How does one become a liar? That is to say, how does the child discover a lie and habitually make use of it?

We can admit that at the beginning there is absolute sincerity. The child through all its first years neither lies nor dissimulates.

There is a multitude of little lies tolerated which we treat as pardonable. We tell the domestic to say we are not at home when we are; we compliment people to their faces and criticize them when they are gone;

The third stage is the first encounter of the child with society—the first shock with social life. The child who tells all he knows, sees and hears, all that he would better have left unsaid, is called the "enfant terrible."

The child becomes a liar because all the world about him lies. The distinction between the liar and the man of sincerity is only relative.

There are in reality only two categories—those who content themselves with the lies exacted by social life and those who have habituated themselves to lying more than society wishes.

An important cause in the development of lying in children is the employment of excessive and ill-advised punishments.

Stored away in the vault of the Prussian county treasury are three \$100 bills, which are associated with a robbery of the county treasury over a decade ago.

The bills are never looked upon by anyone other than the county treasurer and the county commissioners, who twice annually count the funds in the treasury.

The question has often been asked whether or not the money will ever be put in circulation. It is very probable that it will not, for as each officer steps down from the position he has held he confides to the incoming official the story of the three bills, and the new officer entwines around the envelope containing them even more superstitious thoughts than his predecessor and allows them to remain as they had been.

His Rights. "Say, you!" yelled old Hunka to the boy next door. "Take your beastly kite away! You're flying it over my house."

Telephone to Superstition Dogs. The dogs of St. Bernard, so long renowned for their wonderful life-saving service, are at last to take a second place to modern invention.

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CONVULSIONS IN CHILDHOOD.

Some of the Causes and How to Proceed When the Child is Thus Afflicted.

A convulsion, or fit, is always the occasion for a hasty calling of a physician when one is procurable.

The tendency to convulsive seizures is often a strongly marked family characteristic. In such cases it is common to find that slight provocation is sufficient to cause an attack.

Convulsions cannot be prevented when they occur as the incipient symptom of the acute contagious disease of childhood.

Overfeeding in young children is a not uncommon cause, to which is probably to be attributed the popular treatment of convulsions, namely, castor oil internally and not mustard baths externally.

Convulsions due to falls and blows upon the head are usually an indication of hemorrhage inside the skull.

Severe fright or other sudden emotions are not an infrequent cause of convulsions, not only during childhood but throughout adolescence, although it is observable that among those people where self-control is cultivated such results are not common.

Between the ages of two and eight years convulsions are more common. After this age they rarely occur except as a result of blows or falls on the head.

THIS IS APPLE-JACK YEAR. North Jersey Mills Have Been at Work Night and Day Turning Out the Tipples.

After a drought of apple whisky which has lasted two years this season promises to bring forth a large quantity of the famous Jersey lightning.

The storms of the summer and early fall have swept the orchards clean of apples, and thousands of bushels have been gathered from the ground.

The largest apple whisky distillery in the world is at Johnsonburg, in the northern part of the county. It is owned by a man named Jones, who has been in the business more than 50 years.

The best apple jack is made in Morris county, one distillery at Succanana having a trade that is world-wide.

Apple whisky is still drunk extensively all through northern New Jersey. Few call for it by the glass, but hundreds carry it away in bottles.

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CURED BY SURGERY.

Paris Surgeon Operation Successfully in Typhoid Case.

Reported to be a Last Remedy in Mephitic Case, the Achievement is Regarded as Most Remarkable.

Typhoid fever has been cured by an operation. A Paris surgeon has just brought a patient out of a seemingly hopeless case of the disease, and the method by which he did it constitutes a distinct achievement in curative science, states the Chicago Tribune.

Dr. J. S. Dauriac, an eminent practitioner of Paris, resorted to surgery as a last remedy in a case which had been given up. The patient, a young man of 17 years, is now in full possession of his health.

While the physician was convinced that the intestines could be cleaned antiseptically and the inflammation thus reduced, he would not have undertaken the dangerous operation if the father of the young man had not urged it and if it had not been that the patient was doomed, and if it had not been apparent that he could live but a few days.

The fever had followed its course for 26 days and the case was seen to be hopeless. The father, seeing the hopelessness of his son's condition, urged the physician to perform the operation as a last measure, and it was decided to undertake it.

An incision about the length of the index finger was made in the left side, about two and a quarter inches inside the forward and upper iliac spine, into the peritoneum. This incision was just sufficient to allow the physician to behold the small intestine and draw it out.

A little shield was attached in the peritoneum and in the deeper points of the incision, with the convex side towards the smaller intestine, and this shield was fastened by catgut. The intestinal tumor was then opened and cleaned out and the edges tied to the skin. The wound was then closed up minutely and protected all around the mouth of the intestine by sterilized cotton, covered by a thick layer of iodoformed lint.

Afterwards a Nelaton tube in flexible rubber was introduced and the drainage of infected matter from the intestines facilitated by the employment of boiled water slightly cooled and salted. At the end of the second day the water thus used seemed to be free from infected matter.

In describing the details of the operation Dr. Dauriac said that probably many American physicians had realized the possibility of resorting to surgery in the treatment of typhoid cases and a relation of this operation might prove interesting to them.

"I was careful to select a point of the intestine sufficiently removed from the ileocecal valve to avoid the center of the ulceration," said the physician, "and not too much above the jejunum to interfere with nutrition. I was guided in the operation by the echymose aspect presented in spots by the exterior surface of the small intestine the nearer I approached the largest of the intestines."

The achievement of the Paris physician is greeted by men of his profession in that city as one of the memorable surgical achievements of the year.

Superior Female Scarecrow. "Crows," said a farmer, "fear women much more than they do men. That is why you see, all over the country, female scarecrows preponderating over male ones. Did you ever hear tell of the proof of this. Well, the proof is obtained by putting crows to work at counting. You send men, one at a time, into a woodshed near a flock of crows and the birds will count the men up to 11. That is to say, if men enter the shed under the crows' eyes; the crows keep at a safe distance until the full 11 have departed again, and then they fly up to the shed door fearlessly. As long as one man is left they know it, and they keep away. Beyond 11 they become confused. But with women they can only count to three. Therefore I suppose it may be said that crows are nearly four times as much afraid of women as of men. I know for a fact that one female scarecrow is as good as four male ones."

Have You Mysophobia? Mysophobia is the latest scientific name for a complaint the symptoms of which are familiar to every one, says the Chicago Daily News.

"Morbid fastidiousness" would be a roundabout way of expressing the same falling. "A person suffering from mysophobia," says a medical journal, "taking his seat at table begins by scrutinizing closely every article placed there for his use. He holds his tumbler up to the light to see if it is free from fingermarks he scans his napkin to make sure that it is immaculate, and one by one each object is critically passed in review. In advanced cases the sufferer mechanically wipes the various articles, using the napkin for the purpose."

But there is compensation in everything, and what may be an annoying idiosyncrasy in a guest becomes an undeniable virtue in a domestic servant.

FOUND IN THE FORUM.

Prehistoric Tombs Have Been Discovered at Rome Near the Temple of Antonius.

The excavations in the Roman forum are once more attracting general attention, says a Rome correspondent of the London Post.

His critics have not failed to laugh at his way of "jumping to conclusions," and even when, by their scrutiny, he discovered the first prehistoric tomb near the Temple of Antonius and Faustina they remarked that he might possibly have found this tomb by chance, but that it was no proof of the existence of others.

Fig. Bond in reply has widened the shaft which enabled him to discover the first tomb, so that it now measures about four yards square by six yards deep, reckoning from the original level of the Sacred Way.

For many months he has been talking of the Forum Necropolis as though its existence were an accepted fact. His critics have not failed to laugh at his way of "jumping to conclusions," and even when, by their scrutiny, he discovered the first prehistoric tomb near the Temple of Antonius and Faustina they remarked that he might possibly have found this tomb by chance, but that it was no proof of the existence of others.

These tombs are known as well tombs (tombe a ponce), and are invariably associated with the rite of cremation. It will not be possible to examine the contents of this new tomb for at least a fortnight, as it will be necessary to divert a modern sewer which runs over the site before the necessary excavations can be completed.

Meanwhile Fig. Bond has found between the two well tombs a so-called ditch tomb (tombe a fossa), resembling in shape an ordinary grave. In this tomb lay the remains of a full-grown man, who had evidently been buried without cremation. The skull is in perfect preservation, the teeth are all sound and in position, the bones are intact and on the breast is a bronze object, apparently an amulet, which has not yet been closely examined.

Everything is being photographed before the removal and every scrap of mud and earth is being passed through a sieve and minutely examined.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC EMPLOY. Proportion of the Sex in the Service of the Government is Gradually Increasing.

It is observed by officials in the government service that the proportion of women in public employ is gradually increasing, from insignificant, but permanent causes, writes the Philadelphia Public Ledger's Washington correspondent.

It appears that there are usually more women than men who are able to pass the civil service examinations; but the ratio of appointments is about the same. The reason why the aggregate number of women is increasing in the department service is that they do not leave their places to go into private occupations as men do.

A prominent official who is opposed to women clerks, speaking of the matter, said: "There are only two reasons that cause a woman to leave the government service—death and marriage. Their death rate is about the same as that of men. The men do not resign when they get married, so that is in favor of a greater reduction in the women employes. But men are leaving the government service constantly to engage in private business. Practically no women ever leave the government service to take employment elsewhere."

"So far as ever having a reduction in the total number of women employes in the department is concerned, I see no way in which that is apt to be done. The civil service rules provide that dismissals shall be made only for just cause, and the dismissed one shall be furnished copies of the charges and given an opportunity to reply to them. It does not require much imagination to foresee how that rule would operate if women were dismissed from the public service simply because as women they were not regarded as desirable for government work, and that men were preferred because they were men. They could be removed. There is no doubt about that. President Roosevelt's declaration concerning the meaning of this rule in regard to dismissals settles that matter. He declared that 'just cause' meant any cause other than one that was political or religious which would promote the efficiency of the service."

"But there are a great many things that could be done that no man endowed with a fair bump of caution would consider doing. The condition that now prevails in regard to women employed by the government is apt to continue for some time to come."