

CRUDE PRAIRIE DOMICILES.

Sod Houses and Dugouts Were Common in the West Thirty Years Ago.

The sod house and dugout were fitting settings in the beautiful panoramic prairie pictures 25 to 30 years ago, says Farm and Home. They did not mar the beauty and harmony of the scene and were better adapted to the conditions and surroundings than a frame house would have been.

Had it not been for the sod house and dugout, these extensive belts of prairie—nature's greatest and best of farming lands—would have laid idle and the country unsettled many years longer.

DISCOURAGING GERMS.

It Takes Only Three Days for One Microbe to Grow to 4,772 Billions.

We can get on the good side of a dog by patting his head and we can please the cat by scratching her under the chin (if she doesn't scratch first). We can tame other animals by giving them food or by putting the weight of our hand on them.

Of all the discoveries made by science it seems to me that the most disheartening is the discovery of germs.

Oldest Portrait Known. Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie, the world famous archaeologist, contributes to Harper's Magazine an absorbing account of his recent explorations at Abydos, Egypt, where the most remarkable facts are being revealed regarding the past of Egypt.

ABYSSINIAN CLAIRVOYANTS.

In King Menelik's Land They See Remarkable Hints on Discoverers of Crime.

One of the weird things in Abyssinia is the lobasha, or crime discoverer. These are boys not more than 12 years of age, who are put into a hypnotic trance, and in this state discover the unknown perpetrators of crime, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

Another case which Emperor Menelik and M. H. investigated was that of a murder and robbery near Adis Abeba. The lobasha was taken to the site of the murder and put into his peculiar psychic state. For a while he ran around the place, then back to Adis Abeba to a church, which he kissed, then to another church, which he also kissed.

Coming to some water—water breaks the spell—the boy woke from his trance. He was again hypnotized, and off he went, round some huts, and at the door of one of them lay down and fell asleep.

The murderer was brought before Menelik, who asked him to do all his doings before the commission of the crime. These were found to correspond with the movements of the lobasha. He said that, overcome with remorse, he ran to two churches and kissed them.

Menelik wanted to have another proof of the lobasha's gifts. He himself took some jewelry belonging to the emperor.

A lobasha was sent for. He first ran about in the emperor's rooms, then into Menelik's own rooms—went through other rooms, and finally fell down on Menelik's bed.

M. H. can give no explanation of this wonderful gift, which seems to be confined to a certain tribe, or perhaps racial confederation, the members of which are distributed over the whole of Abyssinia.

It is also worth remembering that a very similar method of discovering crimes was ascribed to the old Egyptians 4,000 years ago.

GERMAN BEER STEINS.

Largest Imported Once Hold Eight Plates and Cost from Thirty to Fifty Dollars.

Some beer steins are made in this country, but they do not cut any figure in the trade, says an exchange. Germans, who are the principal buyers of steins, know an imported from a domestic article as a gardener knows his flowers.

Anywhere from \$30 to \$50 may be spent on a stein of this sort, and the manufacturers in Germany give such a wide variety of their native scenery that very few steins are made to order.

The smallest stein holds exactly one-eighth of a pint. These are seldom seen in barrooms or restaurants, even for exhibition purposes. They are presented to children in families, just as the English and Americans present china and porcelain cups, with the name of the baby printed thereon in ornate colored letters.

Of the birds, undoubtedly the blue jays have the most inquisitiveness. And they are the most noisy in expressing it; although crows will hold a close second place, if not fully equal.

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INDIAN AS FOOTBALL PLAYER.

In Fond of the Game and Is Unsurpassed in Running and Tackling.

As a matter of course, these hard-working and well-behaved wards of the nation at Carlisle have been from the start models of disciplined and educated conduct on the football field as well as off, and only their shocks of black hair and their swarthy faces mark them as unusual or odd when they line up against the "palefaces," says a writer in the Illustrated Sporting News.

These lads are intensely fond of football and they have left in them an inherited indifference to runs and a toughness of fiber that are their strongest qualities when added to swiftness and agility of movement. I have seen them play through a hard game, without one call for "time out," because of injury, and nearly every one who has seen them play must have noticed the fierceness of their tackling and their fashion of breaking out of a scrimmage on the rebound like so many rubber balls.

Their weakness is an argument in favor of the claim that football is as much a question of the trained mind as of the powerful body. It is mental alertness and adaptability that the Carlisle players find themselves lacking when they meet the first-class teams. To analyze and meet the unexpected, and to solve the problems of a scientific attack and defense of a style to which they are not accustomed puzzles the slower and less effectively trained mind of the Indian, and he cannot make as quick a change of mental base as the white youth. This is to be expected, and the astonishing feature of it is that the Indian player is able to make the showing he does. He comes to Carlisle from the reservation a little savage and in perhaps a half dozen years he is fashioned into the clean, alert, self-respecting young man who delights those who know good football, played with ardor, yet with self-control and intelligence of a high order.

REGRETTED HIS ADVICE.

Employer Told Clerk to Elope, Which the Young Man Had With-out Delay.

The proprietor of one of the principal firms in Birmingham had remarked that his head clerk, for whom he had a real liking, had for some reason fallen into a melancholy state, and though he tried his best, he could not find out what was the matter with the young man, says the Birmingham Age-Herald. One day, at last, the sufferer owned that he was in love.

"Well, marry her," said the chief. "Oh, but," here the young man nearly broke down, "she belongs to one of the best families in the town—the parents will never consent."

"Pooh! Your position is good, your name honorable; they won't refuse. I will demand the girl for you. Does she love you?"

"Yes, but it's no use; her parents won't listen."

"Well, then, elope with her. Do I know the girl?"

"Yes, she will be at your ball next Tuesday."

"Now listen to me," said the employer. "Leave the ball quietly with her. Joseph, my coachman, will wait for you at the door and drive you to the station. He will ask you no questions. When you are out of the way I will see the father and settle everything for you."

"Is that really your advice?" gleefully exclaimed the youth. "Do you want me to do it?"

"Yes, I command you to do it. Now, cheer up."

The next day the clerk proposed the plan to his sweetheart, who made some objections at first, but, overcome by his reasons, she said at last:

"Well, if he really means it, I must obey."

What was the general stupefaction when, after the ball, the daughter was missing.

"Mad fool that I was," exclaimed the enraged parent; "it was my own daughter."

The next day he wrote: "Come back; all will be forgiven."

It is quite true, as stated in the New York papers, that hardly a week, and certainly not a month, passes that some gambling scandal on a river does not find its way into the newspapers.

That card sharps are constantly creeping back and forth in search of a few dollars has long been beyond question. On many ships, as on the Great Lakes, there are warning signs of the gambling rooms. Occasionally they are kept open, but they are usually closed.

Something Doing. "Yes," said the railway manager, "where there is smoke there must be fire."

Then he got busy and fired half a dozen employees who had gone wrong according to the rule: "No smoking allowed while on duty."—Chicago Daily News.

DISCOVERY OF DYNAMITE.

Terrific Explosive First Prepared by an Italian Chemist in the Year 1845.

Few people know what dynamite is, though the word is in common use, says the American Syren and Shipping Journal. It is a giant gunpowder; that is, an explosive material, varying in strength and safety of handling according to the percentage of nitroglycerin it contains. Nitroglycerin, whence it derives its strength, is composed of ordinary glycerin and nitric acid, compounded together in certain proportions and at a certain temperature.

It is extensively made and consumed in the United States under the various names of Giant, Hercules, Jupiter and Atlas powders, all of which contain anywhere from 30 to 80 per cent of nitroglycerin, the residue of the compound being made up of rotten stone, noncombustible earth, sawdust, charcoal, plaster of paris, black powder, or some other substance that takes up the glycerin and makes a porous, spongy mass.

Nitroglycerin was discovered by Salvemore, an Italian chemist, in 1845. Dynamite is prepared by simply kneading with the naked hands 25 per cent of infusorial earth and 75 per cent of nitroglycerin until the mixture assumes a putty condition not unlike moist brown sugar. Before mixing the infusorial earth is calcined in a furnace in order to burn out all organic matter and it is also added to free it of large grains.

Nitroglycerin is made of nitric acid one part and sulphuric acid two parts, to which is added ordinary glycerin, and the mixture is well washed with pure water. The infusion is composed of small microscopic silicious shells which have lost their living creatures. The cellular parts receive the nitroglycerin and hold it by capillary attraction, both inside and out. The earth is very light. Water is expelled from it by means of a furnace and then in the form of a powder it is mixed with nitroglycerin. Nitroglycerin has a sweet, aromatic, pungent taste, and the peculiar property of causing a violent headache when placed in a small quantity on the tongue or wrist. It freezes at 40 degrees Fahrenheit, becoming a white, half-crystallized mass, which must be melted by the application of water at a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

MUST FIGHT THE ELEMENTS.

Officers of Uncle Sam's Navy Find the Weather a Formidable Enemy.

Not alone in battle have young officers of the navy shown the stuff that is in them, writes John Callan O'Laughlin, in Success. In contests with the elements, they have displayed nerve which it is impossible to overmatch. For instance, take the case of Ensign Henry C. Mustin, commanding the little gunboat Samar, which was assigned by the commander in chief of the Asiatic station to cooperate with Maj. Gen. Young in any advance against the insurgents. While lying off San Fernando, a typhoon began to rage. Gen. Young wigwagged to Mustin to go ashore for orders. The naval officer lowered a boat, and, with great difficulty, got through the surf, which broke in 35 fathoms of water.

"I couldn't tell the general it was impossible to go," he said, apologetically, to an army officer who remonstrated with him for risking his life in attempting the landing. Mustin had intended to remain ashore until the weather should moderate, but, observing that the wind was veering to the northwest, and anticipating that, blowing from that direction, it would drive the Samar to the beach, he decided to return immediately to his ship. The boat was shoved into the breakers, but was tossed back upon the shore as if it were a chip. Again Mustin tried, with the same result. A third time he tried, but the boat was stove in. Apparently it was impossible to get by the breakers. Anxious about his ship, Mustin brushed aside all thought of personal risk and announced that he proposed to swim through the surf. He signaled to the Samar to send a boat to a point just outside of where the waves were breaking. He removed his clothes and plunged into the sea. Huge waves pitted their strength against his, but, straining every muscle, Mustin labored on and finally reached his boat. Though almost exhausted, he immediately took charge of the Samar, when taken aboard, and carried her safely to sea.

Queer Things of Rifle Ball.

I myself made the most extraordinary shot at an antelope that I ever heard of, which, however, has nothing to do with good shooting, but rather with the erratic course that a rifle ball may take. With several scouts, white men and Indians, I rode over a hill, to see three or four buck antelopes spring to their feet, run a short distance and then stop to look. I made a quick shot at one, which dropped, and on going to him I found him not dead, though desperately wounded. The animal had been standing broadside on, his face toward my left. The ball had struck his left elbow, splintering the olecranon, passed through the bracket, broken the right humerus, turned at right angles, and gone back, cutting several ribs, broken the right femur, then turned again at right angles and came out through the inside of the leg, and struck the left hock joint, which it dislocated and twisted off, so that it hung by a very narrow string of hide. I never again expect to see so extraordinary a course for a rifle ball.—Outing.

STRATEGY IN THE HOUSE.

Positively Necessary to Prevent Repetition of the One-Tune Period.

"I wish you would get me some more music," she remarked. "Where's the last piece I bought you?" he asked. "Here it is," she replied, and she played it, relates Elliott Flower, in Brooklyn Eagle.

"We'd go broke buying music if you had your way," he said. "We have enough to stock a music house now." "Oh, very well," she returned, resignedly. "I'll leave it all to you hereafter, without even a suggestion." Now that looked like an easy victory and he smiled complacently. But little he knew the subtlety and resourcefulness of the feminine mind.

He heard it before breakfast, and growled. He heard it before dinner, and grumbled. He heard it in the evening, and swore. "Have you lost everything else?" he asked, finally. "Oh, no," she replied, sweetly. "But this is the latest thing we have." He let his wife alone after that, but ventured to try his daughter.

"Why do you always play that?" he demanded. "It's the latest thing we have," she answered. The next evening he brought home some new pieces.

"After this," he told his wife, "when you want music, let me know." "Oh, you are the best judge of what is necessary and what we can afford," she returned. "As I said before, we will leave it all to you, without even a suggestion. Then you cannot grumble about the expense."

For a time there was a variety that was pleasing. Then they got down to one tune again—the latest they had. Just as this was becoming absolutely unendurable he found a music catalogue on the piano with several pieces marked. He brought them home and relief followed.

DAINTY DRESS DETAILS.

Pretty Bits of Finery That Are in Favor with Fashionable Followers.

Lace jabots have been revived. The gold button leads in favor in Paris. Gold-linked purses have superseded those of silver.

Elephant gray is one of the favorite shades in velvet. Broad, bold effects are in evidence in all trimmings.

Cockades, rosettes and ruffles are largely employed by milliners. Feather pom-poms adorn many of the prettiest hats of the season.

Sealskin is admirably brightened with a little gold embroidery. Velvet and satin dahlia rosettes appear on fur collarettes and muffs.

Waters of black thread lace appear among the high-grade assortments. Wood color and golden brown are among the most fashionable shades.

A big circle of leather, rimmed in gilt or silver, represents the latest in buttons. Some new combs and fancy hairpins show Egyptian patterns executed in colored enamels.

Swiss embroidery, known to the French as broderie Anglaise, is an especially favored trimming. Lingerie petticoats for home and evening wear are supplanting the silk petticoats so long in favor.

Ten gowns of chiffon, with borderings of fur or velvet, are pleasing variations from the ordinary type. A note of gold is artistically introduced in the new neckwear and in many of the season's laces and passementeries.

Contagiousness of Rheumatism. The idea that rheumatism is contagious is gaining ground in Germany, and at Leipzig patients are actually isolated to prevent the spread of the disease.

The evidence in support of this view is claimed to be accumulating. Children become sufferers from articular rheumatism a few days after their parents are attacked, and M. Talamon has recorded the case of a child who had articular rheumatism for eight days, and whose younger sister, sleeping in the same room, was attacked a few days later with a rheumatic affection that proved fatal.

Rheumatism often seems to pass from one to the other of two married people, many cases of this kind—as when a perfectly healthy man is taken a few days after one of his wife's rheumatic attacks—strengthening the theory of contagion.—Boston Budget.

Warmest Cold Meat Recipe. A very nice way of warming cold roast mutton or lamb is as follows: Put one teaspoonful of chopped onion into a stewpan with one ounce of butter. Place it over a slow fire, keep the onions stirred until rather brown, then add some flour, mix it in well and fry for five minutes; then pour in one-half pint of gravy well seasoned, and let it boil until thickened and brown; add one teaspoonful of sugar and one of vinegar, one of Worcestershire sauce, a few chopped gherkins and a few button mushrooms if at hand; put in the mutton, which has been previously sliced in thin slices and perfectly freed from fat; let it remain a few minutes and simmer, not boil.—Rural New Yorker.

ABOUT NEURALGIA.

Some of Its Causes and Simple Remedies Which Often Afford Relief.

Neuralgia is a nerve pain, and may affect any part of the body. It may attack one side or the whole of the head; it may be merely facial; it may affect the great nerve of the hip, when it is known as sciatica; or it may come in the stomach or heart, says Mary Easton, M. D., in American Queen.

The causes are varied, cold, injury, weakness or great mental trouble being among the most important. The pain is acute and shooting, and generally there is great tenderness on slightly pressing the affected part. It is usually an intermittent pain, when it will come in paroxysms; but in bad cases the pain will continue without cessation for days. Severe cases can only be cured by clever medical attention, but it is possible to alleviate the agony oneself, at any rate protem.

If the patient is anemic, neuralgia will come through the want of blood. A strong iron tonic will then be necessary. Should the pain be so bad as to require immediate alleviation a mustard plaster will often give relief, or flannel rung out of boiling water will prove comforting.

Lotions have been found invaluable, the part being frequently bathed and covered with cloths saturated in laudanum and sweet oil, chloroform, belladonna, etc.

Choral and camphor in equal parts rubbed well together so as to form a thick oily fluid may be applied now and then with excellent results; painting with tincture of acetate is also a good thing.

General constitutional treatment is necessary, however, for a permanent cure, and a rigid form of diet and living will be required. Change of air, and in some cases sea bathing, will do wonders; and if the malady be due to overwork or worry, a holiday and complete change of scene will seldom fail to remove it.

A very bad headache is sometimes thought to be neuralgia, and for this an old-fashioned cure is to put the feet in mustard and water in order to draw blood from the head. Plenty of rest and fresh air, a placid temper, avoidance of all excitement, and total freedom from business and domestic troubles are the chief points to be observed by the sufferers from neuralgia.

If "heat applications" afford temporary relief, it is well that the different methods of obtaining such should be known. Dry heat is in most cases better than wet. Therefore, it is a good plan to lay some sand between two pieces of flannel, sew it together and keep it ready to place in the oven. Sand retains its heat for a long time. Hot salt placed between some pieces of thick muslin will afford great relief.

CERTAINLY COLOR-BLIND.

Nothing Else Could Have Been the Matter, with Such a Coarseness.

The trolley whizzed and whirred along its course, gliding along leafy ways green with the greenness of a summer day, relates the New York Times.

His happy load of dark-skinned humanity had been helping the "bread-ribs" of a nearby village in heroic efforts to procure a roof for their church, and now having disposed of their dinner and quarters generally with light hearts and friendly comradeship were speeding home.

The rosy conductor skins along the sidewalk collecting fares—who pays for whom is the question of the moment. Picninnates wedged in the front seats claim parents in the rear, and husbands among the smokers point vaguely to the wives lost in a jumble of wives in the middle of the car.

"That gal's mine settin' right there," shouts a motherly voice, "an' that boy chawin' gum."

"I ain't got no money. Pap'll pay for me," squeaks a small boy.

The roddy guardian, bewildered, grins good naturedly and shouts: "I'm best if yer all don't look wan and the same to me, There's no tellin' yer apart."

"A likely man to put on a car," retorts a champion of her race; "what you paid for, 'cept to let one man from another? That's less what the company is payin' you to do—it don't want no blind men on cars—ain't got no use for 'em."

"Laws, chile!" quoth her neighbor, with a chuckle. "He's mighty hard pressed. He can't tell one pesson from another on this yere car; he's less color-blind, that's what the matter."

And the chuckle ended in a loud guffaw.

Lesson of Accuracy. The most important lesson of all for a young man to learn, regardless of his future calling, is the ought to appreciate the worth of accuracy. Without accuracy in his thought, his life will be a comparative failure. No man, young or old, will for a minute claim the contrary. In spite, however, of the universal acquiescence in the statement that accuracy is essential to success, it is not easy of attainment.

"Let well enough alone" is, unfortunately, a saying that is universally known and, I regret to say, very extensively put into practice. It is certainly a dangerous thing for a parent to say to a child, and never is said by an instructor to a pupil.—St. Nicholas.

Mock Sausage. Soak dry bread in water. Take as much cold meat, chopped fine, as you have bread, mix and season with salt, pepper and sage. Make into small cakes and fry.—Orange Judd Farmer.