

HIGH-TONED NEGROES.

Washington Overrun with a Certain Type Who Are Handsome in Form and Feature.

Washington is overrun just now with a class of negroes whom it is almost impossible to distinguish from the whites. Most of them are well-behaved, well-dressed and well-formed, and do not bear many of the characteristic features of the negro. They are seldom seen during the day, and do not seem to labor, but apparently have the means to live well without working. Their conduct is above reproach, their bearing easy and graceful, and they show evident traces of refinement. Some of them are possessed of intellectual faces, and many have a pronounced Jewish cast of countenance. Their feet are small and well-formed, and they have tapering fingers, which are the envy of their white sisters. These people do not associate with the simon-pure negroes, but look upon them with disdain, and in turn are regarded with evident jealousy. They are numerous enough to form quite a colony, and are usually encountered returning from balls and theaters. They are always dressed in correct form, and seldom patronize carriages, as do the rich dark negroes, but return to their homes in the street cars.

CUBAN POSTAL SERVICE.

Believed That the Department in the Island Can Be Made Self-Sustaining.

A. W. Machen, general superintendent of the free delivery system, and chairman of the postal commission, sent to Cuba to investigate conditions there, has returned from Havana. He had a long conference with Postmaster-General Emory Smith, at which he described the comparatively chaotic state of the service. Mr. Machen believes the postal department in Cuba will be self-sustaining.

The cost of the postal service under the Spanish regime was approximately \$500,000 a year. It is estimated now that the stamp sales on the island under nominal conditions will foot up \$1,000 a day, or approximately \$365,000 annually. The receipts from the registry service, the commission figures as very likely to amount up about the Spanish total cost figures. One result of the commission's work will be an immediate reestablishment of a domestic postal money order system. At present international money orders are available between Cuba and the United States, but no money can be so sent between points within the island.

FREIGHT CARS BY TROLLEY.

Farmers of Wisconsin Towns Are to Have Better Transportation Facilities.

The work of the farmers who reside between Appleton and Seymour, Wis., for an electric street car line to connect the two cities has taken the novel turn of the building of a freight line. It appears that the farmers who are out looking for capital to build the line are not after a purely passenger service, but expect to have something in the line of freight trains to ship their grain to the Appleton elevators.

If this plan be adopted it will be an innovation in the problem of electrical transit. At first it was proposed to run cars which would accommodate the farmers with a small amount of baggage, such as baskets and other light articles, a trailer or a combination coach being run. Now the plan has developed into the proposition to run a train of freight cars daily for the transport of the produce.

KNEW KEELEY'S SECRET.

Tesla, the Electrician, Says He Surpassed the Methods of the Famous Motor Man.

The astounding disclosure of the methods which John W. Keeley practiced upon many thousands of credulous persons is the cause of a statement from Nikola Tesla, the electrician, that for years he has known the secret of the motor.

The dismantling of Keeley's laboratory at 1422 North Twentieth street, Philadelphia, brought to light a great spherical reservoir and many lengths of fine high-pressure brass tubing. Mr. Tesla says:

"When the reservoir and pipes were found I knew the surprise I had entertained was correct. Although he evidently used compressed air in his experiments, it does not follow that he did this deliberately to deceive. Acting on my conjecture, I have performed most of the experiments reported and still more wonderful ones to the lay mind."

HUGE HUMAN SKELETONS.

Remains of Eight Giants, All Nearly Seven Feet Tall, Unearthed Near San Francisco.

Contractors employed in government construction work on Goat island, San Francisco, have unearthed eight skeletons. It is a mystery how they came there and there are several wild stories afloat. One is that Goat island, which is now a government reserve, was the haunt of pirates, and that much buried treasure is hidden on the island.

Another is that the island was used by the Spaniards in early days as a burying ground. Several attempts have been made to locate the hidden treasure, but without success. The skeletons unearthed are of enormous proportions, few being less than six feet six inches long.

Our Patents to Date.

To date the United States has issued 516,441 patents.

Chinese Temples in United States. There are 47 Chinese temples in the United States.

GRIPPE FROM' PHONES

Prolific Source of Infection as Shown by a New York Doctor.

Germ Caught and Snatched Into the Mouthpiece and Then Given Out to New and Unwary Victims.

If scientists are to be believed, the telephone is a constant menace to the public health and the abode of grippa germs. This is what Dr. E. John Kauffman, of 56 West Thirty-third street, New York city, said:

"More cases of grippa have been coughed and sneezed into the telephone, to be contracted by the next user of the instrument, than have proceeded from all other sources combined.

"There has been much speculation,"

he went on, "as to the causes of the recent epidemic of grippa, which has not yet spent its force. Together with one of the leading bacteriologists of the city, I visited several of the finest hotels, and also a number of the public telephone exchanges. I mounted some clean cotton on a piece of wire and rubbed it around the inside of the mouthpiece of the telephone receiver. I made a lot of these exhibits, placing each one in a small bottle and carefully corking it so that there could be nothing on the cotton but the scraping from the receivers. Then the cotton balls were taken in hand by the bacteriologist. The result was we found a multitude of the grippa bacilli.

"There are 45,000 telephones at least in New York, and I figure that there have been from 35,000 to 40,000 cases of grippa. I will tell you why there has not been more contagion from this source. It does not follow that everyone that uses the telephone is susceptible to the grippa, and the same is true of all diseases proceeding from germs.

"There should be a reform now that it is certain that the grippa at least is contracted from telephone receivers, and the receivers should be kept clean.

Chicago physicians take issue with the New York scientist whose statement that the epidemic of grippa in that city was due largely to microbes coughed and sneezed into public telephones by sufferers. The majority appear to believe that the New York scientists were insufficiently familiar with both the grippa and the telephones. The chief objection was from him he called on the assemblage to pray for him. The scene that followed does not usually accompany an arrest. The penitent knelt, and all the rest of his brethren dropped to their knees, including the detective and blue-coated policemen, who were impelled by the occasion, and a loud wailing to God was set up for his deliverance. The supplication continued for a space of ten minutes, and then, with bowed head, the penitent was marched in silence from the hall in the clutches of the officers. He will be sent to Columbus. The \$200 is all gone. The pinch of hunger brought Anderson again to the shrine of faith and repentance.

Dr. T. A. Davis had never heard of the telephone theory, but he was inclined to agree with the New York physician.

"Grippe is a contagious disease," he said, "and I cannot see why it could not be transmitted by germs lodging in a telephone transmitter."

COLON'S CAT DEAD.

Distinguished Feline Taken from Admiral Cervera's Flagship and Named After Him.

Cervera is dead. Not the Spanish admiral, but the cat—one of the cats from the Cristobal Colon, and with it goes the chief pride and glory of the New York cat show. The tug Right Arm, of the Merritt-Chapman Wrecking company, visited the Colon 20 days after the battle of Santiago for the purpose of raising the Spanish cruiser. The only living thing aboard was a black and white cat. The crew of the Right Arm took possession of the cat, adopted it as a mascot, and named it Tomas Cervera. But Cervera brought ill-luck. When Lieut. Hobson raised the Maria Teresa the rescued cat was placed aboard to be brought to America. The Maria Teresa never reached these shores, and when the vessel grounded off the Bahamas the cat fell into the hands of the natives. It was rescued the second time, and at last reached America, a passenger on the United States repair ship Vulcan.

A "GRIP LUNCH."

Mrs. John A. Logan Invents the Very Latest Fad for New York Society.

Mrs. John A. Logan, of New York, has invented the "grip luncheon," which is said to be positively the latest thing socially. A day or two ago, when she was just recovering from a severe attack, she sent around invitations to six of her friends who, as she knew, were confined to their beds with the prevailing epidemic. The time was fixed with the usual formality, but the place was made the home of the invited lady. Promptly at the specified time Mrs. Logan sent out six trays which were delivered at the houses of the afflicted guests, with a pleasant little note containing the names of the other parties to the affair and the good wishes of the hostess for their joint recovery.

A Horse with "Specs."

Boston feels quite humiliated because Surrey, a suburb of Boston, owns a horse that wears spectacles. He wears them for a purpose, too, for his eyesight is so bad that he can't see a yard in front of his nose unless he has his "specs." Toby goes about his daily duties calmly. He has suffered from myopia for two years. Veterinary surgeons recommended some kind of glasses.

How Railroads Have Multiplied.

Only 70 years have elapsed since the first railway in the world was finished. During that comparatively brief period 400,000 miles have been constructed, the British empire accounting for about a sixth.

Chapel Built of Coral.

One of the curiosities of the Isle of Maha, in the Indian ocean, is the chapel that is built of coral.

Clockmaking a Trade in Connecticut.

In Connecticut clockmakers give employment to 3,000 persons.

Scientific American.

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation in the country. Price 12 cents per month.

MUNN & CO., 361 Broadway, New York.

Branch Office, 455 F. St., Washington, D. C.

CHINA WORTH THOUSANDS.

Made in Dresden. Specially for Mrs. William Astor—Decorated in Gold and Red.

Mrs. William Astor has recently paid a fortune for some dishes. She has given in return for a mere set of china 30,000 American dollars. There are 213 pieces in all, each of which is worth almost its weight in gold. Mrs. Astor now owns the most costly china in America. This \$30,000 set of china was originally intended for royalty.

The china was made in the famous Royal Meissen factory in Dresden, and a sample was sent to Mrs. Astor when she was in Paris last March. The plate sent on approval so delighted New York's society leaders that she ordered the china at once, with instructions to the Astor crest and her own monogram.

The china is rich cream white in tint, with a slightly scalloped edge.

Close to the rim, traced in glittering gold, is the famous star-scattered Astor crest. Below the crest and encircling each plate is a band of gold, then a band of brilliant red, bordered by another gleaming gold line, and then still further down in the plate, directly under the crest, are the golden letters "C. A." (Caroline Astor), wrought into an artistic monogram.

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