

ENTERTAINED BY A HEN.

The Fowl Lays an Egg in Public and Her Owner Promptly Swallows It.

The ways of a hen are often original and sometimes mirth-provoking, and a Plymouth Rock did novel and amusing things, to the joy of a carload of passengers, on a recent trip from Braddock to Pittsburgh.

Carrying a hen proudly, a man who was evidently a foreigner got on a trolley car at Braddock. He was drowsy and not quite sober, and he crossed his legs, set the hen on his lap and went to sleep.

Four miles out of Braddock the hen suddenly woke from its own reverie and cackled. Its owner opened his eyes and found himself and his hen objects of interest. He was annoyed. But the passengers had more or less excuse for staring; they had discovered a fresh egg resting snugly on the man's lap.

No one could speak the man's language, but every one was bound that he should know what had happened. Twenty index fingers pointed to the hen and 40 eyes were turned in the same direction. Finally the stranger lifted the hen tenderly and the secret was revealed.

Then he was wide awake. With his left hand he held the egg aloft, that all might see; with his right hand he affectionately stroked the hen. Everybody smiled. All at once it seemed to occur to him that refreshments were in order. He grinned at his fellow passengers, tapped the shell on the edge of the seat to open a way to the interior and swallowed the egg.

IF MAN WERE FLEA-LIKE.

A Fast One Could Easily Jump Around the Earth in an Hour or Less.

Snyder, the calculating barber, hadn't opened his lips for fully four minutes, and it was plain to be seen that he had something on his mind, says the Philadelphia Record. Finally he swallowed twice, breathed hard for a moment, and gave vent to his feelings in this manner: "I've been thinking what I could do if I were only a flea. I read in a scientific paper the other day that if a man were built on the same lines as a flea he could jump from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in one leap. I mean, of course, if he had all the power of a flea increased in proportion to his size. This how quickly he could circumnavigate the globe. It might be possible to get around the world in an hour. The distance from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh is 354 miles, and the equatorial circumference of the earth is 24,902 miles. A simple calculation in mental arithmetic will show you that this would be a fraction over 70 leaps. It surely wouldn't take a minute for each jump, judged from the liveliness of the flea. Think of coming in here, with three or four customers ahead of you, and instead of sitting down and waiting, just taking a few jumps around the world to kill time. There you are, sir. Witch hazel or rum?"

THE EFFECT OF EXAMPLE.

It Was This That Caused Two Montana Men to Change Their Names.

"Example is a great teacher, even in the wild and woolly west," remarked a Montana man to a Washington Star reporter, "and I recall an incident of the effect of an eastern custom which was brought into Montana some years ago, but is not yet popular. I am glad to say. I refer to the parting of a human name in the middle. We have a few specimens, but as far as I know none is indigenous. But to the force of example. When Montana was a territory J. S. Crosby, of New York, was appointed governor, and Mr. Crosby wrote his name J. Schuyler Crosby. In the course of time Gov. Crosby made Henry B. Wilkins his private secretary, and it wasn't a great while before Mr. Wilkins became H. Brady Wilkins. This condition of affairs existed for some time longer, and a colored man around town by the name of Jim Collins got a job as janitor of the governor's office. Collins' initials were J. H. and I'm shot if it was 30 days after he cleaned the office out the first morning before he was signing his name J. Hanson Collins."

THE LOVING CUP.

A Popular Custom of the Present Day That Dates from Anglo-Saxon Times.

Naturally some of the ancient city customs are connected with the art of dining, says Good Words. Gastronomy and the Guildhall are inseparably associated. One of the most curious of these is the passing of the loving cup, which takes place at all the guild dinners as well as at the banquets of the corporation.

The cup is a two-handled one with a lid. While one guest is holding the lid, the next sips the spiced wine; a third, on the other side of the drinker, stands up. Then, the brim, having been wiped by a clean napkin, the cup is passed to the guest holding the lid. He drinks in his turn, while his next neighbor takes charge of the lid. In this way the cup makes the round of the table.

This custom dates from Anglo-Saxon times. The holding of the lid was not then an act merely of courtesy, for the guest who held it was thus prevented from drawing his dagger and stabbing the drinker—a playful after-dinner practice not uncommon in those times. Meanwhile the guest who was standing guarded the drink-

SHOULD COAL GIVE OUT.

Electrical Energy and Natural Forces Would Supply Plenty of Power.

Are we utterly dependent upon coal, so that the wheels of industry will stop and the forests be consumed for fuel when coal gives out? Of course not. It is an idle fear. Already we have the beginnings of a new method of utilizing natural energy which will prove enormously more effective than coal ever has been, and will be practically inexhaustible to whatever extent industry may expand, says Gunton's Magazine.

Electrical energy, developed by water power, will run the world's industries, furnish its light and heat, and be the universal substitute for all forms of combustion methods. Water power is practically unlimited, and it will be utilized more and more in proportion as the need for it arises and as it becomes, at different places and at successive periods, cheaper than coal. The substitution will proceed gradually, until, when the coal supply finally is exhausted, nobody will have anything more than a curious or academic interest in the matter, and probably not a ripple will be produced in the steady onward flow of the world's industry. As the use of water power to develop electrical energy increases to the point of formidable competition with coal, electrical students and inventors will devote their energies to improvements making it possible to store the power or conduct it long distances at small cost, until our factories, railroads and ships can be operated by it, our houses lighted and warmed and food prepared, all at even less expense than is possible to-day with coal.

SPRUCE TIMBER SCARCE.

Paper-Makers May Be Driven to Use of Some Other Wood or Material.

The forthcoming report of S. W. Matthews, commissioner of labor for the state of Maine, will contain a chapter devoted to the pulp and paper manufacturing of the state. A table will be published showing the acreage of spruce timber lands in Maine, the amount of that wood used each year for manufacturing paper and give other data concerning the industry. The commissioner will also urge the adoption of some other material, if possible, from which news paper can be made, says the New York Times.

Maine people are much agitated over the fast depletion of the state forests by paper makers, and it is possible that a bill will be introduced in the next legislature prohibiting the cutting of spruce for a term of years. It is hoped that by this method the forests will have a chance to gain lost ground in season to prevent the complete extermination of that valuable tree. The paper-makers are, therefore, doing much thinking as to what course to pursue, and it is likely that before long they will substitute poplar or birch for spruce timber.

An experiment now being made in Missouri with cornstalks for making paper is being watched with interest here. It is said that thus far success has been made with that material and a good quality of paper has been made. Much of the timber cut in Maine goes to New Hampshire, where one mill alone turns out 240 tons of paper each day from spruce timber.

STRICTLY DEFINITIVE.

A Small Girl Gives Two Apt Illustrations of the Meanings of Words.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the new president of the International Council of Women, became generally known a few years ago through her participation in the general federation of women's clubs, which resulted in the international council, says the Philadelphia Post. She has frequently represented American women abroad and has long been a prominent figure in the important national conventions.

Mrs. Sewall, who is the head of a classical school for girls in Indianapolis, could contribute a readable sequel to English as she is taught, for the pupils in a girls' classical school are not above the amusing blunders which characterize the efforts of their young sisters in the public schools.

On one occasion Mrs. Sewall was instructing a class in physics. Force was the subject and she made plain to the girls the difference between the centrifugal and centripetal force.

"Centrifugal," said Mrs. Sewall, "is a force whose direction is from the center and centripetal is a force whose direction is toward the center. Do you all understand that?"

"The class chorused assents.

"Now, will some girl give me an illustration?" continued Mrs. Sewall.

"The domestic virtues are centripetal," replied a small girl, "because they keep a man in the center of his home and a centrifugal force is—well, a saloon is a centrifugal force."

Another French Trial.

A trial has begun in France which may have important results, although it is somewhat overshadowed by the agitation over the Dreyfus case. Twenty-two royalists and other politicians, including the leaders of the League of Patriots, the Anti-Semite league and similar organizations, have been indicted on a charge of conspiring to change the form of government. The trial is taking place before the senate, which sits as a high court of justice, and it will be several weeks before a decision is reached.

Elbow Grease Electricity.

If all the electricity made by cleaning windows in the country, by rubbing the glass with a cloth, could be collected and stored, it would at once solve the smoke difficulty of all the railways by allowing the trains to be run by electric motors.

A HIGH PRICED PIANO.

One That Was Made for a Famous Belgian Artist at a Cost of \$25,000.

A wonderful piano has been made by Jan Van Beers, the Belgian artist, whose portraits of beautiful women are famous. The painter owns one of the most remarkable houses in Paris and has given years to the study of interior decoration, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. He admits that the exquisite instrument which he is going to exhibit at the exposition next summer is probably the most beautiful piano of ancient or modern times. Of course, only the shell or case is his work; those make the instrument shall be will be determined by the purchaser. The body of the piano is of natural wood, tinted green; the legs, garlands, Cupids and all the ornamentations are of bronze, gilded and chased by the ablest sculptor of Louis Quinze bronzes in Paris. The fine sketches which appear on the sides and on the front of the piano are paintings by the artist himself and represent the four seasons, and a minute danced in the park in the days of Louis XV., all after the manner of Watteau.

The designer has tried as far as possible to convert those parts of the piano which are ordinarily ungraceful and awkward into something decorative and harmonious. The pedals, which generally represent a lyre, are replaced by the owner's initials. One bronze Cupid, at the touch of a spring, offers his violoncello as a support for the cover when open. This cover is lined with small plaques of ivory, each surrounded by a Louis Quinze frame of bronze, where some day distinguished musicians will write their names, using for this purpose the sheath and arrow of a Cupid at the left, which have been ingeniously converted into inkstand and pen. The music, resting on a small frame of bronze, which glides forward upon a spring, is lighted by two delicate electric flowers, and the musician is thus left in an agreeable half-light. The total cost of the piano will not be less than \$25,000.

DAILY FRESHETS.

Regularity of Rising and Falling of the Rivers and Streams in Alaska.

To most people who live in the temperate zones, the annual freshets occasioned by the melting of the winter snows and by the unusually heavy rains of spring are a matter of familiar observation. Under a higher latitude and in the neighborhood of glaciers, other phenomena are to be studied. An English traveler in Alaska has the following to report about the rivers of that country, says Youth's Companion: The Takheena, like most streams of glacial origin, was subject to a daily rise and fall. The distance of its sources caused the water to increase in volume and in swiftness from noon to midnight, after which it continued to decrease from midnight to noon. The daily rise measured from six to ten inches, according to the heat of the weather; the daily fall measured from five to eight inches during the time the fine weather lasted.

After a few days of cloudy, rainy weather, I found the river falling from day to day about as fast as it had risen during the fine weather. It is worthy of remark that during fine weather I invariably found the wind blowing in the forenoon with a gentle breeze, which gradually increased to a smart gale, that died quite away by sunset. During the night there was either no wind, or else it blew in the contrary direction. This regular movement of the atmosphere no doubt has much to do with producing the regular daily rise and fall of the river.

TRADING IN THE TRANSVAAL.

White Customers Will Generally Be Treated, But the Blacks Are Regarded with Less Concern.

Ordinarily the Transvaal trading store is of galvanized iron, upon which the sun beats down with all its intensity, making the air within almost unbearable. But the trader does not mind this. Dressed in a pair of trousers, a light pair of shoes and a flannel shirt, he reclines on a convenient part of the counter, and with the aid of his pipe passes the time until a customer arrives. Should the customer be a white man, the storekeeper and he will as a rule enter into a little side room for a few minutes, and a bottle and a couple of glasses will be produced. Should he, on the other hand, be a negro, the trader will glance at him casually, and, without moving, will ask him what he wants. He does this because Kaffirs often want something which they know the storekeeper does not get. The shelves in the back of the shop are piled up with gaudy blankets, clothing of all descriptions, tinned goods, cloaks and vases, cheap jewelry, and various other commodities. Below these shelves are the bins where the sugar, flour, meal and coffee are kept. On one side are small shelves where patent medicines stand. Outside the door, on the stoop, are the agricultural implements, plows, harrows, new American inventions of all sizes and descriptions that are too big or too heavy to be easily carried away.

English Earn Little. Statistics just completed by the income tax commission of Great Britain show that out of a total adult population of 12,500,000 more than 10,000,000 earn less than \$860 a year. The income tax is collected at the rate of 16 cents on each \$5 above \$860, and the total tax, which last year amounted to more than \$100,000,000, was contributed by not more than 2,000,000 people.

NURSERY CARS.

Here is a Wall from a Bachelor Who Is Particular About Traveling Companions.

The innovation of a nursery car upon our railways—or, at any rate, upon the long-distance trains—would be an institution hailed with delight by all men and most women, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

How many men who do not themselves smoke invariably travel in a smoking carriage because there they feel more secure from an invasion of children and babies than in any other part of the train.

Babies form a class entirely by themselves in the category of unpleasant traveling companions, and there are probably few who at some time in their lives have not had experience of the noisy, sticky-fingered, peppermint-sucking, dear little children, who trample on your toes and deposit viscous, half-sucked gobs of taffy on your trousers in their endeavors to reach the window to put their heads out, whence they are promptly hauled back by anxious mothers or nurses, and cry; or the babies in arms who placidly assimilate milk from a bottle until jolt of the train makes them choke, having at that moment more nourishment than they can possibly deal with; or the inquiring child who plays with the hinges of the door until the guard slams it; or the child who is perpetually feeding, and throughout the journey sits in a semiprivate state sucking oranges, the all-pervading odor of which fills the carriage.

Babies are all very well, but a baby in a railway carriage, like a bull in a china shop, is out of place.

THEATRICAL SCENERY.

Stage Pictures Are Now Painted Upon Tough Brown Paper for Portability.

Except as regards the part that mechanism plays the scenic artists of Italy are the best in the world, as effective painters, and the fact is so well recognized in these days of almost all scenery being done by contract—a resident scenic artist is getting to be a rarity—that a great trade of this sort has sprung up between the painters of Italy and the managers everywhere.

And this is particularly so as regards companies that come to America. So heavy has been the cost of transporting tons of scenery, and so exacting have the customs officials been of late years, that the generality of managers at one time found it cheaper to have new scenes painted after they arrived. But the Italian system has largely done away with all this, for it includes the painting of the scenery on large sheets of a peculiarly tough sort of brown paper, these being numbered and joined together with unerring accuracy. A recent grand opera production in this country depended essentially upon these sheets of paper alone, and not even the oldest playgoer in the house could distinguish any peculiarity.

Of course, the sheets are spread upon canvas in the ordinary way and a "voucher-up" is required after they are spread, but the system is immensely useful when a new production is taken from one capital to another at a great distance, and the Italian artists are sending their sheets to managers all over the world.

BURIED ALIVE.

An Indian Woman Leper Sacrificed Herself, Hoping to Save Her Family.

One of those extraordinary cases that police work in India occasionally brings to light came to notice recently almost accidentally, in a district of the North-west provinces. Two constables, Nohbat Singh and Rup Ram, while patrolling their beat, overheard in conversation that a mali named Durba had murdered his wife. They took the man to the police station at once and he there stated before the officer in charge that his wife had been suffering from leprosy; that latterly the complaint had become worse, and that the woman had desired to be buried alive in order that her children should not inherit the disease. In compliance with her importunities he and his son dug a hole outside the village and buried the woman alive in it, four neighbors assisting them in covering the unhappy creature. The six accused have been arrested and have confessed to the deed before a magistrate. There seems to be no doubt about the truth of the story, that the woman sacrificed herself for the sake of her children and that her husband and those who had helped him acted in good faith. The superstition, however, that the self-immolation of a leper is a protection against the transmission of the taint would appear to be a very rare one.

His Abruptness Won.

A charming incident occurred during the recent visit of the princess of Wales to the London hospital. A little blind boy in Mellish ward was sitting on a chair and the princess, seeing him, went up to him and spoke to him. The chairman of the hospital, thinking it would be nice for the lad to know who had been speaking to him, said to him: "That lady who has been speaking to you was the princess of Wales; would you like to come up and make your bow to her and speak to her?" The boy was delighted and jumped off his chair. He was led up to the princess and she was told of his wish, to which she very readily acceded. The bow was made, and then came the speech: "How are you, miss?" a speech which was hardly expected, but which was answered by five minutes' conversation, and the boy returned to his chair proud and happy.

Four-Eyed Discovers.

A polite Chinaman considers it a breach of etiquette to wear spectacles in company.

LIVING ON THE WATER.

Some Families in New York Spend Their Time on Their Anchored Yachts.

A wet sheet and a flowing sea has nothing whatever to do with life aboard a yacht as exemplified in the Bay Ridge Yacht basin, in South Brooklyn, says the New York Herald. There are five or six yachts there, one of them a roomy schooner craft, which for various reasons are not in commission this summer. Nevertheless the owners and their families or their friends live and sleep on board. On one sleep are five young men, who go to a skyscraper building in Nassau street every morning and take out two or three vivacious typewriter girls when work is over to make the evenings merry. They rented the boat on condition that they would not take her outside the basin and hired a retired sea captain, who lives near the basin, to look after the boat during the day and to "mess" for them. They find it cheaper than paying board in the city, and ever so much pleasanter.

Three families wintered on yachts in the Bay Ridge basin last winter, and they enjoyed the experiment so much that they talk of trying it again. The blizzard and the rough weather had no terrors for them. One sleep, the Peri, was housed above decks, very much like those in the tales we read about Arctic expeditions. The families who lived in this way were on terms of sociability and visited every night for games and cards. They gave a boat party in January and their friends in Brooklyn who are given to assisting at social entertainments joined them in a modest little vaudeville.

When the basin was frozen solid one night they gave a skating party, with a piping hot supper below decks as a wind-up. There are still novelties about for people who know where to look for them.

CRIMINALITY OF THE SEXES.

Statistics Show That Women Are Not Men's Equals in Lawlessness.

In an article on "Women and the Emotions," by Prof. Mantegazza, in the Humanitarian, there are some interesting statistics showing that those modern sociologists who hold that women are men's equals in the field of criminality are wrong. Here are some of them: Man bears false witness 100 times to a woman's 17.

Man for forgery and counterfeit coin was convicted 100 times to a woman's 11. In France women are summoned before the tribunals four times less than men. In France in 1890 women delinquents were 14 to 100 men. In Italy in the same year they were only nine per cent.

In Algeria we have 96 male delinquents and only four women. In England and Wales between 1834 and 1842 there were 24 women to 100 men, all for the more serious offenses. In 1871 Dr. Nicholson found in the prisons in England 8,218 men and 1,217 women.

In Bavaria from 1863 to 1866, in a population consisting solely of peasants, the women who were condemned were in proportion 29 to 100 men. In the prisons of Turin from 1871 to 1884 the women in respect to men are represented by a figure of 13.67 per cent.

Taking the whole of Europe, women are, the professor says, five times less guilty than men.

LAZINESS OF KAFFIRS.

Natives Employed in Mines Will Not Work Unless Closely Watched.

R. Ruoff, who left the Transvaal last May for a tour of Europe and America, in regard to labor conditions in the Boer country, lately said to a reporter for the Detroit Tribune:

"One of the miners in the copper country will turn out as much work as five of our men. We have to employ Kaffir labor. Kaffirs are notoriously lazy, and they require constant supervision or they will quit work altogether. With every five Kaffirs one white man is employed. One hole drilled with a hand drill is considered a day's stint for a Kaffir. Although our employes do not get as much pay individually as the miners hereabout, yet labor costs us much more, because one of the copper country miners will do as much work as five Kaffirs.

"In Oom Paul's domain the natives are restricted by stringent laws. When a native is employed in the Transvaal he is given a pass upon his husband, and he is legally compelled to work for a specified length of time. If he deserts his employer he is arrested. When a native is seen on the streets or highways any white man has a right to demand an inspection of his pass. If he does not produce it, or there is ground for believing that he has not obtained permission from the employer to leave his work, he is taken into custody."

What Figs Owe to Insects.

The superior flavor of Smyrna figs is ascribed to certain Asiatic insects, which produce a more perfect fertilization of the flavors of the fig-trees in Asia Minor than is commonly effected in other countries. The flavor appears to depend upon the number of ripened seeds in the fruit. During the past year the department of agriculture has imported some of these insects from Asia into California, and it is hoped that they will multiply there and improve the flavor of American figs.

Foundations for Romance.

It will be discovered that the only foundation for the usual talk of a "romance" in a woman's life is that she sits and looks out of the window into the dark night when she should be darning stockings.

MISUSE OF A WORD.

"Trust" Was Once Used to Convey the Idea of Trusteehip and is Now Misappropriated.

The name trust, which is popularly applied to all these large aggregations of capital, was somewhat accidental in its origin, writes President Hadley, of Yale, in Scribner's. It is, however, an appropriateness which few persons realize. The managers of every consolidated enterprise, whether based on a contract, a trust agreement or an actual consolidation, are exercising powers to benefit or injure the public which are analogous to those of a trustee. It has been said that all property is, in its wider sense, a trust in behalf of the consumer. But where competition is active, the power of using your business methods to impose high prices is so far limited that the chance for abuse of this trust is greatly lessened.

It is only in the case of large combinations, with their discretionary power for good or evil, that the character of the trust reposed by society in the directors of its business enterprise makes itself really and truly felt. With these trusts, as with every other trust that deserves the name, it is hard to provide legislative machinery which will absolutely secure its fulfillment. The ability to handle any trust is the result of a long process of legal and moral education. We cannot make a law which shall allow the right exercise of a discretionary power and prohibit its wrong exercise. But it is possible to modify the existing law in a great many directions, which will hasten instead of retard the educational process. Thus far most of our statutory regulations have been in the wrong direction. We have attempted to prohibit the inevitable and have simply favored the use of underhanded and short-sighted methods of doing things which must be done openly if they are to be done well.

A PRINCE'S EDUCATION.

The Great-Grandson of Queen Victoria Is Getting to Be a Big Boy Now.

The present idol of the British public is Prince Edward of York, eldest son of the duke of York, grandson of the prince of Wales, great-grandson of Queen Victoria, and the heir in direct line of the crown of Great Britain. Prince Edward, having been born on June 23, 1894, is now well into his sixth year, and regards himself as quite a big boy, says Youth's Companion.

His brother Albert is a year younger, and the two princes have had, perhaps, their share, but no more, of brotherly "scraps." The duke of York is said not to have interfered with their small wars, saying that to "let them fight it out will make them better men." But he has interfered successfully with another weakness of Prince Edward.

It is customary for the royal children, in meeting the queen, to kiss her hand and not her cheek; but Prince Edward did not like to do this, and objected strenuously. One day he heard some one speak of "her majesty," said he: "It's just granny!"

"And who was the naughty little prince who would not kiss granny's hand?"

"That was me," said Prince Edward, unabashed, "and I'm not going to kiss granny's hand!"

But when he had arrived at the age of five he felt himself quite a man, and began to do as other men did—kissed the queen's hand and always doffed his cap in her presence.

FREIGHT BY TROLLEY.

Utility of the Innovation Is Being Fully Demonstrated at the City of Toledo, Ohio.

The utility of the rural trolley line as a freight road is receiving very full demonstration at Toledo. The managers of a suburban line there have devised a trolley truck on which a loaded farm wagon can be readily placed. The axles of the wagon setting in sockets which hold it firmly in place. The farmers are using this style of transportation when teaming is bad. Recently, on a day when the roads were in very bad shape, one train that reached the city included 87 sacks of clover seed and two wagon loads of basswood lumber.

The farmers sending this shipment lived 15 miles from Toledo and stated that, with the roads in the condition they were then in, the seed would have made at least three ordinary wagon loads. This would have been equivalent to 270 miles' travel for one driver and two horses. With the trolley service the haulage was accomplished in one hour, at a cost of six dollars per wagon from the shipping point to the delivery point. Such advantages, especially in regions where roads are usually in poor condition, will naturally give an impetus to the construction of rural electric lines. The advantages of shipping the wagons without loading or unloading at either end of the line are obvious.

Progressive Japan.

Japan, not to be behind European states in civilization, is going to send out an arctic expedition. The reason given is that, if Japan is ever to compete with England on the seas, it must develop in the Japanese the spirit of adventure and discovery which has made the English powerful. The only places left to be discovered are the north and south poles.

Paper Tiles.

An eastern firm is turning out large quantities of paper tiles which are used for roofing. They are reported to be hard and tough, and the glazing appears to be of the nature of Japanese lac. They are said to be exceedingly cheap, and can be fashioned in any color or shape to suit the purchaser.