

SLOW-BURNING POWDER.

A Description of the Brown Prismatic Powder and the Way it is Loaded in Charges.

E. B. Rogers, of the United States navy, contributes an article on "Big Guns and Armor of Our Navy" to the August St. Nicholas. Mr. Rogers says: Black powder, with its glistening grains, is unfitted for our modern guns, because it explodes too quickly, and when the charge is fired it turns almost instantaneously into gas, exerting immediately all its force, which, of course, decreases when the shot moves toward the muzzle, because the gas has more room (that is, the inside of the gun) to expand in.

But nowadays what is called "slow-burning" powder is used. When it is ignited the projectile first moves slowly; but as the powder continues burning, the quantity of gas, and consequently the pressure, is constantly increasing; thus the speed of the shot becomes greater as it goes out of the gun. Sometimes grains of powder still burning are thrown out when the gun is fired, which shows how slowly it ignites.

This new powder is brown, and it is made up into hexagonal, or six-sided pieces, with holes through their centers. A mass of it looks exactly like a lot of rusty iron nails. Each of these grains, or "prisms," is about the size of a large walnut, and when the charge is made up the prisms are nicely piled, and over the pile is drawn a white serge bag. The white bag is a "powder section," and contains 110 pounds of brown powder; and five of these make up the full or "service" charge for the great 13-inch rifle, whose projectile is two-thirds as tall as an ordinary man, and is larger and weighs more than many of the very cannons themselves with which Admiral Nelson fought the battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

EGGS NO HEN EVER SAW.

Factories in Europe Manufacture Them Out of Starch and Other Things.

Much has been written of the art of adulteration, says an eminent analyst; but there is very little general knowledge of the extent to which foods are built up chemically, and successfully palmed off on customers as material products.

It will be a shock to many to learn that millions of eggs which have been bought and eaten as products of the hen have no connection with that useful fowl.

There are factories in England and on the continent where these "oviform frauds" are produced at the rate of many thousands a day, as simply and yet mysteriously as so many sausages.

The yolk is first quickly fashioned by machinery, from a mixture of maize, starch and one or two other ingredients, colored with ochre. The yellow sphere is then placed in another "box of mystery," when the white part of the egg is added.

The resultant ball is frozen and molded into the requisite oval shape again by machinery. It is then immersed in a third vat, which contains plaster of paris, and emerges with a shell which quickly assumes all the hardness and appearance of a genuine eggshell.

The process of thawing quickly reduces the contents of the shell to the consistency of a new-laid egg, and the artificial result is ready for the breakfast table, or any of the uses to which eggs are put.

These "eggs" can be profitably manufactured to sell at prices ranging from four to twelve cents a dozen, and are retailed at prices which yield nothing up to 100 per cent profit.

SAID HE COULD GO.

The Patriotic Wife of an Army Man Reconsiders Her Former Determination.

A touching little story is told of Mrs. Waldeck, wife of Capt. William A. H. Waldeck, of the Seventh United States volunteer regiment of immigrants. Capt. Waldeck was for 18 years with Holland's army in the East Indies. Eight years ago he was given leave of absence by his government, and he spent some of his play time in a metropolis of America. At Detroit he met Miss Amelia Theresa Cousins, who subsequently became his wife. Before accepting him Miss Cousins made it a condition of their marriage that he should leave the army. He complied with the condition and became an American. When the war with Spain broke out the desire to return to his old profession of war and to serve his adopted country became very strong, and his wife did not oppose his wishes.

Mrs. Waldeck accompanied her husband to Washington to procure his commission. On meeting Col. E. A. Goodwin, of the Seventh volunteers, there, she held his hand in both of hers, and looking earnestly at the colonel, said: "Col. Goodwin, I was the cause of my husband leaving the regiment in which he served 18 years, and I feel that it is my duty, now that my country is at war with Spain, to give him back his promise and let him follow his old profession as a soldier. I only hope that I shall see him in life again."

SOUTH SEA ISLAND CUSTOMS.

Some Peculiarities of Love Making and Marriage Among the Fiji Islanders and Others.

One would imagine that love making in Fiji was a very tame affair from the fact that marriages are often arranged while those most nearly concerned are still in their infancy. However, courtship is quite as interesting anywhere else, and it has some peculiar features, says the Chicago Times-Herald.

Cupid's happy hunting ground is generally a garden or a plantation, and on a moonlight evening he is generally pretty busy. At that time, high up in the branches of the bread fruit trees, those who have eyes to see may spy a pair of human love birds perched on the branches 40 feet or so from the ground. Fijian etiquette seems to demand that the fair one and her lover should occupy different branches, and should be separated by the trunk of the tree—this, at any rate, is the usual custom.

"Spare the bite and spoil the child," would probably be the South Sea islander's rendering of the wise man's saying, for she knew nothing of the use of the rod as a means of correction. Instead of punishing her offspring in ways known to European mothers, she pulls hair and bites some part of its body, generally selecting the fleshy part of its arm for the purpose. Thus it happens that travelers note among little South Sea islanders many bearing wounds or scars which have been produced by the mother's teeth.

The mode of caress is as queer as that of punishment. It is either to gently take hold of the child's neck with the teeth, or to pass the thumb deftly over its eyebrow or cheek.

PROBLEMS IN BUILDING.

The Settling of Huge Structures Must Always Be Carefully Provided for Before Erection.

Next to the strength of materials the distance that a building of a given weight will settle into the ground is perhaps the most serious question presented to the Chicago architects, says the Chronicle of that city. Such settlements vary with the character of the ground, and calculations of great nicety must be made to insure the future stability of the structure. Thousands of people have noticed the enormous slant of certain downtown sidewalks without understanding the result.

The explanation is simple. The large paving stones are solidly attached to the structure and settle with it. The architect has made most minute calculations, and when the continued pressure of the large building has packed the earth beneath it to the greatest possible extent the great flagstones will have descended to exactly the right incline for a proper drainage.

It has been a thousand times remarked that tall buildings in Chicago have been gradually crowding their more humble neighbors out of existence, and in some instances this is proving literally, as well as figuratively, true. The natural settling of tall airy buildings sometimes imparts a lateral movement to less heavy adjoining foundations, more or less seriously affecting the superstructure.

SHORE CARGOES SHIFTED.

How Truckloads Are Shaken Over by Continued Jolting in the Same Direction.

Once in awhile we read, says the New York Sun, that the ship So-and-so or the steamer So-and-so has returned to port, or has arrived, perhaps, with a decided list, cargo shifted. Sometimes we see a land craft, a truck, with cargo shifted—a big pile of boxes, towering high, shaken over to one side or the other by continued jolting along on the side of the street on the slope. A load thus shifted can't be shaken back by running along on the opposite slope of the road; it is like a stick of wood that has been bent and kept bent till the grain is set; whatever you do with it the crook stays in.

If care is exercised in turning corners and in navigating generally, the shifted load can usually be carried to its destination as it is without upsetting. It is, however, a fact that, just what can be done with it, and whether it has shifted far as it will go, and all that. If it is so badly shifted as to make the operation of the truck difficult or dangerous, he hauls to one side by the curb and anchors, that is to say he halts and unloads the shifted portion of his cargo and then reloads and makes every thing trim and secure and sets out again.

Jubilee of Austria's Emperor.

On December 2 next the Austrian emperor will have completed the fiftieth year of his reign and the event will be commemorated in a fitting manner. The jubilee will begin on November 30, when there will be a procession of imperial and royal personages from the Hofburg to St. Stephen's cathedral, where a grand Te Deum will be sung. The following day there will be a court dinner, a dinner for all the generals of the Austro-Hungarian army and a gala performance at the imperial opera.

An Artificial Sea Breeze.

One of the features of a new hospital building in Berlin is to be a large room in which patients suffering from lung diseases can breathe air artificially impregnated with salt.

Old Polly in Connecticut.

Connecticut claims a parrot 118 years old. It has been for 100 years in one family, having descended from father to son through two or three generations.

NEWS READINGS IN DAWSON.

An Enterprising Man Who Made \$300 by Reading to the Miners All About the Maine.

Claude Smith tells a novel story about the way the news of the blowing up of the Maine was received in Dawson City. An enterprising Yankee got hold of the first copy of a newspaper containing the account. He made arrangements for getting the news abroad in this businesslike fashion, says the Portland Oregonian.

Reading a vacant saloon building, he caused bulletins to be issued giving an inkling of the news that had been received, "most judiciously worded, and announcing that the full account would be read in public in the evening in the mammoth one-story log edifice next the Blue River drive on Brimstone street; admission, two pennyweights of gold ranging in value from \$1.50 to \$1.75.

At the appointed time the miners gathered to hear the news, and 200 or more of them tossed their gold dust into the doorkeeper's scales and crowded inside. The reading was satisfactory, no grumbling about the investment. No less than \$300, and probably much more, was realized from that idea. The reader was a liberal sort of chap, and he read the other news in the paper merely as a courtesy to the assembly.

This practice grew as the nation neared war, and after the war began, and it is a frequent occurrence for a public reading of important news to be given in Dawson at so much per head for admission. And the cooped-up men pay for nothing more cheerfully than for war news. Their liberality in this matter is sometimes taken advantage of, and stale stuff palmed off for news, and even the Dawson City public is discriminating in this particular, and is strongly disposed to resent the swindle.

MAN OF SCIENCE TO THE CATS.

Bomb Invented by a German for the Benefit of Victims of Nocturnal Concerts.

Germany has made another important contribution to the field of invention. This time a man of science, who, presumably, occupies a bedroom in the rear of a city house, has invented a bomb to be thrown at nocturnal cats. The bomb is of about the size of a baseball and will explode with a loud noise upon forcible contact, but is warranted perfectly harmless to humans.

The innovation promises great relief and satisfaction to sufferers, and a mighty saving in books and crockery. Many a tooth mug has been shivered into bits on the back fence, and there are persons who are afraid to keep small books in their rooms because of the tempting fitness of such volumes for missiles. Apples or oranges covertly stolen from the dinner table are first-rate ammunition; but, unquestionably, the bomb fills a long-felt want. Even if one's aim is inaccurate and one doesn't hit the cat, the bomb is bound to hit something and make a racket.

Pessimists say that after the first experience the noise will not make the slightest impression upon the screamer, and that exploding bombs will only add to the suffering of the neighbors. The harmlessness of the bomb is in the law, says this vindictive paper, and the only way to stop a cat concert is to massacre all the performers. But the German professor insists that his bomb is a boon to humanity and it certainly would provide more exciting entertainment than the ordinary missile.

BIG LOTTERY IN SPAIN.

The Government Will Try to Raise \$100,000,000 for Pressing Needs by the Scheme.

Under the auspices of the Spanish government a great lottery scheme has been launched in Madrid, the receipts of which, minus the prizes, will be turned over to the government for its most pressing needs. It is thought, says the New York Times, that by September the salaries of civil and military servants recently suspended can then be made good. Circulars are being sent out all over Europe, and it is expected that 500,000,000 pesetas, or about \$100,000,000, will be netted by the government. There are five capital prizes of 500,000 pesetas each. The lottery is not new to Spain, but the Spanish lottery of Europe, investors preferring to take their chances with the Dutch or Prussian lotteries. The Spanish lottery in 1887 brought the treasury 3,000,000 pesetas. In the same year the Portuguese lottery gained 1,750,000 mireds (nearly \$2,000,000). The lottery is authorized in other countries of Europe. In Italy last year the government gained 62,000,000 lire (\$12,400,000), showing that the poor lazzarone was not without his savings.

In Holland the official lotteries gained \$300,000; in Denmark the winnings amounted to about \$600,000 more. But the Prussian lottery, which is annually operated under the direct authority of the state, is the most popular. There are a number of prizes of 500,000 marks every year, and in 1897 the receipts of the treasurer amounted to over 100,000,000 marks.

Mine Burned Fifty Years.

Accomplished in Scotland which caught fire over 50 years ago, and has been burning ever since, has at last burned itself out. The mine is on the Dalquharran estate, Dally. It was set on fire by the engines which worked the fans, and although many costly attempts have been made to extinguish it they have been unsuccessful.

Puerto Rico's Rank in Philippines.

Puerto Rico ranks fourth in the Greater Antilles, having first place, however, in density of population and general prosperity.

Bulletin-Financier.

Mardi, 4 octobre 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

MARCHE MONETAIRE.

MARCHE DE LA NIE-ORLEANS.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 4 octobre 1898.

MARCHE DE LA NIE-ORLEANS.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

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