

ASTOR'S INVENTION OF VALUE

New York Millionaire Has Added Another to His Long List of Achievements.

Col. John Jacob Astor has invented many ingenious devices, the latest of which is thus described by the Scientific American:

"Many people in crossing the ocean have experienced inconvenience by reason of the fact that the chairs in the saloon and cardrooms are rigidly screwed to the floor. The chairs are secured at such a distance from the tables that they will accommodate persons of very ample proportions and therefore when a comparatively thin person occupies a chair he finds it necessary to sit merely on the edge, for should he endeavor to lean back in the chair he finds himself too far from the table.

"While recently returning from Europe Col. John Jacob Astor conceived of a very simple and practical scheme whereby the chairs may be firmly held in place at any desired distance from the tables or may be easily released and moved about. Col. Astor's scheme involves the use of a vacuum cup beneath the chair and so mounted that it may be pressed into engagement with the deck or floor to hold the chair by suction, or the vacuum may be broken, the cup lifted and the chair released.

"If the chair is on a deck or hardwood floor or on rubber tiling the vacuum will hold indefinitely, while if used on a carpet it will probably be necessary to depress the cup and raise it again occasionally to form a new vacuum. Col. Astor intends to present this invention to the public, as has been his custom with all his recent inventions."

EXAMPLE OF LAWS DELAY

Case That Went Its Way Through New York Courts for Twenty Weary Years.

A grimly humorous illustration of one of the results to the litigant may be found in a New York law suit which reached a final chapter recently in the court of appeals, says the Atlantic. It was a complex case against an insurance company on some points of insurance, and each time it was tried it took from a week to two weeks' attention of court and jury. Owing to reversals and new trials ordered by appellate courts, it had to be tried nine times. It was in the courts from 1882 to 1902. The plaintiff became at last so sick and disheartened with his interminable law suit that he abandoned it, refused to go to his lawyers to consult with them about it or to appear when the case was being tried. The lawyers had themselves spent over \$4,500 on fighting the case, and had worked on it for nearly twenty years. Their client having abandoned them, they settled the case for \$30,000, and took the money themselves for their fee. The last chapter of the litigation was an unsuccessful attempt by the receiver in insolvency of the plaintiff to make the lawyers give up some of their fee to their clients' creditors. How much the twenty years' delay in the law suit had to do with that insolvency it is impossible to say; but such an outcome to the law suit, seems hardly satisfactory as a result of twenty years of litigation, of nine trials, and seventy-two days' time of over a hundred jurors.

The Football Spirit.

Ambassador David J. Hill, crossing from Germany on the George Washington, said in the smokeroom of the steamer that he would be glad to spend his Thanksgiving at home. Then, apropos of Thanksgiving day, Dr. Hill told a story on the subject of football.

"At a Thanksgiving day game at Bucknell," he said, "you know I'm a Bucknell man—a beautiful girl in emblems and black velvet uttered a low cry of horror.

"My brother! My poor brother!" she moaned, as a halfback was carried unconscious from the field.

"Ah, but how thankful we should be!" her escort, an old player, cried, gaily.

"Thankful! Thankful for what?" exclaimed the girl.

"Thankful that it wasn't the fullback," said he. "We haven't a decent fullback sub, you know."

Girl's Odd Way of Making Money.

Raising Japanese spaniels is the way one Connecticut farmer's daughter has solved the problem of earning money while remaining at home, and helping with the housework. She cleared \$200 the first year and almost double that amount the second and she looks forward to doing still better in 1910.

She learned that the best way to get the dogs was to buy them from sailors, who picked them up in Japan and brought them to America for the sake of making money. The highest price she has received so far has been \$100 for pups about as perfect as the most fastidious exhibitor could demand. The lowest price was \$21 for a female of no striking excellence, though she was unmistakably pure bred.

Women Composers.

Lovers of "In a Persian Garden" and other song cycles will have an opportunity to welcome their composer, Liza Lehmann, whose presence will once more raise the question: "Can women compose?" They are trying hard enough, beyond all doubt; indeed, the publishers say there are now more women who compose than men.—H. T. French in the Independent.

MADE BLUNDER DOUBLY BAD

Young Man's Effort to Retrieve Error Only Resulted in Getting Him in Deeper.

An amusing case was that of Sir Edward Thornton, once British ambassador to the United States, and Judge Poland of Vermont. At a wedding in Washington a young man went up to Judge Poland, greeted him and held out his hand.

"I fear," said the judge, "that you have the advantage of me."

"Is it possible," asked the young man, "that you don't remember seeing me with my father in Mexico?"

"I don't recollect ever being in Mexico."

"Why, surely you are Sir Edward Thornton?"

"By no means. I am Judge Poland of Vermont."

A week or so later the baffled young man caught sight of Judge Poland, as he thought, and determined to smooth over his recent blunder. "That was an awkward mistake of mine the other night," he said, "my taking you for old Thornton."

"And, pray, for whom do you take me now?" was the query.

"Why, Judge Poland of Vermont, of course."

"My name is Thornton!" thundered the ambassador, turning on his heel.—Sunday Magazine of the Pittsburg Dispatch.

BETWEEN LOVE AND DUTY

Hoboken Cook True to Father Though It Meant Losing Her.

Police Commissioner Baker of New York, anent a policeman who had made a particularly daring and successful arrest, said:

"He got his man by working out his clew with daring logic. He didn't let any timidity stand in his way. He didn't out of false delicacy, hesitate like the Hoboken cook.

"A Hoboken man whose hen roost had been robbed said to his cook: 'See here, Lily, sleeping as close to the henhouse as you do, didn't you hear those chicken thieves last night?'

"Lily hesitated. Then she stammered: 'Yes, sir. I certainly did hear them chickens hollerin', and I heard men's voices.'

"Why in thunder, then, didn't you do something?'

"Lily burst into tears. 'Oh,' she sobbed, 'I knowed my old poppy was out there in that hen coop, and I wouldn't have had him think I'd lost confidence in him for all the chickens in the world.'

College for India's Girls.

The new dormitory for the Lucknow College for Girls is to be erected as a memorial to Lilavati Singh, who at the time of her death was president of the college. Miss Singh was the only native teacher in the Lucknow college. As a student early in her career she refused a missionary scholarship because she preferred to earn her own education, though at the time she was supporting several younger relatives. In 1895 she took an A. M. degree with honors at the University of Allahabad. Four years later she came to America with Miss Thornburn, whose school in Lucknow she had entered when less than ten. Here she helped to raise upward of \$20,000 for educational work among women of India. In 1907 she was sent to Japan as the Indian delegate of the Y. W. C. A. to the Students' Christian federation conference at Tokyo. The new dormitory is erected by money contributed by her friends, the bulk coming from America.

Sweet and Profitable.

Forbes Robertson, the English actor, motored on a beautiful October afternoon through the suburbs of New York.

Mr. Forbes Robertson's host lamented the advertisements which concealed the landscape. A majestic rock was covered with a red and white pill proclamation. A pastoral valley was crowded with blue and green sign boards. Even the sparkling blue of the autumnal sky was sullied by toy balloons proclaiming the incomparable merit of a ten-cent tea.

"Sweet," said Mr. Forbes Robertson, embracing the scent with a wave of the hand—"sweet are the uses of advertisement."

Maidenly Modesty.

Ren Wolf has the following "Modesty Note" in his entertaining column in the New York Morning Telegraph: Gertrude Hoffmann of Salome dance fame stood huddled up in a doorway opposite the Times building yesterday afternoon.

"What are you doing here?" inquired a friend.

"Why," replied Miss Hoffman, "I wanted to cross the street, but the wind blew my skirts up so high that I became ashamed and ran in here to escape."

Handicap of Cerberus.

Pluto was bragging of his three-headed dog.

"But," they pointed out, "it would eat too much for arctic exploring."

Herewith he decided to stick to his own climate.

Unidentified.

Mrs. Trout—Have you found any trace of poor dear Speckles?

Mr. Trout—No, I've read all the papers that fell overboard, but nobody has caught anything under five pounds.

FAMOUS ABBEY OF SOLESMES

Treasures of Centuries with Ancient House to Be Sold—Art-Lovers Mourn.

One of the most famous of the religious houses in France is about to be sold. It is the Benedictine abbey of Solesmes, and what makes the sale regrettable is that the treasures, collected with such care during so many ages, are to be dispersed in the literal sense, for they are to be sold separately. The abbey is a magnificent feudal dwelling full of artistic wonders. It is of the pure style of the thirteenth century, situated about a mile and a quarter from the little town of Sarthe. There are 60 hectares of land belonging to the priory, a hectare being two acres one rod 34 perches, upon which the monks have bestowed all their energy. Below flows the listless Sarthe, and in the distance can be seen the little tower of Sablé parish church, pointing to the skies. Within the precincts the first object to note is the chapel, dating from and for the most part of the thirteenth century, completed in the sixteenth and seventeenth. The majestic arches are above, in somber niches are priceless sculptures, and the windows, a Paris contemporary tells us, says the London Globe, must be seen to form an idea of their beauty. The statuary is said to form some of the finest specimens of the renaissance period. The oldest and finest piece is "Mise au Tombeau," attributed to Fiesole. Another piece is "La Sepulture de la Vierge," about the end of the sixteenth century, a purely French conception. Among the other artistic triumphs showered upon the visitor are "Le Trespasement de Notre Dame," "Le Triomphe de Marie" and "Jesus parmi les Docteurs."

UPSETS THEORY OF LOMBROSO

Interesting Discovery of French Scientist Concerning the Arms of Criminals.

According to Dr. Lombroso, the criminal is a creature whose characteristics approach those of the anthropoid ape. One of the chief points in the chimpanzee, the gorilla and the rest is the enormous length of their arms, all of them having arms which reach below the knees. Therefore we should expect the criminal to be distinguished by the length of his arm, and the question being one of some interest, Dr. Charles Perrier, a French medical man, undertook to examine into it. He conducted his investigations in the provincial prison at Nimes, and has just published some very curious results. He discovered that the great majority of prisoners have arms which are rather shorter than those of the rest of the population, a fact which seems completely to upset the theory of Dr. Lombroso. But the objection was made that criminals are all sorts and kinds, and that some distinction must be made between them. Dr. Perrier, therefore, classified his subjects, and found that the ordinary criminal, whose offenses against the state are those of cunning usually has short arms, but that murderers and those who commit crimes of violence have arms which approximate to those of the ordinary man. It would seem, therefore, that the criminal is a short-armed, and not a long-armed man. It is a curious fact that colmers have remarkably short arms.

Balacava Veterans.

The annual dinner of the Balacava veterans, the survivors of the "Six Hundred," is always an event of the London autumn. London counts the number that assemble to answer the rollcall. This year there were present 41 men, all troopers, who followed Cardigan in the great charge which he himself pronounced either a "mad-brained trick" or "a great blunder"—for bystanders differed as to the form of his characterization. When the remnants of the Light Brigade were mustered at the close of the action it was found that 113 officers and men had been killed and 134 wounded out of the 673 who had entered the fray. That of those whose Russian weapons did not slay 11 should be able 55 years later to pledge a cup to the memory of their old commander is evidence that the chances of longevity are not shut against even the participants in the most desperate of encounters.

Wild Dogs in Georgia.

E. M. Williamson at Southerland, the old home of Gen. John B. Gordon, reports that the wild dogs made a raid on his place, a few nights ago and killed eight fine hogs, two cats, all his chickens and several large turkeys.

The dogs have been roaming about the neighborhood for several weeks. They appear to gather at night, just like a pack of wolves, and make raids on farms and truck gardens where there is poultry or live stock. Steps are being taken to hunt the dogs and kill them.—Atlanta Constitution.

Florida Town's War on Sparrows.

Orlando has done one thing that every town of prominence has failed on, and that is to keep out the English sparrow, says the Orlando Reporter-Star. These pests are distributed all over the country in box cars, where they go to feed and are shut in, so when the car is opened in another town they simply fly out, like any other tramp or hobo.

Orlando has managed to keep them out successfully, that now when freight trains stop in Orlando with them on board the conductors of the freights say they refuse to get off.

SIGHS FOR GOOD OLD DAYS

Will Carleton's Fond Recollections of Mother's Good-Night Ministrations.

Will Carleton, poet, author of "Farm Ballads," "City Ballads" and other ballads and poems too numerous to enumerate, was toastmaster at the recent dinner given by the Canadian Camp in the Hotel Astor. His poetic fancy couldn't be denied, and he was in the midst of a comparison of the deep woods and solitude with the gay lights of Broadway before his auditors knew it, and the advantage, according to Mr. Carleton, lay entirely with the wilderness.

"Art is a struggle toward the infinite," he declared, "but, unlike nature, will never burn its bridge. Nature will struggle on and on fearlessly, confident of itself—Yes, nature has the call, and man is ever crying 'Back to nature!'

"I recall the story of a man who wished himself a boy again back on the New England farm. 'I wish,' said he, 'that I could go back 40 years and as a boy, go to my dear old mother and have her put me to bed, after making me kneel down and say, 'Now I lay me, and then tuck me in. And it would not be the real thing unless she gave me the sincere cuff on the side of the head with the admonition, 'Now, Jimmy, don't let me hear anything from you till morning! Oh, those were the good, old days.'"

STRANGE PAINTINGS IN CAVE

No One Yet Has Been Able to Decipher Their Meaning—Must Be Centuries Old.

The old Indian cave recently discovered about two miles from Cliffs, Wash., has been visited by many persons during the last few weeks. There are a large number of Indian paintings on the interior walls of the cave, but so far no one seeing them has been able to decipher any meaning. The cave has a sand floor, which seems very strange, as it is one of the highest cliffs, which is practically all rock in the surroundings. The sand must have been carried there, where it forms a level floor.

Some of the visitors have dug into this floor, hoping to find some hidden treasures, but so far nothing has been reported, although holes more than three feet deep have been dug into the sand.

The cave is large enough to make shelter for 250 to 300 persons standing, and no doubt was a valuable asset to the Indian tribe that made it. Part of the cave appears to be of a natural cavity made by the disintegrated lava rock, while a good portion of it must have been worked out in a crude way by human hands 1,000 or more years ago.

There is still another wonder that produces thought for study as to its probable use, and that is a window carved through the cliff rocks about 15 rods from the cave. This window is about a foot wide by three feet in height.

The Mecca of the Fat.

Marlenbad is a place of special interest to English people, for King Edward has now deserted Hamburg, where for so many years he did his summer cure, and every August sees him installed in the Church square at Marlenbad and prepared to follow out the somewhat severe regime of the place.

Twenty years ago this famous watering place was scarcely known to foreign people, although it is nearly a century since it was visited by so great a man as Goethe. The springs are owned by the Abbey of Tepl, a large monastery some miles away, and the good brothers evidently did not understand the art of advertisement, for the place remained practically unknown outside German speaking countries until recent times. But doctors began to find out how useful its waters were to the man who loved his dinner and to the lady whose figure had lost its lines, and nowadays it has become the Mecca of the fat.—Wide World Magazine.

Watch Recovered from River.

John Norris, a former chief constable of Coventry, was the possessor of a historical Tay Bridge watch, says the London Standard. This was engraved with a view of the Tay Bridge and was inscribed as follows: "The Tay Bridge Disaster, December, 1879. This watch lay in the River Tay for six weeks; it stopped at the time of the accident, remained silent many days, started again and worked nine hours under water."

It was a gold keyless lever which had been lent to Mr. Beynan, an artist of Cheltenham, who was drowned. A charge of dynamite was afterward used with a view to raising the body from the river, and this doubtless started the watch again.

A Popular Floor.

Whenever the colored man who runs the elevator in a New York store feels particularly frisky he announces the third floor in this fashion: "Third floor—waists, dresses, alterations and complaints, particularly complaints."

Since a fair proportion of the passengers who get off at that floor are there for the purpose of registering complaints, they smile upon him benignantly for anticipating their needs.

In the Came Class.

The following appears outside a clothing store in New York: "American and theatrical outfits." Evidently for those who dress to amuse!

POISONOUS DRUGS STOP PAIN

Government Warns of Many Dangers in Use of Mixtures Prepared for Relieving Headaches.

Washington.—Since the passage of the food and drugs act of 1906 the attention of the department of agriculture has been repeatedly directed to the general sale and use of harmful headache mixtures. These complaints led the department to make a very thorough investigation, with the result that a warning to the public against the use of the headache medicines on the market has been issued. The investigation was conducted along two lines: An inquiry was addressed to physicians throughout the United States with regard to their personal experience with so-called headache drugs in the practice of their profession. Nearly a thousand letters, each containing 18 questions, were received. A study was made of the cases of poisoning recorded in medical literature. The results of this investigation brought out the information that there are of record 814 cases of poisoning by these drugs, 29 of which proved fatal.

The department's warning points out that acetanilid, antipyrin and phenacetin are very commonly used in the preparation of mixtures intended for the relief of headaches and other minor aches and pains. In urging persons not to use these drugs unless they are prescribed by a physician, the department says that the drugs affect principally the heart and circulation and through them other parts of the body. The three drugs, according to the warning, were after their discovery for a long time used exclusively for the reduction of fever, but as time went on they were employed less and less for this purpose, because of their weakening effects. They gradually came to be used more and more as a remedy against pain. At present they are extensively advertised and sold to be used in this way largely and in the form of patent medicines.

The department says that the public does not seem to realize that these drugs are poisons in the true sense of the word. So the advice of a fatherly government is if you have a headache consult a physician and do not go to the corner drug store and buy a headache powder.

PUT BAN ON SCHOOL FLIRTS

Cause of Truancy Traced by a Pennsylvania Educator After Much Investigation.

Shenandoah, Pa.—A personal investigation of a truant led Prof. J. W. Cooper, superintendent of the public schools, to dive further into the case and to learn that there was flirtation and love-making going on among the pupils of the higher grades, which was the subject of his address before the local institute of the 77 school teachers.

To break up flirtation and love-making among the co-eds of the Shenandoah high school he urged the teachers to use the dart of ridicule. He said it was the teacher's most effective weapon in dealing with such silliness. These flirtations led to truancy, which had affected the morals of the high school.

Henceforth co-eds must not indulge in roguish smiles, amorous glances or in making eyes, under pain of being punished by the shafts of ridicule, administered by a member of the faculty in the presence of the whole school.

Superintendent Cooper has enlisted the ministers of the various denominations, the chief burgess and police in a crusade against couples "spooning" in public.

TO PICTURE MIDDIES' BONES

Radiographs to Be Taken at Annapolis Academy as a Contribution to Scientific Theory.

Annapolis, Md.—Midshipmen will shortly be allowed to offer radiograph pictures of their joints as a contribution to science, as an order is about to be issued by the navy department that there shall be a thorough testing of "Kotch's system" for determining of ages by means of radiographs of the ends of the bones, the midshipmen being used as subjects.

It is explained that there is a portion of the ends of bones which in youth are held to the shafts by cartilaginous substance only, but which in adults become part of the bone. It is claimed by the founder of the system that radiographs of the ends of bones offer an accurate method of determining the ages of the subjects.

Statistics which it is thought will be useful in enforcing child labor laws, detecting fraudulent enlistments, etc. are to be gathered by the examination of the midshipmen.

Hunter's Paradise.

Washington.—Vice Consul W. R. Dorsey, at Shanghai, reports that the Yangtze river valley is alive with game. Hornless deer and pheasants are especially plentiful. Snipe are so common that they are not noticed. In winter the stream is "literally black with wild water-fowl."

Many Apples on Trees.

Grand Junction, Col.—W. R. Johnson this week picked 56 boxes of Red Lawyer apples from a single tree, setting a new record. Each box weighed 60 pounds, a total of one and two-thirds tons of fruit, more than a single horse could haul to market. The single tree's yield is worth \$100.

BLINDED BIRDS SING

Needle Inserted Back of Eye Destroys Optic Nerve.

Laborer Prosecuted in London Police Court by Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for Operating on Chaffinches.

London.—How birds are cruelly blinded with needles in order to make them sing better was told at the Lambeth police court.

Extraordinary revelations were made regarding the practice, and as a result a laborer named Frederick Collins of Sultan street, Camberwell, was sentenced to three months' hard labor—the extreme penalty under the wild birds in captivity act.

Collins, who gave his age as 56, appeared before A. A. Hopkins charged with ill treating two chaffinches by blinding them, between October 1 and 15.

In prosecuting on behalf of the R. S. P. C. A., S. G. Polhill said that a practice existed among some men of catching wild birds and blinding them, the reason being that the birds thus treated were supposed to be better songsters.

Owing to the secrecy observed by these men, it was difficult for the society to gain admission to a room where the birds happened to be. It was only lately that they had succeeded in doing so.

Great skill, said Mr. Polhill, was shown by the men engaged in this cruel practice of blinding birds, because they did not wish to burst the eyeballs. A needle is inserted in such a way as to destroy the optic nerve.

After a while the wound healed up and the birds, which had, of course, suffered intense pain in the operation, adapted themselves to their sightless condition in a wonderful way.

They found their way about the cages in the most natural way, and the ordinary observer would be unable to say that there was anything the matter with them.

Inspector Wilmot of the R. S. P. C. A. described how he was introduced to Collins in Waltham on Sunday, October 17. The conversation turned on birds, and Collins said he understood that Wilmot wanted some.

"I've got two ready for you," said Collins, "and you can have them if you wait until I have sold three lots."

The inspector, who was in plain clothes, accompanied Collins to his house in Sultan street, Camberwell, and was taken upstairs to an apartment practically full of birds of the chaffinch kind.

"After showing me several chaffinches, all of which were blinded," said Inspector Wilmot, "he showed me the two which form the subject of the charge. One, he said, he had caught at Croydon, and the other just outside Orpington. I put 'em through it—right out," said Collins.

"What do you mean by 'right out'?" asked the inspector.

"Blinding," was Collins' reply, "but it is a dangerous word to use. If I was given away it would mean three months. I played the game on 'em last Friday week. This one (pointing to the Croydon bird), has just got over it."

Collins admitted to the inspector that he had blinded the birds himself. "I have been at the game 20 years," he said.

"I tested the two birds," continued the inspector in his evidence, "by passing my hand in front of them. Neither of them moved, and both were undoubtedly blind. I noticed that there were at least eight other chaffinches, also blind, hanging in cages in the room. I bought the two for 30 cents each."

They had a drink at a neighboring public house and Collins had cider. "I see you are a teetotaler," was the inspector's comment.

"Yes, at my game you have to be," said Collins in reply, "as you want a steady hand with the needle."

"It is a cruel thing to do," said the inspector, "whereupon Collins remarked: 'Others do it, and others have not the heart to do it.'

A. C. Plesse, a veterinary surgeon, said he found both birds totally blind. A needle inserted at the back of the eye would pierce the optic nerve and artery, thus bringing about the local conditions he observed in these two birds.

"The operation," said Mr. Plesse, "would be extremely painful. The pain would last for some days, due to neuritis supervening upon the operation."

Collins said he was innocent of the charge.

Live on Cheap Menu.

Lawrence, Kan.—The cost of board in the privately conducted boarding-houses for university students in Lawrence is but \$4 a week, but eight students have formed a co-operative boarding club and have been living for an average of \$1.50 a week. The average weight of the members of the club has increased two pounds on the \$1.50 a week menu. They take turns at housework and all know something of cooking.

Timber for Rockefeller.

Paris.—A dispatch from Amsterdam to the Enquirer says John D. Rockefeller has purchased 25,000 pine trees, costing over \$80,000, from a nurseryman of Goud, a town in the south of the Netherlands. Mr. Rockefeller intends to plant these trees in a park.

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