

DRUGGISTS' ERRORS.

**Due in Many Cases to Overworked Condition of Clerks.**

**Statement Made That 100 Persons Are Fatally Poisoned Every Year in New York City Owing to Mistakes.**

New York city has a Druggists' League for Shorter Hours of Labor, and its secretary, Edward Thimme, makes a plea in behalf of legislation which will not only protect druggists' clerks and employees from working over hours, but will guarantee the public against the dangerous consequences of such labor.

The New York Herald quotes Mr. Thimme to the effect that upward of 100 persons are fatally poisoned in that city every year through the mistakes of druggists in substituting one drug for another. This is a startling statement, and if it even approximates the truth there is urgent need of instituting some remedial action in behalf of the public. The following list is given purporting to show some of the deadly substitutes made by druggists by mistake in serving their customers:

Aacetanil for phenacetin.  
Morphine for quinine.  
Chloride of potash for Rochelle salts.  
Sulphur for Epsom salts.  
Sulphuric acid for calomel.  
Iodine for aetetic copper.  
Carbolic acid for alcohol.  
Oxalic acid for Epsom salts.  
Arsenic for powdered sugar.  
Strychnine for valerianate of quinine.  
Carbolic acid for boracic acid.  
Laudanum for paregoric.

It is claimed by the league that most of these and other errors are made by clerks who are not in possession of their best faculties when making up their prescriptions, the result either of exhaustion brought about by long hours or of the use of stimulants taken to revive their flagging powers. Mr. Thimme in a recent address said that during the four years ending with July 1, 1898, 13 drug clerks had committed suicide in New York, and seven others had attempted to do so, owing to the physical condition into which the stimulating drugs had brought them.

PILING COIN BAGS.

**Expert at Subtreasury at Philadelphia Who Can Stack Silver So It Will Stay.**

There is one expert in Philadelphia who, it is safe to say, stands entirely alone in his specialty. He is Jamesoughill, who has charge of the piling of coin bags at the subtreasury. Not only does he have charge of the piling of the bags, but he does it all himself, for there is a secret connected with this work that is known to only one man besides the Philadelphia expert in the country. It does not seem at first glance to be a very difficult task, but those who have tried it and failed can be counted by hundreds, while the first man to do the work properly without knowledge of the secret being imparted to him is yet to be named. Not so many years ago there was only one person in the country who could do the work.

Where he obtained his exclusive knowledge no one knows. On a trip to Philadelphia he metoughill and the two became fast friends. As a mark of his esteem, the original expert taughtoughill the art of piling up money securely, and that is as far as the knowledge has been extended. The work consists in piling up bags of silver, containing one thousand silver dollars each, as high as the vault will permit. When built by the experts this silver wall is as solid and substantial as if built of bricks and mortar, says the Philadelphia Record. If one of these walls should be constructed on wrong principles it would surely fall, and a fall usually means serious injury to some one. Many men have been hurt in attempting to learn the art, and nowoughill and his friend, who is in the United States.

SOLUTION OF MOEN MYSTERY.

**Former Tramp Turns Out to Be the Son of the Rich Manufacturer.**

The Moen-Wilson mystery at Worcester, Mass., has been solved. Levi Wilson Moen said, a few days ago: "I take the name of Moen because I am entitled to it." To people familiar with the case this explains the whole relationship between the millionaire, Philip L. Moen, and the former tramp, Levi Wilson Moen.

A few years ago the case was the most celebrated puzzle of the time. One day a tramp walked into the office of the aristocratic Bay State house of Worcester, Mass. He begged the use of the telephone, and called up the office of the Moen-Washburn Manufacturing company, one of the richest concerns in New England.

"I am Levi Wilson," he said. "Tell Mr. Moen to come over to the Bay State house immediately to see me."

Far from resenting the order, the millionaire manufacturer drove up to the hotel in his carriage in less than 15 minutes. From that day forward Levi Wilson, the tramp, ex-coachman and ignorant hawker, was a rich man. He could scarcely write his name, but he knew how to burn money, and used in one year \$500,000 of the elder Moen's cash. All his bank checks were signed by Philip L. Moen. The bankers wondered and common folks talked. It was recalled that a few days before Wilson's first conference with Moen Wilson had visited his dying mother. She imparted to him a secret. Nobody but Wilson, and perhaps Moen, knew what that secret was.

At any rate, young Wilson drove Moen with whip and spur, and secured from him, on Moen's sworn statement, \$600,000 in five years. Moen endeavored to free himself by a lawsuit, but died in the witness chair as he seemed about to divulge the secret.

Wilson has now assumed the name of Moen. He is at the head of several large manufacturing concerns, and appears to have plenty of money. So has Philip L. Moen, the son of the late Philip L. Moen.

"I have taken the name of Moen because I am entitled to it," says Levi Wilson Moen.

CUBA'S POSTAL SERVICE.

**The Spanish Scheme Is Completely Displaced by the American System.**

The United States postal system has been adopted in its entirety on the island of Cuba by a decree promulgated by Director of Posts Rathbone at Havana. The action was urged by Director Rathbone and authorized by a cable message to Postmaster General Emery Smith after a full consideration by the president and cabinet. It is a complete substitution of the Spanish postal scheme by the American system, and applies to all money order and registry business, and stamp sales. It reduces the letter postage rates to those in use in this country. A telegram received by the postmaster general from Chief Clerk Gadsden, of the United States money bureau, now at Havana, announced he had arranged with Director Rathbone for the perfection of the international money order system, and the immediate establishment of a domestic money order service.

The report from Director Rathbone on which the adoption of the American scheme is based announces from the best available data, largely official, that the postal population of Cuba is about 1,250,000 people, including about 40,000 officers and soldiers of the United States.

OUR BEST CUSTOMER.

**Figures of the Treasury Bureau Which Show Our Extensive Dealings with England.**

Great Britain continues to be the greatest customer of the United States, despite the fact that our purchases from her continue much below those of former years. The figures of the treasury bureau of statistics covering the calendar year exports and imports show that our sales to the United Kingdom in the year 1898 were \$538,661,787, against \$462,695,024 in 1897, while our imports from Great Britain in 1898 were but \$11,361,617, against \$159,002,256 in 1897. Thus our sales to the United Kingdom are nearly five times as much as our purchases from her. The exports to the United Kingdom increased \$56,000,000 over those of 1897, while at the same time the imports from that country into the United States decreased \$45,000,000.

DISOBEDIED AN ANGEL.

**Did Not heed Her Warning Regarding a Business Trip and Hence is Dead.**

Edwin L. Prickett, a leather manufacturer of Mount Holly, N. J., is dead, and upon his deathbed he declared that he had obeyed the mandate of an angel that had twice appeared to him in a vision he would not have been stricken with a fatal illness.

In the second vision the angel told Prickett he had been good and obedient. She bade him go to Boston on a business trip, but not before a certain date. Prickett started ahead of time, contracted a cold, which developed into pneumonia, and, while dying, declared that this was his punishment for not obeying the angel.

To Test Mental Strength.

Prof. Clark Wissler, of Richmond, Ind., has invented a delicate and ingenious apparatus, to be known as the ergograph, to be used in the study of muscular activity. It will enable scientists to ascertain what effect mental work will have upon the muscular strength and vice versa.

Temperature of Limitless Space. Space has a temperature of 200 degrees below zero.

NEW TORPEDO GUN.

**Possibilities of the Eighteen-Inch Destroyer Recently Invented.**

**WILL Fire High Power Explosive Shells Which Will Be Able to Sink the Most Powerful Battleships.**

Louis Gathmann, of Chicago, has returned from Washington with a war department contract for his new 18-inch torpedo gun, with which he has been experimenting at the government proving grounds at Sandy Hook. The gun and the shells were patented two years ago. During the experiments great precautions have been taken to keep the working of the new gun a profound secret, none but the chiefs of the ordnance department being present at the tests. The naval attachés at Washington made strenuous efforts to be allowed to witness the experiments, but they were barred out by order of the secretary of war.

Mr. Gathmann said the destructive force of the projectile is equal to that of all the 12-inch guns in the United States at a range shorter than 3,000 yards, and if the range is beyond 5,000 yards the destructive force of one of those guns would be equivalent to that of the entire number of 12-inch, 13-inch and 10-inch guns in the country.

The Gathmann gun is the first 18-inch gun on record. The nearest to it is the Zajinski dynamite gun of 15-inch bore. The Gathmann gun is fired with powder and the other with compressed air. The new destroyer has a range of about ten miles and is the first gun in the world to fire high explosives with powder. One shot does the work. Even armored battleships are not expected to be proof against a single projectile. The gun is 45 feet in length and weighs about 100,000 pounds. The shells, or torpedoes, weigh 2,000 pounds. First-class battleships such as the Iowa, Texas, Massachusetts and Indiana may carry four of these guns. The gun is practically for coast defense as well as for use on board ship.

The guns will be manufactured in the navy yard at Washington and the contract will be given either to the Bethlehem iron works or the Midvale works of Philadelphia.

HOB CLUB BANQUET.

**Knights of the Tomato Can Hold a Brilliant Function at New York City.**

The first fortnightly banquet of the Hobo club was held at New York the other night in the banqueting room of P. C. Volta & Son, 25 Mulberry street. Thirty hobos of the vicinity were there and did justice to a menu of baked macaroni, roast beef with mashed potatoes, pie and beer. The beer was served in schooners holding a quart, and the supply was unlimited.

When the president, Capt. "Dutch" Baker, took his seat at the head of the table he had 30 distinguished persons before him. The secretary, "Crooked-Faced" Higgins, sat on his left. To his right was "Strong-arm" Murphy, sergeant-at-arms. Arranged along were the members, including "Stale Bread," "Red Nose," "Dutch" Murphy, "Brooklyn Joe" Evans, "Blind Mahoney," "Inster," "Warm Gravy," "Jimmy-de-lum," "Graftor," "Black-and-Tan Aleck," and "Waltz-to-the-Bar."

After the dinner "Brooklyn Joe," who had combed his hair in honor of the occasion, was introduced. He called attention to the two American flags draped over the table and the tomato can suspended beneath them. He said the can was the insignia of the order.

"Dog Dodge Dan" started to recite "The Raven." He got as far as the second stanza, when some one shouted "You're drunk."

"So was the man who wrote it," he retorted. "He was as dippy as me or you."

At ten o'clock the guests had arranged themselves in a row at the door to ask loans from the reporters present.

The Hobo club was organized two weeks ago. Each day for 13 days the members paid two cents each into the general fund, and when each had paid 50 cents the banquet was prepared.

NEWSPAPER WRITERS UNITE.

**Organization in Process of Formation in New York City—Its Objects.**

It may be before long that young men or old men who desire to write for New York papers will have to have a card from the union. This condition of things may be brought about by the Newspaper Writers' union, which is now in process of formation. It will be organized under the charter of the Typographical union. A preliminary meeting has already been held, and it is said over 100 working newspaper men signified a willingness to join. Another meeting will be held, at which a permanent organization is to be effected. The promoters of the union are not "journalists." They are the ones who get news, read copy and write headlines. The organization of newspaper writers has been previously tried in only a few places, Boston being one of them.

To Cut Asphalt Pavement. Asphalt pavements can be cut for excavating purposes by a new device, having a steel knife attached to the frame of a steam roller, the blade dragging on the pavement and cutting a narrow path as the roller is driven along, thus doing away with the use of axes to chop the pavement open.

Test Mental Strength.

Prof. Clark Wissler, of Richmond, Ind., has invented a delicate and ingenious apparatus, to be known as the ergograph, to be used in the study of muscular activity. It will enable scientists to ascertain what effect mental work will have upon the muscular strength and vice versa.

Temperature of Limitless Space. Space has a temperature of 200 degrees below zero.

Bulletin Financier.

Vendredi, 10 mars 1899.

**SOMMAIRE D'EXCHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS).**

Tous les échanges sont en dollars.

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