

SOCIAL CENSOR.

Credentials of Applicants for Presentation at Court Carefully Examined.

WHEEL OSCILLATION.

If Has Been Shown That Bicycle Wheels Which Oscillate Are Not Necessarily Best.

The necessity for censorship over the social credentials of applicants for presentation at Queen Victoria's court is apparent when the air is heavy with moralizing over Hooleyism, says an eastern exchange. Lord Charles Beresford started a London audience a year ago by declaring that money could buy its way into the highest places in England. He merely anticipated the records of the bankruptcy courts. Mr. Hooley did not succeed in establishing company promoting on a permanent social basis. The bottom fell out of his enterprises before he had perfected his system of baiting small investors with the names of earls and the leaders of smart society. It was imposed upon by a swarm of speculators, solicitors and middlemen, and he was a bankrupt before he could regulate the perquisites of directors in accordance with fixed principles of social precedence and introduce a tariff with maximum and minimum fees for introductions to people of quality. The bubble was pricked before the full purchasing power of the stock promoter's money was brought to bear upon smart society. Yet this traffic carried Mr. Hooley a long way into the social world. It produced for him the acquaintance of many people of distinction; it enabled him to enter the Carlton club, and to stake out a claim for a seat in parliament, and it put him in direct negotiations with the political managers for the purchase of a baronetcy for about \$250,000 in hard cash.

THE TRANS-ANDINE RAILROAD

It Is Not Yet Completed. Though Shown Without a Break on Some German Maps.

Some recent works of reference speak of the trans-South American railroad from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso as though it were now in full operation; and on at least three German maps of 1898, supposed to be authoritative, the road is shown without a break, says the New York Sun.

The fact is, however, that this important addition to the railroad facilities of South America is not yet completed and is not likely to be for some years to come. According to Mr. E. A. Fitz Gerald, the explorer of Mount Aconcagua, the road has been advanced, on the Chilean side of the Andes up to the mountains and some way into them on the Argentine side, but in March last there were still 44 miles of the most difficult part of the road to build and further progress will necessarily be very slow.

At that time the road had been completed up to Punta de las Vacas, in the mountains on the Argentine side, and to Salto del Soldado on the Chilean side. The part yet to be built includes a tunnel under the Cumbre pass, the summit of which is 12,795 feet above the sea. The road through the mountains is 13-foot gauge, with rack and pinion for the steeper grades. Even greater difficulties are involved than had to be overcome in building the lines into the Peruvian mountains.

WALES LOSES A FRIEND.

By the Recent Death of Christopher Sykes, Who Was Noted for His Dinners.

Christopher Sykes, the bosom friend of the prince of Wales and all the royal family, died the other evening in Chesterfield street, Mayfair, says the London Mail.

Last August Mr. Sykes had a paralytic stroke, from which he had recovered; but the other morning he was seized by a fit, and, never recovering consciousness, passed away peacefully.

"Christopher," as his friends loved to call him, was the younger son of Sir Tatton Sykes, the fourth baronet, and a brother of Sir Tatton, whose eccentricities and matrimonial troubles are well known. He was a big, loosely-built man, a typical Yorkshirer in length of bone, hard-headedness and grim humor. He was formerly conservative member for the Buckrose division of Yorkshire, and was the owner of Brantinghamthorpe, in the same county.

Mr. Sykes was a noted bon viveur, and is said to be the original of "Mr. Brancapeth" of Disraeli's novel "Lochinvar," the grave young man who only did one thing well, which was the giving of dinners.

The prince and princess of Wales were most fond of Christopher Sykes, and will feel his death keenly. But he was well known throughout society, and wherever he went he was exceedingly popular. He was in his sixtieth year.

One Soldier's Death.

A simple story, yet a most touching one, is in the Chicago Times-Herald's description of the last hours of Private Ben Jones, of the First Illinois: He had lain in a stupor all day. Fever had depilated his reserve force. Late evening he opened his eyes and said to Nurse Mary: "You say something." "What?" she asked. He drew his breath and answered: "You say: 'The Lord is—'" He was too far gone to speak it all; but she understood. She bent over him and repeated: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will—" "Yes." Private Jones interrupted, "the valley of the shadow." He turned his face from her and fell asleep forever.

Soldiers Must Be Swimmers.

In the Dutch army a man must be able to swim as well as to fight. Moreover, if he is in the cavalry he must have a horse which will take a river as easily as a hunter takes a fence. Swimming maneuvers are part of the regular drill there. Collapsible canvas boats manned by a few oarsmen, lead the horses so that they do not attempt to land on stone quays and other difficult points. The men swim across with their horses and on them. They do it in swimming costume and in all the accoutrements of war. There are few nautical emergencies for which the Dutch army is not prepared. Some of the officers have even reached a degree of proficiency that not only their horses and kit cross the river with them, but their pet dogs sit upon their shoulders and are borne over, almost without wetting.

Dusting Pictures.

In many European galleries the pictures are dusted by means of air vringers.

PROTECTING A RECRUIT.

Capt. Capron's Way of Managing the Soldiers Under Him in Cuba.

One morning on Misery hill I witnessed a sample of Capt. Capron's methods with his men, says a writer in the New York Sun. It is time-honored custom in the regular army to give a rookie, or new recruit, much more than his fair share of fatigue duty. The regulations protect each man, but it takes the recruit some time to learn his rights. On the morning in question Capron's men had received orders on some of their customers, adjusted the wheels shown by them accordingly. Now, as a matter of fact, this balancing has nothing at all to do with the running qualities of the wheel. It means nothing. It is the way a wheel runs under a load that shows its qualities, and experienced dealers and riders have long appreciated this fact. Last summer there was a coasting contest near New York, and among the contestants were two men of exactly the same weight. One rode a wheel which would oscillate for four minutes when it was free of the floor, and the other, no matter how hard it was sprung, would come to a standstill in half that time. In the contest the latter virtually ran away from its opponent. A perfectly adjusted wheel with a tire or valve hole does not oscillate at all. Place a tire on the same wheel and it will swing backward and forward for some time. The gyroscope top, which is so perfectly balanced that it will spin at any angle, does not oscillate after it has expended its force. If a small shot be soldered on the edge of the rim of the same top it will swing until that part of the top is at the bottom, but at the same time will not spin long. Paste graphite as a lubricant for chain or chainless gear may affect the oscillating power of a wheel, but when you are on the wheel it will run away from anything else.

IF YOU WANT A DRINK.

One Must Ask for "Sherry" in the Congressional Restaurant Instead of Whisky.

At a meeting of the Linnaean society held recently in the library of the American museum of natural history a paper was read by J. D. Figgins, entitled "Notes on Birds Observed in Greenland with the Polar Expeditions of 1896-7." Mr. Figgins, who is an assistant taxidermist in the museum, accompanied Lieut. Peary on his expeditions and made exhaustive notes upon the bird life observed.

He began his paper by explaining that the majority of the birds of Greenland were water fowl. Aside from the gyrfalcon and the raven, he collected but three varieties of land birds—the snow bunting and two closely allied species. Many of the water birds were very bold, and would approach within a yard under the Cumbre pass, the summit of which is 12,795 feet above the sea. The road through the mountains is 13-foot gauge, with rack and pinion for the steeper grades. Even greater difficulties are involved than had to be overcome in building the lines into the Peruvian mountains.

The government furnishes everything in the senate restaurant save the eatables, the silverware and linen. Ice, coal, fuel and illuminating gas are paid for out of the government funds. For the house restaurant, however, the lessee buys ice and fuel.

The charges in the senate restaurant are nothing short of exorbitant, while more moderate prices prevail in the house. The more select crowd of representatives, however, usually adjourn to the senate restaurant at lunch hour, preferring to pay a little more for the privilege of being in the company of the grave and reverend senators.

SUNRISE FROM PIKE'S PEAK.

Remarkable Negative Secured from the "Roof of the Continent" by an Amateur.

The picture of a sunrise from the top of Pike's Peak, or, as it has been called, "the roof of the continent," which is reproduced in the half-tone supplement, is regarded by photographers as one of the most remarkable negatives ever secured. Mr. F. P. Stevens, who is not only one of the most enthusiastic but one of the most successful amateurs in the country, says the Chicago Tribune, is a resident of Colorado Springs, at the base of Pike's Peak. For many years photographers, both professional and amateur, have tried to catch a sunrise in their cameras from the top of the grim "sentinel of the Rockies." Mr. Stevens spent many nights on the peak at an elevation of over 14,000 feet during several successive years, only to meet with failure. Last year, however, he took a bundle of blankets with him and determined to camp there until the conditions were such that he could imprison the marvelous scene in his camera box. At the end of two weeks he succeeded. Mr. Stevens has received letters of congratulation from scientists and societies all over the world. The cloud effect beneath the peak is one of the most remarkable features of the picture.

The Bed Cure.

A French medical paper recommends as the best care for nervousness, remaining in bed a few weeks. It reports cases of what seemed incipient insanity cured by this simple method. It recommends a partial return to the custom prevalent in the time of Louis XIV., when the bed was used, not only for sleeping, but as a pleasant place to remain while reading, eating, receiving friends, listening to music, etc. The king himself did not rise till after dinner, at one p.m.

Famous Chests Sold.

A melancholy memory of the past was recently put up for auction by the government officials in Paris, no less than the cases in which the huge war indemnity paid by France to Germany was transported across the frontier. The chests in which the famous "cinq milliards" were held were sold for 30 francs! Evidently a lost opportunity for the antiquary.

Dusting Pictures.

In many European galleries the pictures are dusted by means of air vringers.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 8 février 1899.

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

Journal des domaines... \$6,407,483.00

Même temps la dernière... 6,778,843.00

Journal des émissions... 6,778,363.00

Même temps la dernière... 7,28,893.00

Marché de la Nouvelle-Orléans.

Marché de la Nouvelle-Orléans.