

90 MILES AN HOUR.

Swift Speed Made by Motor-Cars in France.

Something Not Practicable on the Roads of Other Countries—Chances Taken by Cyclists in Racing Tests.

A motor carist's anecdote adapted from the American relates that a passenger on a "flyer" remarked to a driver at the end of a fast run: "That was a very long graveyard we passed through."

Seeing that such speeds as those stated are regarded as remarkable if accomplished by express trains, it is not surprising that the public mind is a little disturbed at the notion of such terrible vehicles as 90-mile-an-hour motor cars traveling on the highway.

Such a speed is not practicable on English roads, as there is scarcely a stretch of highway on which it could be attained, for as soon as a big pace is developed a curve or other check requires it to be reduced.

To the uninitiated it seems amazing that a car can be controlled at 60 miles an hour. Of course, great coolness and nerve are necessary, but our informant said that it was remarkable how steadily a car ran at a high speed.

It will be asked that seeing that such speeds are undoubtedly dangerous and cannot be permitted in England unless the motorists construct the racing track which they have mooted, what is the use of them? They are serving a useful purpose, however, and the position is very similar to that of the bicycle.

At the there. She—it will take us half an hour to get back to the hotel. He—And in that time I must know why fate.

Mrs. Dyker Medder—Three of May's husbands have been named William. Mr. Dyker Medder—Yes, she's a Will collector.—Judge.

SOMETHING ABOUT BOILS.

Slight Injuries, High Living and Close Shaving, Alike May Cause Them.

Contrary to the common belief, boils are not indicative of blood disease. They are really indicative of local poisoning by pus-bearing germs, and the boil is an abscess.

In this sense, then, boils are diseases due to diseases of the blood, but it is not a disease in itself. High living also favors boils.

The reason why a boil is always in the worst place is because that is the most exposed place. The back of the neck, where the collar rubs the microbes into the skin; the wrist, where the cuffs irritate and make the entrance of germs easy; the top of the foot, where the shoe pinches; the razor-worst chin—are all favorite spots.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

A Variety of Pretty Things That Are Now in Vogue with Stylish Dressers.

Hats, neck ruffles and parasols to match are in order for the up-to-date woman. The new, yet old, method of arranging the hair low on the neck is gradually gaining favor, especially among young women.

Unlined stocks are very much favored this season and the stiff linen collars and chokers seem to have disappeared altogether, particularly from the thin waists.

The most fascinating nightgowns are either in the empire or the bolero form. The bolero is an exquisite hand embroidery or lace, or it may be made of alternate runs of embroidered insertion and lace.

TENACITY OF PURPOSE.

The Red-Rock of Success in Any Career and Should Be Cultivated in Children.

In scarcely anything do we need wisdom more than in the matter of influencing the nature of our children's activity. Indeed, with children who are able and clever, advice and influence must be indirect rather than personal.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A circular issued by the prefect of police in Paris orders the prosecution of cabmen and other drivers who in the case of a block give vent to their feelings by swearing.

French syndicates in Normandy and Brittany use the parcels post for sending table butter and cheese to customers. Packages weighing 20 pounds can be mailed for 20 cents.

In a city department store the salesgirl at the music counter says that it is amusing to observe the number of persons who misquote the titles of popular sheet music of the day.

The old courthouse in Williamsburg, Va., where Patrick Henry made his famous speech on the stamp act, is still in existence. It is used for judicial purposes and every Saturday morning petty offenders are tried there.

If the earnings of the post office department continue and a surplus accrues, the wide extension of free delivery and the introduction of the parcels post may be regarded as among the improvements likely to be made in our postal system in the near future.

In all the equatorial islands of the North and South Pacific shark-fishing is a very profitable industry to the natives, and every trading steamer and sailing vessel coming into the ports of Sydney or Auckland from the islands of the mid-Pacific brings some tons of fins, tails and skins of sharks.

HOW AMERICANS GIVE.

Gifts to Educational Institutions in This Country Are Larger Than Those to Charities.

Rev. C. T. Ward, who has for many years compiled statistics of the gifts for educational and charitable purposes which are made by the people of this country, was quoted recently as saying that the gifts for educational purposes have been far larger than those for charities.

Most of the important bequests are from the eastern states, particularly New York and Massachusetts. Among the cities New York leads, Philadelphia is next and Boston is close behind.

The charitable gifts of the last few years average about \$7,000,000 a year. The fashion of giving away large sums of money while the donor is still living has become very popular. The gifts from living people amounted to more than three times the gifts from bequests in the year 1899, for instance.

TOOK HIS ADVICE.

Young Wife Consists Bachelor Uncle in Her Marital Trouble and Brings on a Climax.

After she had been married six months she went to her old bachelor uncle, who believes that a matrimonial alliance is a voluntary acceptance of slavery, says the Detroit Free Press.

"Suffering from the conjugal yoke, hey?" he replied to her presentation of afflictions.

"No, uncle, from the conjugal joke," for she would not humor his prejudices.

"Same thing," with a hardening voice, "but I require details before giving advice."

"Well, he is a practical joker of the worst sort. He delights to slip salt into my tea, wake me out of a sound sleep by playing burglar; send anonymous letters threatening to burn the house down; tell me that he has failed and that the poor house stares us in the face; swears that the house is haunted; anything to scare me and give him a laugh."

"Of course, marriage makes a brute of a man and a fool of a woman. But don't you be a soft little sissy. Go right back at him with his own weapons. Mix glue with his shaving soap. Dust the inside of his underclothing with red pepper. Put sand in his shoes. Change his best hat for one two sizes larger. Pretend to fall in love with some other fellow. Keep him in hot water day and night. I guess that will hold him."

She acted on this advice. The husband thrashed the uncle. The wife holds that he did just right, and now there is every prospect that they will live happily ever after.

ECHOES OF SLAVERY DAYS.

Curious Gleanings from the Records of an Old Gas Company in New Orleans.

Many interesting entries are to be found in the old inventory books and other volumes of record of the New Orleans Gas Light company, which furnish hitherto unpublished history of the second oldest gas company in America during the cloudy and tempestuous days of the early '50s in the south, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Bankson Taylor, manager of the New Orleans Lighting company, after going over the books of the New Orleans Gas Light company, says the money losses sustained by the corporation through the emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln were \$51,650. This amount represented the value of 62 slaves owned by the company at the time of the occupying of New Orleans by the federal forces.

These slaves had been accumulated by the company since 1835, or the year of the organization of the New Orleans Gas Light & Banking company. While the company maintained a few slaves who were put to work about the station in 1836, the sweeping substitution of such labor for white labor was not made until 1846, as the following extract from the minutes of the monthly meeting, March 6, of that year, testify:

"A report from the superintendent and engineer of the company, made at the suggestion of the president, upon the practicability of substituting slave labor for white labor at the station and on the street mains, as well as lighting the public lamps, was received and read, and after discussion the apparent economy of slave labor, from the estimate of the engineer, determined the board to authorize the engineer to make the experiment, and on motion it was resolved:

"That the engineer of the company be authorized to purchase from time to time, as in his judgment he may deem advisable, with the sanction of the president, such slaves as will answer the purpose contemplated, either as stokers and laborers, as well as the necessary mechanics to supply the place of the white labor now of necessity employed at so large an expenditure, and that the treasurer be, and he is hereby, authorized to accept the acts of sale of such negroes and pay for their cost."

From the time the order was issued the gas company at various intervals increased the number of its slaves to 62, when all were released by the proclamation of the president in 1863.

The inventory of these slaves gave the name of the slave, the year bought, present age, coat price and present value. It is interesting to note how the value of such a slave changed from year to year. For instance, a young fellow, Nat, was bought for \$1,500, and his price in five years was marked down to \$600, on account of some weakness he had. Crawford and wife were bought in 1836 for \$2,800, and in 1862 were valued at \$900. Both had grown too old to do any appreciable amount of labor for the company, but their investment was not a bad one. Crawford's wife bore six children, who were given an aggregate value of \$2,000.

As the slaves advanced in years they were gradually marked down in value, as, for instance, Leonard, who cost his owners \$1,200 at the age of 43, was reckoned as being worth only \$400 14 years after. Then, on the other hand, the young slaves, as they matured, increased in value during the years they rendered good service to the company. Henry Barnes, when 29 years of age, was bought for \$750, and at the date of President Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation was valued at \$1,000.

TOO GOOD TO BE WELL.

Suey Spoke of Going to Heaven and Her Mother Sent for the Doctor.

There is an interval of silence; then a sudden peal at the accident bell is heard, and the next moment an agitated parent is seen running down the passage with a child tucked under her arm, its bare legs streaming behind it in the wind of its mother's rapidity, relates MacMillan's Magazine.

"What's the matter, missis? Has she swallowed some poison?"

"No, sir; it ain't that," she pants; "but I'm that scared I don't know ardy which way to turn."

"Well, but what's happened? Has she hurt herself?"

"No, sir; and 'er father 'e's that upset 'e couldn't do nothink, else I ain't used to running like that, and 'e'd 'e brought 'er up, but 'e says as 'ow 'e daron't touch 'er, and I've run all the way, an' 'e 'eart."

"Come now, missis, jus' tell me quietly what's the matter with the child."

"It's all very well yer a-sittin' there and a-tellin' me to be quiet," cries the mother; "if yer 'ad any children of yer own you wouldn't like ter see 'em die afore yer eyes. Oh, dear, oh, dear, and there ain't no two more and the baby!"

The doctor in despair examines the little girl, but fails to discover anything wrong. "Now look here," he says firmly, "I can't find anything the matter with your child, so you'll have to go away unless you tell why you brought her up to the hospital."

BELGIAN HARE CRAZE

California Threatened with Pest Similar to Australia.

The War of Extermination Carried On in That Country Against the Animals and Its Enormous Expense.

A little more than one year ago the English wild rabbit, under the name of the Belgian hare, was introduced into this city. It had previously been known in southern California for about five years.

Animals for eating were readily sold for five dollars apiece, and the price of fancy specimens for breeding purposes ran up to several hundred dollars. At that time the San Francisco Argonaut pointed out the danger of the introduction of this animal. They multiply with great rapidity and are large eaters. By the established figures of increase it was shown that one pair of rabbits would be represented at the end of the first year by 12, and that at the end of five years the descendants of this original pair would number 8,609,322.

So long as the rabbits were kept in captivity these figures would not seriously affect anybody but the owner who was called upon to feed them. But should they escape or be turned loose the result would seriously affect the entire community. How serious this would be may be gathered from the experience of Australia into which country they had been imported to furnish game for men of leisure who took an interest in sport. They increased so rapidly that they began to interfere with stock raising and agricultural operations. They consumed the herbage up to the very doors of the farmhouses, destroyed orchards and gardens, and caused the abandonment of land that had formerly produced 30 bushels of wheat and 60 bushels of barley to the acre.

A war of extermination against the pest was inaugurated. Wire fences were built—one of them between 400 and 500 miles long and costing \$3,450,000—to restrain them in bounds, but they burrowed underneath. During three successive years 730,000, \$1,250,000 and \$2,500,000 were paid in bonus to persons who killed them off. This represented more than 35,000,000 scalps, but still the plague continued. They were shot, trapped, hunted with ferrets, poisoned and infected with cholera. Even these measures failed, and nature had to come to the rescue of the farmers. The year 1888 was one of drought. Lakes and water courses were fenced in, and the rabbits shut off from the water, died of thirst by thousands. Still many remain, and the plague of rabbits may again visit Australia whenever vigilance is relaxed.

The English rabbit which caused all this destruction differs from his descendant, the Belgian hare, only in the fact that the latter is larger and stronger as a result of generations of breeding and development. The Argonaut one year ago warned the people of the danger of allowing them to run at large through the state. Very shortly afterward a number escaped in Sacramento county. Now the state board of horticulture estimates that several thousand of them are at large within the boundaries of the state. The secretary of agriculture calls attention to the danger in his report to the federal government. Though the board of horticulture is alive to the fact that the pest is gaining a foothold in the state, it does not appear to believe to the fact that now is the time to stamp it out.

MAKING RADIUM FOR MARKET

German Chemists Are Now Producing the New Metal in Commercial Quantities.

Researches now making by French and German chemists have reached the point where substances unknown even to science a short time ago are being produced in commercial quantities. In particular, radium, whose existence was discovered only a few years ago, has now been investigated to a point where its commercial production has been successfully undertaken, says a scientific paper. M. P. Beson, at a recent meeting of the Paris Society of Civil Engineers, told how the commercial production of radium was being carried on by the Societe Centrale de Produits Chimiques.

The experience of this company shows that it takes over a ton of the minerals of the uranium group, which form the raw material, to produce one-half ounce of radium. The separation of this half ounce requires an expenditure of over six tons of chemicals. Fifty tons of water are used in the process for washing purposes. Radium, which is known by the chemists as a metal and a new element, has unusual properties when in the pure state. M. Beson states that the activity of radium is so great that it is spontaneously luminous in the dark. This luminescence is now believed by scientists to be entirely different from that of phosphorus, which latter arises from oxidation. Instead, it is thought to be due to a continuous emission of extremely minute particles highly electrified; in fact, to be almost similar to X rays. The charge of electricity carried by these particles is astonishingly great. The mass of the particles, however, is extremely small, so that the loss in weight by radiation is almost infinitesimal. Careful tests lead to the belief that the loss by radiation is only one milligram in 100,000,000 years. Thus far the only known use for radium is in laboratory experiments.

PETHISIS ON THE DECLINE.

There is Far Less of Consumption Now Says a Medical Authority Than in Earlier Days.

Mortality statistics collected in different countries seem to concur in giving evidence of a steady reduction in the number of deaths from consumption during the past half century. It may be plausibly suspected that the whole of the apparent gain is not real, and that greater exactitude of diagnosis and a more precise use of the term "phthisis pulmonalis" may explain away some of it. Still, we may thankfully believe that a large part is real. We obtain support in that conclusion by the general impressions formed by intelligent old people, who, almost without exception, assure us they hear and see far less of "consumption" now than they did in the days of their youth, says the London Polytechnic.

It is of great interest to determine the influences which have been at work in bringing about this result. It may be said at once that attention to the now so fashionable doctrine of contagion has had no material share in it, since, until the last few years, no sort of precautions on that score had been taken. It is possible, but perhaps not very probable, that the inspection of butchers' meat may have been influential in some slight degree. By far the most probable hypothesis is that the gain has accrued from the improvement in the general prosperity of the race which the nineteenth century witnessed.

To speak of England alone, those who can remember what it was 60 years ago assure us that the advance in the condition of the working classes has been very great. The food which is now obtained by all is more nutritious, more varied, and less exclusively vegetable than it formerly was. The clothes are better, and the houses are better. In spite of the fact that the age has witnessed the influx of population into cities and large towns and a partial abandonment of the country, the facilities for locomotion and the cultivation by both sexes of athletics and outdoor pursuits have probably secured without diminution the advantages of fresh air. As regards the use of alcoholic beverages, the age has witnessed vast improvement. While there has been no diminution in the quantity taken, it has been spread over a larger number. Excess has become diaphragmatic, and is far less common than it was, while what may be called the dietetic use has been maintained. Thus, then, we seem to come to the conclusion that the reduction in the prevalence of tuberculosis has been due to improvement in general stamina and advancement in the arts of civilized life.

STYLE IS TOO REDUNDANT.

Some of the Inaccuracies of Language of Which Modern Writers Are Guilty.

In a recent number of the Literary Era there appeared an article touching upon the use of the English language by modern day writers, from one who signs himself F. M. Bird. We quote the following passage from his article:

"The books of rhetoric used to tell us that the great qualities of style were perspicuity, energy and elegance, or clearness, force and grace, and that as a means toward these and for other reasons it was important to be concise, to avoid needless words. Whether they no longer teach this or their pupils disregard their instructions, you can scarcely read a page or a column anywhere without meeting words that add nothing to others with which they are immediately connected. Thus:

"Thought to himself. How else should he think? If he thought aloud you would have to say so. Either he said to himself," which is another way of putting it—or he simply thought."

"Nodded his head. If he had nodded his legs or his elbows the case would be more notable. He might properly 'shake his head,' for he could shake other things, but in the present state of language one can nod no other part of himself, or of creation than his head.

"Together with. If John went to town with his wife they went together; if they went together he was necessarily with her.

"Month of May, summer season, etc. Everybody knows that May is a month and summer a season.

"Rose up. If people were in the habit of rising down or if it were possible to do so this would not be tautological.

"It will not do to say that these specimens abound in the best writers and are therefore justifiable. They are not the best writers when they write in this way, through pure carelessness, for they know better. Homer sometimes nods, but his nodding did not produce the 'Iliad.' We want to follow the best writers in their excellences, but not in their errors."

A Variable Lamp. Among recent novelties in electric lighting is an incandescent lamp having two independent filaments, one giving 16 and the other only one candle power. The low power light is intended for burning in a sick room, or wherever a faint illumination is desired. The current is changed from one filament to the other by turning the lamp in a screw socket.—Invention.

Telescopes Above the Clouds. Another mountain observatory is projected. It is to stand at an elevation of 6,000 feet near Semmering, in the Austrian Alps. The neighboring valleys are frequently filled with clouds, while the chosen peak towers clear in the starlight.—Youth's Companion.