

MATRIMONIAL ELIGIBILITY.

Some of the Many Various Reasons That Prompt Men to "Pop" the Question.

The reasons which prompt men to make offers of marriage to women are as many and various as the number and kind of women they honored, says the New York Times.

The very general and not altogether luminous reflections are suggested by a news item which reaches us from northern New York of an avalanche of marriage offers which has overwhelmed two estimable young women, the daughters of a farmer at Schuyler.

Instantly an overpowering passion took possession of the heart of every eligible bachelor within what may be called buggy radius.

THE WAYS OF SQUIRRELS.

Faculiarities of Voice and Action of the Animals in Summer and Winter.

"One of the most familiar sounds of the summer woods is the rattling bark of the red squirrel," writes an observer.

"Gray squirrels, unlike most of the rodents, do not hibernate in the winter time, but are abroad and very active during most of the season.

"This performance he repeats again and again in that and other localities, until he has hidden away in this manner a large quantity of nuts, one squirrel often burying several hundred.

"Cheap College Degrees. The familiar charge that the degree LL. D. is bestowed with too lavish a hand by colleges and universities is likely to gain force from a recent occurrence.

"Years and Spirit. Clara—You don't mean to say that at 50 he is making love to you? Isn't that rather young for an old man? Mead—Yes. But he is the most precocious old man I ever met.—N. Y. Sun.

THE SMALLSUGGLER

PERSON WHO TRIES TO EVADE DUTY ON MERE TRIFLES.

Vigilance of Customs Officers Is Gradually Stamping Out the Practice—Operations of Professionals.

"Petty smuggling, the sort that is practiced by people who have bought some small articles abroad and want to bring them home without paying duty, is now being pretty well stamped out," said a man who was for several years in the United States customs service on the Pacific coast to a Kansas City Journal writer.

"As a general thing the people who try to smuggle in dutiable goods are now of two classes, the one composed of professional smugglers who operate on a large scale, and the other of amateurs and wealthy people of a certain sort, who take no particular pains to avoid detection, and who enjoy the notoriety which an escapee of the sort gives them.

"On the Pacific coast the two things to which the operations of smugglers are almost entirely confined are opium and silks. Both have to pay heavy duties, and both are comparatively easily concealed.

"Some unique methods are used by opium smugglers. One day the wharfinger at San Francisco was standing near his office when he saw a lime fly over a high fence which inclosed a vacant lot just adjoining the wharf.

"Of late the center of the opium smuggling has been transferred from San Francisco to the ports farther north, as the men who were operating in that line became too well known to San Francisco officials.

"It was the custom for some time to allow a great deal of liberty to army officers returning from the Philippines, and to take their statements as to the dutiable goods in their possession without a very thorough investigation.

"Indian Novels by Indian Writers. Of late years the number of writers among the Cherokees has greatly increased. There are historians in the tribe whose works are used as textbooks in the Indian schools, and who are cited as authorities not to be disputed.

"Manufacture of Chartrouse. One of the few items of foreign trade of this district in which change is shown is alcohol, which is being imported now by the Carthusian monks, lately emigrated from France, who have transferred the manufacture of their renowned chartrouse to this city.

"A Bad Witness. Lawyer—Madam, this man, your husband, is accused of arson. Will you swear that he has a mania for building fires? Witness—No, sir! He never got up in his life until I'd built all the fires in the house.—Detroit Free Press.

NEGRO EXCELS IN SCIENCE

Trained by Noted Educator Colored Baltimorean Becomes Valuable Assistant.

John W. Widgerson, scientist, is probably the most interesting negro in Baltimore. He holds a position at the Maryland academy of sciences directly under the eye of Dr. Philip R. Uhler, which gives him a place of distinction among his race.

Widgerson's life has been such an interesting one that at the suggestion of Dr. Uhler he has begun to write out the whole of it. He is the only negro in Maryland who has seriously attracted the attention of scientific men, and what he is doing now bids fair to make him even more widely known than before.

Widgerson was born of slave parents on the eastern shore of Virginia in 1859. After the civil war he went to Baltimore and got a position in the establishment of Kuhn & Cummings, photographers, where he learned a great deal about photography.

The coral collection is excellent. Widgerson made two trips to Jamaica to get it. He did all the work himself. He stripped and dried for the specimens he wanted, not bothering with the paraphernalia of regulation scientists and divers.

Dr. Uhler says that he would not dispense with the services of his colored helper for those of a highly trained scientific man, because Widgerson, being a negro, can and is willing to do certain kinds of work which a white man would not do.

"His endurance and patience," continued Dr. Uhler, "are unlimited. It seems to me, and his Indian blood, of which he has considerable, his grandmother having been full-blooded, gives him the characteristic trait of wood and field craft. He is invaluable to me and the work he does is as complete and thorough as I could hardly get under other circumstances."

SPEED OF A RATTLESNAKE.

There Are But Few Things Swifter in Motion Than Its Head in Action.

In this wide world there are several things that are swifter than a rattlesnake, but they can probably be counted on the fingers of one hand, writes A. W. Reiker, in Pearson's Magazine.

At close quarters, the instant the muzzle of a six-shooter is thrust toward a rattlesnake, the infallible eye catches the range and in the fraction of a twinkling the deadly head has aligned itself. As the gun roars and darts its tongue of flame, the head of the creature is torn off clean as if severed with a knife and the viper lies writhing, emitting a defiant rattle even as its grim, relentless heart ceases its beat.

Ramie Fiber in Germany. I desire to call attention to the growing demand for ramie in the textile industries of this country.

"Japan Was Loaded for Bear. It was virtually admitted by the Russians months ago that they would not have treated Japan as they did in the negotiations preceding hostilities had they supposed she would fight. The lack of preparation proves that the Russian officials were bluffing. With an unbroken series of defeats in the far east, and strikes at home developing into a revolution, the regret of the Russian grand dukes that they did not know Japan to be loaded when they played with her can be imagined.—Philadelphia Record.

MAN EATS TOO MUCH.

THE AVERAGE MAN CONSUMES MUCH UNNECESSARY FOOD.

This Opinion Verified by Experiments with Three Different Classes of Men—Diet and Civilization.

A series of experiments has recently been concluded under the auspices of the Sheffield scientific school of Yale to determine the point as to whether the average human being does not eat too much. Prof. Russel H. Chittenden, the director of the school, who conducted the experiments, read a paper on the subject before the National Academy of Sciences at Washington, in which he reported that as a result of the investigations the conclusion had been reached that the average healthy man eats from two to three times as much as he needs to keep him in perfect physical health and vigor.

The experiments were made on three classes of men, several professors of the school, some students and a squad of United States soldiers. In nearly all the tests meat was gradually reduced, with little if any increase in starch and other foods. No fixed regimen was required in any case, the endeavor being to satisfy the appetite of each subject.

The experiments, which lasted a period of from six months to nearly a year, ended a short time ago when, according to Prof. Chittenden, all his subjects were in the best of health. Their weight in some cases was almost exactly the same as when the experiments were begun and in some slightly lower. Their bodily vigor was greater and their strength was much greater, partially owing to the regular physical exercises during the experiments and partially due to Prof. Chittenden's belief, to the smaller amount of food eaten. The daily consumption of food at the close of the experiments was much less than the recognized standard and from a third to a half as much as the average man eats.

It is undoubtedly true that overeating is distinctly harmful to health. Some hold that more persons are injured by over-eating than by over-indulgence in alcoholic stimulants. Further, the statement is incontrovertible that a certain class of the population of the world eat in a manner which is decidedly prejudicial to their physical and mental well-being.

In the higher or richer classes such an individual is termed a gourmand, while in the more vulgar language of the working classes the gross feeder is styled a glutton. The ordinary healthy person may also eat in excess of his real need, and would probably do equally well if he curbed his appetite for food within more strictly narrow limits.

Such instances, however, occur mainly among those who can afford to eat whatever they may desire. Their number, however, is not so large as some would have us believe, even in these days of vaunted prosperity.

Overeating is principally prevalent among that class who have the money to spend on self-indulgence and who frequently fall into the habit of liberally gorging themselves. The majority of the inhabitants of the world who can earn their bread by the sweat of their brow cannot spare out of their wages sufficient to enable them to gratify their eating propensities, but are compelled to live frugally. Many of these do not consume enough nourishing food, and it would be to their physical and mental advantage if they partook of a more generous diet.

Again, good cooking, suitable food and avoidance of monotony in diet are just as important factors in the preservation of "the sound mind in the sound body" as is the quantity of food consumed. Variety is the spice of life and without the savor of change food does not work the good expected of it. At the same time the diet should be wholesome and plain and the canned and preserved foods which are so prominent features in the cuisine of modern civilization should be avoided as far as possible.

In the United States and in Great Britain the population do not require to be warned so much against the ill-effects of overeating as against non-nutritive and deleterious food and bad cooking.

The conclusions reached by Prof. Chittenden are interesting, but prove nothing definitely. If he is of the opinion that the deductions are that the daily rations of the average person should be cut down, experience would seem to be against his point of view. Underfed nations have never been in the forefront of civilization, but have always been the easy prey of those peoples who have been able to satisfy thoroughly the cravings of their stomachs. The matter is of little concern to the average person, but touches closely the well-to-do individual.

The problem of what to eat and how to cook food is of greater moment than the question of overeating. An editorial in the British Medical Journal of a recent date states the situation aptly in the following words: "What to eat and what to drink will always be decided by national custom and individual preference so far as the public is concerned, but both may be influenced in the right direction by the guidance of skilled medical opinion."

Real Dignity. There is a healthful hardness about real dignity that never dreads contact and communion with others, however humble.—Irving.

ROBINS GATHERED BY HAND

Carolina Sport of Picking the Birds Off the Bushes in the Night-Time.

They pick robins off trees in North Carolina. A young insurance inspector who has just returned from the south brings with him the queer story of this new kind of sport, says the New York Sun.

"I was in Rameur, N. C., near Charlotte, on the Ashbury & Aberdeen railway," said he, "when one evening a young fellow with my own age asked me to go with him for a robin hunt."

"That doesn't sound very exciting," I replied. "How do you hunt them?" "Why, you take a sack and a jug of corn whisky, and drive a little way out into the country and pick them off the trees."

"Back up old man, I said, 'you must be thinking of swallows.' "He insisted that he was serious, and the upshot of it was that I found myself in a rocky back with the inevitable demijohn of corn whisky, and, sure enough, the fellow had some bags to carry away the robins, and a couple of torches. Two or three other similarly laden rascals were following us.

"We got out in a little dip in the land, and the torches were lighted. And there on the bushes were hundreds of robins which had just migrated from the north and were resting in the warm shelter of the dip in the land. Those of them that were awakened by the glare of the torches blinked sleepily and chirped impatiently at the interruption of their nap.

The whole party fell to and actually plucked them off the bushes with their hands and filled their bags as fast as they could. Talk about getting a big game! The fellows would gather 20 or 30, and then punctuate the performance with a swig of corn whisky, which is the rawest, hottest stuff I ever tasted in my life.

"That's about all there is to the story, except that it is the funniest sensation I ever felt to wake up in the morning with my head on a bag of live robins."

"A BUM BY ABSORPTION."

Col. Knight Relates an Experience with an Uncorked Bottle of Brandy.

"I was tipsy just once in my life," said Col. Knight, according to the New York Sun. "I was going through to the Pacific coast, and during a short wait in Chicago I ran to a near-by saloon and asked for a bottle of brandy."

"Before I could stop him, the bartender ran a big corkscrew into the cork, and I said to him: 'Don't you do that! Think you're the only man in the country who has a corkscrew.' "So he wrapped the bottle up quick and passed it over and I ran for the train. My berth was made up and I thrust the bottle in the rack overhead without sampling it. Then I turned in. "Morning broke and I woke up with a feeling that I was one of an all-night party that had carried with them the expense of sleep. First I wondered where I had been and then where I was at the moment. Then I realized that I was on the train and wondered if I could get out of the bunk."

"My head felt like a sheet lead live with the bees getting ready to swarm. I pushed the button and when the porter came I asked him: 'Where did I get this?'"

"Dunno, boss, but you do look bad." "Did I walk in my sleep?" "No, sir, not so I'd notice it." "Well, assist me out if you think my head will go through the passage to the lavatory," I said, and while I was washing up he began to arrange the bedding for the day.

"When I got back to where he was working he said, with a grin of great glee: 'I've got the dew to the extraneous situation, boss. Here it is, and he held up a half bottle of brandy and said: 'I guess you didn't have to walk for.' "But the cork has not been pulled!" I remarked, and the cook's face took on a look of amazement, but I readily understood what had happened.

The brandy had been leaking through the perforated cork, drop by drop, upon my head and face all night long and I had accumulated a regular bum by absorption. The only Latin maxim I could think of to express my sentiments just then was 'Similia similibus curantur.'"

Music as a Profession. Unless a man is rich he ought to be regarded as a criminal if he permits his sons and daughters to become musicians. In the musical profession there are a few prizes not of the largest, but for the largest number of interpretations the artist's life is one of drudgery; the drudgery of learning, the drudgery of pushing one's self into notice, and after all the continual drudgery of playing or singing just the music the public wants. I recommend no one to enter such a profession unless he or she loves music to such a degree that the drudgery is a pleasure.—John T. Runciman, in Saturday Review.

Cause and Effect. The conversation was fragmentary. Under the circumstances it couldn't well be otherwise. She—the wife—had asked for money. He—the husband—was broke. And she was giving him a piece of her mind.—Chicago Daily News.

PROGRESS IN PHILIPPINES.

What Is Being Accomplished in the Education of Children of the Islands.

According to the report of David P. Barrows, general superintendent of education for the Philippines, there were, in March and April of this year, 227,000 children in the public schools of the islands. Of these, 120,000 were in some one of the three years of the primary course. As in all probability the great majority of these will not do more than finish these three years, says the Chicago Evening Post, it is interesting to note the sort of education they are receiving under the American administration.

In the first year of the primary course reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and object work intended to cultivate the power of observation are the prescribed studies. In the second, these studies are continued with advanced apparatus.

In the third, geography is added, and there are courses in business, buying and selling, contracting loans, interest, security and commission for the benefit of boys who cannot take the intermediate and secondary courses. Such boys are also to be organized into clubs in which they are to be taught the rules and procedure governing the conduct of a meeting, the election of officers, the making of a motion, debate and voting.

Toward the close of the year the club will organize itself as a municipal government, and at each meeting there will be explained the municipal and provincial governments, the powers and duties of officers and the rights and duties of citizens.

The intermediate grades three in number, bring the students to the science studies and prepare them for the secondary courses of the high schools, which fit the students for entrance into a college or university.

Mr. Barrows says that the number of pupils in the primary schools must be about doubled before the instruction is placed within the reach of every Filipino child between the ages of 6 and 14 years. That is, enough schoolhouses and teachers, school furniture and books to give continuous schooling to 450,000 children will be required. "If this standard can be reached and maintained for a period of ten years," continues Mr. Barrows, "we will, broadly speaking, have no uneducated youth among the Filipino people."

As this is a matter of the first importance in carrying out the purposes of the American people toward the Philippines, the facts presented by Mr. Barrows and the recommendations accompanying them should receive the most earnest consideration of the government and the Philippine commissioners. Already the island schools are overcrowded and lacking in trained native teachers. To reach the standard and capacity set by Mr. Barrows would require the doubling of appropriations for current educational expenses from both local and general insular sources.

Some way should be devised to meet this expense. Highly creditable work has been done thus far, and in the face of unusual difficulties. Each year now the task must grow lighter, the difficulties must grow less. The solution of most of the problems with which we have to deal in developing the Philippines and their archipelago lies in the education of the Filipino children. The American public schools of the islands constitute the most useful and valuable agent in preparing the Filipinos for full self-government.

CURIOUS PENSION FIGURES

Three Relatives of Revolutionary War Heroes Still Supported by Uncle Sam.

Some of our pension statistics are curious. For example, we learn that there are still on the rolls three pensioners of the revolutionary war, which was brought to an end over 120 years ago. Of pensioners accredited to the war of 1812, says the Success Magazine, there still remain 919, while of the Mexican war no fewer than 13,056 survive. Of those accredited to the revolutionary war, one is a widow and two are daughters. The report shows that pension payments are made to people residing in every state and territory in the union, and in almost every known country on the globe.

Among the states, Ohio leads in the amount of pension money paid annually to its citizens, with Pennsylvania second, New York third, and Illinois and Indiana following closely. At the date of the report, there were 4,910 pensioners residing outside of the United States, and they drew \$722,443.69 in the last fiscal year. Nearly half of this amount went to persons in Canada. Quarterly pension vouchers were sent besides to persons in Mexico, South America, every country in Europe, the Azores, the Barbados, China, the Comoro Islands, East and South Africa, Samoa, the Seychelles Islands, Siam and St. Martin. It shows that the pension bureau was a busy office last year. More than 268,000 cases were passed upon, and 153,000 certificates were issued. No fewer than 108,714 applications were rejected, of which 83,000 were thrown out on medical and 24,000 on legal grounds.

Young Porto Rican Gardeners. By way of encouraging the young Porto Ricans to work, Dr. Lindsay, the United States commissioner of education for the island, has planned for every country schoolhouse to have an acre or two of land for gardening. The pupils are divided into two shifts, and while one set is studying reading, writing and arithmetic the other is learning the rudiments of practical gardening. Each school has two teachers, one for the ordinary educational branches and the other for the gardening.