BTRANGE RUSSIAN BEQUEST, of Mated Count Arakteheef Some Writer a Fortune.

A recent article in the "Odesakia Novosti" has brought once more to the attention of the Russian public a remarkable clause in the will of Count Araktcheef, which, in 1925, will give to some fortunate writer the immense prize of \$800,000, says the Philadelphia Press.

The London Lender takes occasion to recall the life and misdeeds of this bated tyrant.

He was the most faithful and most cruel agent of Emperor Alexander I. He was the incarnation of ruthless reaction which characterized the later years of that monarch's reign, and though three-quarters of a century have elapsed since then, Russia was freed from his influences, his name is to this day, as it was in his own, a synonym of pitiless and grinding oppression.

He was the terror of the army, on account of the savage punishments with which he visited the smallest offense or the most trifling inaccu-

But with all his faults, there was one good point which he possessed atmost beyond any man of equal station, and that was devotion to his masters. His love of Alexander was carried even beyond the grave, as is shown by the strange will.

A sum of \$0,000 rubles was set apart to be allowed to accumulate at compound interest in the Imperial bank till 1938.

"This sum," to quote the words of the will, "is intended as a reward for that Russian writer, who, a hundred years after the death of his late majesty, of bleased memory, skall write in the Russian tongue, the best, that is the fullest, most trustworthy, and most eloquent history of Alexander the First, Cear of all the Ruscias, and shall be awarded by the highest literary institution in Russia, under whatsoever name then existing.

This clause was in accordance with the testator's injunctions published In the London. Paris and Berlin newspapers "to the end that my pious and patriotic bequest shall not pass into forgetfulness," and it must again be published in 1915, "in all papers at that time appearing both Russian and foreign" (!).

Calculated at four per cent. the 50,-000 roubles will, in 1925, amount to 1,918,960, or rather more than \$1,000,-000. After all deductions have been made in accordance with the terms of the will, the fortunate man whose work is approved by the judges will receive fully 1,500,000 roubles, or about \$600,006.

It will be curious to see how the writer deals with Araktcheef himself, under the circumstances, and how far he will be able to maintain the impartiality of the historian in estimating the part played by the generous

Baron Pahlen, the principal conspirator against Emperor Paul, succeeded in procuring the removal of Arakicheef from about his master's

person. Too late Paul recalled him. Before the restored favorite had time to gather into his hands the threads of the conspiracy, the emperor was mur-@dered (March, 1801).

The passionate sorrow with which Araktcheef received the news, a sorrow which he showed openly by always wearing on his breast a portrait of Paul, has the unexpected consequence of procuring for him the favor of Alexander I. (1801-1825), in whose interests, and with whose conmivance, the late revolution had been accomplished.

Happily the accession of Nicholas brought with it the downfall of Arakt-

Fearing that the event might be forlowed by a general amnesty Araktcheef hastened to put to death 24 of his peasants, who had been directly or Indirectly concerned in the death of his mistress, Anastasia Minkin, to ...whom he was passionately attached.

This arbitrary step gave offense to Nicholas, and brought about Araktcheef's immediate diagrace.

He was ordered to travel abroad. was deprived of all his offices, and finally banished to his own estates. There he survived till 1834, leading

a life of charity and devotion, and there he died with his eyes fixed to the last on the portrait of Alexander I., whom he hoped to rejoin in Heaven.

Novel Sort of a Will.

A wealthy land owner near Smolenak, Russia, died not long ago, and after the funeral his heirs looked vainly for the will, but without success. A few days: later a young man, seeing a graphophone on the table in the library, put into it a record, which he supposed was that of a popular Russian song. To his amazement and terror, instead of a song he heard the dead man's voice recite the words of the missing will. The heirs were notified of the discovery, lawyers were summoned, and they lost no time in examining the record containing the will. It was found to be flawless, and the question then arose whether a will left on a graphophone cylinder would be deemed valid by the courts. The question is now before the suprema court of St. Petersburg. - London Mail.

She Told the Truth.

"Mary, Mary," called the voice of the lady of the house down the stairs. "lan't that the voice of your young

man downstairs?" "No, indeed, mum," answered Mary promptly.

The lady of the house retired, and Mary said to her beau: "Sure, Mike, and isn't it real nice that you are over 40? Honestly it wod pain me to tell a lie."-Chicago Tribune.

VALUABLE KANSAS INDUSTRY. Honey Culture Scientifically Promoted in the State Through Crops of Alfalfa. ...

The introduction of alfalfa has made Kansas richer by millions of dollars. Put the honey bee with alfalfaand Mansas will be richer by millions more. This is the opinion of Prof. 8. J. Hunter, president of the entomological department of the University of Kansas. Any farmer who raises alfaifa, or anyone who lives in a region where alfalfa is cultivated, can keep bees at a small expense of capital and labor and a large profit, says the Chi-

cago Inter Ocean. The bee ought to travel with the alfalfa blossom, the professor says. The two are an ideal combination. Under Kansas conditions, alfalfa produces a quality and flow of hoursy unsurpassed by any other plant. And the bee makes ample return for the honey gathered from the alfalfa blossoms by insuring the formation of seed where the blossom was. Experiments made by the entomological department have shown that the seed crop in alfalfa upon which the been work is 66 per cent. greater than the crop taken from alfalfa which was dependent for pollina-

tion on other agents. At the meeting of the National Beekeepers' association at Omaha two years ago a test was made to determine the qualities of honey made from the principal honey producing plants of Kansas and Nebraska. Six samples were tested-basswood, knotwood, white clover, sweet clover, melon bloom and a sample of alfalfa honey. Of the six samples submitted, the alfaffa honey was declared by a competent judge to be the one most mearly

approaching the standard. There have been brought into this country eight varieties of bees, the brown or German bee, the Italian, the Egyptian, the Cyprian, the Syrian, the Palestine, the Carnolian and Tunisian. From the experience of Kansas keepers it would appear that out of these eight the two varieties best suited to the state are the Carnolians and the Italians. The Carnolians are Austrian, are gentle, long lived, and extremely hardy. They are good comb-builders, make a beautiful white-capped comb, and are good, hard workers. The Italian bees were introduced from Italy by the United States department of agri culture. They are exceedingly gentle and will bear handling. They are persistent workers, but need careful attention to keep them from feeding their young with the surplus stores of

honey. Preparations are under way in various localities in Kansas to promote honey culture through the raising of alfalfa and the indications are that this industry will prove a most valuable source of wealth for the people of the state.

WAR AND THE RAILROADS.

Not So Much Notice Taken of the Number of Killed by the

If 7.123 men were killed and 44.-620 were wounded in battle, even the most staid-newspaper would be pardoued for using sensational headlines. A thrill of horror would vibrate civilized peoples, prayers would be uttered in all churches for the dead, and sympathetic feeling for relatives and wounded would be universal, says Harper's Weekly.

Such a calamity, however, happens every year, almost without comment. But for the official report of the interstate commerce commission, annually rendered for congress, the world would be but little the wiser for it, and as it is, goes on almost unmoved and unconcerned about it. The figures given above form the brief official approvingement of the number killed and injured by railways of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1899. The statistic is officially softened by a ratio statement that only one person was killed or injured for a certain number of million miles accomplished by trains. The public is still further reassured to the effect that only 239 passengers were killed and only 3,342 were injured, which gives over 60,000,000 miles traveled for one injured. We are told that 4,574 persons killed were really trespassers, as were also 6,355 of the injured. They get in front of the trains when they ought to have business elsewhere. Some of them were only tramps, stealing rides, thus ridding communities of their maintenance and pilferings, and saddling the burial expenses on the

railway corporations. A careful examination of the official report fails to reveal any other philanthropic or reassuring features. On the contrary, a glance at a table in the report shows that during the period from September 30, 1888, to same date. 1899, the awful slaughter of railways amounted to 78,412 killed and 415,707 injured a population greater than

the city of New Orleans. But what is strictly germane to this article is the fact that during those years the number of railway employes killed in the United States was 25,990, and the number injured was 322,146,

Our Love for Sweets.

Americans are a sugar loving people, and our taste for sweets is increasing. We not only increase our consumption with the increase of population, but individually we consume more each year. Last year we consumed 2,219,847 tons of sugar, which was 141,779 tons more than we at the year before. This does not mean only that our sugar devouring population had increased, but it means that while cach man, woman and child-if he got his or her proportion consumed 61 pounds of sugar in 1899, he or she consumed a little more than 66% pounds in 1900,-N. - PHOTOGRAPHY IN WAR. -

By Means of the Camera, Exact Roproductions of Surrounding Country May Be Seenred.

In the past two years photography has assumed an importance on the battlefield never before imagined and the camera in different forms will become a necessary adjunct of every well-organized was department, says Collier's Weekly. When nostilities broke out between this country and Spain the camera was used mostly as an instrument for newspaper and magazine work, and every correspondent carried one with him. It was raised from a mere plaything to an instrument of inestimable value to the army officers. The daring correapondents who passed through the lines of the enemy, or ventured close enough to them to snap pictures of the pickets, furnished the officers with details and surroundings which greatly facilitated future maneuvers. It was found that the mera was a more faithful and reliable scout than the keenest and bravest of the professional spics.

When the English army went to South Africa they carried with them professional army photographers. These were provided with compound telephotographic lenses which enabled the operator to bring a distant picture much nearer than by ordinary photography. The "telephoto attachment" was first applied to photographing mountain passes by explorers, and by means of it distant, inaccessible peaks could be reproduced as though they were at close range. The application of this invention to the war cameras marked a revolution in modern scouting and observation. From balloons two or three thousand feet in the air exact reproductions of the surrounding country could be made on a scale sufficiently large to enable the officers to make good use of the knowledge. The English army under Lord Roberts prepared charts of the enemy's position and of the topography of the mountainous country better than if scouts had penetrated through the lines of the Boers and made rough diagrams. It completely revolutionized nast methods of studying the country, which at any time might become

a bloody battlefield. Through the Filipino war the camera proved of more actual service than ever before, and it was constantly developed as an instrument of daily service to the officers. The modern electric signals and telegraphy hardly assumed more importance in the Philippines than the camera. But for that matter electrical and photographic development go hand in hand, and the two have been combined in many ways. Rapid electrical photography has been used by our official army photographers in both the Philippines and in China. Photograservice to our navy. When the Oregon was grounded on the rock in the far eastern waters, a photograph under the water was taken to show the exact location of the rock and the nature of the wound to the external shell of the boat. It also revealed the exact nature of her position, so that it could be decided whether it would be advisable to hauf her off by the stern. The pictures thus taken of the battleship will prove of imperishable value to the navy department and will serve as a concrete study of marine accidents.

Every war correspondent and most officers carry a camera with them now, but the official photographer of each expedition is the man who is held responsible for a reproduction of everything of vvalue. When the present difficulties in and about the Philippines end, the war department at Washington will have many thousand official pictures to file away and preserve. These photographs will eventually appear in the official war reports of the whole campaign.

Charles Snow on the Moon. here It is announced that Prof. W. H. Pickering, of Harvard observatory, hes discovered snow on the face of the moon through the agency of the camera. The earth's satellite has been vainly studied for evidences of an atmosphere. Indications of an atmosphere have been reported to have been seen at various intervals, but all these have lacked confirmation, and opinions of the lunar orb have lapsed again. into the belief that it is a dead world, devoid of moisture and atmosphere. and hence, according to human ideas. incapable of sustaining any form of life. Of course, if Prof. Pickering's discovery of snow on the moon is confirmed, all previous theories concerning"that satellite will have to be revised. Snow presupposes not only an atmosphere like our own, but also the presence of moisture in it, with all those variable conditions of climate which will produce snow in one section and prevent its production in another. These conditions also presuppose the possibility of life in some form and the transition of the moon from a dead world to a living one to occupy a place among the celestial bodies of the universe which are still serving a similar purpose to that of

the earth.-San Francisco Chronicle. Rather Indefinite.

Being asked his age, a colored citizen in a village near Atlanta replied: "Well, suh, I some older dan dat pine tree yander; HT bit younger dan dat live oak by de gate; en not quite soul' ra de house whar I livis at. I ain't much on tiggers myse'f, but you kin count up en see!"-Ban Francisco Argonaut.

Rever Belight Candles. In the coyal household of England a candle once extinguished may never again be relighted within the precincts of the palace.- N. Y. Sun.

COULDN'T FOOL THESE GIRLS.

They Were on the Watch for Trape and Sharpers and Made Their Escape,

It was a brand-new aud enterprising advertising dodge that caused these two young women to think they had been "bunkoed" and likely to get into difficulties, says the New York Times." The "dodge" consisted in a 15-minute vaudeville performance which one of the big retail houses put on in a room in its building to amuse customers and to make people talk about the store.

The two young women were from one of the auburbs of the city, and on the lookout for traps and sharpers. Having finished their shopping they were in the elevator and on their way out when the elevator man called: "All out here to see the famous

show!" With the other passengers the two young women left the car, and found themselves in a ilttle theater. It was dimly lighted, had a small stage, a smaller orchestra, and chairs in which a number of people had seated themselves. Suddenly an idea occurred to

one of the young women.
"Helene," she whispered to her companion, "this is some trap that we have fallen into. I know mamma told me of a similar case once. When she and papa were spending their honeymoon 23 years ago at Ningara Falls they went into a show that was all just as this is. On the outside there was a sign which said 'Entrance Free.' All went well until it came to going out, when there was another sign, 'Exit \$1.' That is what this thing is, and I know it. Let's get out before the show begins."

They made at once for the door of the elevator shaft. "The show will begin in an instant," politely announced the attendant, at whom the young women looked scornfully.

"You must think we are easy," said one of the girls, falling into slang to show that she was no ordinary proposition to be dealt with. "We know this dodge, and have seen it before." Then both went down to the street feeling sure that they had escaped one of the shrewd "dodges" of a great city.

WANT PRENCH OYSTERS.

In Great Demand Among Some Gothamites Who Will Not Eat the Home Product.

To an average New Yorker the oyster is essentially American. Whether served in cocktail, on the half-shell, roasted; stewed, broiled, panned, escalloped, or even in that abomination, a fry, the oyster stands out on the New York bill of farg as a national contribution to the table. Yet there are hundreds of men here who scorn the native Blue Point, Chipcoteague, Prince's Bay or Saddle Rock. They care only for the oyster imported

from France, save the New York French oysters are not to be had in Fulton market, nor in any of the famous oyster houses or "bays" of New York. For about two days in each week, in their season, the bivalve from the other side can be had; by favored patrons of one University place establishment. At the breakfast hour-one o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday-provided the French steamers come into port on time-and until Monday night, the imported oyster is dished up to those happy mortals who are in the blue book of Mr.

Restaurateur. Unless convoyed by one of the habitues of the place, the transient patron will ask in vain for the delicacy so highly esteemed by epicures of the French colony. M. Boyard, busy with Panama canal interests, has preempted a generous share. Like other regular patrons of the hotel, he never fails to leave, in advance of the arrival of the steamer, a written order with the proprietor for his bivalves. If you visit the resort on Monday, you find that the entire consignment of French oysters has been "underwrit-

To a New Yorker, permitted by courtesy of one of a group of monopolists to sample the imported oyster. there is little inducement to desert the product of the Great South bay, Long Island sound or the Chesapeake beds. Still, as with olives, caviar, or the alligator pear, if the taste is not born to one it may be acquired by perse-

Genius of the Ball in Literature. The wonderful growth of a railroad in these times of prosperity is aptly illustrated in a "reader" sent out. The statement is made that one train on that road leaving New York daily traverses no less than nine southern states. How is this for style in railroad literature: "In its service will be found all of those tributes which the genius of the rail has from time to time laid at the feet of comfort." And this: "This splendid train has been further improved by the addition of a club car, a creation whose orime object is the annihilation of time and space through the medium of a well-appointed metropolitan cafe and smoking room." The train is styled the "train de luxe."-N. Y.

Premiers' Terms. It is claimed by the friends of Lord Salisbury that his record for long service is unique because of the material changes that have come about n the structure of the government since the accession of Queen Victoria. In this sense it may be said that hea the record premier. Since 1827 the government has charged hands 22 simes, and until fo-day Mr. Gladstone had set the pace for long service. Third. in order is Lord Palmerston, who, during his two administrations, ruled the empire for nine years and 157 days. Discaeli is next, with six years and 153 days for two administrations.-Chicago Becord-Herald.

HOW DISEASES GROW.

The Natural History of Microorgantems Which Flourish in the Earth.

Bome novel observations on one of the most interesting problems connected with the prevalence of zymotic disease-namely, the natural history of the microorganisms in the ground -will be found in the medical supplement to the annual report of the local government board, says the London' Standard. Certain forms of disease are said to be endemic in particular countries and localities-by which is meant that they are never wholly absent. Typhoid fever, for instance, is endemic in most quarters of the globe, but much more so in some places than in others. Diphtheria, again, is always more or less prevalent in all western countries, plague is believed to have several endemic centers, and cholers is never absent from some parts of India. Probably all infectious diseases are endemic somewhere. From these natural bases, so to speak, they are liable to spread from time to time and develop into epidemic proportions. It is obviously important to know what are the conditions which invor the persistence of a disease in this locality and its absence from that.

The problem may be studied in two ways: on a large scale by observing the geographical distribution and the general conditions accompanying prevalence; or on a microscopical scale by investigating the relations between the specific microorganisms and their environment, in which the soil appears to be an important element. In the latter field the research department of the local government board has already done some valuable pioneer work, which is continued by Dr. Sidney Martin and Dr. Houston in the present report. The microorganism selected for investigation is the too familiar typhoid bacillus. It is almost ubiquitous, but it haunts certain spots with remarkable persistence. An instance is the town of Chichester, where it recurs year after year in particular areas, which do not appear to differ as regards their general sanitary conditions from other areas that are not so affected. It has been previously shown that the typhoid bacillus will grow readily in some kinds of soil when it has been "steribized," or freed from the presence of other bacteria. It will live and multiply in earth obtained from cultivated areas, gardens, and the surroundings of houses, when a certain amount of water; and organic matter is present. In such a medium, it has been found alive after the lapse of more than a year, and even after the earth has been dried to powder at a low temperature. On the other hand, in "virgin" soils

t**nat ia, carth** Which has ne cultivated, or manured, and is mostly of a sandy or peaty nature-it will not grow, and dies out in a short time. Nor will it thrive in cultivated soil which has not been sterilized, and consequently contains the natural bacteria. Dr. Sidney Martin's more recent experiments have been directed to the elucidation of this point. It appears that too much moisture is, had for the bacillus. If the earth is kept drier it does not die at once, but lives, at least, for a week or two. After that it disappears, perishing, apparently, in a struggle for existence with the soil microbes. The latter, however, do not have it all their own way, for some of them succumb to the typhoid bacillus, while others are too strong for it. Nine varieties were matched against it under different conditions; some would best it every time at high or low temperatures, either in solld or liquid media. In other cases a change of temperature made a difference and enabled the typhoid champion to win. There is some reason to believe that its most formidable antagonists are the putrefactive bacteria, which increased pari passu with its disappearance. It is a fascinating study, and a promising though a very difficult field of research. At present little more than a beginning has been made, but the foregoing observations suggest the possibility of important discoveries. The results are in a measure surprising, as they appear to contradict the current view, derived from observations on a large scale, that the endemic persistence of typhoid fever is favored by soil saturated with sewage and putrefactive matter. Investigations into the particular case of Chichester have led to negative results. No essential difference has been made out between the soils of the fever and the non-fever areas.

Ex-Aspiratius.

A young man blessed with a nice tenor voice, seriously marred by his defective enunciation, was asked at a "mmoker" to favor the company with a song. He gave a very fair rendition of the once popular "Happy Be Thy Dreams," but did not aspirate the etter "h" once. When he had finished he resumed his seat, which was next to the one occupied by a bald-headed old man, who bluntly remarked: "You have a good voice, young man, but you didn't sound one single 'h'-and the song's full of 'em." "I beg your pardon, sir," retorted the vocalist with dignity, "you are mistaken; it doesn't go any ligher than G!"-London King!

Siberian Farm Life. The most characteristic feature of Siberian farm life is that the farmers live not scattered all over the country, remote from neighbors, but ia villages as near as possible to the land they are cultivating .- Little Chronicle.

An ley Smile. The smile of adversity is rather icy. -Chicago Daily News.

MAKING ZEBRAS USEFUL.

Demesticating Them in South Africa Because of Their Immunity from Discour.

The foreign office lately issued a report by Mr. R. J. Stordy on veterinary work in the British East Africa and Uganda protectorates for 1898-1900. After dealing with the occurrence of the tactac fly disease, South African horse sickness in its various forms, rinderpest, liver fluke, etc., reports the London Times, Mr. Stordy urges the advisability of utilizing for purposes of transport an animal-the zebra-which is "naturally immuned against the ravages of the tacted fly disease and horse sickness," and which exists in enormous numbers. He MATA:

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"I am convinced that should the government enter upon a scheme for its demestication it would prove one of great value, and that at no very distant date a supply of snimals would be available, not only for African service, but also for army transport work at home or in India. The great difficulty so far has been the domestication of the adult animal. I have, however, to suggest the following plan for obtaining a possible way out of the difficulty: I would propose that a kraal be formed within a district where firearms are non-existent, as is the case of a preserve. The kraal would have two extending arms leading from the open country into it, and would be constructed large enough to hold a herd of, say, 50 adult animals. Several mounted Cape boys would be employed, whose duty in the first instance would be to accustom the sebras in the neighborhood of the kraat

to the night of horses or mules. "If my anticipations prove correct, the rebras will in the course of a few days follow the horses or mules, and advantage could be taken of this to lead them into the kraal. If it were, however, found that they would not be led it would be necessary to have them. driven in by the Cape boys, assisted by swift-footed natives. The animals being in this way contined within the kraal, they would naturally propagate their species. It is with the offspring that I would propose that the experiment in the way of domesticity would begin. As is well known, it has been found nearly impossible to rear a sebes foul spart from its mother | would not propose to separate them; they would live along with and be nurtured by their mothers. A few months after birth the young animals could be caught, and by various ways become accustomed to the sight and presence of man. I am very hopeful that in this way a number of young animals of both sexes would become domesticated and prove useful for transportation service, and also in propagating their species. The second generation, if my experiment prove in any way successful, would be even more domesticated than their parents, and I am sure that in course of time a large supply of the domesticated zebra would be forthcoming for the future use of transport work at home and abroad. The initial cost might be a little more than the final results justify., but there is no reason to doubt that in the long run the ultimate results would far more than compensate for the initial expenditure."

DEVELOPMENT OF HAMMER.

From the Crude Implement of Stone to the Ponderous One Worked by Stram.

"Man's first tool was the uplifted hand gra-ping a stone, and from this came, after many years, the hammer, says the International Monthly. As heavier blows became necessary, the hammer grew in size until it was operated by machinery in the form of the tilt or helve hammer. When steam succeeded water as a motive nower, a steam cylinder replaced the Tripping cam, but the first half of the past century had nearly expired before the original form of this tool was at all changed by James Nasmyth's invention of the upright steam hammer. Since then the falling weight of this design of tool has gradually been increased from a few hundred pounds up to 100 and even 125 tons; but excepting the smaller sizes, up to 25 tons, it has since 1390 been superseded by the hydraulic press, which, by its slow motion, produces a more thorough working of the metal. Presses have grown until the capacity of 14,000 tons was reached in 1893, requiring a 15,000 horse power engine to drive it. Such a took with its accompaniment of 200ton electric cranes for handling the work underneath, is capable of forging ingots over 75 inches in diameter and weighing more than 250,000 pounds. This whole plant, costing over a quarter of a million dollars, was not projected without an adequate understanding that it was to meet the commercial demands of i many years to come, and industrial ; developments, great as these have !. been, have not as yet called for anything that has tasked its full ca-

A Sly Dig.

Mrs. Pepprey-There's something peculiar about that couple who just moved in next door. She's receiving attentions from a married man who's in love with her.

Mr. Pepprey-What's unusual about

"Well, the married man in question is her husband." - Philadelphia Press.

English in Germany,

German signs literally translated are always funny. Here is one that is in all German railway trains: "The Out leaning of the Body out of the Window is on account of the therewith boundup Life danger most strictly forbidden."--Judge.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS