

NEWS BUTTONS FOR NEWSBOYS.

The Novel Philanthropy of a Lonely Woman in Chicago.

A dear old lady, of this city, who prefers to remain unnamed, being left alone in her declining years, has adopted all the street urchins as her family, says the Chicago Post. There are too many of them to take to her home, and she is too feeble to care for so large a family in that way. She therefore seeks them out and gives them mittens and pulse warmers of her own make. She also sews buttons on their clothes and does light mending for them also. The pulse warmers are of peculiar construction, cut from a pattern of her own devising. The upper side is made longer than the under and projects over the back of the hand, leaving the fingers free to make change or wield the blacking brush.

Sometimes this kindly woman spends the entire night working for "her boys," plying the needle to replenish her stock, which is largely made from felled cloth. Friends give her old clothes and she uses the less worn parts in making her mittens and pulse warmers. Once in awhile she fills her roomy old bag with an assortment of buttons and thread and she sallies forth to seek the alleys where her protégés congregate. There she will devote herself to replacing buttons and sewing up rents in garments, which admit more ventilation than is desirable either for health or comfort.

This humble philanthropist is one of those gentle old souls who win the hearts of all who know them. Her sweet face, softened in expression by the manifold trials of rearing and the loss of a large family, some by death and some by marriage, is framed in iron-gray hair. She finds solace for her grief in this self-imposed task.

FISH SHED TEETH.

Peculiarity About the Victoria Muskelunge.

A few weeks ago, says a writer in Forest and Stream, I advanced what was to me the curious information regarding the shedding of its teeth by the muskelunge during the summer months. I now have confirmation on the matter advanced at that by Mr. H. L. Stanton, of Chicago, and I believe the phenomenon properly to be regarded as established. Mr. Stanton's observations were made in Wisconsin, and his original informant had seen the phenomenon in Canada. Now comes Mr. H. G. McCartney, of Chicago, who has observed the same thing in the waters of Cass and Itasca counties of Minnesota. Mr. McCartney says that last spring in May and June the teeth of all the muskelunge taken in Woman Lake and adjacent waters were sound and normal. On July 10 he examined fish which showed jaws red and inflamed and with some of the teeth missing. In August still more teeth were found to be absent in specimens examined. In late August and in September it was the rule that no teeth at all would be found in the mouths of the muskelunge taken. The muskelunge taken in October all showed perfect teeth. Mr. McCartney intends to keep a record on this matter next year. He does not know whether the teeth are shed yearly or not, but knows that they are shed sometimes.

DESERTED BY WILD PIGEONS.

Disappearance of Birds Which Used to Flock in Missouri Woods.

The wild pigeons no longer visits southwest Missouri with the return of the mast season, as formerly, reports the Kansas City Journal. Years ago the woods of the Ozark region were full of these birds from October to January. A pigeon roost was the wonder and delight of the pioneer hunter. Millions of the birds would gather in some thick forest at the approach of night. From all directions and for miles away dense flocks of pigeons could be seen flying toward the roost. The unerring instinct of the birds guided them to the place, and by sundown the flutter of countless wings sounded like an approaching storm in the vicinity of the roost. Hunters killed the birds by the thousands, for in a roost no skill was required to shoot pigeons. A shotgun fired into any tree or bush at random never failed to bring down game. The ground was often nearly covered with dead and wounded birds after a volley had been fired into a tree loaded down with pigeons. Hogs fattened on the crippled birds left in the woods, and hawks, owls, foxes and other wild animals had a continual feast. The last pigeon roost of any importance near Springfield was not far from Hopewell church, south of the James River, about 24 years ago. The birds occupied a thick oak forest covering several acres, and remained three or four weeks.

Difficulty of Crushing Stone.

It is easier to crush the hardest stone, known than steel. Corundum was chosen for the stone in a recent experiment. A weight of six tons smashed the corundum, but 42 tons were required to crush the steel. With a ton explosion the steel flew into powder, and sparks are said to have bored minute holes in the crushing machine.

Another Immortal Toad.

Brunswick, being obliged to have an elevated railroad to connect the stations at opposite ends of the city, is going to build it 180 feet from the ground, on ornamental pillars, with a glass roof beneath to protect the streets below.

Monument for Japan's War Heroes.

In the three states which keep statistics, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, 54 persons were killed by steel railways in 1888 and 215 in 1896. In the same time the number of injured increased from 504 to 3,124.

Anti-Horse Thieves.

The Dedham (Mass.) Society for Apprehending Horse Thieves is the oldest of its kind in the country, having been started early in the present century, when the country in the vicinity of Dedham was infested by horse thieves.

Waxworks.

Each figure in a first-class waxwork exhibition has to be remade every four or five years. The wax loses its color and becomes soft and spongy after that.

High Elevated Railroad.

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Railway Accidents.

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OFFICERS' MARRIAGES.

The Armies of Europe Have Various Rules Regulating It.

The restrictive conditions at present in force with regard to the marriage of officers in the Russian army forbid this privilege under any circumstance in the case of officers under the age of 23; between the ages of 23 and 28 years the dot of an officer's wife must amount to a sum representing the minimum income of 250 roubles yearly. On comparison of these conditions with those regulating the same question in other European armies, it may be noted that in the Austro-Hungarian army the number of officers authorized to contract marriages is limited by a fixed proportion assigned to each grade, and these totals being reached, all further marriages must be deferred pending the occurrence of vacancies in the married establishments. The Italian army regulations, which fix the income of the fiance at a minimum of from 1,200 to 2,000 lire, would appear to be more rational in their operation; Italian officers, however, apply a somewhat liberal interpretation to this law, with the result that the number of marriages occurring under actual provisions does not exceed more than an eighth of the total number, seven-eighths of the officers being united under the conditions of the religious ceremony only and thus exposing themselves to all the inconveniences which attend a marriage not recognized by civil law. Similar difficulties would now appear to be incurred by Russian officers, reaching a total number of nearly 40,000, representing one of the most important classes in the state.

AN EQUINE BAROMETER.

French Mare Which Limps Only When It Is Damp.

A veterinary of Vendome, M. Bonnigal, says Lo Chasseur Francais, bought in 1888 a half-blooded mare, seven years old, and trained for the race course. For several months the animal, whether in harness or mounted, showed nothing out of the usual course in her gait. This was very fast and graceful; but one fine day, in moist autumn weather, she limped only in going against the wind, or entering an alley filled with mist; except under these conditions, if she limped, it was a sure sign of rain. In soon after rain, the limping failed to manifest itself when going against the wind, the return of fine weather was to be predicted; prolonged rest prevented or retarded the return of the limping according to the weather, or diminished its intensity; after the heating effect of a journey of several leagues the limp did not reappear until after a stop of considerable duration. In the absence of such a stop the animal could run a long race without being obliged to change her gait. Such are the facts shown by observations taken during five years, during which the mare has been constantly used. This barometrical mare is a curious example of the intermittent lameness, due to arterial lesions, that are the despair of experts in such matters.

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Figure of a Nude Boy in Brussels Has Nine Different Suits.

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SOFT SNAP OF A CAT.

But a Dark Fate Impending as a Consequence of Two Luxurious Farc.

A drug store on upper Broadway has a cat that is an epicure. In fact, the cat is probably more fastidious in her tastes than most of the customers who stop to admire her glossy coat and musical purr, as she strolls among the bath sponges and perfume bottles.

The proprietress of the establishment of the boy who had been

described as a naked boy in Brussels, and nine different suits.

One of the most curious things in Brussels, a thing that must be characteristic to some extent of the temper of the people, is the little manikin statue and fountain, says the Kansas City Journal. It is a statue of a naked boy, said to have been erected by a nobleman whose lost son was found on this spot. But there is not the least excuse for the boy's nakedness, for he is well supplied with clothing of many sorts, and is rich enough to buy more suits occasionally. Louis XV. decorated the statue with the order of the Holy Ghost, possibly at a moment when another sort of spirit had possession of him, and it is the owner of nine handsome costumes belonging to nine different periods.

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