PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

Over 35,000 persons in Illinois belong to associations interested in preserving and fostering the birds of the state.

A man needs 1,600 pounds weight of food in a year, a woman 1,200 pounds and a child of six about 900 pounds.

Germany's crown prince is striving to emulate his father's many-sidedness. He has now taken up the study of the violin.

The best swordsman among European rulers is the kaiser, who seeks to keep up his skill by fencing for an hour every day.

Ex-Gov. Morrill, of Kansas, owns what is said to be the largest apple orchard in the world. When work now in progress shall have been completed the orchard will contain 84,000 trees.

Ten years after failing in the woolen business in Minneapolis an employer returned and paid his former employes $40,000 he owed them. He is now Senator Gibson, of Montana.

James J. Hill, the railway magnate, was at one time a Mississippi steamboat "runner," and as such is well known in the early days of Dubuque and Milwaukee. He was then accounted one of the best "runners" of business for river boats.

Tom L. Johnson says of his handsome house on Euclid avenue, Cleveland: "Here's where I forget all about politics and business. I make it a hard and fast rule never to think of them after I pass the door of this place, and that's why I'm so healthy."

Rev. Mr. Pearson, the preacher who was elected sheriff of Cumberland county (Portland), Me., after having been nominated as a joke by the liquor men, has been a source of unending trouble to them ever since. His rigid enforcement of the prohibition law has, it is said, resulted in an offer of a large sum if he will resign or go to Europe and remain there until his term shall have expired.

ATTACKS ON THE POLE.

Not Alone for Scientific Research, but Wilder Game of Sheer Adventure.

The report that an Austrian named Kampe will try to reach the pole by means of a submarine boat calls to mind the imaginative triumphs of Capt. Nemo and his wonderful Nautilus, which threaded the ocean wastes with ease and was as much at home in polar seas as in the Mediterranean. What was possible to a Jules Verne hero is, however, not likely to repeat itself in actual experience. Herr Kampe, moving in his boat from opening to opening under a shifting ice field, will have to have miraculous means not yet known to science of determining his position if he ever expects to come to the top, and it is to be feared his first dip under the ice will be his last, says the Philadelphia Press.

What Kampe's project gives emphasis to is the frank acknowledgment on the part of most arctic explorers to-day that they are bent not on scientific research, but on a game of sheer adventure in trying to reach the pole. This period may be said to have been set in with Andree's ill-fated balloon voyage, which began on July 11, 1897. Andree's project was polar, pure and simple, and since that time Peary and almost all the others who are engaged in planning expeditions or in talking about them have made small pretense that their expeditions were anything else than an effort to be first on that spot on the east or west or north, where all directions are due south, and the constellations revolve about the zenith point.

Whether these expeditions are wise or foolhardy depends largely upon the point of view. They certainly do assume a different aspect when they are presented as perfectly venturesome and when it is remembered that the north pole is neither the center of magnetic phenomena nor the point of greatest cold, nor of the lowest barometer, nor of an oceanic swirl, the scientific reasons for reaching it are very slight compared with the scientific reasons for studying the arctic regions in lower latitudes. Still the fact that its quest fires the imagination and stimulates enterprise in these workaday days is not without its value in lifting the world out of ordinary endeavor along humdrum lines.

Electricity in India.

Consul General Patterson, at Calcutta, in a report to the state department, says there may be an opportunity for our manufacturers of electrical machinery to secure the contract for the proposed electric plant to be constructed at Lahore, the capital of Punjab. Besides Lahore, which has a population of about 200,000, the cities of Madras, Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Agra, Cawnpore and Benares, all in India, have no electric plants, with the exception of Madras, which has one for tramways, but not for lighting. The consul general says that electric lighting, though introduced into Calcutta only last year, is coming into general use.—Washington Star.

Different.

Wife (in unhappy husband)—I would not worry, John. It doesn't do any good to borrow trouble.

Husband—Borrow trouble! My dear, I'm not borrowing trouble; I've got it to lend.—N. Y. World.

Unexpected Summons.

Circus Manager — Well, are you ready to join us?

Living Skeleton—Great Scott, why didn't you give me time to train down; why, I weigh 160 pounds now! —Ohio State Journal.

THE ELECTRICITY HABIT.

There Are People Who Come to Feel a Real Craving for Shocks and Thrills.

The energetic young woman read aloud from her notebook:

"Mrs. Bennett. Muscular rheumatism. Interrupted current. Strong. Two o'clock. Twenty minutes."

"And she's so cranky, too," added the young woman, according to the New York Sun.

"Rheumatism, I believe, is not conducive to angelic qualities of temper," said the visitor.

"Oh," said the young woman, "I should not find fault with her idiosyncracies if she were really suffering with rheumatism. But she isn't. She only thinks she is. What really ails her is the electricity habit."

"The electricity habit?" echoed the visitor. "I never heard of such a thing."

"You would have heard of it if you had been associating with nurses and doctors and hypochondriacs," said the young woman. "It is very common. Of all the habits that fasten themselves upon a person I know of none that clings so tenaciously as the electricity habit. It is unlike most other habits, however, in that it is beneficial instead of harmful.

"The electricity habit, like most other practices of a medical nature, has its beginning in treatment during illness. Electrical applications are a popular remedy in many ailments, and thousands of patients recover with the craving for electrical currents so deeprooted that it is as necessary to comfort as the administering of opiates once the liking for drugs has been formed.

"In those cases electricity is no longer a curative application; it is a stimulant. Dealers in electrical appliances say that the demand for small one and two-cell batteries, those costing from $2.50 to $10, has quadrupled in the last two years. A large majority of the electricity fields can manipulate their own batteries and give themselves a dose of the lightning fluid whenever they feel that they need it. There are others, however, who can never overcome a certain innate distrust of a battery, and prefer an experienced person to administer their shocks and thrills.

"This Mrs. Bennett belongs to that class. She could treat herself just as well as I can, but she is too timid to undertake it. I have found so many people like her that I have worked up a regular practice among them. They are not ill, and consequently have no need of a doctor or a professional nurse, but they feel that they must have their electric toddy daily, so I visit them at stated hours and tone them up.

"I used to go out massaging, but I find that manipulating an electric battery is much easier work and almost as remunerative, so I have naturally switched over to that."

"LAYING A GHOST" AT SEA.

Investigation by the Captain Solves the Mystery of a Supposed Funeral Bell.

Sailors have great respect for the supernatural. In "A Sailor's Log," published by the Appletons, Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans tells this good "ghost" story: "One of our ships had had a very curious ghost experience while cruising in the Mediterranean, which is well worth recording. At about midnight, when over 100 miles from land and while everything was perfectly quiet about the deck, the sound of a tolling bell was distinctly heard. It could be plainly heard by the officer of the deck as well as the men, and it continued for several minutes. To the crew it sounded like a funeral bell, and they decided that some one was going to die. With much difficulty the men were finally sent to their hammocks and ordered to keep silence. The next morning the story was all over the ship, from the forecastle to the officers' messes. When night came again many had forgotten the incident, but at the same hour the tolling of the bell was again distinctly heard, and the whole crew gathered on deck to listen in superstitious silence. The officers were much puzzled, and many theories were advanced to account for the strange and unusual noise.

"The third night found captain and all hands, officers and men, on deck, determined, if possible, to find a solution of the mystery. At the proper time the sound of the bell came clear and distinct, tolling as if for a funeral. The captain and several of the officers then began a careful investigation, which soon cleared the matter up. The galley of the ship, where the cooking was done, was under the topgallant forecastle, about 20 feet from the ship's bell. The fires in the galley were put out at nine o'clock, and it was found that at a certain point in the process of the cooling the contracting of the metal in the galley made it give out a cracking noise which accorded with certain tones of the bell and caused it to ring.

"The very puzzling ghost story was solved, and the men went to their hammocks, many of them still shaking their heads and predicting that there was trouble in store for somebody."

A "Provisioning" Flock.

Squire Cringleigh—See here, parson, I made only a provisional promise of a $10 donation to your church—insisting that 50 cents would be deducted for every fowl I lost during winter.

Parson Goodman (dejectedly)—Yais, squiah; I've been dubious all along ober dat provision. H-ll-How much does ouah church owe you?—Puck.

Chip Off the Old Block.

An awkward boy is a chip off the old stumbling block.—Chicago Daily News.

QUEER SITES FOR BIRDS' NEST

Some Odd Places Chosen as Homes by Feathered Families in City and Country.

The peculiar nesting sites of the birds in the vicinity of Baltimore is a most interesting study. Several days ago on the old liberty road the completed nest of a bluebird was found in a letter box, which was in constant use. When found a letter was lying beside the nest and one of the birds was in the box, says the Baltimore Sun.

In Dulaney's valley a sparrowhawk appeared at a barn and drove from a box in which it had made its home a wren. The hawk threw out the wren's nest and soon completed one of its own, and there reared its young.

Upon level tops of city houses bullbats or nighthawks frequently lay their eggs.

The cow bird deposits its eggs in the nests of other and weaker birds for them to hatch. Only one egg is usually deposited in the nest. The discovery of a summer tanager's nest a short time ago, in which four cow birds' eggs reposed besides one of the proprietor's, was considered a most unusual case by ornithologists.

In the telegraph poles about the suburbs of the city are members of the woodpecker family, the flicker and the redhead, frequently make their homes, burrowing into the wood. In the masts of abandoned vessels they also rear their young.

English sparrows frequently build in freight cars and their nests and inhabitants are sometimes taken across the continent. Mr. Frank C. Kirkwood, secretary of the Game and Fish association, tells of a find he made in a large tree on Kent island. In the top was the nest of a fish crow; farther down was a fishhawk's; in the sticks of which were five purple grackles, with young ones, and four English sparrow's nests. Farther down a flicker's nest and three more grackles and the nest of one wren.

Mr. William H. Fisher, a well-known ornithologist of the city, has in his collection a double nest of a chipping sparrow. It was found near Baltimore and contained one egg in one apartment and three in the other.

In the glass globes of the arc electric lights of the city English sparrows and purple grackles sometimes build.

Barn-owls, despite the noise around the grain elevators, have been known to rear their young in the buildings. Mr. Kirkwood last year found very intimate relations existing between the families of a red-tail hawk and a gray squirrel. The hawk's nest was built upon the squirrels', and both of them were inhabited. In the sails of boats which have been laid by for the summer tree-swallows have been known to build their nests.

A LITERARY CATASTROPHE.

Destruction of China's Historical Encyclopedia a Loss That Cannot Be Replaced.

News comes that the orient has been robbed of its most famous collection of knowledge, the monumental "Encyclopedia Maxima." A writer in an English magazine briefly describes this splendid Chinese encyclopedia, whose destruction, he says, "is the most appalling literary catastrophe the world has ever seen." In 1403 the third emperor of the Ming dynasty, Yung Lo, issued a commission to Hsieh Chin, the leading scholar of the day, for the preparation of an encyclopedia. With the assistance of 146 colleagues, Hsieh Chin finished his work in a year and four months and laid it before the throne.

It did not at all satisfy the emperor, who thereupon issued a new commission, in which Hsieh Chin appears as one of three commissioners, with directors and a staff of assistants, making 2,169 persons in all. The idea was to collect together all that had ever been written on the Confucian canonical history, philosophy and general literature; and by the end of 1407 a compilation was submitted which immediately received the stamp of approval, and was named the "Great Standard of Yung Lo."

This work ran to no fewer than 2,377 separate sections, and was bound up in 11,100 volumes, each half an inch in thickness; so that, were all the volumes laid flat one upon another, the column thus formed would reach a height of 450 feet, or nearly 46 feet higher than the top of St. Paul's. Each section contains about 20 leaves, making a total of 917,180 pages for the whole work.

Ever since Peking was first opened in 1860 all applications from foreign scholars to be allowed even to view such an interesting relic have always been curtly refused. China has now lost forever, as a certain point in the process of the cooling the contracting of the metal in the galley made it give out a cracking noise which accorded with certain tones of the bell and caused it to ring.

"The very puzzling ghost story was solved, and the men went to their hammocks, many of them still shaking their heads and predicting that there was trouble in store for somebody."

Not the Real Thing.

"No," said Mr. Meddergrass, "the Consolidated, Combined, Colossal Megatherium and Mastodonic Monarchs of the Minstrel World didn't do well in our town. They didn't tell a single joke that any one could remember, an' we didn't get the funny points figured out until two, weeks after they had left town, which was, of course, and consequently, too late for applause. Give us a joke that we recognize as such from old acquaintance an' we'll do our parts as an audience, but when any o' these new model witticisms, an to speak, is handed out to us we got to study over 'em first before indulgin' in the proper amount o' laughture."—Baltimore American.

FRANCE'S NEW COUNTRY.

Large Military Expedition to Establish Government Over the Lake Tchad Regions.

A few weeks ago a French military expedition, including several hundred Senegalese soldiers, started from the great northern bend of the Mobangi tributary of the Congo on the way north to Lake Tchad. The expedition is under the command of Commandant Destenave. Its purpose, says the New York Sun, is to establish a military government over the countries around Lake Tchad formerly ruled by Sultan Rabah, whom the French awhile ago killed in battle. This is the territory of the native empires of Bornu and Bagirmi, which were among the strongest native states in Africa, until they were conquered by the invincible guns of Rabah. He carved out a large empire for himself in that part of the Soudan, and was the absolute ruler of some millions of people until the French put an end to his rule less than two years ago. The French flag will hereafter float over this richest part of the central Soudan by right of conquest and of the treaty arrangements between France and Great Britain.

The large river Shari, emptying into Lake Tchad on the south, with its sources some hundreds of miles to the southward, blended the vast territory of which the French are now taking effective possession. Only the countries in the immediate neighborhood of lake Tchad gave the French any trouble when they first moved into the country to subdue Rabah; and so the government proceeds to differentiate between the peaceful tribes of the south and the fierce warriors of the Lake Tchad sultanates which fought under Rabah's banner. The country is to be divided into two sections. A civil government is being established by the present expedition over the southern or upper part of the Shari basin. A military government is to be established over the northern or lower part of the river territory, which is already held by French troops.

The people occupying the upper part of the Shari region are among the pagans of central Africa. Some of the tribes have suffered terribly from the raids of Mohammedan slave stealers, who for years have devastated the country and carried many of the natives into captivity. The situation has been fully explained to the powerful chiefs among them, and they say that they gladly welcome the government of France which they have been told will protect them against the enemies who have so long made them suffer. The French are thoroughly convinced that this part of the country need not be placed under military regime, and so is establishing posts all over the region, manned with sufficient force to carry out the regulations imposed upon the people.

France intends to make both the civil and military governments as nearly self-supporting as possible. It has already arranged to impose a hut tax in the civil district. The tax will be paid in rubber, each hut holder being required to deliver about six pounds of rubber a year. He will take it to his local chief, who will keep a small proportion of the commodity and forward the rest to one or another of the French stations. The rubber and ivory resources of the country are said to be very large.

In the region of the lower Shari all the laws and regulations imposed upon the people will be dictated by the military regime. The government proposes to collect a tax from all the people, but it will not be onerous. Rabah enriched himself by taxes. He acquired enormous means with which to extend his power by inflicting a most grievous burden of taxation upon the inhabitants of the Sultanates he conquered. It is not expected that the French taxes will amount to more than one-fourth those which the despot Rabah collected.

A large part of the people already understand that the evils inflicted upon them by their conqueror will be removed and that their burdens of taxation will be comparatively light. They are, therefore, submitting most cheerfully to the rule of the French. It is not expected that France will have any particular difficulty in fully establishing its sway over the great and rich country which is quite certain to prove one of the most valuable French possessions in Africa.

Larry in a Well.

Larry Peppard fell in an old well in Cincinnati the other way, and his working mate, James Cavanaugh, called down to him:

"Are yez there, Larry?"

Back came the answer like a voice from the grave:

"Shure, an' Ol'm not on top."

"Are yez hurtied, Larry?"

"Jist a little skin is scraped off."

"Say, Larry, dis big shtone is liable to fall on yez any minnit."

"For hiven's sake raymove it. I see shtars from here, but I don't want 'em to git clowter."

"Are yez wet?"

"No, ye soiled gorsoon. Ol'm as dhry as a prohibition convention."

Finally a rope was lowered to Larry. He tied it under his arms and he was drawn to daylight.—N. Y. Tribune.

Possession.

Sallie was sitting on the floor, and the sun began to shine in her face.

"Go 'way! Go 'way!" she cried.

"Move a little, Sallie, and it will not bother you," said her mother.

"No, mamma, it mus' move; I dot here first!"—Philadelphia Times.

An Unassailable Position.

Jones—Well, Johnson placed him; sold us an unassailable position before he had anything to do with the other man.

Smith—How?

"He was at the other end of the telephone."—Detroit Free Press.

MAIL THEIR LETTERS FREE.

There Are But Two Ladies in the United States Who Enjoy This Privilege.

"It is commonly supposed that only senators and representatives have the privilege of writing or stamping a few simple words upon their envelopes, and that, under the law, all such mail matter goes through the mails without payment of postage," said a representative to a Washington Star reporter recently.

"This is true, and Uncle Sam's postal employes honor our signatures when a bank teller might not. There are two ladies, however, who share with us the privilege, though this is a fact not generally known, and they are the widows of former Presidents Grant and Garfield.

"All mail matter sent by Mrs. Lucretia R. Garfield and Mrs. Julia D. Grant, under their respective written autographic signatures, and all mail matter sent to these two ladies, will be carried free during their lives. No signature or seal is necessary to the free carriage of mail matter to either of these ladies, the address being sufficient. Mrs. Garfield has enjoyed the privilege since 1881 and Mrs. Grant since 1885.

"And in the connection of the free transportation of mail I will give you a line or two which is of both local and general interest. The delegates to congress from the territories, the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives also have the privilege, and there it ends, except for official correspondence of the government.

"The right of a senator and a representative to use his 'frank' holds good until the first Monday in December following the expiration of his term of office, the single exception being in the case of seeds and agricultural reports, which may be sent by or to any member of congress or delegate free for a period of nine months after the expiration of his term. Members of the last congress may continue to use their franking privilege until Monday, the 2d of next December, the day when the Fifty-seventh congress will convene. The envelopes must have the word 'free' and the initials of the official, as 'M. C.' for representative and 'U. S. S.' for senator written or printed thereon.

"Being an old representative, I have been often asked by new members how they could get a lot of reports or government documents into their districts without going to the trouble of addressing them in Washington and saving the annoyance of handling the volumes, as well as deciding to whom they are to be sent. If men who are elected to congress have this to learn, it is not supposed that the outside public would know. They distribute this mail in this manner:

"The law allows a package of franked articles to be sent to one addressee, who on receiving and opening the package may place addresses upon the franked articles and remail them for delivery to their respective addresses.

"And we work it this way: We will send one or a dozen big mail bags filled with agricultural or other reports to a friend in our districts with carte blanche to distribute them where he thinks they will do the most good. People living in the rural districts consider it a compliment and special mark of favor to be thus remembered and as the agricultural reports are valuable to them we disseminate the information the government has gone to great expense to compile, and could not do it in any other way. They are relieved of a tremendous lot of hard work and loss of time."

INSECT CARE FOR YOUNG.

Provisions Made by the Elders for Food Supply During the Winter Season.

Katydids, grasshoppers and locusts, crickets and beetles, like the poor fly, are killed by the frost. Millions of eggs had been hidden, however, in the ground, or in the barks of trees to furnish the supply of next year, says Nature. Beetles exhibit a wonderful instinct in caring for their helpless young. Among a certain species a ball of suitable material for food is made, and the eggs are rolled into it, providing in the spring something to eat near at hand for the voracious appetite that characterizes the beetle from the start, as the farmers of the state know very well. The burying or sexton beetles deposit their eggs in the bodies of dead birds or field mice. The bodies and eggs are carefully buried, and the newly-hatched beetle, as a result of this maternal forethought, finds a store of food waiting him when in the spring the sun stirs the budding life and by its strange alchemy bids it come forth. Butterflies feeding greedily during the early summer. The hatched larva or caterpillar eats voraciously, gorging itself until it can eat no more. Finally it spins a cocoon and makes ready for winter. Through the cold season it apparently slumbers in its snug quarters, nourished by the plentiful store of food it accumulated when a caterpillar. At the proper time it emerges as a gorgeous butterfly, ready to be the element of beauty it ever is among the summer fields.

Spiders store away no food supply for the winter. Quantities of eggs are laid and are carefully stored away in velvety cobweb sacks, impervious to any but the most severe weather, and eminently snug when, as during this season, there has been no excessive cold.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A wise man avoids extremes—especially those of wasps and hornets.—Chicago Daily News.

Lying comes so natural that when people have ten cents' worth of good luck they give out the impression that it was a dollar's worth.—Atchison Globe.

"Yes," that is a piece she decomposed herself," said the fond mamma, who was proud of her daughter's ability to play ragtime.—Indianapolis News.

Jimson—"New York waiters frequently get $100 a week in tips." Jester—"Gee whiz! It's a wonder their employers don't ask 'em for a job."—Ohio State Journal.

"These efforts to suppress the use of money in politics won't go." "I'm afraid not. A party bugle blast is hardly possible without a campaign note."—Philadelphia Times.

She "I only paid four dollars for my new hat to-day." He—"Good girl!" She—"And the milliner says that she can trim it beautifully for only $30 more."—Somerville Journal.

Mrs. Watson—"How irascible you are to-day, George." Mr. Watson—"Yes, I wish to-day that I belonged to a brass band and had to beat the big bass drum."—Somerville Journal.

Mrs. Crimsonbeak.—"You say Mr. Penman told you that his meter was frozen up the other night, and you didn't understand him?" Mr. Crimsonbeak—"Exactly. I didn't know whether his gas meter had been touched by the cold or his spring poetry had suffered from frosted feet."—Yonkers Statesman.

WASHINGTON'S WHISKY FLASK

An Odd-Looking Blue Bottle That Was Given to Him by Marquis de Lafayette.

Relics of the Father of His Country, of which the public does not generally know, are extremely rare, but a gentleman of Southampton county has one which has attached to it a story of more than the interest of the great majority of the stories which Parson Weems began telling about Washington and which were believed by two or three generations of young Americans, says the Richmond (Va.) Times.

The relic in question is a whisky flask, which has for a long time been on the center table in the parlor of the pretty home of Mr. Robert F. Bishop, of Southampton county. It has been in his family for over a century, ever since his ancestor served as an orderly at the headquarters of Gen. Washington at the siege of Yorktown. If it ever leaves the Bishop family, it is safe to say that the sum paid for it will be about that which Mr. Bishop would get for his farm.

The flask holds a half-pint and is of old-fashioned blue glass. Running over the outside are seams of what looks like china or porcelain. It is not really a glass bottle, perhaps, but, for the lack of a name for the material composing it, it is called glass.

The story behind the interesting relic is not a very long one, but it is full of interest. The bottle was given to Stith Bishop, a soldier in Washington's army, and an ancestor of Mr. Robert Bishop, the present owner. Mr. Bishop was an orderly at Washington's headquarters during the siege of Yorktown. It was probably after the surrender of Cornwallis that Gen. Washington sent Orderly Bishop over to Williamsburg on business. After giving him various directions regarding what he was to do in the old capital, Gen. Washington gave to his orderly the bottle and told him to have it filled with good whisky at a tavern in Williamsburg. There is no tradition as to the brand the soldier was directed to purchase, which is unfortunate, as the enterprising distiller of to-day would find it an excellent name for the liquor he is making at present. But Mr. Bishop did remember that the general charged him to be careful not to break or lose the bottle, as it was a present made him by Marquis de Lafayette.

Of course, Orderly Bishop once knew why he did not return the flask, and of course he told the family when he came home from the war; but the reason is forgotten and it is not likely that it will be known again.

The bottle is guarded most sacredly. A glass case has long covered it, and it is seldom raised to allow a closer inspection. The genuineness of the relic is beyond question. Its history has been a part of the history of the Bishop family for generations.

Costly Gas.

No one has ever suggested that helion, the element which until recently was thought to exist in the sun, but which was discovered in the gases contained in certain minerals by Prof. Ramsay, would be of any practicability. At present, however, it is not likely to be, for it is the costliest of all elements. The method now being pursued for capturing this element in workable quantities shows that its separation and concentration involves an enormous expense, and the helion obtained costs about $200 per cubic foot. The same amount of money would at the present time purchase over 1,000,000 cubic feet of coal gas. The price of helion, therefore, at present is more than a million times that of coal gas. The present costly research is being undertaken, among other things, in order to see whether helion can be solidified. To gain this result, temperature will cease to play a part, for absolute zero will have to be reached.—Lancet.

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