

WORKMEN AS INVENTORS.

Improvements in the Manufacture of Glass Made by Men of Little Knowledge.

In 1827 a carpenter of Sandwich, Mass. wanting a piece of glass of a particular size and shape, conceived the idea that the molten metal could be pressed into any form, much the same as lead might be. Up to that time, says the Commonwealth, all glassware had been blown, either offhand or in a mold, and considerable skill was required and the process was slow. The glass manufacturers laughed at the carpenter, but he went ahead and built a press, and now the United States is the greatest pressed glassware country in the world.

In 1836 a novice in the plate glass industry Henry Fleckner of Pittsburg, whose only knowledge of glass had been acquired in a window glass factory, invented an annealing "lehr," the most important single improvement ever introduced in plate glass manufacture. In three hours by the lehr the same work is done which under the old kiln system required three days. In four years the importations of foreign crown and plate glass into the United States fell in value from \$2,000,000 to \$200,000.

About the same year Philip Argobast, of Pittsburg, also a novice in glass-making, invented a process by which bottles and jars may be made entirely by machinery, the costly blow-off process being avoided and the expense of bottle-making reduced one-half. The result has been that more bottles and jars are used in a month now than in 12 months ten years ago.

MAKE DREAMS PRACTICAL.

Give the Imagination Free Scope, But Come Back with Something Tangible.

If Columbus had not dreamed of continents on the other side of the ocean to balance the lands that were known, if Cyrus W. Field had not dreamed of a cable for communicating across the ocean, if Prof. Alexander G. Bell had not dreamed of the possibilities of talking across continents by the telephone, if Elias Howe had not dreamed that there was an easier way for women to do their sewing, if Robert Fulton had not dreamed that the "Clermont" could sail up the Hudson, although the world doubted and ridiculed him—but for all the people who have given the world a lift by emancipating it from drudgery, through their dreaming and discovery of a thousand ameliorating appliances and inventions, civilization would be in its infancy to-day, says Orison Swett Marden, in Success Magazine.

Oh, how much we owe to the dreamers! But all these people made their dreams practical. They reduced them to realities before they were of any use. Go on dreaming, go on building your fair castles, let the imagination have free wings to soar into the unknown; but come back with something tangible. Make your dreams practical realities, or they will be worthless.

COLLEGE ASSOCIATION.

A Valuable Factor in the Training of Young People for the Business of Life.

"The bachelor's degree," says a French observer, "is a social rather than a pedagogical institution." These words touch the very heart of the matter, writes Arthur T. Hadley, in "The Immediate Future of the American College" in Century. The college course is not valued solely or even primarily for its studies; it is valued most of all for the associations into which it brings the student and the graduate. These associations are just as important to the boys who like study and do a great deal of studying as they are to the boys who dislike study and do as little of it as they can. The distinctive thing which their college course does for them all is to put them in contact with different types of character and different kinds of interests. Subject to certain rules which are necessary for the welfare of the place as a whole, they are encouraged to try their own experiments—in the choice of companions and activities, thereby enabling them to avoid more futile experiments and more irreparable mistakes in after life.

Canals of Continental Europe. Since 1882 Prussia has spent \$90,000,000 in cutting canals from the large rivers to the leading cities and canalizing rivers, and an additional expenditure of \$70,000,000 for the same object is planned. Germany now has 9,000 miles of navigable inland waters. In the last 30 years France has allotted \$100,000,000 to the construction of canals free from tolls and proposes to spend \$110,000,000 in the same manner. With 3,000 miles of canals and 7,000 miles of navigable rivers, many of which are canalized, France still calls for more canals.—Chicago Chronicle.

Egyptian Sunsets. In most tropical countries sudden darkness after sundown is one of the peculiarities. In Egypt, at certain seasons of the year, the sun goes down and darkness comes very suddenly, continuing for a space of 20 minutes or half an hour. Then, quite as suddenly, the hills and sands take on a marked paleness, and in another moment everything begins to brighten and it appears as if the sun is about to rise out of the west.

Somewhat Different. Inkerton—There isn't such a vast difference between McFadden's stories and mine. Peninbe—Wherein do they differ? "Well, the publishers all jump at his stories, you know?" "Yes." "And they jump on mine."—Chicago Daily News.

SMALL TOWNS; BIG NAMES.

New York, Chicago and Philadelphia Scattered All Over the United States.

The myriad of little American hamlets and villages that bear big names present a somewhat amusing spectacle. Some curiosities in that line are worthy of mention, says the New York Tribune.

There is a cluster of houses down in Henderson county, Texas, which is called New York. Miles from the nearest railway, it leads an isolated, self-reliant life and does not worry about the rapid transit subways or bridge congestion.

Besides the windy city on Lake Michigan there are three little Chicagos and two new Chicagos. One Chicago is on the mountains of Kentucky, on a railroad running south from Louisville on which, in one afternoon, the traveler passes through Boston, Chicago, Pittsburg and London.

There are nine little Philadelphias, none of them noted for great thrift or enterprise.

A score or more of places have borrowed the name of the "hub."

Brooklyn is a favorite name. There are at least a dozen of them, but none more peacefully situated than Brooklyn, Pa.

Almost every state has a Washington. Washington, Ky., is one of the oldest towns in the state and almost contemporaneous with Washington, D. C. Its old courthouse was erected in 1794.

It has another distinction. As a girl, Harriet Beecher, afterward Mrs. Stowe, taught school there. It was in the old slavery days and once she witnessed a sale of negroes in front of the old courthouse. The incident made such a lasting impression that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was the result.

High amid the snow-capped Big Horn mountains of Wyoming is a Buffalo. Cincinnati, Ill., is fading away, if one may judge from the replies of local photographers. "There is not enough of the old town left to make a photograph," writes one, "but I will go and get a picture of what remains."

CAT FIXTURE IN TEA-ROOM.

Pet Makes Free with Guests in Resting Place for Tired Woman Shoppers.

A little tearoom on a side street just off the shopping district caters to the rich women who encounter an appetite in that region, reports the New York Sun.

The interior is quiet and subdued. Maids are soft voiced and soft footed. Special attention is paid to the quality of the tea, cake and ice cream. The young woman who serves as superintendent trails silken robes after her.

There is a table loaded with the latest magazines. A powder puff, a vast mirror and 16 varieties of pins repose in a little dressing room to one side.

But most feminine touch of all is a small gray cat that travels from guest to guest and demands attention. That she is petted by the guests is evident from her critical and complaining attitude.

She will eat only the choicest morsels, and when they do not suit her she opens her mouth silently in the injudicious bestower in a most absurd manner, as if she really wished to object but had hardly the strength to do it.

At lunch time she makes the rounds, jumping boldly into such laps as appear to her most inviting, and the funny feminine might occasionally be seen of a fashionably gowned woman lurching downtown with a cat in her lap.

CHILDREN LEARN TO STAB.

Young Savages Practice the Murderous Art in a Tub of Water.

"One day at St. Louis," said a drummer, according to the Denver Post, "I saw three little savage children stabbing into a tub of water with daggers. A man stood over them, and when one gave the water an unusually clean stab the man would emit a grunt of approbation and pat the youngster on the head. A guide told me that these children were learning to handle the dagger—that the use of the dagger was always taught among the tribe in that way."

"He said that a child practiced and practiced till he could stab water without making a splash. Then he was promoted to stabbing the carcasses of dead animals. Then he stabbed live animals that were tied up. Finally he stabbed live animals in motion."

"I took one of the daggers and tried to stab the water cleanly myself. I couldn't do it. With every stroke I made a tremendous splash. The little savages laughed and their mentor grunted scornfully."

Professional "Bailer-Out." The fact has been disclosed in a London police court that number of persons augment their incomes by acting as bailers-out for people taken into custody on charges of drunkenness, etc. Fees vary according to the gravity of the charges, ten per cent. being charged in addition to bail for drunkenness, 20 per cent. for assaults on the police and 30 per cent. in larceny cases.

Reputed Advice. Friend—if you weren't such a good fellow, you'd make twice the money you do. Why don't you take a brace? Gayson—Bracers, my boy, are the very things that keep me from working!—Detroit Free Press.

Uncle Allen. "So there's a lobster, is there?" "Eric Allen Sparks was saying, 'Well, the next thing will be a trust lobster, and it will be all claws and tentacles.'"—Chicago Tribune.

HOW TO EAT SEED ORANGE.

The West Indian Method Does Away with the Necessity of Using a Spoon.

"When I was in Jamaica," says a New York man just back from the West Indies, "a native got to talking to me about their oranges."

"I asked him if they raised navel oranges. He said no, not to any extent, and that he considered the navel an inferior orange, anyway. I maintained that there is nothing better in the way of fruit than a good California or Florida navel orange. I see that the seeds and the thick fiber in a seed orange make it disagreeable to eat and spoil the flavor."

"The trouble is," he answered, "you do not know how to eat a seed orange." "Then he showed me illustrating with some of his own seed oranges. You peel the orange, taking care to pare just inside the white inner skin. When that is done you have laid bare the outer wall of each of those little sections of which an orange is composed."

"Then you divide these sections one by one and, putting the peeled edge in your mouth, suck. You get the juice and some of the pulp, but none of the fiber and none of the seeds, which hang close to the inner wall of the section."

"That is better than eating it with a spoon for two reasons. In the first place, after you have had the spoon in your mouth once or twice it grows warm and spoils the coolness of the fruit. In the second place, the spoon method has a tendency to make the juice fly, and that is disagreeable for your neighbors as well as yourself."

"I learned to eat the native orange in the native fashion, and now I think that the seed orange and not the navel is the king of fruits."

WAR AIDS WOMEN DOCTORS.

All Privileges Before Restricted to Men Now Granted Them by the Czar.

The Woman's Medical Institute in St. Petersburg, on its foundation, was hailed as the only place in the world where a woman could take out medical degrees. It was unendowed and was kept going by voluntary subscriptions and by sacrifices of professors, whose seal was even greater than their skill.

But though it was looked toward by many as a beacon of advance, the school in reality had only a trembling vitality, knowing well that the lifting of the eyebrow of any powerful personage was enough to send it tumbling down. As a matter of fact, the school was closed in 1886 by the minister, Warovsky, and was not reopened until 11 years later, when it lived on, if possible, in a more trembling condition than before.

It has now assumed a sudden importance. It has been brought from its straggling retirement. All the world has been told of its existence and called upon to give it recognition. An editor from the czar has given it a status and a substantial grant. Its students get all the privileges hitherto available to men.

The reason of this sudden change of official attitude is that the war is taking all the Russian men doctors, and if their places are not supplied the country is at the mercy of any epidemic that would come along. Hence the thoughtfulness and the generosity which has been suddenly developed toward the woman doctor.

THROWS OX WITH TEETH.

Remarkable Feat Performed by a Texas Negro Before Large Audience.

There is no doubt that the teeth and jaws of the negro are in many instances of quite extraordinary strength. A remarkable feat was lately accomplished by a negro in Texas, who gave an exhibition of his powers before a gathering of 20,000. Pickett, the man in question, chased a steer until he was in front of the grand stand. Then he jumped from the saddle and landed on the back of the animal, grasped its horns, and brought it to a stop within a dozen feet. By a remarkable display of strength he twisted the steer's head until its nose pointed straight into the air. Suddenly Pickett dropped the steer's head and grasped the upper lip of the animal with his teeth, threw his arms wide apart, to show that he was not using his hands, and sank slowly upon his back. The steer lost its footing and rolled upon its back, completely covering the negro's body with its own. Pickett arose uninjured.

Clock Paralyzed by Lightning. A unique observation of the stopping of a clock by lightning has been made by Dr. Ernst Hartwig, of the Bamberg observatory. He was noting the intervals between lightning flashes and thunder when the rod on the observatory was struck twice with an interval of 46 seconds. The clock on a stone pillar in the basement stopped 34 seconds after the second stroke. The clock was not injured, but the pendulum seems to have been momentarily affected by a powerful electric shock.

Goose vs. Turkey Race. On a recent evening a North London publican backed his turkey to walk a course 100 yards. There was great excitement, hundreds of people witnessing the start. After one false start the goose got well away, leaving the turkey at the post, and following his master in good style, won easily amidst great applause. Before and after the race the goose, with a box on his back, collected money for a local hospital.

The Boys Don't Object. It is generally unwise for a young man to appear out in public with his first silk hat when the snowballing is good.—Somerville Journal.

DRINK MUCH COFFEE.

AMERICANS CONSUME ALMOST HALF OF WORLD'S OUTPUT.

Indigestion and Nervousness of People in the United States Largely Attributable to This Source.

Prof. Virchow attributed the "leanness, nervousness and sallowness" which he found characteristic of Americans to their excessive use of coffee. Physicians, dietary experts and editors of physical culture magazines incessantly dia into our ears that we are undermining our own and our children's constitutions by yielding ourselves too completely to the blandishments of this seductive beverage. We heed them not. Instead, we increase the copiousness of our drafts, says the Chicago Tribune.

A recent report of the national bureau of statistics shows that Americans consumed almost half of all the coffee marketed in the world last year. The total quantity marketed was 2,280,000,000 pounds; and of this Americans got 1,063,000,000 pounds. The Germans, who will let nothing supplant their precious beer, bought only 400,000,000 pounds of coffee. The English, preferring alcoholic drinks and tea, imported but 35,000,000 pounds of it, or only one-thirtieth as much as Americans. In 1830 the people of the United States used less than three pounds of coffee per capita. In 1870 they used six pounds per capita. Their average consumption last year was 13.64 pounds.

Medical authorities are pretty well agreed that the constant use of coffee tends to cause indigestion and nervousness. It is a fact, nevertheless, that while the per capita consumption of coffee has been rapidly increasing in this country, the proportion of people who suffer from nervousness and indigestion has been diminishing. If Dickens should visit our shores now to get material for another "Martin Chuzzlewit" he would find that the number of candidates for dyspeptic and cadaverous parts in his cast of characters had markedly decreased.

The improvement in the national physique is due, however, not to the increased consumption of coffee but to the increased consumption of fresh air and the increased use of dumb-bells, boxing gloves, golf links, etc. Americans are getting rid of their bad stomachs and allaying their nerves in spite of their coffee not because of it. But, at all events, coffee is less deleterious than alcohol.

The consumption of coffee is not a bad index of the national prosperity. A people that spends more than \$1,000,000 in a single year for its favorite beverage must be in pretty good shape financially.

CZAR'S DAY OF JUDGMENT.

Has the Most Pregnant Opportunity Ever Offered Any Ruler of a People.

That the welfare of millions should hang upon the will, whim and word of a single individual—and this individual walled away from all real knowledge of the people's condition and natural wishes—is an anachronism of tragic proportions—an anachronism which leads to deplorable assassination on the one side, and on the other to such hideous massacres of the confiding innocent as took place in St. Petersburg on Sunday, the 22nd of January, 1905.

In all the history, says Century, of man no more pregnant opportunity was ever offered to a sovereign than that offered to Czar Nicholas when his people came to him, not with swords and guns, but bearing a petition, carrying the sacred icons and pictures of the czar, and following a cross. The humblest Turk is protected in presenting a petition to his sultan; but the white czar, the beloved Little Father, allows his petitioning subjects to be slaughtered like mad dogs.

The psychologist and the philosopher can find a score of explanations of the conduct of the troubled, perplexed and wrongly advised czar on that day of judgment for him and for the exploded system of government which he represents. Yet it remains true that, strive as he may to undo the awful effects of his action on the 22nd of January, the doom of the Russian oligarchy was sealed. Through whatever slow or rapid processes, by means of whatever wise concessions or hysterical convulsions, Russia from now on will advance painfully, perhaps with pitiful reactions, toward some modern and rational form of government. The new government may be in Japan. The danger is that the blind, brutal, stupid measures of repression, the grinding system of imperial uniformity, may so inflame the people that fearful reprisals and chimerical schemes of reform will take the place of wise and orderly measures, and that the "man on horseback" may, for a time, stand in the path of progress.

She Had It.

A young clergyman, doing his holiday shopping in a New York department store, asked, at the book department, for Carolyn Wells' new collection of parodies by well-known writers. "Have you 'A Parody Anthology'?" he inquired of the young saleswoman. "I think we have," she replied glancing at his clerical garb. Turning to another clerk, she asked: "Have we got 'A Parody on Theology'?"—"Town and Country."

Joy Ahead.

Jenkins—Aren't you disappointed that your baby was a girl? Popley—No, indeed. I've just been thinking how much pleasure it will afford me some day to tell some foreign duke or count that he can't have her.—Philadelphia Ledger.

AN EXTRAVAGANT OUTFIT.

What Is Frequently Paid for a Muff and a Boa in New York City.

I find that \$6,000 for a sable coat is only a fair price, in fact it is a very low price for a coat of fine sable, writes Cleveland Moffet, in "The Shameful Misuse of Wealth" in Success Magazine. As witness this talk that I had the other day with New York's leading furrier:

"Can you show me a good sable coat?" I inquired.

"Russian sable?" he asked.

"Yes," said I, "something especially fine—say about \$6,000."

He smiled: "We haven't anything made up that I would call especially fine. We have a rather short coat of rather light skins moderate quality, that will cost \$10,000."

"Ten thousand dollars?" I exclaimed. "Then what would a good coat cost?" He continued to smile and produced a number of fine skins—the real Imperial sable, very dark with silver lights playing through the soft fur. And he showed me the price marks: \$50 a skin, about ten dollars a square inch.

"This is the best Siberian sable," he went on. "A coat of moderate length, say 30 inches, requires 60 skins and—"

"Sixty times \$50," I murmured. "Thirty-three thousand dollars, which includes the cost of making."

"And a longer coat?" I gasped.

"One reaching to a lady's ankles would require say 80 skins, that is, \$4,000," he replied, rather matter-of-fact. "And you sell coats at such prices?" I continued in amazement.

"We sell this kind of sable as fast as we can get it. The best skins are very scarce."

"And a muff?" I asked, meekly. "Just a muff?"

"Five skins," said he. "\$275. There's one in the showcase."

"And a boa? A little boa?"

"Four skins at least, that is \$200."

"Here then evidently I erred not on the side of exaggeration, but of understatement. I put down a \$9,000 as the maximum yearly sum that a few New York women spend on dress, including everything, whereas nearly \$9,000 may be spent simply for a fur coat with boa and muff."

SALVATION ARMY CHARITIES.

Wide Scope of Work Done in the United States by This Organization.

The following statistics deal with our work in the United States only. In going through them, writes Commander Eva Booth in the Reader Magazine, we should remember that the flag of the Salvation Army is flying in 49 countries and colonies, and that the same kind of work is being carried on in all of them:

Three thousand seven hundred and seventy-three officers, cadets and employees.

Nine hundred and eighty-three corps, outposts, slum posts and social institutions.

Ten thousand five hundred and eighty accommodations in social institutions.

MUST RELY ON THE DEALER.

In Buying a Watch Most People Have to Trust to the Honesty of the Merchant.

"Not many men know how to buy a watch," said a dealer in the Kansas City Star, "and to a large extent they have to rely on the honesty of the jeweler. So complicated is the business that even we go to the factories ourselves and arrange for special works in order to get the proper article, for of course, we could not assay every case we receive."

"Now, how many people know the difference between a filled case and one that is plated? A filled case, you see, is a composition that resembles steel, with a plate of gold on each side, that on the outer being thicker than the inside. Such cases are guaranteed not to wear through within five, ten or fifteen or up to twenty-five years—the limit of the guaranty made by the reputable houses. If a man offers you a case warranted for thirty or forty years you are going to be 'bunked' if you buy it. When you see watches offered for sale as gold plated for \$3 or \$4 depend upon it they are filled, and mighty thickly too."

"In the matter of movements," he continued, "the buyer is really at the mercy of the dealer. In one big factory about 3,000 movements are made every day. There is certain to be haste in that sort of output and the name on the dial does not make up for imperfections. To avoid these a first-class jeweler arranges for several hundred movements to be delivered a year hence."

"A strictly first-class movement requires six months, exactly, in its passage through the factory, from the beginning to the finished product ready to offer for sale. Such goods are then stamped with the name of the firm for which they are made and that firm has to stand sponsor for them. The Swiss watch is in its highest class in the best movement in the world to-day. Of course there are cheap Swiss movements that you can buy for \$3 or \$4 but they keep good time."

PLAN TO RAISE INLAND SEA.

Engineering Project in Russia Which Would Deepen the Waters of the Asov.

A French engineer has advanced the suggestion of permitting the Atlantic ocean, by means of a canal, to flow into the Black Sea, thereby changing that desert country into a garden land. A great Russian engineering project has not far its object the creation of a new sea, like that dreamed of by the French, but to improve an old one. Their sea of Asov, lying back of the Crimea, is a body of water 220 miles in length by 80 in width, opening into the Black sea.

The Asov sea would better serve the purposes of trade were it not so extremely shallow. No ocean-going steamer can enter it. Even small craft have difficulty in navigating it. Consequently the Russian government proposes to bring trade to the shores of the Asov by means of dams built across the strait by which it communicates with the Black sea, and to let the rivers emptying into the shallow body of water fill it to a depth that shall make it navigable for large steamers.

It is calculated that a heavy dam about two miles long, with a great lock capable of taking in ocean steamers, would accomplish the desired result. Where the shores of the sea are high naturally there would be no difficulty when the waters rose, but where the shores are low artificial shores would be necessary. This would indeed be a gigantic undertaking, but it is said that the Russian government has been earnestly considering the scheme.

OPOSSUM AMONG BANANAS.

Tiny Species Introduced Into England in a Bunch of the Fruit.

Bunches of bananas appear to be the means of introducing strange animals into this country, though the new arrivals have not, like the brown rat—to which Waterton always applied the epithet "Hanoverian"—established a footing and ousted members of the native fauna, says the London Mail.

Lizards have repeatedly been brought over in this way, and sometimes the little reptiles have escaped notice till the fruit was served at dessert. In a warehouse at Newcastle-on-Tyne a snake about five feet long was recently discovered lying near some bunches of bananas, the inference being that it was imported in the same crate.

In at least one case a mammal has been introduced into Britain in this way. Not long since there was living in the Clifton zoological gardens a marine opossum—about the size of a mouse—discovered in the interior of a bunch of bananas that formed part of a consignment from Costa Rica.

Typewriters in Russia. In a certain Russian town the police have been obliged, according to a correspondent, to confiscate every typewriter in the place. These machines are said to be regarded in Russia as dangerous organs of sedition. They are convenient instruments for the dissemination of literature of which the government does not approve. So every typewriter is registered, its address is known to the police and it is liable to be arrested on suspicion at any moment.

Seventy Years in Scaffolding. Those familiar with the monuments of Paris will be surprised to learn that for the first time since the reign of Louis Philippe the old abbey church of St. Eustache, adjoining the central markets, has just been freed of the last vestiges of scaffolding. For nearly 70 years the magnificent building has been thus disfigured, much to the chagrin of lovers of mediæval architecture.