

A NOVEL SCHOOL.

Agricultural Department Forms Classes in Washington in Forestry and Soil Culture.

Secretary Wilson and his corps of assistants are now carrying on a work of education which has been overlooked by the educational institutions of the country.

Secretary Wilson said he could not understand why these important questions were not dealt with by American educational institutions.

In carrying out this plan the agricultural interests of the country will be advanced materially.

HAS A FIVE-HOUR DAY.

Interesting Study Afforded Astronomers at This Time by the Little Planet Eros.

A special to the New York Times from Boston says: Eros, the little planet that has been watched so closely by astronomers lately on account of its nearness to the earth, has recently taken an additional interest.

It has been found by the Harvard observers that the intensity of the light changes sometimes two or three times in as many hours.

KING MAY GET GREAT OPAL.

Commonwealth of Queensland May Buy the Famous Gem for Him.

The "imperial opal," which a wealthy Australian is anxious to present to the king, but which the latter is unable to accept owing to the royal etiquette forbidding the sovereign to receive a present from a subject, has quite a romantic history.

A NEW TITLE.

Prince of Great Britain is Suggested for the Heir Apparent.

The duke of York will have new titles soon, but the nature of them is undecided.

The king rather holds off conferring the title of prince of Wales. It is reported the title which meets his approval is prince of Great Britain, as a commemoration of the duke's tour of the colonies.

The king has given Balmoral, the queen's favorite Scottish residence, to the duke of York for a country house, and will keep Sandringham, his favorite palace, for himself.

Shareholders in Dividends. About 12,000,000 persons share in the \$175,000,000 dividends recently distributed in New York, and half of the number are depositors in savings banks.

Kansas Illiteracy. The percentage of illiteracy in Kansas is less than in any other state in this union or in any country on the globe save Belgium.

MANY LEPERS FOUND

Consul Reports Disease Almost Epidemic in Canary Islands.

Three Distinct Classes of Leprosy on Tenerife Island. One of the Group—Eating Putrid Fish and Uncleanliness the Cause.

The existence of about 200 lepers on the island of Tenerife, Canary Islands, has been officially reported at Washington by United States Consul Berliner, at Tenerife.

"Leprosy is somewhat endemic among people here, on account of their eating a good deal of fish, often putrid, and their general uncleanliness.

"As to being contagious, it is generally discredited here, but in my opinion it is very infectious. In former years Spain had established a colony at Grand Canary for lepers.

"At Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the capital, there are (from personal knowledge) 22 lepers, 15 of whom are men, and there also are some children of these unfortunates.

United States Consular Agent Swanston, on Grand Canary island, in an accompanying report, says that leprosy there is decidedly decreasing.

IMMIGRANTS AT HAVANA. During Last Half of Year 1900 14,575, Mostly Spanish, Arrived at Cuban Port.

A statement setting forth the origin and extent of immigration at the port of Havana, Cuba, for the last half of the calendar year of 1900 was made public by the division of insular affairs of the war department the other day.

The Chinese immigrants numbered 226; 17 from the United States, 18 from the United Kingdom, 106 from China, 16 from British North America, 62 from Mexico, and seven from South America.

CITY MOVED SIX INCHES. Geological Disturbance Shifts Butte, Mont., by Gradual Movement.

A portion of Butte, Mont., believed to embrace the larger part of the big hill upon which some of the Anaconda mines are located, has made a very perceptible movement southwestward during the past few days.

Don't Go Far Enough. Dr. Nagusha, the Japanese scientist, says rats cause all the world's plagues, and favors their extermination.

France's Water Boundaries. The water boundaries of France are as follows: Mediterranean sea coast, 395 miles; North sea, Straits of Dover and English channel, 572 miles; Atlantic ocean, 584 miles.

Absentees from School. A London journal declares that of the 700,000 children of school age in the London school board area, 100,000 are always absent.

HOW FISHES GO UP STAIRS.

As They Do in Part of Their Journey from Narragansett Bay to the Nemasket River.

It is not an uncommon thing to see on pleasant days, when the fish are running at East Taunton, hundreds of men, women and children clustered around the fishway watching the fish struggling up against the strong current, and trying to get into the smoother waters above the dam, where they may shoot off at their leisure to the spawning place in the Nemasket, says the Boston Herald.

The fishway is so constructed that it is impossible for the fish to make a clear swim from top to bottom or vice versa. They must work up the river in the eddies, for the tide is also very strong near the dam, and until they reach the lower part of the fishway. Thence they struggle and wriggle into the lower entrance of the fishway, thus making sure of at least a chance to rub up against the boards and rest before they begin their wearisome fight for the top and smooth water.

From right to left and from left to right, steadily, slowly, they keep on in the effort to get out of the fishway, and it is one of the prettiest sights imaginable to watch the little fellows, plucky and game to the last, as they almost imperceptibly work out of one passageway into another and crowd each other around the corner.

WHITE INDIANS DISCOVERED. Strikingly Handsome Natives of the Amazon Country of Peru and Brazil.

A white Indian is indeed a rara avis, and great therefore was the surprise of M. van Montascken, the well-known Belgian traveler, when he suddenly found himself face to face with a colony of such Indians as he was making his way through the heart of Peru during his recent exploration of that country and Brazil.

YOUTHFUL BLACK EVENING GOWNS are in great demand this season, all because young women find that they can acquire more distinction in a black gown than in any other.

MAKES CLOTH NEW AGAIN. Take about 20 laurel leaves, preferably young, and having carefully washed them place them in an earthenware dish.

ASPARAGUS SALAD. Moisten cold cooked asparagus tips with a simple French dressing, and let stand where it will keep very cold for an hour or more.

SPINACH. Wash well, blanch in boiling water, put into fresh water and cook tender. Drain off every bit of water and set in the oven to dry for ten minutes.

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IN FASHION'S MIRROR.

Some of the Pretty Fancies in Feminine Finery That Are Re-noticed.

Bands of embroidered velvet, cloth, silk or satin are used to edge boleros, walking jackets, skirt hems and open-fronted princess dresses.

The latest Parisian fancy is a black stock of mousseline de soie, decorated with slanting lines of Roman pearl and fastened at the left side in a fluffy butterfly bow.

Small bishop sleeves, plain in style or laid in horizontal or vertical tucks, are more generally used with the new spring and summer shirt waists than sleeves of any other description.

The princess skirt shaped with a corselet top is one of the popular styles of the season. A graceful model issued from a noted designing house of this city is fitted to the form by means of curved front seams and two darts on each side.

A revival of a pretty fashion is the black velvet ribbon bracelet, which is being worn now by Parisian women. It is simply finished, and held together by a dull gold slide.

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MODELED FRIGATE OF BONE.

Sailor in Debtor's Prison Reproduced Old Essex After Twenty Years' Work.

Unique among the countless boat models is that of the United States frigate Essex, now at the United States naval home. It is constructed entirely of bones, excepting the hull, and represents 20 years' work of a sailor convict in the old Walnut street debtors' prison.

The name of the constructor is not known, but it has an interesting history. A sailor who had proved himself valiant in many naval battles was reduced to penury. Unable to pay his debts he was thrown into prison.

No materials were at hand to make the model except the bones which he might save from his meat and soup, says the Philadelphia Press.

The vessel has two gun decks. Each of her broadside batteries has 32 guns, making a total of 64. These are models of the Dahlgren guns, which were nine-inch and smooth bore.

Models of two dispatch boats were also made by the old sailor and these have always accompanied the frigate. When the naval veteran died the boat model was bought at auction by Sampson Perot, who lived at 59 South Seventh street.

IDENTIFYING PHOTOGRAPHS. A Habit Common to Tourists That Makes Business for an All-Around Artist.

"Each season's exodus to Europe means an increase in my business, in the fall," said the all-around artist, according to the New York Sun.

"Scores of tourists come back with a trunkful of photographs that are not marked of whose originals they have no more idea than a cat.

"It seems queer that a person could visit the most famous spots in Europe and not be able to identify one of the photographs, but I find that this is frequently the case.

"Then again, many people return with photographs of places that they didn't pretend to visit while abroad. The pretense begins when they get home, and they have brought the photographs along to back them up in their assertion.

"These pictures have all been bought by the wholesale, and are jumbled together without the slightest regard for the unities, and the first thing necessary is to turn the chaos into some kind of order.

"Our most difficult task is to straighten out the work of amateur photographers, many of whom cannot name their own pictures. A large percentage of these photographs are very crude, and the point of observation is so unusual that the most experienced globe trotter would not recognize the scene.

CORDITE A TROUBLE TO GREAT BRITAIN. Ever since cordite came into use as an explosive in the British service there has been more or less complaint about it.

SERVANTS IN ENGLAND. There are several designations of servants in England which would mean nothing to the housewife of America.

MAKING UP IN THE CAB.

The Queer Experience of an American Who Gave a Stranger a Ride in London.

"I was never in London but once," said a young clubman, chatting about foreign travel the other day, relates the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and that visit is chiefly impressed on my memory by a very curious adventure I had in a cab. It happened in this way:

"A good friend had mapped out an itinerary that kept me continually on the jump, and one evening, after dinner at a swell restaurant, he stuck me in a cab and started me off to meet some fellow Americans at a club two or three miles away.

"Naturally I hesitated, but the man was so earnest in his plea that I yielded to a second impulse and told him to jump in. He did so with alacrity, and the driver immediately whipped up his horses.

"I could get no idea of his face, except that he seemed to be very swarthy. Of course this evident desire not to be seen was suspicious, taken in connection with his agitation, and I began to recall all the horrible stories I had ever heard of murderers in hansom cabs, chloroformers, sandbaggers and homicidal lunatics, until in a few moments I was in such a frame of mind that 'pon my word, I believe pride is the only thing that prevented me from stopping the vehicle and calling help.

"Meanwhile we had been traversing a very busy section of the city and got caught in one or two slight blockades. At each stop my companion's nervousness increased, and he was continually consulting a watch that he whipped out of his big pocket. 'Good heavens!' he exclaimed, finally, 'I'll be late sure unless I fix up here! Will you allow me?' Without waiting for an answer he snatched off his hat, and I was startled half out of my wits at the sight of a face painted sea brown, with a green nose and pink circles around the eyes and mouth.

"I told him to go ahead, and as well as I remember he painted his nose blue. His ulster came open in the process, and I saw he wore a full suit of fur tights.

"A few moments later we reached the theater, and, thanking me warmly, he sprang out and disappeared, leaving me somewhat dazed. I heard afterward that it was a common thing for vaudeville stars to play several houses at once in London. Some of them make all of their changes in cabs.

ROGUEISH RAVENS. The raven of southern Europe is a bold fellow—not unlike his cousin, the crow. Some notices of the bird, given by an English traveler in Corsica, offer amusing proof of this.

"A youth whom I employed to carry my camera could never look on ravens with any equanimity, for he had suffered much from their thievish impudence when sent to the bush to gather firewood. On one occasion he lost his dinner, a loaf of bread wrapped in a napkin, although he was working close to the spot where he had laid it, and had turned his back for only a minute.

"Yes, and last night he explained in detail how the Swiss navy, in command of Gen. de Billorey, was going to help the Boers."—Philadelphia Press.

WELL POSTED. "Harry is so well posted in this South African war," said young Mrs. Kidder, "and he just loves to discuss it with me, because, he says, I have such an intelligent conception of it."

"Is that so?" said her friend. "Yes, and last night he explained in detail how the Swiss navy, in command of Gen. de Billorey, was going to help the Boers."—Philadelphia Press.

SERVANTS IN ENGLAND. There are several designations of servants in England which would mean nothing to the housewife of America.

There are several designations of servants in England which would mean nothing to the housewife of America. A "single-headed butler," for instance, "will take a place where a boy is kept in town," and an "as-between maid, well recommended" and aged 14, will take a position to learn housework."—N. Y. Times.