

THE ORRIS ROOT TRADE.

Familiar Facts About a Familiar Article of Commerce the World Over.

The British vice consul at Leghorn, in his report on his district for the past year, mentions a curious industry in which orris root plays the chief part, says the London Times.

SWINDLERS HAVE NEW GAME.

Good Profit in Being a Bona Fide Relative of Undescribed Dead in Hospitals.

"There's all sorts of ways of making a living, and I've seen many queer things in this line," said an attaché of the county hospital, reports the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Our Dumb Friends.

We shall respect ourselves none the less if we find animals are nearer to us intellectually than is generally supposed.

THEORY FAILED TO WORK.

An Instance Which Illustrates a Very Common Error of Judgment.

"I don't know so much about this theory that you can come close to feeling a man's occupation by his manners and appearance," said a Washingtonian who recently returned from the Pan-American exposition.

"Another of the three was a slightly undersized man of 35 or so, rather thin and dyspeptic looking, who didn't have a great deal to say, and who seemed so diffident with women folks that he almost collapsed when the four of us were presented to a jolly lot of young women on the grounds.

"Well, one night, a couple of weeks after I met up with the three, we wound up the night with a little game of draw in my room.

"Oh, I write the stories of the streets—slang stories," he answered me.

"And there you are. Each of these men had been following his special line of work for years, and none of them had the stamp of his speciality in his appearance or manners.

Spiritual Curvature.

Examination of 21,000 college students in the United States shows that curvature of the spine affects one out of 18 noteworthy students.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Merchant—"I want this ad. where everyone will see it." Solicitor—"We charge higher rates for space on the baseball page."—Baltimore World.

"I understand you made money in that stock deal." "Yes, I came out on top." "How did you manage it?" "Got in on the ground floor."—Philadelphia Press.

Sunday School Teacher—"Now, Tommy, you may give your conception of the future state." Tommy—"Please, ma'am, it's a territory."—Philadelphia Record.

"Billinger is a little too captious." "What's the matter with him?" "He prayed for rain and then grumbled because the water wasn't fed."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

First Policeman—"Why is the street so blocked? Nobody told me about this procession. What is it?" Second Policeman—"It's the reporters of the city going to see a naval officer who won't talk."—Boston Transcript.

DISBANDING A GREAT ARMY.

Retirement of United States Troops That Served in the Philippine Islands.

An important event in the history of the United States was the sailing from Manila of the transport Kilpatrick with the 33 officers and the 1,013 men of the Fifty-third regiment, United States Infantry.

By act of March 2, 1899, the army was reorganized on the basis of 65,000 enlisted men and 35,000 volunteers, volunteer service being for a term of two years and four months, or until July 1, 1901.

The volunteer force of 35,000, which is now no more, was nearly 10,000 larger than the whole American army before the outbreak of the war with Spain.

Some hostesses are serving watermelon this season in fanciful designs. The melons have been cut for several days, and are cut lengthwise in deep scallops or points.

Preserved String Beans.

The best time to do up string beans is in the latter part of October.

AMATEUR DETECTIVE

Often Keeps Careful Watch on Men Innocent of Wrong Doing.

Every Hour of Suspected Persons Under Close Scrutiny for Months at a Time—Secrets of the Profession.

Hundreds of Chicago people who have committed no crime, who pay their debts, and against whom no complaint can be made, are tracked wherever they go by the numerous tribes of amateur detectives whose existence in Chicago just now is one of the marvels of the police department, says the Tribune.

Not since 1893, when the news of impending crashes in the business world on account of the panic made shadowing a common thing, have the police known of so many cases in which innocent persons are continually under the eye of other persons who are not legalized officers and who are hired simply because they are not.

When a crime has been committed and many persons are under suspicion the detectives both in the city department and in private agencies who may be interested in the case follow these suspected persons.

Many times the wrong persons are shadowed. In such cases the subjects, as they are called, never know that their every move has been under scrutiny perhaps for months.

But the city police come to be known quite generally, and with them the trained operatives of the private agencies, about people continued, and there seemed to be little chance of obtaining it.

They were obtained in the shops, in offices, in positions of more or less public character.

Everything that happens is noted and the notes are turned over to the person who pays for the work.

Ginger Sherbet. Ginger sherbet is a good emergency dessert to the suburban housekeeper, as its foundation can always be kept on hand.

To Remove Iron Rust. Hold the spot over a bowl of water to which a little ammonia has been added, and apply, with a glass rod or a small piece of wood, 18 per cent. muriatic acid.

HAZARDOUS OCCUPATIONS.

An Official Tells Why Men from the Country Ploek to the Railroads for Employment.

There is a fascination about "railroading" which makes the waiting list of applicants a long one, and verifies the known fact that where one man is killed there are a dozen others eager for his place," said a railroad official to a Washington Star reporter the other morning.

"Our men are employed by the different division superintendents. On our road I should say that for every vacancy there are ten applicants on the list, to say nothing of those who would be glad to accept the place if they knew of it or it were offered to them.

"There are several considerations which prompt men to so readily accept positions on railroads which are hazardous to life and health. Men must have employment. Most of our employes are married men, and the necessity to provide food and shelter for the family will cause men to take places they know to be dangerous.

"But the great, main reason why railroads have so many applications for these places is because their lines penetrate the rural districts, and pass through small cities and towns. Sixty dollars a month on a railroad beats \$16 a month as a farm hand, even if every daily run may be 'the last.'"

"The worker in the fields sees the train fly by day after day, and he catches a momentary glimpse of the trainmen, sitting or standing in the open door of the baggage car or passing from car to car.

"On our road, and the same policy holds good on most roads, we make it a point to give preference to men who live along its line, rather than a man who comes from another state. The reason is obvious. The resident is identified with his locality and its people. It is to his interest and the interest of his people to help the road all they can.

"While accidents are frequent along the line of a road, and especially in what are known as railroad towns, among the employes there in no wise, as far as we can judge, influence other men from taking the places of the dead and the maimed or of impelling old men to get out of the service.

Quality Folks. Since bacteriologists have attributed the dissemination of yellow fever in Cuba, and of the deadly malarial Italy, to the mosquito, that creature has emerged from the general host of insects into a place of individual importance.

The fond mother's eyes grew large with mitigated pride and amazement. "Ezekiel must be rare handsome," she said, "for the maidens to be after him. And I reckon the Miss Kitties is quality folks, too!"—Youth's Companion.

The Reason. Mr. Frontpaw—I am glad you belong to our church choir, my dear; it is such an orderly organization; I never see you whispering to one another during services.

Not Built That Way. Tess—Miss Skrawway is going to the mountains this year, as usual, I believe. Jess—Yes, I believe she can't bare to go to a watering place.—Philadelphia Press.

NEW CORSET FOR STOUT MEN.

It Came Into Vogue Contemporaneously and as a Result of the Shirtwaist.

"I can truthfully say that I was never so cool or so comfortable as I have been since I wore a corset," said the fat man, slipping a sailor's bonnet through a straw, relates the New York Sun.

"I got to wear one of the things," he said, "was when I noticed Tonwate going round in his shirtwaist. First I made fun of him and then I began to notice that his shirt didn't set in wrinkles, damp and unpleasant looking, but that it had a taut look, and that puzzled me, for Tonwate weighs more than I.

"Finally I asked him about it and then he told me of a Twenty-third street corset maker who had invented a corset girle for fat men just as soon as the shirt-waist fad came out last year. She reasoned right away that fat men would be debarred from the new idea, for the trouble with a fat man is that his flesh creases and layers about his waist, and this doesn't look pretty in a shirtwaist.

"The inventive corset maker is selling dozens of these girles to stout men, and is shipping them in quantities to the summer resorts where men ride horse-back and play golf without coats. 'I call them girles,' she explained, 'because the idea of a corset worn by a man is associated with dudes and military dandies who sometimes wear shape strays to give them a graceful waist line.

"My girles are simply to hold in the surplus flesh about the waist so that it doesn't come in visible contact with the outer garment. It is this principle which causes a woman in a shirtwaist to look cool. But when men wear in for the shirtwaist in their endeavor to look as cool as the shirt-waist girl they forget the fact that a woman's body is carefully girdled beneath her waist. For this men it was not so difficult, but for fat men the shirtwaist was impossible.

"While the shirt waist for men has not proved very popular in the city, it is the general rule in the country. Men ride and row and drive and play golf and tennis in the loose waists of silk and flannel and linen. The dining-room and the drawing-room are the only places that are forbidden the summer man without a coat. And the use of the girle have been appreciated. The tailors advocate them now, as their use does away with belts or suspenders. The trousers are cut so that they set over the girle in military fashion."

STUDY WHAT YOU AFFECT.

A Word of Advice to Parents Regarding the Education of Children.

Scientists now acknowledge that education has most effect upon middle-order minds. It can do great good with them, less for those that are defective and still less for those highly endowed for talented persons, even though they may receive all the usual courses of intellectual training, usually educate themselves. They gain their most valuable education through the exercise of their strongest faculties.

Parents and tutors need to have a care that their efforts be helpful to children do not interfere with the natural development of their faculties. This is sometimes done through not recognizing their special abilities, quite frequently from a wish to fix their destinies in accordance with some conventional standard. We should study the individuality of our child from his birth, so that we may avoid a wasteful employment of his energies in pursuits that are alien to his disposition and foreign to his needs.

Speedy Nut Cakes. Cream half a cupful of butter with one cupful of sugar; add the yolks of two eggs, well beaten, and one cupful of milk. Sift 2½ cupfuls of flour with one teaspoonful each of cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg; two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and half a teaspoonful of salt. Add to the other ingredients, and lastly add the stiffly-beaten whites of eggs. Bake in small sea-bon pans or in gem pans.—Ladies' World, New York.

A Touching Appeal. "Hey, you feller, get off'n this train!" shouted the angry conductor at the hobnob. "W'y, certainly, boss—but, say, did you ever live in a boardin' house?" "Yes, an' what of it?" "Nothin', ceptin' you might please pass the beets."—Denver Times.