

AUSTRALIAN SWINDLERS.

Some of the Tricks of a Class of Sharpers Who Find Heavy Victims to Prey Upon.

The "spieker," as his name implies (it is no doubt taken from the German), is a swindler and a black-guard.

He belongs to a numerous class who infest all Australian larger towns and cities, and who live by preying upon simple-minded country folk, unassuming foreign visitors and fools at large.

The police of New South Wales declare that there are at least 100 spiekers always resident in Sydney; the other state commonwealth capitals suffer in proportion to their population.

In person the spieker is a man of respectable appearance and affable demeanor. A skillful impersonator, his shape is protean; he is by turns a squatter, a lawyer, a millionaire, a lucky digger, a supreme court judge, a gentleman of private fortune, an English "Johnnie," fresh from "home" - sporting a Map and the conviction "Howl! Howl! Don't know, don't know!" - a person, an eccentric, a retired merchant, a capitalist looking for investments for his money, or a bookmaker.

He is always a man of gentlemanly pretensions; sometimes he is a gentleman by birth. He always dresses well and displays an abundance of jewelry; sometimes he is a Jew. He puts up invariably at the best hotels, for at such places he meets the majority of his victims.

He is a bird of passage, sitting quickly from state to state, and he never appears twice in the same char-acter in the same town or at the same hotel. Finally, he is a man of brains, a keen student of human nature, and an exquisite comedian.

Here are a few of his favorite tricks by means of which he contrives to "rook" the inexperienced, to pay his confederates and live like a fighting cock himself:

His favorite character is that of the wealthy do-nothing, a blase man of the world. In guise he attaches himself to young men whom he meets at the hotel, fast or giddy young men whose tastes incline to gambling. Stinging out a particular victim, the wealthiest, or, at least, the most foolish, he feigns a fancy and flatters the pigeon to the top of his "beak."

When the time is ripe, he hires two rooms in some office building in the city, which he furnishes lavishly on the time payment system. Choosing a particular evening, he has his luggage taken to the railway station (without his victim's knowledge), and then after dinner, off-handedly, invites his "dear young friend" to stroll around with him to his club.

The victim consents, and they repair to the aforesaid two rooms, the "club" forthwith.

A confederate, in livery, admits them. Other confederates are lounging in both rooms, who, however, affect to take no notice of the newcomers. The spieker calls for drinks. The victim unobtrusively imbibes a strong whisky and soda. Presently the spieker introduces his protegee to his confederates.

A game of cards is suggested. The victim sleepily agrees. He plays and loses.

When he has lost all his ready cash he signs blank checks, which are presented to him for that purpose by the spieker. The spieker later on takes him back in a cab to the hotel, his "dear young friend" apparently smelling drunk, and cashes his checks over the bar, feeling the obliging barman liberally for the service.

An hour later the spieker is comfortably seated in a railway carriage - on his way to another town - often hundreds of pounds richer for his trouble. As a person the spieker is an artist. His pockets are filled with tracts, his mouth with quotations from the Scripture.

He is on a visit from a distant state, and either his parish is impoverished and he is collecting to build a church, or he has a subscription list for some poor, deserted wife or lonely widow, deserving creatures, who have lately been stricken by the hand of Providence and cast destitute upon a cold, cold world.

His victims in this case are charitable and God-fearing old men and women. He refuses nothing - a penny or a pound. His tale - recounted in a canting sing-song - would harrow the hardest heart. Moreover, he obliges all donors to sign their names on his list, which he declares will be published, when complete, in all the leading journals of the states.

In a week he departs, covered with sanctity and breathing benedictions, in his pocket a fat purse. At the next town he discards "the cloth" and gets hilariously drunk, because for a whole week he has been obliged by his saintly pose to taste only water.

Real Thing.

"Did you ever see anything that actually made your mouth water?" asked the party who makes a specialty of asking fool questions. "I never did, sah," replied the gentleman from Kentucky. "But I've seen things that made my mouth whisky, sah." - Chicago Daily News.

Rubbing It In.

He - If you refuse me, I shall put a bullet through my brain. She - The ideal? How could you? "I suppose you think I'm talking like a crazy man?" "Oh, no, like a sharpshooter." - Philadelphia Press.

TO TEST PRESERVED MEAT.

Twelve Government Employees to Partake for a Year of Food Chemically Prepared.

Professor W. H. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the agricultural department, has begun a series of experiments on 12 young men in the government employ for the purpose of testing the physiological effects of the use of meat preserved with borax and other chemicals. The experiments will be made with a view to deciding what basis there is for the objections of the German government to American meats, on the ground that borax and other chemicals used in their preservation are injurious to public health.

The 12 young men selected are volunteers, and all are young and vigorous. Each has pledged himself during the period the tests are to abstain from food and drink except as it may be permitted by Prof. Wiley. They are nearly all of them employed in the scientific bureau of the agricultural department.

Six of them will be fed on "pure" foods, untreated meats, and vegetables, while the other six will partake of the same fare submitted to chemical treatment.

This arrangement will continue for about two weeks, and then the government board will change their diet, those not eating chemically treated food adopting such a regimen, while the others get untreated rations, and at the end of two weeks reversing their diet again. This will be continued for a year or more.

The men will be weighed before each meal and careful notes will be taken of their appearance each day. The experiments will be conducted by the government to demonstrate what effect borax, salicylic acid, formaldehyde, benzoic acid, benzoate of soda, and other chemicals used for preserving foodstuffs have on the health of the consumers of such foods.

CHICAGO TO GET RARE BOOKS.

Seventeen Musty Volumes Come into the Possession of Western Historical Society.

Seventeen musty old books, shipped the other day by a Washington collector to the Chicago Historical society, contain within their substantial covers a surprising amount of that early western history which has had so much to do with shaping the greater policies of the nation. This is a collection of the books of laws enacted by the legislative bodies of what is now Illinois, from the first organization of its government in 1787 to the admission of the state into the union in 1819. They are all of the original, contemporaneously printed, editions; the most recent are thus nearly a century old, and several of the set are exceedingly rare.

Perhaps the most interesting of the laws contained in these musty volumes are those relating to slavery. While the territory had been organized under the famous ordinance of 1787, which declared that there should be "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted" - words which have been repeated with almost literal accuracy in the thirteenth amendment - its local lawmakers were all the time struggling to make slavery legal by indirection. They used the word "slave" freely in their laws, but generally disguised the issue by allusions to terms of service and indenture.

FIRES IN SKYSCRAPERS.

Experiments in High New York Building Show That Stand-Pipes Can Supply Necessary Water.

With the help of two fire engines and a dozen officers and men of the fire department, Chief Croker made a test in the "Flatiron building" at Twenty-third and Broadway, New York city, to find out how far standpipes in the modern skyscraper may be relied upon to give efficient aid in fighting fires.

"This has been one of the most satisfactory tests we have ever made. It simply means that we have found a way to fight fires successfully in tall buildings with the aid of a few engines and a few short lengths of hose. We have done to-day with two engines and nine lines of hose what we would have had great difficulty in doing with a dozen engines and I don't know how much more hose. It also means that with these standpipes and their own hose, the employees in these buildings could put out almost any fire without the assistance of the fire department at all."

The Flatiron is 22 stories high and standpipes, connected with the engine in the building run from the cellar to the roof. Each pipe is fitted with hose coupling at every floor and on the roof.

NEW LONDON CLUB FOR WOMEN

Known as "Ladies' Field" and is Organized for Those Who Are Devoted to Sports.

"Ladies' Field" is the name of a new club of London, which promises to be popular. As the name implies it will apply to women who are devoted to sport and country pursuits. The premises are to be in the immediate vicinity of Bond street and Piccadilly. Among the varied attractions will be billiard and card rooms, and during the season a club drag will be at the disposal of members who still prefer horses to automobiles.

Hard on China. The Russian language is to be taught in some parts of China, says the Chicago Record-Herald. This is not only adding to but multiplying China's troubles.

DON'T MARRY DUDES.

Chicago Preacher Gives Sound Advice to Girls of His Flock.

Warns Also Against the Sporty Young Man and the Skeptic-Debauchee Either Would Wreck a Woman's Happiness.

"Beware of dudes, girls," said Rev. D. F. Fox in a sermon preached for the benefit of the marriageable young women of the California Avenue Congregational church, Chicago, the other evening. "Dudes are triflers. They are giggling jumping-jacks. All they know how to do is to throw cigarette smoke into their hollow heads in a hopeless chase after brains and to convert their nostrils into smoketracks."

After Dr. Fox said a great many other uncomplimentary things about dudes; he told the young women of his congregation there were other kinds of young men they should avoid as well when seeking husbands, such as the "dead-game sport," the young man who promised to reform after marriage but never did so, Dr. Fox said, and the young man who "didn't believe in religion." Marriage with any would surely wreck a girl's life, said the pastor.

Then Dr. Fox described to the young women present the kind of young men that made the best husbands, thereby causing the ecstasies of the young women to feel extremely self-conscious.

"He should attend church," affirmed the pastor. "If he attends your church so much the better. He should also be a young man of character - of too much character to spend upon you more than he can afford. In conclusion, don't marry even the nicest young man unless you are desperately in love with him."

TEA-SHOP FAD IN LONDON.

No Industry, It Is Said, Has Achieved Better Success Than Have They.

No industry perhaps has achieved a greater success in London than the tea shop. Go where you like in the afternoon or early evening, you will find these shops crowded, from the fashionable rooms in Bond street to the humble penny-a-cup shop. And on Wednesday, which are theater matinee days, you will see people waiting at the doors for room to sit down. These tea rooms in the fashionable quarters have given rise to a fashion which is growing in popularity. This is to decorate the rooms after the fashion of some other country. For instance, one tea room in Regent street, which has become very fashionable, is called the Far East. The inside furnishing and decorations are all Japanese, while the girls are all dressed as geishas. Another just about to be opened is to be Scotch. These girls, who will be brought from beyond the Tweed for the sake of their accent, will be clad in tartan skirts, with plaids across their left shoulders and with feathered Ghegarry bonnets.

LONDON PREPARES FOR SIEGE.

Heavy Guns Mounted to Defend the Capital and Fortifications Being Rapidly Constructed.

Unusual efforts are being made to fortify London against a possible attack in case of war. Powerful batteries have been mounted on elevations commanding the principal roads between London and the south coast. New fortifications are rapidly being constructed along the banks of the Thames, and Woldingham has been fitted up as a center for mobilization.

Extensive buildings have been completed at Woldingham, Surrey, eleven miles south of London, for use as a mobilizing center.

These works reveal for the first time the existence of important war office operations. It is stated that when Lord Roberts took over his post of commander in chief of the British army he personally investigated the defenses of London and found them to be imperfect. Since then an elaborate scheme of defense has been worked out and is now being carried out with energy.

RAILROAD TO CROSS ANDES.

American Capitalists Secure Important Concession from the Peruvian Government.

Minister Dudley at Lima has reported to the state department the proposal of an American company to the Peruvian government to build a railroad from Piura or Lambayeque to a point near the Manseriche, in the effort to reach navigable waters emptying into the Amazon. This interoceanic line would cross the Andes at their lowest elevation, 7,170 feet. The same company proposes to build a line from a point on the Marañon to Cerro de Pasco, with branches reaching into lands capable of exploitation. The Peruvian government has conceded to the company the exclusive right for two years to make preliminary surveys along the routes, and should the enterprise prove practical has agreed to close a definite contract with them.

Case of Skyrocket and Stock.

A New York "gent" who rose in two years from office boy to the presidency of a trust company has been sent to the penitentiary for fraudulent operations, says the Chicago Record-Herald. It appears that it is still possible now and then to be too bright.

DRUG HABIT GROWING.

Sensational Report Made by the Interdepartmental Committee for Suppression of the Vice.

According to a report just issued by the interdepartmental committee for the suppression of drug addiction, the spread of the drug habit is increasing at an alarming rate in this country. It is asserted that there are more than 1,000,000 morphine "fiends" in the United States, and that one person in every hundred is addicted to drugs.

The vice is most prevalent among the wealthy classes and among physicians. Many of the latter, who have become victims of drugs, have become outcasts. Numbers of them have been reclaimed by the committee and put on their feet again.

Doctors are blamed for the spread of the drug habit for prescribing drugs to alleviate pain, their patients often becoming "fiends."

The offices of the committee are in the Presbyterian building, 156 Fifth avenue, New York city. Rev. R. F. Sample, D. D., LL. D., former moderator of the general assembly, is president. "While the foreign field needs all possible attention, unfortunately the demands of our country are little short of startling," says the report.

A plea is made for a sanitarium for victims of the drug habit. "There are shelters for drunkards, former convicts, and fallen women, but none for these victims of drugs. Public spirited men and women seeking to become public benefactors could do no better than endow a hospital for these unfortunate."

PLAN EXCLUSIVE RESORT.

Rich Men of New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to Establish Summer Home on Jersey Coast.

George J. Gould, Henry C. Frick, and other capitalists in New York city, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, propose establishing a new and exclusive summer resort on Two Mile Beach island, which is three miles north of Cape May City on the New Jersey coast. The state riparian board will meet tomorrow in Jersey City, and the syndicate behind the project will apply for riparian rights in 7 1/2 miles of water front surrounding Two Mile Beach.

It is confidently expected that the commission will grant the syndicate's application, and the work of transforming the island to a resort will be begun at once. An artificial harbor will be made for the use of private yachts; boulevards and avenues will be laid out, and system of drainage established.

The cost of erecting hotels and making other improvements is estimated at \$2,000,000. Cottages, each costing from \$15,000 to \$40,000, will be built. The island has an ocean and inlet frontage of three miles. To the west, inland, lies Jarvis sound.

The official name of the syndicate is the Ocean Villa Land company.

MARCONI SEES FINAL GOAL.

The Wireless Telegraph Wizard Declares Trans-Atlantic Tests Entirely Satisfactory.

Signor Marconi admitted the other night that the wireless tests between the Italian cruiser Carlo Alberto and his station at Poldhu, England, were entirely satisfactory. He said that messages were successfully transmitted and received on the cruiser while she lay in Sydney harbor here with the Cornwall station. The messages were in the Morse code and were complete in every particular, being a great advance over the single letter "S," which was received last year at St. Johns, N. F. Several messages were received, and Signor Marconi promises to announce the text of them in a few days. Meanwhile work on the station here is being rapidly pushed. As soon as additional material is received from Montreal and Ottawa much longer tests will be attempted. The apparatus has already been tested, and the inventor says he is satisfied with it. Signor Marconi expects to leave for Boston in the Carlo Alberto before Christmas. While in Boston he will test the Cape Cod station. He will also visit New York.

RUSSIA'S COMING GREAT NAVY

Idea of the Original Peter Government the Present Emperor in Matter of Battleships.

A dispatch of a squadron under Rear Admiral Baron Stakhberg to reinforce the Russian fleet in the Pacific having called sneering comments from the English press, the Syret, the pan-Slavic organ at St. Petersburg, says that inasmuch as Russia does not interfere with the affairs of others, she has the right to expect that others will not meddle with hers.

The journal adds: "Although our naval forces cannot at present be compared with those of Great Britain, yet we must not forget that our shipbuilding programme provides for a rapid increase of our navy, and the success already gained by the Russian shipbuilding yards in this respect gives us assurance that our fleet will soon assume proportions corresponding to those of our land forces; that is to say, as the army is increased there will be a corresponding increase in the Russian navy, which according to the idea of its founder, Peter the Great, is to rank among the first."

Morocco's Peril.

Morocco should have sense enough to keep quiet. If she makes noise enough to attract the attention of the European powers, says the Chicago Record-Herald, one of them is likely to gobble her.

NEW USE FOR SYSTEM

Berillon System to Be Used to Identify New York Employees.

Discovery of Fraudulent Impersonations Made by Laborers in Street Cleaning Department Leads to the Step.

Fraudulent impersonations made by laborers in the street-cleaning department led the municipal civil service commission of New York to adopt a rule requiring such employees to submit to the Berillon system of measurement in order to permit the identification at any time of men in the city's employ. The system is in use in this country almost exclusively for the identification of criminals. It is the intention of the civil service commission to extend the system to other departments where laborers are hired in large numbers and possibly to the police and fire departments, where, it is said, gross frauds have been perpetrated by substitution of one man for another while examinations are in progress.

At the meeting of the committee it is said that in the last three months 20 cases have been discovered where men have been working under assumed names and using cards that had been given to them by the original employees. In many cases, it was said, the men caught had only been in the country a short time. Identification cards are to be used. On these will be noticed the color of the man's hair and eyes, his stature, the length of his feet, forearms and thumb, the size of his head and ears and any distinguishing marks or blemishes that may be discovered.

The decision of the commission was reached after the street cleaning department officials had conducted a rigid inquiry into several cases where substitution was suspected. In one of these a man working under an assumed name was discharged in court, the magistrate holding that no law had been violated. Hereafter where misrepresentation is discovered the owner of the identification card and the holder of it will be dismissed from the service. The infliction of this penalty debars both men from entering the city's employ for a year.

"GREAT HEAVENS!" IS BAD.

The Co-Eds at the Northwestern University Now Say "Fudge"

Northwestern university co-eds at Evanston, Ill., use "awful words" even though they don't mean to be profane in the least. So says Prof. J. Scott Clark, head of the English department of the university, and he took the young women sorely to task for their falling in his sophomore composition class.

"Great heavens" is the favorite "awful word" of the co-eds, according to Prof. Clark, and it is just as sinful in a feminine mouth as "dama" in the mouth of a young man.

"Don't shock me by ejaculating 'great heavens,'" said Prof. Clark to his class. "It is a profane expression. I want to warn the young women in this class, especially, because I know they are in the habit of using the expression more than the young men. When you say 'great heavens' you are talking a sacred name in vain. Their girls using the words every day, and would feel almost like blushing, if I were not aware that they didn't mean it for anything bad."

The expression which prompted the remarks on feminine profanity was found by Prof. Clark in a co-ed theme, which he read before his class. The 20 young women were indignant at the accusation aimed at them, but have decided to throw over "great heavens," and henceforth say nothing stronger than "Oh, fudge!"

SAVED BY FAITHFUL DOG.

Texas Man Escapes the Ravenous Wolves, But His Brute Companion Perishes.

John Schenken, of Fredericksburg, Tex., was saved from death the other day by the fidelity of his dog. Schenken was camping in a lone spot 19 miles west of Austin, and early in the morning he was attacked by a large pack of ravenous wolves. He was overpowered by the animals and severely bitten.

Schenken's dog came to his rescue and diverted the attention of the wolves while his master climbed into his wagon. The dog was killed and eaten by the wolves. Schenken will recover, though severely wounded.

LEPERS IN PARIS HOSPITAL.

Facts Become Known When Money is Requested to Build a Special Annex.

Something like consternation has been caused in Paris by a discovery that nearly a score of lepers are in treatment in the St. Louis hospital. This fact was learned when the authorities asked an appropriation from the municipality to build a special annex to house them. Medical authorities, however, claim that leprosy is not contagious. Dr. Alepous declares that he only desires to keep the patients from the ordinary wards because they are particularly subject to tuberculosis.

Emperor William's Frowns.

Emperor William's shooting performances in England were wonderful. Probably, says the Chicago Record-Herald, no other monarch in the world could have fired so often without having a blistered trigger finger.

AMERICAN ENGINES DEFENDED

New York Report Explains the Complaints Which Have Come from India.

Discussing the cable report that the manager of the Assam railway had complained that the American locomotives on his line were in bad shape after four years of service, a master mechanic employed in the locomotive repair shops at Mott Haven denied that American locomotives were short lived or carelessly made.

"If the crown plates of the engines used in India gave out in four years, I should say that the trouble was not with the plates themselves, but with the men who take care of them. The crown plates, or crown sheet, as we call it, is the under part of the boiler which is directly over the fire box. If an engineer lets his water get low the fire will burn the crown sheet and the bolts that hold it. Then, if the bolts are not attended to at once, the sheet will sag and become so badly damaged that it is useless.

"If they had cheap machines in India in the first place, it is natural that they would not be first-class. It isn't fair to take a cheap machine as a type of locomotive sent out from this country. The locomotives that are sent to the shops to have new crown sheets put in have usually been in constant operation for 15 years, and I have known them to last longer than that."

MEN AND GIRLS AT WAR.

Wahoo, Neb., Youths Agree Not to Take Women to Theater and Trouble Is the Result.

War is being waged at Wahoo, Neb., between the young men and young women of the town. The trouble was started a month ago when the young men formed a club and pledged themselves not to take the young women to a theater or to any place where an admission was charged. "Admission free" was the motto of this new society, and it met with a huge success for two weeks.

During that period the young men sat on one side of the theater and the young women on the other, frowning, but defiant. Then the young women formed a society and adopted advertising as the method by which the young men of Wahoo should be vanquished. The committee had 1,000 leaflets printed stating the condition of affairs in the place, and each girl mailed three or four to her friends in the neighboring towns. The Sunday following there was an army of strange faces in Wahoo.

Many a Wahoo young man felt sorry and wanted to declare peace. Others suggested boycotting the places of entertainment and refreshment patronized by the outsiders and the home girls. No definite action has been taken, and unless arbitration is used there is little hope for an end.

BUSINESS RULES.

"Deacon" White, an Eve of Retirement, Issues Code for Aid of Future Magnates.

After 40 years experience in the strenuous life of Wall street, and all that time a factor in its exciting scenes, "Deacon Stephen Van Cuten White, on the eve of his retirement from the active stage, has summarized for the future magnates of the bourse a code of business rules as follows:

- 1. Live up to the letter of your promises, verbal or written, though it takes years to fulfill the pledge.
- 2. In speculative engagements remember that the twentieth century traders are giants compared to the traders of old, and that operations henceforth must be conducted with a due regard to changed conditions.
- 3. Success in Wall street, as in all other business, can be achieved only by literal hard work in keeping abreast of the era, and keen perception of the psychological moment to take a profit or suffer a loss.
- 4. Make your word as good as your bond, and be as swift as the swiftest in greeting opportunity when it knocks or evading disaster when it casts a shadow.
- 5. Remember how swift is the pace and don't enter a long distance competition when trained for short dashes only.

NOBLE SCION ABANDONED.

New Born Babe and 14,000 Francs Dropped from Automobile in a Village in France.

An automobile stopped the other day at a village near Fontaine-la-Louvet, in the department of Eure, France. A traveler got down, bearing a voluminous packet, which he deposited at the side of the road.

Some farm laborers stopped to examine the packet, when the automobile went off at full speed in the direction of Paris. The packet contained a new born babe, together with fourteen bank notes for 1,000 francs each and a sheet of paper containing the words: "Whoever takes care of this child till its majority will have his happiness assured for life on condition that he never seeks to penetrate the secret of its birth. It belongs to one of the most noble families of England."

A Heavy Name.

M. Priblonski, one of the most powerful officials in Russia, has resigned, and the Chicago Record-Herald remarks that he has probably become all tired out carrying it around.

Enlarging His Vocabulary.

Yielding to the onward march of the language, says the Chicago Tribune, Mr. Howell had admitted the noun "combine" into his vocabulary.