FAILED TO BEAT 'PHONE. Man with Plugged Coin Was Not Foxy Enough to Make It Work.

A friend of the proprietor went into a cigar store the other day and stepped to the slot telephone. Taking down the receiver, he told the girl at the central station what number he wanted. Then, says the Philadelphia Inguirer, while she was ringing up that number he called out to the proprietor or the store:

"Say, Bert, why isn't this a good place to work off this plugged dime." "It is," said the proprietor. "Chuck At in."

In a moment the girl said: "Ten cents please."

Down went the plugged dime into the slot.

"Too-oo-oot," went the little horn in the machine.

"Ten cents, please," said the girl again.

"I just put in a dime," he protested. "I know," she answered, "but you'll have to put in another. That one was plugged."

"I thought probably it would be a good place to work off the plugged dime." the proprietor laughed later. "It was. You worked it off all right." "But how the mischief did she know It was plugged?" asked the friend. The horn tooted all right."

"Yes," said the proprietor, "but she's a pretty smart girl. She knows -especially when you hold the receiver In your hand and tell somebody you are going to put in a plugged coin."

MONKEY AND THE LADY. Feminine Fashionable Has a New Whim Which Makes Her Conspicuous.

The monkey is being adopted as a pet by some women in these days. This fashion is exhibited to the world because it is the thing to do to take . the monkey out driving with you, if you own one, says the New York Sun. "I take my monkey out driving, just

as I would a pet dog," explained a pioneer in this field. Her friends did not believe her until the other day, when one of them came

forward to corroborate her. "I saw her," said this witness. "I was on a side street, standing at the curb about to cross the street, when I found my eyes fixed upon the almost human eyes of a monkey walking on the top of the closed doors of a passing hansom.

"Back of the monkey she sat looking as pretty as a picture and evidently much pleased with the attention that her pet was drawing to himself, not to mention herself.

"He was not one bit the barrel-organ type of monkey, but a dainty monkey wearing no other coat than his own natural fur, the color of a fawn with a sheen of satim.

"A silver collar set with turquoise circled the little creature's meck. A silver chain attached the collar to the mistress' hand. She, by the way, carried out the silver and pale blue color scheme charmingly in her own attire."

WORLD'S WETTEST PLACE.

Where the Average Annual Bainfall Is Nearly Thirty-Seven Foot.

The wettest place in the world. according to the Russian Meteorological Journal, as abstracted in the Revue Scientifique, is Cherrapunii, in the Indian province of Assam. From 1895 to 1903 the average annual rainfall was 11.223 meters (nearly 37 feet).

Next came the environs of Bombay. with 6.83 meters annually. But it should be noted that at the station of Debundscha, in Kamerun, 16.454 meters (34 feet) of rain fell annually, chiefly in summer. The wettest year in Cherrapupii was 14.739 meters (48 Teet) in 1851, and in Debundscha 14.133 meters (46 feet) in 1902. In the latter place there fell in the one day of June 16, 1902, 456 millimeters (over one and a half feet) of water-more than the whole annual average in the Paristan: basin.

The neighborhood of warm seas and high mountains is the principal cause of these extraordinary precipitations. tt may be expected that the extension of meteorological observation will show other zones of rainfall more injense than has been kitherto believed, as in Java and Sumatra.

Hoot of the French Motor. One generally thinks of the French language as being more musical than our harsher northern tongue. But the motor-hoot in French is a far more ear-splitting affair than it is in Engtish. To begin with, it is more often a siren than a hoot, and all over Errance one now hears the long, extruciating wails that are generally associated with ships—or with souls in torment. And when, as in some instances, a railway whistle is substituted, and the automobile rushes shricking over the country-side like an express train, the English tourist discovers very emphatically that he does not like the motor-horn with a French accent.

Meyer. Him-Do you think women should have the privilege of proposing? Her-Emphatically not.

"Why not?" "And give men the privilege of retusing? Never."-Cleveland Leader.

Rather Indefinite. Miles-You ought to see the horse I surchased last week. He can pass anyhing on the road. Giles-So? Going in the same di-

section?-Chicago Daily News.

COUPLES ILL-MATED.

PHILADELPHIA DIVORCES AND DESERTIONS INCREASE.

These Features of Matrimony Grow Faster Than the Population Marries-Call Boosevelt Theory Wrong.

Philadelphia.—Official records show a steady increase in the number of divorces and in the number of desertion cases heard by the courts. The number of marriages increases in constant ratio with the increase in population, but the constant increase in desertions and diworces is out of all proportion to both the increased population and the in-

creased number of marriages. In the official year just ended there were 5,825 desertion cases disposed of in the criminal court by the department of the city solicitor. In an overwhelming majority of these cases the women apepared in court with upward of one child. Scores of heartrending cases were brought to the attention of the court, most of them being weakly pressed by poor, wan women-mothers of large families. In most cases the husband had run away, leaving unpale bills for rent and medical attendance

behind. The women, handicapped by children, could do no work outside their poor shelters, and most of them were in delicate condition at the time of their husband's disappearance. Day nurseries in all parts of the town have been forced to adopt a credit system to meet extreme cases, and all in all the sentiment among settlement workers and others who are in a position to know is that President Roosevelt is all wrong in his theory of race suicide.

The tenement system as it prevails in New York and other large cities is almost entirely unknown here. Official statistics show that there is a dwelling house here for each group of five persons and that the number of houses is increasing at a rate greater than the population. Improved transportation facilities will carry the people further and further from the scene of their employment, and where this has happened experience here demonstrates the number

of desertions increases. Labor authorities assert without contradiction that while the cost of living in Philadelphia has increased more than 20 per cent. within ten years, wages have increased less than eight per cent. Increased taxation has resulted in proportionately higher rents, and large families in fair circumstances suffer much from the system of graded schools, which compels one or two, or even three, members of a single family to ride 20 miles a day in street cars to attend the higher schools. This means, in hundreds of cases, 16 cents a day for each student, plus the cost of

lunch in the center of the city. This tax, amounting to a dollar a day where three children attend the high school is a burden upon the parents. To this tax must be added the big item of added expense due to the better elothing which must be worn by girls attending schools in the heart of the city, as against the poorer clothing which might well be worn to the school "just around the corner." It is more than 14 miles from the county line to any of the three high schools in the city.

The greatest number of divorces granted in this county on any one day was 26. The greatest number of marriage licenses issued in any one day was 84.

Landlords in Philadelphia do not inquire as to the number of children, except in the slum districts, where two and as many as four families try to occupy single rooms in ordinary three story dwelling houses.

ABOUT DISEASED LETTUCE.

Government Expert Makes Interesting Experiments with the Hope of Eradicating Bad Methods.

-Washington.-Nearly all the winter lettuce in the United States has become diseased, as a result of "forcing" methods and of the failure of greenhouse gardeners to strengthen the stock of their plants by occasional crossing with wild lettuce. To remedv these evils Dr. Galloway, chief of the bureau of plant industry, has been working for two seasons, and he has succeeded in obtaining a crop of winter lettuce plants immune from dissase, yet of large size and capable of developing as early as the most specialized winter lettuce.

To do this involved a great deal of work and time and the sacrifice of thousands of plants. Seed of healthy winter lettuce was planted and when all was ready the plants were sown In buis of a thousand each, and out of each thousand heads two or three of the largest and best were taken, while the others were destroyed. From these extra large, early and fine heads another crop was raised, of which only the best were saved. It is from these that seed will be furnished to the greenhouse men of the great cities, thus saving the winter lettuce industry, which for three years has been threatened with extinction.

Merciful Death Engine.

The new bullet now served to the French army is in massive bronze. pointed like a lead pencil, and shaped like a small cigar. It pierces at a distance of 400 meters six fourinch caken boards placed four inches apart, and is capable in the same flight of burying itself a yard deep in a clay target. It is counted the most humanitarian engine of death yet on the market because its speed and force in entering its man makes a clean wound, without microbic complications from bits of clothing and without indiscriminate emashing of veins and organs.

NEW YORK WOMAN'S SHOES

Philadelphia Critic Says Their Appearance Indicates Carelessness.

Said a Philadelphia woman the other day:

"There is one peculiarity about women in New York which must strike any stranger coming to the city.

"At home, and in most other places I have visited, a woman feels almost well dressed if only her gloves and shoes are new and really smart looking. In New York that evidently is not the case, at least so far as the footwear is concerned.

"Have you noticed it? Even very well dressed women over here wear poor shoes. When they are not shabby and broken they are of poor last and

cheap leather. "And the fact is the more remarkable because I have never seen men more extravagant in their footwear than those of New York. The next time you are in an elevated train or street, car observe the row of feet opposite. The men will almost without exception be well shod, and there will be glimpses of the most beautiful things in silk and embroidered socks appearing above their shoe tops; while the stylishly clad feminine foot will be

conspicuous by its absence. "I don't know whether it is that the New York woman considers a five-dollar shoe an unheard of extravagance or whether she is a poor judge of footwear. But whatever it is. I prefer the old-fashioned Philadelphia opinion that a lady is known by her hands and feet more than by anything else."

HER BUSINESS ABILITY.

Piano Deal That Netted Resourceful Wife One Hundred Dollars.

Senator Platt, in a humorous speech, was praising woman at a dinner party. "And her business ability!" he exclaimed. "Only the other day the young wife or a young friend of mine said excitedly to her husband on his return home:

" 'John, I have made more money than you to-day.' " 'How much have you made?' he asked.

"'A hundred dollars," she said proudly.

'Good, good!' cried the young man. 'And how did you make it?' 'Well,' said the young lady, 'you know my old piano that you only paid \$300 for? I sold it to-day for \$400.

" 'Gracious, and what are you going to do with all the money?' he asked. " 'Oh, there isn't any money,' she

" 'Eh?' " 'You see. I sold the piano to a dealer.' she explained. 'He gives me a new one for \$500 and allows me \$400 for the old one. Haven't I done well? if you'd stay home and let me run your business for you, you'd grow rich. Think, \$100 a day! That is over \$300,-

MARYLAND'S OLD VOLCANOS

Three Peaks in Western Mountains Found to Be Metal-Bearing Volcanic Bock.

Prof. Philip R. Uhler returns to the city with the report of a discovery which he made in the western Maryland mountains. Three peaks, the princinal one named Buzzard's Knob crown a plateau about six miles from the city, reports the Baltimore American. It was for Prof. Uhler to discover that the three prominences are in fact volcanoes, and that they are the very oldest type of volcanic rock that is found in the United States.

These peaks are of a different form from volcanoes like Vesuvius. In the latter form of volcano molten lava and stones are forced up by superheated steam, leaving a deep hole, but in these craters in western Maryland the whole mountain was originally in a molten condition and the top crust was forced upward in a dome-shaped form. and such lava as did not escape was forced out in vents at various places. The volcanic rock of the region is metal-bearing, and specimens of gray, green and gold copper were found by Dr. Uhler. The domes of the craters were somewhat elliptical in shape.

MEANING OF SURNAMES.

Derivation of Some of the Family Mames Familiar in Our Day.

Nearly all surnames originally had a meaning. They were descriptive of their owners. In a word, they were nicknames, like "Skinny," or "Shorty." or "Pud." says the Philadelpaia Bulle-

tin. Peel is a surname that shows the original Peel to have been baid. Grace means fat-from the French "gras." Grant, from "grand," means big.

An Oliphant should be a clumsy and unwieldy person. This surname was "elephant" originally. The Parkers were keepers of noble-

men's parks. The Warners were warreners or rabbit tenders. The Barkers prepared bark for tanning. The Laboucheres were butchers. Bell meant handsome. Cameron

meant crooked-nosed. Curtis meant polite. And Forster meant forester; Napier, a servant in charge of the table linen; Palmer, a pilgrim; Wainwright, a wagon builder; Webster, a weaver; Wright, a carpenter.

Mending Matters. "Haven't you often wondered willy so many broken down widowers want to get married again?"

"Why, no. Naturally, they want to get re-paired."-Baltimore American.

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CARRIES SECRET TO GRAVE

Physician Dies After Raving About Buried Money, Whose Location He Had Forgotten.

Los Angeles.-The death of Dr. A. M. Westlake at the county hospital puts beyond the probability of solution the mystery of the hidden money which he was said to have hoarded through years of economy so rigid that he justified in the minds of his acquaintances the name of miser.

It was this mystery which Dr. Westtake took with him from the county poor farm to the hospital several weeks ago; it was this which was said to have darkened his last days; perhaps hastened his end, though he was tot-

tering under 85 years. Shortly before Dr. Westlake left the poor farm he became ili. It had been renerally supposed by his follows there that the doctor had considerable money, the belief being that he had it buried or concealed near or in the

When he fell ill the doctor acted

strangely and made remarks which his

acquaintances understood to mean that he had forgotten where his money was secreted. He wandered about the grounds; pressed his hands to his forehead; kicked the earth up at many, points and appeared to be agitated. When he entered the hospital Dr. Westlake had \$69 wrapped in a rag. During his last days of illness he spoke in a rambling way of money he had

WANT TO ANNUL WEDDING. Couple Who Wed to Please Weman on Deathbed Are Seeking Divorce.

Trinidad, Col.—One of the strangest matrimonial contracts probably ever entered into is about to be annulied in Trinidad, when Mr. and Mrs. Kayson Boldt will have established a residence of six months in this county and the wife will then ask for a divorce, the husband acquiescing.

About a year ago Boldt was engaged to marry a sister of his present wife. whose name was Genevieve Mims. The sister was Mrs. Bhiott Chase, a widow, and she had a small daughter.

Miss Mims and Boldt, it appears, hated each other, but Mrs. Chase became ill and sent for them and made s request that they get married in the event she died and care for her young daughter.

They lightly agreed to this, it not being supposed Mrs. Chase was going to die. But she did, however, in a few days. The two kept their promise and were married, but they never lived tozether.

The child died in Milwaukee several months ago, and they struck on Trinidad as the place to get a divorce remote from friends. Boldt is a young man and served

Spanish-American war. HE MADE HIS OWN COFFIN

with a Minnesota regiment during the

Unaccustomed to Idleness, Aged New. York Man Found Work for His Final Days.

Phoenix, N. Y.-In a coffin made with his own hands and under a monument of his own designing, John B. Payne was buried here a short time ago. Mr. Payne was 85 years old and a carpenter by trade. After giving up his occunation and having plenty of time on his hands and unaccustomed to being idle, Mr. Payne spent his days in fashloning with great care his coffin. It

was his masterpiece. The wood was selected from the finast timbers and beautifully prepared. It was inlaid with the best and rarest woods, and when it was finished the old carpenter used to show it to his intimate friends as another might exhibit the finest product of his hand

and brain in painting or in sculpture. After the come was finished Mr. Payne gave his attention to his monument. He cut a straight marble shaft. inscribed near the top with the three links of his Odd Fellows order and at the base with his name. He even and this set up in his plot in the Phoeaix rural cemetery, where his grave was dug and filled.

SEEKS TO AVENCE HIS DOG Mexican Whose Pet Is Killed Tries

to Wreck a Train, But Attempt Is Vain.

Trinidad, Col.-A Colorado & Wyoming passenger train was nearly wrecked ten miles east of Trinidad. On a curve a spike was driven in the ioints between the rails. It derailed's the forward trucks of the engine. The train went only about 100 feet before it was stopped by the engineer.

While going to Tercio on one of the trips at about noon the train killed a Mexican's dog. The Mexican was standing beside the track at the time. and seemed to become furious over the killing of his canine. It is believed by the officials of the road that the Mexican attempted to wreck the train out of revenge. The matter was reported to the sheriff, and efforts are

being made to find the man. Had the whole train left the track it would have gone down a high bank into the Animas river.

Phone Causes Corns on Ear. Pittsburg telephone girls are desertmg their employment, because they ind the constant wearing of a receiver. produces ugly corms on the ear. They the say their sense of hearing is more scutely developed in the left ear than n the right. They do not mind this so much as they do the disfigurement, which betrays their occupation. no natter how handsomely they are conumed.

A GIFT OF MONROE CHINA

Mrs. Boosevelt Adds to Collection She Is Making for the White House.

Washington.-Mrs. Roosevelt has added to the presidential chinaware which she is collecting for the white house four pieces of the Monroe chins. a gift from Mrs. George F. Elliott, of this city-a soup plate, a tea plate, a cup and a saucer.

The soup plate has a wide border of deep orange yellow, with a white leaf outlined in gold. In the center of the plate is a bunch of American wild flowers. The other pieces each have a quaint design a bright red scroll and a lattice work in gold, with the blue star flower interwoven. In the center of the tea plate is a shield in gold.

The pieces were placed in a cabinet at the white house. The card accom-

panying them reads: These pieces of china are from an incomplete set used by President James Monroe and his family while in the white house. They afterward became the property of a nephew known as Col. James Monroe, who was an officer of the United States army, but resigned therefrom and afterward moved from Virginia to New York. He presented them in 1878 to his daughter, now the wife of Brig. Gen. George F. Elliott, commandant United States marine corps. Mrs. Elliott in 1905 presented them to Mrs. Roosevelt for exhibition at the white house."

MASTERS LATIN AT 4 YEARS

Springfield, Ill., Boy Could Read at Age of Two-Amazes People at Illinois Capital.

Springfield, Ill.-Samuel Laird, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Orley Laird, of North Third street, is amazing the people of this city by reading Bible lessons in the church which his parents attend.

Those who are admitted to the Laird home circle say that the boy reads and translates Latin with the greatest ease, having mastered the language himself since last spring. He reads newspapers, magazines, or anything

that falls into his hands. Mrs. Laird said that she first discovered that the lad could read when he was two years old. A visitor handeu him a magazine opened at random and asked him to read. He began on a scientific article on the making of glass and pronounced the technical terms correctly.

Two years ago Rev. A. A. Niles gave the boy a handbill and offered to buy anything advertised thereon. Samuel chose a bunch of bananas. The boy is to start to school soon, and his teachers are much concerned over his classification.

To put him in a class with those of his own age would be a waste of time. but his parents do not wish to class him as a phenomenon by putting him higher up.

IRWIN FAMILY LONG-LIVED.

Combined Age of Eight Members Shows Total of 554 Years-Live in Ohio

Cleveland, O.-In Franklin county. Ohio, is a family of eight brothers and sisters who have always lived within a radius of less than 50 miles, whose combined ages aggregate 554 years. and average 72 years and 3 months.

The parents of these brothers and sisters lived in Plain township and were people who believed in naming their children for Biblical characters The family name is Irwin, and these are the children who have reached the ripe majority beyond the allotted three score and ten: John, Joseph, Anne, David, Samuel, Jacob, Abraham, Sarah and Isabella.

Not long ago they had a reunion of all the members of the family, and the subject of ages came up. After figuring the aggregate an average was reached. They hope to hold another reunion next year.

John Irwin, the eldest of these brothers and sisters, an old resident and real estate owner of Chicago, died last December at the age of 78, and was buried from his home, 505 Dearborn avenue. He had lived in this residence for 30 years.

CREDIT TO ALL A WINNER. Restaurateur Trusts Everybody and Quits Business with \$12,000

Profit.

Sioux City, Ia.-After conducting a restaurant in this city for three years; I. D. Barnard has retired \$11,960 "to the good." Barnard reversed the usual

business rule by trusting everybody, and to this course he attributes his success. His capital to start with was \$40. Any hungry person could est at Barnard's. He did not use billheads in his business. He never dunned a delinquent patron. He handed out meal tickets to shop girls and factory

hands and instructed his cashier to nunch out only a small percentage of the actual amount of their daily bills. He worked hard, bought close, and clung to the theory that the world is honest, with the result that he has carried unemployed persons along for a year at a time, to be reimbursed for hundreds of dollars when they reached the stage of solvency. Barnard will not discuss the perfidious among his beneficiaries.

Mot at All a Dry Season. And now that Rear Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg and his squadron have sailed away, it may not be a breach of confidence to say that they had s high old time in New York, and that the festivities were as wet as they were kalcyon and vociferous.

SHOES BETTER THAN CUFFS

The Safest Way of Cribbing Lessons at College in Years Gone By.

"I recently saw it reported," said Harvard man of the vintage of '79, "that the manager of a Philadelphia laundry had remarked that the average person. had no idea of the number of men who used their cuffs for memorandum purposes. I've a notion that that's an idea the average person can worry along without having. It would be of no particular benefit to him if he knew exact-

ly how many men thus used their cuffs. "But there was a time, back in my college days, when I used to wonder why so few of the professors, tutors and monitors grasped this same idea. For reference purposes during recitations and examinations there were just two things that best cuffs, and they were the two shoes on my feet.

"Highly polished shoes covered with useful information in pencil are superior to cuffs, because, unless the light strikes them at the proper angle, the marks on them can't be distinguished. Besides. you're less likely to arouse suspicion when you study the floor intently buried in deep thought than you are when you're twisting and turning and pulling at your sleeves.

"If the truth must be told-and I believe in telling the truth occasionallywe made no bones among ourselves of helping ourselves over hard places by means of 'cribbing.' We considered certain instructors and certain tough. incomprehensible branches as fair game, and we beat them by hook or crook, generally by both.

"I, not to mention seven or eight shining lights I could name, would be sophomores at this moment if it hadn't been for our cuffs and shoes and ticker tape coiled in watch cases minus their works. I've often wondered if the college world has been improving in this respect.

JOKE WAS AN OLD ONE.

And the 237th Man Who Got It Off Received a Chilly Reminder.

Something happened to the interior arrangements of the clock in the ballway of the Chronicle building and the hands were taken off the timepiece so that the works could be removed and repaired. This naturally attracted the attention of everyone who entered the building, says the San Francisco Chronicle. About four hours after the hands had been removed a passenger entered one of the elevators, and as soon as the car started upon its journey unward, said to the operator:

"Pretty hard times around here, I

"Umph!" grunted the operator, as a bored look came over his face. "Yes," continued the passenger; "I see you have laid off two hands; those

joke, eh?" "Two hundred and thirty-seven." was the peculiar reply of the elevator attendant.

on the clock. Ha, ha! Pretty good

"What do you mean?" asked passenger. "Only that you are the two hundred and thirty-seventh person who has told

me that 'joke' and I'm kind of getting used to it. Here's your floor." And the passenger got off the elevator with his respect for his own brand of original humor considerably

FOG HURTS SEAMEN'S EYES Steamer Officers Coming Into Boston

Harbor Complain of & New Affection.

Many of the officers of steamships running in this port are afflicted with a new disease, which for want of a better name some of them call the "for eye." It is an inflammation, states the Boston Transcript, caused by peering into the fog, and while painful, it soon Dadges away.

Never in the memory of the oldest skipper running to this port has the fog hung so persistently over the waters along the coast as it has this summer. One captain said that they were compelled to chew for every trip his vessel has made to Boston during the last six weeks, and he comes to Boston usually about once a week.

Capt. Higgins and the officers of the United States Fruit company's passenger and mail steamer Admiral Sampson, which arrived at Long whart after a good run from Jamaican ports, were among those whose eyes were affected by the fog. Running through fog and trying to distinguish objects when it is almost impossible to see a vessel's length away is a heavy strain on the eyes, and the fog, combined with the heat, produces a smarting sensation.

Submarine Telephone.

The submarine telephone, which is coming into use on the Atlantic grey. hounds, is another protection which will make ocean travel even safer than now. Submarine bells are fastened to dangerous rocks, or on shoals, and the receiver on the boat announces their. proximity. When the ordinary danger signals are hidden by fog the new telephone will be especially useful.—From "In the Trail of the Traveler," in Four-Track News.

For Purposes of Identification. Nell-Did you speak French when you were in Paris?

Belle-Only enough to let them know that I was an American.-Phila. delphia Record.

Taken In. Explorer-What became of that sci-

entist who was up here last summer? Cannibal Chief-O, he came into the tribe.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS