

PALACE STILL STANDS EMPTY

Erected in 1902 for French Audit Department, Red Tape Has Kept It Unoccupied.

The Paris Matin tells a curious story of French government red tape. It says that in 1902 the government decided to create a special audit department, and a list of nominations to the various posts was drawn up. An aged reservist was appointed...

DRAWING THE SOCIAL LINE

William Dean Howells' Snob Story From Wales About the Retired London Tailor.

"I lunched with William Dean Howells in his apartment in Half Moon street while I was in London last month," said a Chicago essayist. "Mr. Howells was as boyish and gay as ever. He was as hard as ever on the snob."

King's "Fake" Gold Plates

The first point of interest is suggested by the title of the volume, "The Gold and Silver of Windsor Castle." Whenever a royal banquet at Windsor or Buckingham palace is described in the newspapers the writer says that "the sideboards were adorned with the famous gold plate."

The Range of Vision

Data have been gathered in Germany with reference to the distance at which persons may be recognized, by their faces and figures, says the Scientific American. If one has good eyes, the Germans claim, one cannot recognize a person whom he has seen, but once before at a greater distance than 25 meters (82 feet)."

Deduction

"What are you grouchy about?" asked the young man who wears his hat over one eye. "Your manners," suggested Mr. Midway. "But you told me to make myself at home in your office."

Art and Science

"What a beautiful picture of an angel!" said the lady who was visiting the art gallery. "Yes," replied the aviation enthusiast; "but between you and me those wings aren't practical."

GEMS OF HER COLLECTION

French Woman Especially Treasured Four Post Cards That Showed Scenes in America.

"Wait just a moment." The girl in lavender linen stopped her friend before the post card stand on the curbstone, near Forty-second street and Broadway, and began a rapid search through highly colored "souvenirs of New York." She had lived in New York all her life and most of her acquaintances lived here, too, and her companion marveled.

CUPID'S DOMAIN IN BERLIN

Marriage Registry Office in That City Is Decorated With Symbols of Wedlock.

The marriage registry office in all countries usually a bare and unadorned scene, with its unadorned walls, superannated green baize covered table and general air of stuffiness and parchment. Modern Berlin has introduced a new fashion by setting the stage, so to speak, in harmony with the performance—or is it drama?—to be enacted thereon.

Mere Man on Woman

Sometimes it is funny to observe a woman who steps into a business office where she has never been before. She comes in hesitatingly, looks all around, notes the calendars on the wall, bites her lip, and then wants to know where she is. But, unlike on a trolley car, she can't step off backwards.

Many-Sided Scientist

Dr. Leland O. Howard, who coined the term, "typhoid fly," and aroused universal interest in the crusade against these dangerous pests, holds the distinction of being the only American on the international agricultural committee. He is an expert on insects in the department of agriculture, and it is largely due to his scientific investigations that the world became acquainted with the devastating boll weevil and the gray moth.

Natural History

"Why sir," said Mr. Dustin Stax, "do you call me an amphibian?" "I refer to your method of capitalization." "But I have developed the resources of the land." "Yes. But when you get tired of the land you take to water."

ANCIENT CELLS ARE FOUND

Abode of Prisoners in the Time of Charles II. Are Unearthed in London.

A fitting abode for criminal relics to be exhibited at the new London museum at Kensington palace, has been found in two prison cells, which were discovered by a gentleman connected with the London county council in an old house in Wellclose square, St. Georges-in-the-East. The cells, which are believed to date back to the time of Charles II. and to have been subsequently used in connection with the Whitechapel police court, were occupied in a common lodging house when discovered. In the walls, which are built of oak, thickly studded with strong iron bolts, were the original fetters used for the condemned prisoners, together with a plank bed upon which no doubt many a criminal spent his last night upon earth.

WONDERFUL RESCUE AT "GIB"

Veracious Soldier's Story of How He Saved His Chum With a Horseshoe Magnet.

"It was a terrible moment," said the old soldier, with a shudder. "Tell us all about it!" cried the squad of recruits, eagerly. "It happened at Gib. I was walking along the top of a cliff with a chum, when he was suddenly seized with vertigo. There was a sheer drop of at least 4,000 feet, and when I saw him reel and slip over the precipice I gave him up for lost. Quick as lightning, I pulled a large horseshoe magnet out of my pocket, and, laying flat upon my chest, extended over the chasm. I could see my friend far below, falling rapidly, and turning over and over. He looked no larger than a doll; but gradually as the magnet exerted its influence, his figure became more distinct, and he rose with a terrific bump. The magnet had attracted his large steel spurs and, exerting all my strength, I held him there for two hours, till help came.—Tit-Bits.

Exercise

Exercise in its general significance is a glorious thing. It is not, however, anything much in its purely physical sense. Thus, a person with large muscles and not very big wits is of almost no value to society, whereas a person who has exercised both is often indispensable. Exercises for the wits are very difficult. There is nothing to do 100 times, or 50 times. It is not something to which one can give 20 minutes the first thing in the morning and then go the rest of the day. Socrates, who was the Sandow of mental exercise, kept his pupils at it pretty much of the time. There is one phase of it which is especially hard. This is the exercise of one's rights. Unexercised rights are much worse than unexercised muscles. Thus, after voting we are ordinarily mentally stiff and sore for several days. This is because, unaccustomed to exercising our rights, we strain them.

What Simplicity Portends

This is a period of studied simplicity in dress which does not imply that dress is any the less costly merely that we see no beauty in elaboration or superfluity, and display a pretty tendency to wear wreaths of wild flowers on our hats instead of plumes and roses.

He Hated That Kind

P. F. Jerome, the secretary of the United States Hay Fever association, said at the recent convention at Bethlehem, apropos of certain unpleasant hay fever symptoms: "These symptoms are often made light of, but for my part I feel toward them as the poor man felt in the dentist's chair. This man had a bad tooth pulled out, and as soon as the paroxysm was over he placed his forehead on another tooth and said bravely: 'Tank this fellow, too, doctor.'"

Housewarming

"Moved into your cozy flat, eh?" "Yes." "Going to have a housewarming?" "That's what I'm just going to ask the landlady to speak to the janitor about."

FAMILY'S WELLSPRING OF JOY

Hope of the Household Has Some Fun With His Anxious Relatives and a Safety Pin.

Little John flew down the back stairs. So great was his momentum that before he could stop himself he had gone half-way across the kitchen, and banged into the kitchen table. Turning, he rushed out of the kitchen, through the back hall, and out at the door, which he slammed behind him. Meanwhile Ellen, the nursemaid, stood before the telephone, and wildly flapped her hands—except when at regular intervals she needed them to take down the receiver in order to see if the line was still busy.

MANKIND IS STILL MEDIEVAL

Woman Lawyer Says the Attitude Toward Her Sex Is Unjust and Barbaric.

That legislation tending to make marriage more difficult and divorce easier would lessen some of the evils of the social system was the opinion put forward in a talk on "The Law and the Lady," by Miss Mary Wood, a lawyer, at the Woman's Forum. Miss Wood began her paper with a history of the attitude of the English lawmakers toward woman, touching on various statutes that now seem eccentric, such as the provision of the middle ages, which limited the cost of the cloth in a woman's dress to twelve pence a yard.

Temper Talk

A girl does not look pretty when her face is convulsed with rage. Her lover will not forget how she looked. Nor does a man look dignified, nor does he, as a rule, talk sense, when he is rowing with his sweetheart. Some day, after they are married, perhaps, she will remember what a vulgar fool he made of himself, once upon a time, and she will remind him of it. And then he will be very sick and sorry for himself.

Dangerous Animal

"An Ohio man and his wife with a couple of friends went out for a run in the country the other day in their motor car. The trip was quite a long one and they arranged to have luncheon out in the woods. As they neared their destination a stop was made and one of the party made his way into the bush on the side of a hill to get water. He was gone an unusually long time, and on his return explained his delay by saying: 'There was only a tricking stream coming from the spring, so I had to wait. There was a ram down there in the bushes, and it seemed to be taking up all the water.'"

Little Fathers

Mr. S. Joseph Baker of the department of health in New York has had picture films made showing how the "little mothers" learn their lessons. Recently "little fathers" took their turn and all the small boys in the neighborhood of one of the schools were busy borrowing babies, and they showed themselves very apt at learning how to take care of them. These children have to care for the babies while their mothers are at work and see taught to do it scientifically.

Good and Bad Composition

A writer in the London Daily Chronicle has revived the old dispute as to the finest line in English poetry. He quotes Prof. Chaston Collins as giving the palm to a line in Swinburne's "Tristan and Iseult," the line, that says: "And all their past came wafting in the wind." Certainly that is a great line, but the real difficulty, says the Chronicle scribe, is to find the worst line rather than the best. And then he tells us of a contest between Tennyson and Fitzgerald as to who could write the weakest imaginable Wordsworthian line. They succeeded in producing: "A Mr. Wilkinson, a clergyman." Fitzgerald and Tennyson each claimed this fine effort and the point is still undecided. Can any one else do better than this?

American Artist Honored

Edward Steichen, the New York artist, has just won signal distinction for himself and this country by his selection to execute a large part of the mural decorations of the new Luxembourg museum, Paris. He first became known for his photographs.

AGE IN COTTON FACTORIES

Death of Oldest Weaver in Lowell Reveals Bright Side of Operatives' Lives.

A news dispatch tells of the death in Lowell of the oldest weaver in that city, a woman who was seventy-one years of age and was in comfortable circumstances, but who still preferred to work in spite of her age. We call this to the attention of the friends of the "poor mill girl." In spite of what they tell about employment in a cotton factory, it seems that it is quite possible for a woman to follow the trade of a weaver until she has passed three score years and ten. It is possible for her to lay by money enough to place her in comfortable circumstances, and it is possible that the associations in busy, bustling weave shops, with their noise and lint and all the other unpleasant features, may be more endurable to a woman who has cultivated the habit of industry over a long period of years than the loneliness she would feel in a comfortable home with only such tasks to take up her time and her attention as those necessary to light house-keeping. The picture of industry, then, and undoubted faithfulness that is shown in this brief news item from Lowell can be duplicated in nearly every one of the textile centers of New England, but it is the picture that is not so frequently held up to the view of the interested as the reverse of it. Nobody who has the welfare of the operatives—and that means of the industry itself—at heart would desire that the disagreeable features be covered so that the world would think there was nothing in them that should be improved, but it is gratifying and in the interest of brightness reflect upon the canvas on occasions.—Fall River Herald.

BIRTH REGISTER IN SALT

Novel "Certificate" in a Bottle Shown to Old-Age Pension Officer in England.

Since the old-age pensions act has been in operation in England, says a writer in the Strand Magazine, there has been a great search for birth certificates, in order to enable those entitled to its benefits to claim their pensions. As the registration of births, more than seventy years ago, was not carried out as now, there has been a difficulty in many cases in proving the age of the applicants, and in one instance at least a certificate of an exceedingly novel character was presented. At any rate, the local pension officer said he had never come across one like it, and he was quite prepared to take it as a proof of the age of the applicant. When a child was born in this particular family a clear glass bottle was procured and partly filled with salt; then the letters and figures forming the names of the child and date of birth were cut out of a newspaper and placed inside the bottle, being put in their correct position with a piece of wire, and then more salt was carefully added to keep them in place. Sprays of flowers and other ornamental designs, cut from cretonne, were also tastefully arranged around the inside of the bottle, and then the whole was tightly packed with salt, and corked and sealed. It was then placed in a prominent position on the dresser or in a corner cupboard, where it has been for more than seventy years. The white salt shows up the letters and ornaments in relief, and the whole effect is novel and pleasing.

Elephant's Wisdom

In response to an inquiry as to what was the cleverest act ever known an elephant to perform, a British road officer told how once, when unloading some steel tubing from a ship, it was the elephant's task to carry the pipes by means of his trunk from one part of the wharf to another.

Hearing of Ants

Naturalists generally appear to have accepted the opinion that ants are not able to perceive any sounds that are audible to human ears, but there are those who controvert this opinion. One investigator conducted careful experiments with four species of American ants, from which he deduced the conclusion that these species, at least, were able to perceive sounds, but whether they did it by means of organs of hearing, or through the sense of touch being excited by atmospheric vibrations, he was unable to ascertain. This experimenter inclines to the opinion that ants do really hear, as some individuals showed a perception of the direction of the sound, such as that of a shrill whistle, and others, which were not disturbed and violently shaken in their glass prisons seemed greatly to be perturbed by shrill pounce.—Harper's Weekly.

Why Mars Is Uninhabited

As the Martian year is composed of 687 days, each pole is exposed to the sun's radiations during a period of more than eleven months, so that the snow deposited during one winter is almost wholly melted before the following winter, says a writer in Harper's Weekly. A pocket barometer in Mars would register a pressure of a little over ten centimeters. This atmospheric pressure is so slight that the human organism, habituated to the bottom of the aerial ocean, where it supports a total pressure of 33,000 pounds, would be unable to survive. No human being could live; no mammal, no bird of the organic structure of the earthly animal, could resist such slight pressure. Water could not remain liquid.