

EXPERT ON FALLING SAFELY

Motorcycle Racer Explains Why He Isn't Killed When He Tumbles on Saucer Track.

"People who know nothing about it think that falling from a motorcycle going at high speed is sure death," remarked Joe Walters, the famous racer, who was recently spilled from his machine while it was moving at the rate of 90 miles an hour, and escaped with a few scratches.

SYSTEM IS NEEDED IN THIS

Operation of Spring House Cleaning Seems to Cry for Reform, Says Mers Man.

We have no desire to pose as one criticizing another's method of work. Our notion is that a man who has spent his life running a hotel knows how to do it better than we do, who patronize hotels only for toothpicks, matches and writing paper.

But with housecleaning time approaching we pause a moment here to suggest that there is no overwhelming anxiety on the part of mere man to have a house cleaned from cellar to dome in a single day.

We realize that we are treading on dangerous ground. But surely if there ever was anything in need of a little system it is spring housecleaning.—Detroit Free Press.

Oldest Metal.

A recent paper presented to the Royal Institution at London, in discussing the question of the metals used by the great nations of antiquity, pointed out that gold was probably the first metal known to man because it is generally found native.

The oldest metallic objects to which we can assign a probable date are thought to be those found in a royal tomb at Nagada in Egypt, supposed to have been that of King Menes. In one of the chambers were some bits of gold and a bead, a button and a line wire of nearly pure copper.

Scriptures in Esperanto.

Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto, the language which he calls a "world's help," began last year the translation of the Bible into Esperanto and published the book of Genesis under the name, "La Genozo." The book received the attention of many people who had previously shown no interest in the "universal language."

When Bravery is Easy.

General Marion Maus, apropos of bravery, uttered at a dinner at Vancouver Barracks an opinion that was quoted with approval in Portland. "It is very easy," said General Maus, "for a man to be as brave as David when Goliath is going to tackle some one else."

SERMON SAVED HIS HONOR

Legislator Who Was About to Yield to Bribers Changed His Mind After Hearing Dr. Gladden.

Two men were taking their lunch at a popular restaurant in town and a woman was sitting at a table nearby, and she tells us this: The men were talking about the legislative bribery cases, when one of them said:

"I know all about it; I was a member of the legislature once, and I know the drawing power of an offer of \$500 or \$1,000 for a vote. I came mighty near tumbling once, when there was a tender of \$1,500 for my vote on a certain proposition. It was awfully fascinating. I needed the money. Why not take it? Nobody would ever know it."

"I had a terrific struggle over that offer. I concluded to take it and then changed my mind and changed back again, and I did that over and over again, all the time while thus tempted. It was on a Sunday when the fever was at its height and, passing the Congregational church, I noticed that Dr. Gladden was to preach; so I went in there to hear him, but principally to get away from myself. It happened that the doctor preached that night on 'The Honest Man.' Well, that settled it; that bribe lost its grip on me, and every low, mean motive as well. The influence of that sermon must have made me appear bribe-proof, for never since then has anybody ever approached me, either directly or indirectly, with a bribe."—New York Evening Post.

POVERTY DROVE TO THEFT

Recent Case of Baron Von Bechnin Reveals Poverty in the Public Service of Austria.

A Vienna jury has just acquitted Baron Joseph von Bechnin in spite of his confession of embezzlement. The trial gave a sad insight into the poverty existing in the lower ranks of the civil service.

The baron, who belongs to an old but decayed family, entered the postal service and married when receiving only 2s. 6d. a day. His pay ultimately rose to £3 a week, but the greater part of it was pledged in paying off the debts he had been forced to incur earlier in order to keep his wife and family.

He confessed in court how one day when he had nothing to give his four children to eat, he forged an entry in a savings bank book, and once having given way to temptation, repeated this till he had embezzled £20, always hoping that relatives would help him to repay.

The acquittal, for which there were no grounds but sentiment, is somewhat criticised in the Vienna press, the newspapers pointing out that it forms a dangerous precedent, there being so many impecunious members of the nobility in the public service, and that this particular baron had brought his poverty on himself by his improvident marriage.

Remarkable Admission.

"Were you acquainted with the murdered man?" asked the prosecuting attorney of a witness for the defense in a murder case. The willingness of the witness to say all that he could in behalf of the murderer was very apparent, by the way.

"I know'd him. He was the honestest."

"Never mind about his honesty. You say you knew him."

"Yes, sah; and I'm proud to say I never knowed sick a noble!"

"Nobody asked you about that. What was the condition of his health—was he not in robust health?"

"No sah! He was the feeblest nigger I ever seed."

"He was killed by the accused, was he not?"

"I can't say so, sah. My idee am dat he was in sich bad health dat eben ef he had'n't been killed when he was, he would hab died, anyhow at least two days previous, sah."

Old Clock of St. Giles.

All loyal Scotmen will learn with regret that the well-known clock on St. Giles' tower in Edinburgh, which must have told the time to Scott and Burns, is doomed to disappear. Apparently a workman fell through the case and damaged the mechanism so badly that the civic authorities do not consider the worn-out works worth repair. So the old clock will be banished by the city museum and replaced by an invisible timepiece, without hands or face, which will merely strike the hours and leave the aesthetic effect of the tower unspoiled. The ancient clock of St. Giles has seen two centuries of service, but is a mere giddy youth compared with some of the medieval horologes or English cathedrals. There are clocks that date from the fourteenth century at Exeter, Wells and Peterborough.

What Battleships Cost in Coal.

The admiralty has postponed fleet exercises for very much smaller causes than the coal strike. The navy is, of course, a national concern, but so are the railways, and the knowledge that the third home fleet will be burning on a daily average for the next three weeks enough coal to run 200 express trains 200 miles a day will make the taxpayer think that the fuel would have been much better expended in that way. A King Edward eats 10 tons a day while exercising and three times as much if hard pressed. The Cornish Riviera or Wild Irishman can run 100 miles on two tons.—London Truth.

GOLD CAUSE OF ILLS

Girls in Treasury Department Stricken With Disease

Diagnosed as "Currenctis"—Hospital Installed to Treat Clerks When They Become Afflicted With Sudden Pains.

Washington.—Fear of the spread of the white plague and typhoid fever were relegated to the dusty past when it became known that a new ailment had seized upon the woman clerks of the Treasury. So swift has been the disease in its progress that it has been necessary to establish an emergency room in the basement of the Treasury, and an average of five cases a day are treated.

Currenctis is the name of the new enemy that has spread terror among the fair clerks. Its symptoms are an acute attack of dizziness, sharp pains in the neck, followed by a severe headache. So far, the medical profession of the district has been unable to determine whether the ailment is conveyed by germs.

Miss Iva Eichelberger, who is in charge of the new emergency room, has made a study of the cases brought under her observation. Miss Eichelberger was surprised to see the great number of young women clerks who would stumble into her room, grasp for a bottle of smelling salts and then fling themselves upon a couch, complaining of racking headaches, necks stiff as boards, and a dizzy sensation.

After brief treatment, they would recover and go back to their desks. It was then that Miss Eichelberger suggested to Chief Clerk Wilmett the installation of an emergency room, patterned after wards in hospitals, with white enameled cots, nurses' costumes for the matrons, and a full equipment of medicines.

No sooner had the idea been conceived than it was put into effect. The matron's room was converted from a dismal, cheerless place into a bright, wholesome appearing ward that any hospital would be proud to claim as its own. Two white enameled cots were placed along the walls. Water-proof paint turned somber walls into attractive ones, and the matrons shone even more splendidly in spotless garbs, topped off with lace bonnets.

Then the attention of Miss Eichelberger was turned toward the disease itself. Test tubes were purchased, with her own funds; a microscope was procured, and the midnight oil consumed. And this is what was revealed—that currenctis was caused by the glare of the piles of shimmering gold pieces and the dazzling silver present in the treasury.

Green eyeshades now are being affected by many, and a falling off in the disease is noticeable. However, the emergency room will be retained.

SCHOOL HEAD GREAT WALKER

Dr. John H. Finley Tramps From Elizabeth, N. J., to Princeton, for Exercise.

Elizabeth, N. J.—Dr. John H. Finley, president of the College of the City of New York, has suddenly stepped into the limelight as a long distance pedestrian. Friends told how Dr. Finley started on a little walk to refresh himself after a strenuous day and ended up a few hours later with 80 miles of ground to his credit.

The president presided over a gathering in honor of Grover Cleveland at Caldwell, N. J. After the exercises Dr. Finley started back to New York in company with Mrs. Cleveland, Dr. Van Dyke and others. Reaching the city, however, he decided that he needed an antidote to the day's wear and tear, so he started out on foot for Princeton, where he arrived at 8 a. m.

GIRL WILL DRIVE A STAGE

Signs Contract to Carry Mail and Passengers Over Dangerous Route in Colorado for a Year.

Meeker, Colo.—Miss May Robertson, 21 years old, said to be the first woman stage driver in the United States, recently began her daily run between Meeker and Buford, a distance of 80 miles.

Miss Robertson has been familiar with horses since her childhood, and of late years broke bronchos on her father's ranch near here. She has signed a year's contract to operate the stage line, which will take her over an extremely dangerous and one-way mountain road. The stage will carry passengers and mail.

Has Violin 200 Years Old.

Pottsville, Pa.—Since a violin 100 years old was sold recently for \$30,000 at Lancaster, friends of Mrs. James E. Steel, daughter of Thomas Williams, a retired Reading Railway passenger conductor of this place, have endeavored to persuade her to dispose of an instrument owned by her late husband, which is claimed to have even more value.

This instrument is 200 years old, twice the age of that which brought so fabulous a price, and it was purchased in South America. The inscription, plainly legible on the interior of the instrument, bears out the age of the violin, which has a remarkable tone: "Joannora Baptista Guaragnini Piacentinus Feoit Mediolani, 1712."

WHEN ROYALTY VISITS US

Writer Recalls Sundry Times When Various Exalted Persons Failed to Disturb Our Composure.

Writing on the visit of the Connaughts to New York, F. D. Dunne in the Metropolitan Magazine says:

"Other royal personages have looked us over in the past. The late king of England came to America before the war and must have been extremely active on his feet for at least 10,000 old ladies are still alive who danced with him. Princess Louise we always remember with respect as the first person who had the courage to speak out against the fifth and indecency of the American sleeping car of the time. We had Dom Pedro of Brazil with us for awhile. Ten years ago we were favored with the presence of Prince Henry of Prussia. Long before that came the king of the Sandwich Islands, an agreeable brown potentate with a taste for drawing to inside straight. It is so long ago that we can't recall whether the ladies of New York made themselves agreeable to him in the historic manner of the Cannibal Islands by asking him in to pick an acquaintance with them, but it is a fact of history that the proprietor of a hotel in Chicago did meet him at the door and inquire whether he wouldn't like to go to his room and wash up." Under all these honors, as far as we are informed, the American public bore itself with some degree of composure, but the arrival of the duke on a purely social visit was too much for the pent-up aristocratic emotions of all sections of the population, and they received him with as great a show of fealty as though he were the reigning prince and they his sworn subjects.

GOLD SEEKERS OF LONG AGO

They Took Large Quantities of the Precious Metal From Brazil 150 Years Ago.

Alexander P. Rogers, a mining engineer who recently made an inland voyage by river from the mouth of the Amazon to Buenos Ayres, found proof that the same regions had been overrun 150 years ago by a band of adventurous goldseekers. They were remarkably successful in their search for gold, too, and found every mine which is known today in that region. At a mine near Matto Grosso they had brought in a small army of slaves and cleared off the jungle for a mile around, while others were set to work constructing a long ditch to bring water to the flat below. It was a clever piece of work for men without surveyors' instruments. They cut the ditch through a cement formation that in places was twenty feet deep, and near the lower end they constructed a great chamber in which they ground the ore between huge rocks. Whether they used mercury to amalgamate the gold it could not determine, but several stone tanks and sluices made me think that possibly they did. They built a town around these works with a brick kiln and a distillery as the most important adjuncts. It must have been a busy and exciting place to live in, ruled over by an iron hand, the master's word law, in everything, and a cruel law it was.

PREFERS DEATH TO NEW BABY

Laborer's Wife Attempts to Kill Herself Rather Than Add Another to Family.

New York.—Having borne to her husband, a railroad laborer, twenty-three children since their marriage twenty-five years ago, Mrs. Agnes Racilla decided to end her part in race production by suicide. Help came before she could accomplish her purpose. She will get well in the Jersey City hospital and return in a few days to her burden at home, unless she has to go to jail in punishment for her crime. She is forty-eight years old.

Only seven of the children are living, all under sixteen. When she had packed them off to school yesterday morning, Racilla having gone to work, she built a crude altar in her parlor at 548 Grove street, Jersey City, and, it is believed, said prayers for her soul before it. Then she drank a bottle of turpentine.

The pain was so agonizing that she screamed. Neighbors ran in and in a few minutes an ambulance surgeon had administered first aid, which left her in collapse, but in no immediate danger.

"I didn't want to bring more children into the world," she sobbed at the hospital, when further relief put her in condition to talk. "We are poor people and cannot afford to keep on having babies."

"For a long time I thought of this and it made me sad. So I prayed for guidance and the answer came that I would be better off dead than alive."

"My husband and children are good, but I could not bear to go on as we were doing. Now I suppose there is no help for it, but I wish I had died."

WED YOUNG AND BE HAPPY

Fewer Divorces Follow Early Unions, a Medical Expert Says—Most Separation After.

Cambridge, Mass.—"Men should marry young," said Dr. William F. Boos, the Harvard Medical expert. He added:

"Statistics show clearly the great benefits of an early union. An important feature is the better health. The offspring of youthful marriages as a rule inherit greater mental and physical well-being."

"Our ideas on the subject of the marriageable age and the requirements for the union are all wrong. A father, instead of opposing a youthful marriage, should encourage. Statistics show marriages that usually end in divorce are contracted by people more than thirty years old."

FINDS CAUSE OF OLD MAIDS

German Farmer Makes Will Leaving Each of His Granddaughters Money Enough to Start Housekeeping.

Greeley, Colo.—Declaring his belief that if every marriageable young woman were provided with clothes and bedding to the value of \$40, and \$100 with which to set up in housekeeping, there would be no old maids, Otto von Boes, a German farmer near here, made his will, bequeathing all of his property to his son, with the provision that when each of his five daughters become 18 years old, the son should make over to her the foregoing amount for the purposes specified. If the daughters do not marry, they get nothing under the provisions of the will.

Refutation Tours.

"People are very likely to believe what they see in print."

"Yep," replied Farmer Coratossel. "That's why those candidates have to keep travelin' around the country so much. They have to prove that they don't look like some of the pictures of 'em that get into the papers."

NEW YORK IS POLYGLOT CITY

Less Than Fifth of People Born of American Parents—Yiddish Is Mother Tongue of 1,265,000.

New York.—That New York, in addition to being the largest city in the country and the second largest in the world, is now the second largest Italian city, and the largest Yiddish-speaking city, and that less than one-fifth of its population is accounted for by persons born of American parents, are some of the interesting facts made public by the completion of a census of races and languages.

The figures give the city an Italian population of 532,964, an increase of 302,717 in the last ten years, thus making it larger than Rome or Genoa, and second only to Naples.

The largest single group is that from the Russian Empire, with a total of 724,112, an increase of 416,429 in the last decade. These figures make New York the third largest Russian city in the country, with a population larger than that of Odessa and equal to about half that of St. Petersburg. Yiddish was given as the mother-tongue by 1,265,000 persons and less than 20 per cent. of the total population is made up of native whites and of native parents.

Ireland is represented by 502,308 persons, a decrease of 165,000 in the last decade. The figures throughout show a marked falling off in immigration from the countries of northwestern Europe and a much greater increase from southeastern Europe.

In terms of percentage New York's population in 1910 was 15.72 per cent. British, 15.19 per cent. Russian birth or parentage, 12.74 per cent. German, 11.16 per cent. Italian, 8.35 per cent. Austro-Hungarian, 1.97 per cent. Scandinavian, 13.49 per cent. of mixed foreign or mixed native parentage, 19.33 per cent. native whites of native parentage, 1.92 per cent. negro and 13 per cent. colored.

Altogether New York may well lay claim to outranking all other cities so far as a polyglot population is concerned.

LABORER'S WIFE ATTEMPTS TO KILL HERSELF RATHER THAN ADD ANOTHER TO FAMILY.

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WESTERNERS BESIEGE POSTMASTER AT BENNINGTON, VT., TO ACT AS MATCHMAKER.

Bennington, Vt.—Each of the four mails arriving here has brought to Postmaster Collins M. Graves from three to five letters requesting that official to send the writer a wife. Each of the letters incloses a clipping mentioning Bennington's dearth of men, taken from papers in Pacific coast cities all the way from Vancouver to San Diego.

Each one of the writers gives personal specifications and describes the kind of a wife he thinks will meet his needs, but none has as yet forwarded a photograph. Inasmuch as only seven days have elapsed since the publication of the story Mr. Graves sees much hard work ahead.

Burglar Asks for Kiss.

Aberdeen, Wash.—"If you will give me a kiss I will call it square and you can keep your money." This was the parting statement of a well-dressed man who entered the home of Mrs. Mary Dowling at 105 F street. While awaiting the return of her husband, who owns a small confectionery store in this city, Mrs. Mary Dowling answered a rap on the front door. A stranger entered and, placing a revolver in the woman's face, ordered her to give him her purse. While in her bedroom the man placed the gun on the dresser and began counting the money in the purse. While thus engaged Mrs. Dowling secured the weapon and forced the unwelcome visitor from the house.

Cows Dislike His Red Cap.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Charles Porter, city milk inspector, has refused to wear the red cap provided for him by the municipal government. He asserts that the female of the bovine species has almost as strong an aversion to the glowing hue as the male, and says that unless the cap is dyed he will resign.

Imprisoned Rabbit Freed.

Mohrburg, Pa.—A partly hollow log, coated with ice and snow, was hauled by Charles Geschwind, five miles to his sawmill. As it was sawn in twain, out hopped an imprisoned rabbit, which escaped.