

VANITY OF MEN.

Those Who Are Growing Old Don't Want to Admit It—Want to Show Ability.

They may talk of the vanity of men as they please, said a street conductor of the Indiana avenue line the other day to a New York Herald reporter...

"A man gets up and I put my hand on the bell rope to stop the car. This is of course, in the crowded sections of the city, where the car has to go slowly..."

"What do you think I am, anyway—a cripple?" he asked. "No," I answered. "I'd take you for a Yale student, of course."

PRICE OF HOSPITALITY.

People of Better Social Than Financial Status Can't Afford to Accept Invitations in England.

The question of tips is perennial. It is especially at this time of the year that it forces itself most prominently into notice, and the awful truth has to be acknowledged that there seems to be no way out of a difficulty which alike besets hostess and guests...

THE GREEN MORAYS.

Very Able Confrontations—Their Tank One of the New York Aquarium's Attractions.

"Them fellers must have India rubber backbones," said a visitor at the Aquarium, gazing in as he spoke at the tank of the green morays, which were twisting and contorting and tying themselves up into knots...

Seven feet long, the biggest of the three here, and five-and-six feet, respectively, the other two, the big green morays always attract the visitors, even when they are quiescent...

Suction Dredges.

The operation of the suction dredges used by the government in river and harbor work is very interesting. A long, flexible tube 12 to 15 inches in diameter drops down from the side of the vessel 20 to 30 feet or more to the bottom of the river or harbor upon which the dredging is being performed...

CONDEMN PIANO PLAYING.

Some Medical Scientists Set Up a Claim That It Is a Nerve Destroyer.

Piano playing tends to shorten life is the latest theory put forward by the alarmist section of the medical profession to set vibrating the pulse of the pianist...

One batch of the new theorists condemns the instrument entirely, but has a saving word for the organ and certain string and wind instruments...

Now, it is trite to say that the vast majority of musicians, especially pianists and organists, are persons with a singularity of manner which borders on the eccentric...

Perhaps, though, teaching of the piano to extremely young children should be condemned, but that the instrument is harmful to the young player is surely not right.

There is Sir Julian Benedict, one of the greatest pianists who lived to the age of nearly 90. Cramer was over 80 when he died. Clementi, Herz, and some others died octogenarians. Halle was nearly 80; so, too, were Liszt, Heller, Potter, and Schumann when they passed away...

Certainly a considerable amount of mental strain has to be endured by the expert player, as by the beginner, and should a person's constitution be not of the robust order, a breakdown may be expected...

Happily, medical opinion is divided on the question—another case of doctors disagreeing. One specialist declares that the piano is really a sedative, and that playing it serves to tune up the nervous system...

HAVE DETECTIVE INSTINCT.

Civilians Sometimes Prove to Make Better Sleuths Than the Old Professionals.

"The detective instinct is born in some people," observed an old detective, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and it is a rather curious thing when you think about it. I have known good detectives, naturally, so, who were never connected in any manner with the service..."

"And I may say, in passing, it is not full to them in many ways, but not only operatives, but business men of every description, frequently need those peculiar faculties which go to make up a criminal chaser..."

The instinct so strongly developed that he thought of nothing else than the unravelling of mysteries and chasing clues. He found something of interest in the slightest case of theft, and would amuse himself by working it out...

When it comes to actual facts and figures of the financial losses caused by insect pests the published papers and reports of expert investigators connected with our agricultural department at Washington are our agricultural stations elsewhere furnish the chief and largest source...

Insect Pests of Man and Cattle. When it comes to actual facts and figures of the financial losses caused by insect pests the published papers and reports of expert investigators connected with our agricultural department at Washington are our agricultural stations elsewhere furnish the chief and largest source...

BEEES OF AMERICA.

An Astonishing Number of Varieties of Wild Insects.

Entomologists Do Not Know Half of Those Existing—New Species Afford Excellent Study for Students.

A bulletin recently issued by Colorado college corrects the popular error that there are only a few kinds of bees. Some people, indeed, think that there are only three—the honey bee, bumble bee, and a smaller wild species...

The pollen of flowers has to be carried principally by insects—that of one flower to other flowers of the same sort, in order to bring about the fertilization and production of seed...

Now, suppose that all bees visited indiscriminately every sort of flower, it would continually happen that the pollen of one species of plant was left on the flower of a quite different species, where it would be altogether useless...

And then in a moment, still continuing to talk, he takes off the cover and holds the teapot up to the conveniently placed electric wire, and so introduces, that slender, little, curious electric light bulb inside of it.

And how thin and fine do the teapot's walls seem now, with that light inside of it, and how beautifully now, as the auctioneer talks, is the pattern on its sides brought out!

And that is the use of the queer little bulb that hangs from the oddly-placed wire.

COSTLY GAME.

Sea Elephants Cost the Hunters about \$7,000 Apiece—Sport in the Antarctic Circle.

Walter Wynne, who has recently returned from the Heard islands, where he has spent eight months hunting sea elephants, calculates the cost of his expedition at between \$70,000 and \$75,000...

There is no reason why many should not interest themselves so far as to make collections, or obtain specimens for the use of students, but only a few will have the zeal, industry and patience to obtain a real grasp of the subject.

NOT SO STRANGE.

Use of the Toes Comes Perfectly Natural When Not Hampered by Shoes and Stockings.

"Isn't it wonderful how people that haven't any arms learn to do things with their toes," said a gentleman the other day, according to the Detroit Free Press.

"Yes. But it isn't so strange after all, when one stops to think of it," replied his companion, who had just returned from the orient.

Every one is familiar with various spite fences or houses, but it is safe to say that quite the most costly and elaborate enterprise of this kind in the world is the famous Wainhouse Tower, in Yorkshire, England.

Loss of Cattle in Texas. The West Texas Stockman, an authority on live stock matters, in its issue to-day, says that the total number of cattle in the state will not exceed 7,000,000 head, of which 5,000,000 are range cattle, and that the depreciation in values during the past year represents a loss of at least \$21,000,000 to Texas cattlemen.

Too Much of a Good Thing. He—You are so much too good for me that I am always afraid of losing you. She—I see. You think I am too good to be true.—Yale Record.

SPIRITS OF THE DROWNED.

How the Chinese Appense the Manes of the Departed—Custom of Taoist Religion.

Shanghai residents seeking cool breezes on the river recently could not fail to notice the number of Chinese boats flying gaily colored lanterns and scattering burning paper on the water.

Inquiry of even the meanest natives elicited the reply that joss pigdign was being done to keep the drowned men quiet. This is in reality a very ancient custom developed under the Taoist religion, which teaches that the spirits of the drowned fit miserably over and under the water until such time as cash is paid to the gods to release them from their purgatory.

And how thin and fine do the teapot's walls seem now, with that light inside of it, and how beautifully now, as the auctioneer talks, is the pattern on its sides brought out!

And that is the use of the queer little bulb that hangs from the oddly-placed wire.

IN SELLING CHINAWARE.

The Use Explained of an Electric Light That Hangs Handy to the Auctioneer.

One who has a fancy for dropping into auction sales may, at a sale of crockery, for instance, see hanging near the auctioneer's stand an electric light wire, from which, depends, within easy reaching distance, an incandescent light in a slender, candle-shaped bulb.

And how thin and fine do the teapot's walls seem now, with that light inside of it, and how beautifully now, as the auctioneer talks, is the pattern on its sides brought out!

And that is the use of the queer little bulb that hangs from the oddly-placed wire.

TATTOOED WOMEN.

Famous Pictures, Crests, Automobiles, Phrases and Bad Jokes on Some Fair Integuments.

Alfred South, of Cockspar street, who may be described as the pioneer of the tattooing art, has during his career operated on upward of 15,000 persons, including about 900 English women.

There are several instances in which women have been tattooed with their husbands' regimental crests. Monograms, initials and family quarterings abound.

Another device is that of a figure of Cupid disappearing into the recesses of a pewter pot, having cast aside his bow and quiver. This picture, which has been tattooed on the arm of one woman only, is entitled "Love Gone to Pot."

NEGRO DIALECTS.

More Than Fifty Varieties Spoken by Colored Folks in Different Parts of the South.

A patron of cakewalks or an admirer of cakewalk music might be justified in not thinking so, but the fact is that there are more than 50 separate dialects among the colored population of the south, says the New York Sun.

Anyone who has travelled through the tidewater counties of Virginia is aware that the speech of the negro population there differs materially from that used in the cotton fields of Alabama. The singsong speech of the camp meeting negro from the hilly part of northern Georgia differs essentially from the soft and more melodious speech of the Louisiana negroes from the region of cakewalks and rice fields.

The negro race in the south is essentially imitative, and in Louisiana, where the reminders of French occupation are many, the French accent and intonation are preserved. In South Carolina, which has, relatively, the largest negro population, there are found in the tidewater counties the Guinea negroes whose dialect is been found difficult for many visitors to understand.

James Reilly, one of New York's little-known millionaires, has a curious habit—that of providing for the decent burial of the indigent dead. He is in constant communication with a number of undertakers, who keep him posted regarding such cases as he wishes to look after. Another rich New Yorker, Samuel Martin, spends a good deal of time and money in helping important victims of the police force. He is always camping on some officer's trail, and many a victim of police tyranny has had reason to thank Samuel Martin for timely aid.

WING SHOTS AT SEA.

Novel Sport of Shooting Flying Fish—Need for a Retriever That Can Swim.

One morning the yacht Linda steamed out of the Bay of Avignon with two or three friends and myself sitting on the upper deck, about eight feet from the water, each armed with a shotgun, says a writer in Outing. The Linda was headed up the coast and was presently running at fair speed, and in a short time into the flying fish, which rose at or near the bow and went skimming away in graceful lines. The first flyer went to the left, and was cleverly dropped by one of my companions, who killed another with his left barrel.

There was something essentially novel in this sport. The fish appeared as though by magic, shooting out of the water with little or no splash, often apparently sailing along a foot above the surface, when it so resembled that it was as difficult to drop them as it would be the woodcock darting over cover that it perfectly resembled. There was one essential lacking in this novel sport—a retriever. Many of the fish sank before the small boat could be cast off to secure them.

There was something essentially novel in this sport. The fish appeared as though by magic, shooting out of the water with little or no splash, often apparently sailing along a foot above the surface, when it so resembled that it was as difficult to drop them as it would be the woodcock darting over cover that it perfectly resembled.

TEN LAYERS OF HISTORY.

On One Sacred Site in Egypt Temples Had Been Piled on Ruins of Other Temples.

For the first time the whole history of one of the great national sites of Egypt has been opened before us, dating from the beginning of the kingdom, and ending with almost the last of the native kings—from Menes, about 4000 B. C., to Nektaneb, 340 B. C., says Harper's Magazine. History is here laid out for us in strata, from which the past can be read as we lift them away one from another.

Excavation on a site with a long history is mere destruction if each stratum is not read and interpreted intelligibly as it is opened, unfortunately, this has never been done before on any such site. On the earliest sacred site of Abydos, the first capital of Egypt, temples had been piled one on the ruins of another until ten ages of buildings stood stacked together in about 20 feet depth of masonry. Each temple had become partly ruined after a few centuries, and then at last was pulled down, leaving a foot or two of the walls and foundations; and a new temple of a different plan was then erected on the ground.

Excavation on a site with a long history is mere destruction if each stratum is not read and interpreted intelligibly as it is opened, unfortunately, this has never been done before on any such site.

Excavation on a site with a long history is mere destruction if each stratum is not read and interpreted intelligibly as it is opened, unfortunately, this has never been done before on any such site.

Excavation on a site with a long history is mere destruction if each stratum is not read and interpreted intelligibly as it is opened, unfortunately, this has never been done before on any such site.

INDIAN SUMMER.

It's Easy to Tell When That Delightful Season Ends, But When Does It Begin?

It is the gentle and indefinable shading off of summer into autumn, when does Indian summer begin? Is it a vague, authoritative Indian summer if no frost has preceded it? Or must the woods light up their banners to herald its advent? An Indian summer that is not born of a few frosty nights may suddenly backslide and become a reversion to summer itself, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. We can reconcile no ideals of that perfect season of the year with a return to perspiration and the casting off of coats. An Indian summer of hot days is no Indian summer. It cannot come scorching and sweltering as July, August and September, but veiled in blue mists or gray, every day, breaking in the same unvarying tints and tones and likewise temperature of the one before it, as if nature had saved her best in the bottom of the basket and were hanging out an unspooled one every morning. Indian summer may continue long after the last leaf has fallen and been gathered to its companions in the brown withrows. It is not perplexing to discover when Indian summer ends. It is swept out and washed away in long, cold November rain, that stretches its warlike streamers across the sky for days before it spreads its dripping wintry pall over the earth. But when does Indian summer begin?

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

In 1857 an American named Collins first proposed a railway from the summit to the village of Tzinta. Later several plans were formulated, but it was not until March 17, 1891, that the Trans-Siberian railroad was definitely determined on and projected by an imperial order. On May 19, 1891, the first stone was laid. The line covers 3,562 miles in Russian territory and 1,894 miles in Chinese territory. In ten and one-half years 5,165 miles of rails were laid. In the Canadian Pacific, constructed under similar conditions, it took ten years to lay 2,921 miles of rails.

CRUEL PUNISHMENT.

A man who was caught in the act of committing burglary at Paterson, N. J., was ducked several times in clear water and then told to leave town. It is reported that the friction he created in the air as he left almost set his clothes on fire.