

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

There are 46 words in the British language which have two distinct pronunciations. "Bew," "tear," "island" are the best examples.

The largest stud of horses kept by any private individual of late years was owned by Mr. Oppenheimer, of Hanover, in whose stables 680 horses stood five years ago.

Fish that swim at a depth of 100 fathoms are subjected to a pressure of 230 pounds to the square inch. The atmospheric pressure at sea-level is only 15 pounds to the inch.

According to the Boston directory, there are 1,663 grocers and 650 provision dealers in that city, making a total of 2,313, while the lawyers number 2,168.

Southern California has a retail grocers' organization, formed for the purpose of assisting each other in tracing "dead beats," and in collecting old bills.

A wonderful beard is worn by Jean Coulon, of Montlucon, France. It is ten feet ten and a half inches in length and nearly five feet of it when he stands erect, rests on the floor.

The senate has 66 members, of whom only 47 make their antecedents public. Of these 46 are college graduates; 21 received no academic education and 25 were limited to the common schools.

It is said that 1,000,000,000 plain, 20,000,000 fancy and 35,000,000 safety pins find a market in Chicago every year. Enough common pins are sold in the city annually to reach more than half way around the world if welded into one continuous chain.

SEEN IN ST. PIERRE.

How a Visitor to the Martinique Town, St. Pierre, Made His Impression.

"St. Pierre was one of the most picturesque little cities in the world. I spent a few hours there once and shall never forget the gay appearance it presented," said Capt. John A. Haswell, of New York, according to the Washington Post.

"They wore many colors, and, strangely though, combined them quite harmoniously.

"There was practically no harbor at St. Pierre, and the ships anchored a short distance out at sea. As soon as our vessel came within hailing distance of St. Pierre a number of small boats set out from shore. They were filled with women dressed in gaudy colors and carrying fruits, which they offered to the passengers.

"Few of the people of St. Pierre were pure black. The negroes who were originally in the island, the Malays who were brought there to serve as slaves, and the French and other white people who located there, intermarried so freely that most of the inhabitants showed only a trace of negro blood.

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THE GRANDES OF SPAIN.

Customs of "Head Covering" That is in Vogue When They Are Ennobled.

A Madrid correspondent of the London Times writes under date of April 8: "The ceremony of 'head covering' was performed yesterday by a number of Spanish peers, who thereby passed to the rank of grandes of Spain.

The ceremony, interesting on account of its antiquity and its historical significance, is, like many Spanish customs, remarkable for its extreme simplicity.

The peers who yesterday took part in it were the count of Plasencia, the marquis of Rafal, the marquis of Malferrit, the marquis of Beaumont, Count del Real, the marquis of Hoyos, Marquis de la Cenia, the count of Bilbao, the marquis of Viana, and the marquis of Tovar, who were each attended by a grande as their sponsor.

When they had made three customary reverences to the throne, the queen regent, in the king's name, bade them 'cover your heads and speak.'

The speeches which followed, justifying the right of each peer to the honor he was receiving, were for the most part interesting excursions into the past history of Spain.

The first, which was also the most brief, that of the count of Cabra, may serve as an example: 'Senora, if noble obligations me to receive the honor of covering my head in the presence of your majesty, I come here obliged by the merits and virtues of my forefathers, and with the desire at least to imitate them, although to do so in reality may, unfortunately, be impossible.

I am called Osorio, Borbon, Ponce de Leon, Carrillo de Albornoz, Hurtado de Mendoza, Fernandez de Cordova, Guzman, Manrique de Lara, Silva, Rojas, Alvarez de Toledo, and by other names as well so illustrious that, were it possible to forget them, one would have to forget with them the history of Spain.

Pleasant, heroic valor, wisdom, statesmanship, in all these my forefathers have offered examples for imitation; and, though it be not permitted to me to reach such heights except in admiration, in my love and loyalty to my country and my king, I am worthy of them.'

The other new grandes were far more precise, not to say discursive, in relating the histories of their families, and one, the count of Plasencia, devoted almost the whole of his discourse to an ancient grievance—that Philip II. had cut off the head of one of his ancestors by mistake—a funesto error.

THE SLEEP OF DEATH.

A Mysterious Disease of Africa Which Has Long Been a Puzzle to Medical Men.

It is reported from Uganda that the natives are dying in considerable numbers from "sleeping sickness," a native name for a terrible disease which occurs among the inhabitants of certain districts in Africa.

As its name indicates, says the Louisville Mail, it bears a curious resemblance to sleep, the patient growing gradually sleeper until he finally dies.

In 1898 two natives from the Congo were landed in this country suffering from the mysterious complaint and taken to the Charing Cross hospital, where they were objects of great curiosity.

The doctors could not grapple with the disease and the patients eventually died. In the districts of Africa where the "sleeping sickness" occurs, the natives live in terror of it, and will abandon their villages on its approach.

It is not entirely confined to the negro race, as there are one or two cases on record of Europeans having died from it.

Many reasons have been given as to its origin, but the true cause has not been definitely ascertained. Native doctors are said to cure some diseases by rubbing pepper in the eyes, a treatment which, if it did nothing else, would be calculated to keep the patient awake.

Sir Harry Johnston, the eminent authority on Central Africa, believes that the disease is due to the existence of a parasite in the blood which, by choking the blood vessels, interferes with the nourishment of the brain.

This is probably a right solution, as the disease is obviously connected with the brain.

Prehistoric Man in Egypt.

Human remains recently unearthed at Girga in Egypt consist of a continuous series extending backward over at least 5,000 years.

The bodies are so well preserved, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere in the region and to the perfection of interment, that not only can the hair, the nails, the ligaments, be made out, but also the muscles and the nerves.

In almost every case the brain also is preserved, and the climax has been reached in two cases where the eyes, with the lens in good condition, are present, and in others which show the limb flexures and great splanchnic nerve.

There are now unearthed a series of later prehistoric graves ranging throughout the first 15 dynasties, others of the 18th and yet others of the Ptolemaic and early and recent Coptic periods.—N. Y. Sun.

The Birds Suffer.

The demand for feathers and bird skins for the decoration of hats in France has resulted in the total extinction of swallows, kingfishers, and goldfinches. They have all been exterminated or hunted into their own countries.—Chicago Daily News.

Retribution.

Lots of people do not receive any favors, because they are known to be ungrateful.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

FEMININE FINERY.

Pretty Bits of Jewelry and Other Ornamental Articles Seen in the Shops.

Gulpure lace in black is shown as trimming for slimy black gowns. The newest bows for corsage and millinery use show braided and knotted effects.

The newest rings have mostly one large stone of ruby, diamond, emerald or sapphire, or else a single large pearl set around with diamonds, says the Chicago Daily News.

Coats of arms are gaining in popularity and persons of wealth are having their heraldic escutcheons embroidered to order on draperies, furniture and pillows.

There is a half-hearted revival of the old fashion of having hanging tassels on window shades and the shops are showing some that are pretty and effective.

Attractive little alcohol lamps are made of silver in the form of the familiar street lamp, the bowl for the alcohol being made of colored glass and mounted on a long stem.

Buckles of blond tortoise shell are shown for wear in the hair. They are mounted on a comb and the edges of the buckle, which is long and bent in shape, are powdered with diamond dust.

Tiny ivy leaves, formed into a wreath with a spray of leaves raised at the front and the whole touched here and there with crystal dewdrops, is one of the pretty ornaments shown for the hair.

To be in a mode one must have a few of the stocks which have a long bow of pongee. These stocks are shown in pink and blue and in linen color and all are embroidered with small diamonds of red outlined in black.

One of the jewelry shops shows an exquisite rosary. The beads are made of lovely purple amethysts linked together with gold and the cross is also of bright gold. Its very beauty might well increase one's religious fervor.

The new lognettes are short and delicately fine rather than big and showy, as heretofore. The case into which the glasses fit when the lognette is closed serves as a handle as well and is small and of beautiful workmanship.

The rage for moire has even reached the wallpaper and moire effects are to be seen in some of the new spring papers. These are in solid colors and have narrow flower borders. A green paper shows a border of pale pink roses in festoons.

In charms for the chain there is a great variety shown in the jewelry departments. One finds cats and dogs, rabbits, hares, owls and elephants reproduced in gold and silver, bright and dull, rock crystal, agates, jasper, carnelian, moonstone, lapis, amethyst and what not, all small but rather larger as to cost.

One of the latest things, "direct from Paris," so 'tis said, is a handsome hair ornament that is used to keep the "scooping locks" in place when the hair is piled on top of the head. This comb is called the "wave comb," and is shaped so as to fit the back of the head. In price one can find it from 25 cents up.

FOMENTATIONS FOR THE SICK.

Applications That Will Give Speedy Relief from the Most Severe Pains.

The following are directions for applying fomentations: There is probably no other application that will give relief from extreme pain in a greater variety of cases than the fomentation, and every family should have a set of cloths for that purpose, and know how to use them, says Woman's Home Companion.

A single flannel bed blanket quartered and a panful of boiling water furnish all the apparatus necessary. Fold a cloth into thirds, then gather the ends into your hands and dip the middle of the cloth into the water to within four or five inches of the end.

Take out the cloth and twist the ends in opposite directions until the cloth is wrung as dry as possible, then quickly untwist the cloth and fold large enough to cover well the part to be treated, and wrap in a dry flannel, leaving one thickness of dry flannel between the wet one and the patient's skin.

The treatment should always be finished by sponging the part with a cloth wrung from cool water, or, if the patient is perspiring freely, by a cool sponge bath, or, better still, of putting him into a bathtubful of water at 95 degrees and gradually cooled to 80 degrees or 85 degrees.

To remove soreness or relieve pain in cases of cold on the lungs, acute inflammation of the stomach or bowels, lumbago and backache a cloth should be folded into thirds as above, the ends folded to meet at the middle, then applied over the part, and changed every three or five minutes until relief is obtained.

The fomentation applied to the throat is a valuable aid in cases of sore throat or tonsillitis. Applied to the spine 15 or 20 minutes at bedtime it is very quieting to the nerves, and often gives sleepless people a good night's rest. It should be about six inches wide and reach the entire length of the spine.

Never remove one until you have another ready.

By and By.

No one has any right to suppose that he will do better by and by, unless he is prompt to seize upon means and plans for doing better. Better living and better service do not come by chance; they are the result of thoughtful and earnest effort. We grow as we go.—Detroit Free Press.

DISCOVERY OF NERVOCIDINE.

A Powerful Anesthetic That is Made from a Plant Which Grows in India.

A new local anesthetic obtained from an Indian plant called "banubasa" has recently been submitted to careful examination by some Hungarian dentists. The anesthetic action of this substance was discovered a year ago by a dentist in Flume—Dr. Dalma—who tried the effect of banubasa in cases of painful pulpitis, and recommended it as a powerful agent which might replace arsenic in the treatment of that condition, says the Pittsburg Gazette.

Dr. Dalma also separated the active principles of the plant, which proved to be an alkaloid, and in his later experiments he used the salt obtained by treating the alkaloid with hydrochloric acid. This salt has been named "nervocidine." In weak solution (1-10 of 1-20 per cent.) nervocidine produced a marked local anesthesia of the cornea of warm-blooded animals. Two drops of a 1-20 per cent. solution applied to the human conjunctiva produced a burning sensation, accompanied by lachrymation, followed after 20 minutes by anesthesia of the cornea lasting for five hours. After seven hours the cornea regained its normal condition. A 1-10 per cent. solution of nervocidine brushed over the mucous membrane of the cheek caused local anesthesia of the brushed surface and of the tongue, accompanied by loss of the sensation of taste and the perception of heat and cold.

Attempts to produce local anesthesia by subcutaneous injections of nervocidine in animals have not yet been successful. The general action of nervocidine on the system was that of a poison, producing death by paralysis of the motor centers of the nerves. All the experiments proved that nervocidine was a powerful local anesthetic which had the advantage of producing a much more sustained action than cocaine, for the effect of a one-half or one-fifth per cent. solution might last for two or three days. It is, however, not without its drawbacks, such as the local irritation to which it gives rise, the slow production of the anesthetic state (from ten to 20 minutes being required) and a liability to the occurrence of nausea, vomiting, salivation and other symptoms of general poisoning.

PATENT LEATHER HAS RIVAL.

Shoes with Dull Finish Are Now in Vogue for Dress Occasions.

Dull finish shoes are to take the place of patent leather for fashionable wear. The change cannot be accounted for, and the news of it will cause regret. But the edict has been issued that henceforth any one who wishes to be stylish must have shoes and slippers of dull-finished kid. Sometimes the dull-finished kid shoes have perforated and fancifully ornamented tips.

The low shoe is this season cut higher than before, and sometimes it fastens over the instep with a strap which buckles at the side, or two buttons may be used to close up the opening. All shoes except those for heavy walking, and all boots for outdoor games, will be ornamented with a Louis quince heel. Plain heels are no longer fashionable.

Black satin shoes have also come into vogue. They may be plain, or they may be ornamented as elaborately as any one desires. There is one dainty little design of tiny sprays of flowers which will be worked in black silk and small black pearls. Nowhere do black pearls seem more suitable than on the dainty little black evening slippers. Sometimes the entire pointed toe is incrustated with black pearls. White satin shoes, with pure white gleaming pearls, are preferred by some.

Strawberry Shortbread.

This is commonly known as short-cake, but the true shortcake is made without sugar or egg. Make a rich baking powder biscuit dough. The butter should be very cold and hard and rubbed into the flour and the flour moistened with cream or part cream and part milk. Have the dough soft enough to put out into a flat cake half an inch thick. Lay it in a buttered pan and bake in a rather quick oven for 25 or 30 minutes. While it is hot trim off the crust around the edges so the cake can be easily pulled apart in equal halves. Spread quickly with softened butter, on each half crush a pint of ripe strawberries, sweeten to taste and spread on the buttered halves. On the lower half of the whole berries. Place the other half on top, with crust side down and decorate with whole berries and dust thickly with powdered sugar. Serve hot, with sugar and cream.—Washington Star.

White Sauce.

A white sauce that is excellent to serve with hot steamed puddings is made by dissolving in a half a cupful of cold water a tablespoonful of corn starch. When blended add a half a cupful of powdered sugar, a pinch of salt and a cupful of boiling water. Put on the fire in a double boiler and boil 15 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the whites of two eggs beaten stiff, a teaspoonful of vanilla and two tablespoonfuls of sherry. Remove from the fire and beat until cold.—N. Y. Post.

Beet Greens.

Wash young beets very clean, but do not separate the roots from the leaves; boil in salted boiling water for three-quarters of an hour; drain well in a colander; dress with butter and serve hot with vinegar.—Ladies' World, New York.

A CASE OF GENERAL.

Traveling Man's Tale of a Railroad in Kentucky That Was Well Observed.

"It was this way," said a well-known correspondent, according to the Washington Star, "I was traveling for a New York house, as I had from the metropolis, and I knew that I was somewhere in Kentucky. I had slept late that morning in the Pullman, and, after breakfast, I observed that several gentlemen had got on the train at some station at which we had stopped before I got up. They were talking very animatedly, and I observed that each and all addressed one another by the title 'general.' In fact, the 'generals' flew around the heads of the gentlemen so rapidly that it made me dizzy.

"When the conductor came through, I said to him: 'My friend, are we in the state of Kentucky?'

"Yes, sir," replied the conductor. "I thought that every man who fought for the lost cause in the blue grass state was a colonel, and the survivors are all colonels still?'

"You thought right," answered the conductor, pleasantly. "I have lived in Kentucky all my life, and I have never yet met a private who would admit that he was a private in the late unpleasantness. We only sent colonels to the front, and colonels they still remain, as you stated."

"But all of these gentlemen around me are generals. I think an explanation is in order."

"So it would certainly seem; to whom do you refer?'

"Who are the two gentlemen on the seat in front of me?'

"Col. Blood and Col. Bluegrass."

"And the two on the opposite side of the aisle?'

"Col. Thoroughbred and Col. Mint."

"What is Col. Blood's occupation?'

"He is general passenger agent of this road."

"And what does Gen. Bluegrass do?'

"He is our general ticket agent."

"And Col. Thoroughbred?'

"Our general freight agent."

"How about Col. Mint, whose name I like best of all?'

"General traffic agent."

"Have you a general station agent attached to this line?'

"No, sir, we have not."

"Well," I answered, "that is a very grave oversight on the part of the directors. The quota of commanding officers of the rank of general on any railroad line is certainly not filled without a general station agent. I will write to the board of directors and call attention to this serious omission, and I will take pleasure in recommending you for field officer's rank. What do you say?'

"That it will be very good of you," replied the conductor, with a smile, as he pointed out to me a strip of meadow where, he said, the finest mint in the world was grown.

"It has always seemed to me that about the only two persons in civil life in the United States who are entitled to be called 'general' are the postmaster general and the attorney general of the United States. Attorneys general of states, directors general of exhibitions and others who affix the military title of 'general' to their civil occupation have always reminded me of the fertile surface of the fair blue grass state."

THE GOWNING OF WOMEN.

When They Are Daintily Dressed They Help to Brighten the World.

These are the days when, as Shakespeare says, "frocks and daws and maidens bleach their summer frocks." The summer frock is a concomitant of warm weather that we would not willingly do without. However much they may delight in young leaves on the elm, the perfume of the lilac blossoms, the morning notes of the birds, and the other outdoor matters that poets like to sing of, mankind in general, if they are honest, will tell you that the chief joy of the season is in the privilege of looking at, and being with, carefully gowned women. Here is one note of spring that the city man has often than his country cousin, says Woman's Home Companion.

The latter may see green fields and running brooks, but the former sees more marvelous frocks and frills. This habit of spring gowning is a good thing. Daintily dressed women, whether their frocks be of silk or of muslin, help to make the world brighter. They add a great deal to the sum of life's cheerfulness. There are very few women who need any encouragement to make themselves attractive; but if they do, they should realize that gowning is not merely to be indulged in for their own pleasure. It is a positive duty.

Broiled Chicken with Bacon.

Singe two chickens, draw and wipe them thoroughly with a damp cloth. Cut off their necks, and split them lengthwise without separating. Lay them on a dish, season well with salt and pepper and one tablespoonful of olive oil; turn them in the seasoning until they are well covered, then broil them for nine or ten minutes on each side. Prepare six small pieces of toast and lay them on a hot dish; place the chicken on these and spread half a cupful of maitre d'hotel butter on top and add six slices of broiled bacon.—Washington Star.

A Gaffer's View.

First Gaffer—That farmer over there is awfully absent-minded. Second Gaffer—Why? "Because this morning I saw him watering the milkweeds." Judge.

CLOSING THE HOUSE.

Remove Valuables and Properly Cover and Wrap Things When Going Away for a Season.

Persons who shut up their homes and go away for the summer should leave everything in good order so that there may be no domestic burden on the mind during vacation.

All valuables should be removed from the house and either placed in a safe-deposit vault or taken along by the owner. Jewelry, silverware, wills and deeds should never remain in an unoccupied house, says American Queen.

Expensive rugs and draperies of wool or fur should be well beaten and brushed out of doors, rolled up, wrapped in newspapers and finely sewed in cotton cases and stored in tightly closing drawers or chests. All pieces of upholstered furniture should be beaten and brushed in the open air and all the cloth surfaces covered with tar paper and bound up with pieces of cotton. Cotton coverings alone will not keep out moths.

The cover of the piano should be raised and the dust blown out with a bellows; lay or hang a newspaper over the sounding-board or place a lump of gum camphor near the row of hammers. Close and lock the instrument and envelop it in the cotton cover.

Carpets left down should be swept, sprinkled with pepper and covered with folded newspapers.

Handsomely bound books should each be wrapped in soft paper and laid carefully away. Fireplaces ought to be closed with sheet iron covers or pasted up with stout manila paper, and all brass faucets and iron and nickel fixtures kept from tarnishing by rubbing with linseed oil. Be sure that the roof does not leak, all the faucets are tight, windows from cellar to attic secure, doors locked and no remnant of food or combustible or explosive material left about. Have the gas turned off entirely if going away for a considerable period. Pack bedding in trunks or well covered on closet shelves, cover mattresses with old sheets and carry or elaborate picture frames with muslin coverings.

POINTS ABOUT CATARRH.

How People Can Harden Themselves Against the Disagreeable Affection.

It is a well-known fact that marked changes of temperature induce catarrhal affections, and it is also evident that the best prevention of a "cold" is a ready adaptation to the varying conditions of an uncertain climate. The latter implies a certain resisting quality of the respiratory mucous membranes, which must be necessarily developed along rational lines. The hardening processes thus become questions of vitality, habit and environment. An old Indian explained his immunity against low temperature by explaining that he was "all face."

It was with him the habit of exposure to inclemencies and his reactive protecting tendency. The other extreme is seen in the coddling process, which our modern methods of civilization encourage. "When houses were made of willow the men were made of oak." Our superheated houses reverse these old-time conditions.

The dry hot air of the modern dwelling is undoubtedly the most prolific of all the predisposing causes of catarrhal troubles, says the London Medical Record. The mucous membranes are thus placed in the worst possible condition for resisting the impression of the outside atmosphere. Their natural protective secretions are not only decreased, but the blood supply of the air passages becomes relatively superabundant, congested and sluggish and the beginning of the end is evident enough. Persons who are luckily unaccustomed to these high temperatures often experience a sense of oppression from the same cause. It is the protest of healthy resistance against artificial enfeeblement. Foreigners say with truth that Americans literally bake themselves in their houses, and there is in this connection also much reason for their opinion as to the cause of the American catarrh.

Salad of Peas.

A salad made from green peas is much improved if a little mint is added. For the salad a half pint of tender, cooked peas that have been thoroughly chilled is arranged on a bed of lettuce hearts on a flat dish or platter. Sprinkle over the peas a teaspoonful of very finely chopped mint leaves, pour a French dressing over and serve. If it is desired to serve the salad for luncheon dress with mayonnaise. Almost any green salad, particularly if it is to be served with a roast, is improved by using a mint vinegar in compounding the French dressing. Fill a wide-mouthed pint bottle with mint leaves that have been thoroughly washed, cover with vinegar, and let stand two weeks, keeping the bottle tightly corked. Then strain the liquor into smaller bottles, which must also be kept securely stoppered. Add a few drops of this vinegar to a salad dressing.—N. Y. Post.

Cheese Toast.

Cut slices of stale bread and trim off the crusts. Toast them delicately brown and soften by dipping into hot salted water. Lay them neatly on a platter. Over them pour a cupful of cream sauce, tomato sauce, brown sauce or gravy left from dinner, and sprinkle the top of each slice with grated cheese seasoned with pepper and salt. Dot it liberally with butter. Set the platter under the flame of a gas stove for five minutes. The cheese will brown delicately and form a delicious crust. This makes a nice luncheon dish.—Boston Budget.