

DOGS TAXED IN GERMANY.

They Are Divided Into Three Classes and Paid For According to Standing.

Like everything else in Germany dogs are divided into classes. The first class contains the dogs that are kept as pets by people in easy circumstances. To the second class belong those dogs that are used for hunting, says a Leipzig correspondent of the Washington Star. The third class includes all dogs that are kept for working animals by milkmen, butchers, peddlers, etc., in or near towns and cities.

In the city every dog is taxed, but there is a distinction made between the three classes. Dogs of the first class are taxed 20 marks (\$4.76), those of the second class only five marks (\$1.19) per annum. This system of taxing dogs according to classes seems to be an excellent one. Every one thinks it perfectly just that those who keep dogs merely as luxuries should pay more for them than the people who keep dogs for working purposes. When you see some of the dogs for which people pay nearly five dollars a year in taxes you are willing to admit that "beauty lies in the eye of the beholder."

The variety of dogs which seems to be the most fancied as a pet in Germany is the short legged, elongated dachshund. Some of these dogs are so long that they are really pitiful sights. Fox terriers are quite common, and in fact, nearly every variety of dog is found here. Bulldogs, however, are very seldom seen.

The dogs that are used for hunting are mostly German deerhounds and bird dogs of the setter and pointer types. Beagles are seldom used and are uncommon. Hunting dogs, as a rule, are kept in the country, and very little is seen of them.

Working dogs are not confined to any particular variety. Any dog that is large and strong may be used, and a great many different kinds are seen. When a person comes to Germany one of the first things that is sure to impress him as strange is the sight of a dog hitched to a wagon with a woman as his mate. In Leipzig working dogs are very numerous, and are mostly owned by the poor people. So far as I have seen, the dogs are treated with consideration by their owners and seem in many cases, ready to enjoy their work.

Every large city in Germany has its annual dog show, and people seem to take as much if not more interest in them than we do in America.

In all cities and large towns dogs are required to be muzzled whenever they are on the streets or in public places. Small dogs that are not vicious may be taken on a leash without a muzzle.

When the tax upon a dog is paid, the dog is registered and the owner is given a tag which must be attached to its collar. When a dog is allowed upon a street without its muzzle or its tag he is subject to seizure by the dog police, who are a special branch of the municipal police. The usual fine in such a case is about 75 cents where there is no willful intent or neglect on the part of the owner. After a dog has been captured once and its owner warned, if it is captured again the fine is much heavier. The only dogs that are allowed upon the streets without muzzles are those that are unquestionably under three months of age. After a dog is captured he is taken to the pound and kept there three days. At the end of that time, if recalled for, he is either sold or disposed of.

The effect of the regulations regarding dogs has been practically to exterminate stray and useless dogs, and to restrict the dogs actually kept to the three classes already given.

The laws are enforced with great diligence and impartiality, and as a result that much dreaded disease, hydrophobia, is practically unknown in Germany.

Shells of Mollusca.

Aside from the scientist who has given a large share of his life to the study of the subject, few people there are who know much about molluscan animals and their habits, while on the other hand the shells that this vast group develops are familiar to many even savage peoples being fascinated by the wonderful diversity of shapes they assume, and their gorgeous colors. Indeed no series of objects throughout the realm of nature possesses any higher claim to beauty than do a large number of the land and sea shells of the tropics; some of the forms defying the powers of language or the skill of the colorist. The collecting of shells dates back to the very early time in the history of the race. Far back into history artisans skilled in such craft have from certain species of shells cut cameos of surpassing beauty, while they have been employed in a decorative way in designs of many kinds. Other species are of great economic value, being employed in the manufacture of pearl buttons, cheap jewelry, and many other objects of everyday use.—Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, in Four-Track News.

Abyssinians and the Phonograph.

Sir John Harrington, who has been made minister plenipotentiary from King Edward's court to that of Menelik of Abyssinia, was appointed British agent in Abyssinia in 1898. He has done many things to establish cordial relations between the two countries. One of Sir John's great achievements was to persuade her late majesty to speak into a phonograph a message to Menelik and his empire. It was the only time she ever consented to such an experiment, and it was done then on the express understanding that when the message had once been spoken the record should be destroyed. Menelik was so excited when he heard the great queen's message in her own voice that he repeatedly stopped the machine in order to have a salute fired, and the empress was so flattered to hear her own name mentioned that she called out her bodyguard as a mark of respect.—N. Y. Tribune.

BEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE.

Where the Rich Man Took His Old Friend to Enjoy a Little Creature Comfort.

The very rich man was taking an old friend through the stately town house. It had been designed by a great architect, decorated by famous artists and glorified with tapestries which had once hung in palaces. The drawing room was filled with guests and there were candles shining under pink shades and an orchestra playing somewhere, says the New York Sun, so the two old friends passed on up in the lift, and the whiff of roses and violets that came to them from the afternoon reception reminded them both of their barefoot boyhood.

"You see, James," said the rich man, who his friend noticed, had contracted a somewhat stately manner of speech, "we had it planned just in that way—the reception room opens into the two parlors and the music room, the smoking room and the conservatory all on one floor, so that when we have a big party we can have all the room we want. The smoking room is Moorish, and there's a balcony with a view clear over the river."

The dining-room was on the floor above. It was magnificently dim, with a raftered ceiling, and a great sideboard was laden down with gleaming silver tankards and glass decanters that sparkled like diamonds.

"This, James," said the rich man, solemnly, "is pure sixteenth century."

They went above. Here everything seemed to be rose and blue and green and white, successions of boudoirs beautiful as sunrises. The guest suite was being put in readiness for the old friend, and he noticed with some uneasiness that the sunken bath filled from the center like a fountain spray, forming a filmy shower as it descended. It was the very latest thing, said his host.

They passed up beyond model apartments for the servants taking to the stairs for this flight and then almost to the roof, and as they did so the millionaire relaxed somewhat into the old colloquialism:

"I've a room up here, Jim, I like to set in," he said. "It's not much to show—I guess it's really the garret—but I like it sometimes—when the house is full of company."

He unlocked a door and led the way into a low-ceilinged room with windows that were half octagons, this effect on the exterior of the cupola being superb. Here the dust lay on things, the furniture was queer looking, and there was an old sofa with a downward bulge in it where a spring had given way.

There was a black walnut cradle with its little mattress, some wax fruit under a glass cover and a cardboard motion on the wall showing a seal brown eagle, outspread over "E Pluribus Unum" in red, white and blue. There were photographs showing the rich man and his wife in their awkward youth, posed with scenic effects back of them that were positively startling in their sublimity. There was also a large engraving of Washington crossing the Delaware.

He waved his guest to a seat. Then he dived into an old desk and brought up a brown bottle, two muddy looking glasses and a box of cigars. He sat on the sofa with an air of solid comfort.

"It's different from the rest of the house," he said, "because all the things we had when we began housekeeping" was gradually moved up here. "You see them rugs and things and some of the chairs and tables are centuries old—and these weren't quite old enough," they said, "I understand." But I'm afraid of them chairs, Jim, and it's a terrible thing not to be able to sit down in your own house. So I like to come up here and set. Here's how Jim!"

Japanese Wives Nonentities.

The position of the Japanese wife is not that of equality with her husband. He is the liege lord, to be obeyed by her in the most servile manner. He exacts from her the little attentions that an American woman expects and usually gets from her husband. Without so much as a murmur of complaint from his spouse, who must always receive him with bows and smiles, and ever have her mind and eyes on his comfort, he goes and comes when he pleases. When he fares forth socially he does not take her with him; when he receives gentlemen in his own house—a rare thing, by the way—madame seldom presents herself, unless in some menial capacity. And while such a thing as conjugal love must exist in Japan, it usually escapes the notice of the foreign sojourner, the people considering it vulgar to exhibit emotion of any kind in public.—Smart Set.

Unconscious Humor.

In his book on President Roosevelt, Francis E. Leupp writes: "I remember once hearing Mr. Roosevelt, as civil service commissioner, discredit a certain cabinet member's truthfulness to his face. Another person who was present—a mild-mannered man with an ingenuous soul—seemed deeply pained by the scene while it lasted, and afterward said to me: 'It was very discourteous treatment for Commissioner Roosevelt to visit upon an officer of so much higher rank. Why, he actually accused him of lying.' And then, after a moment's pause, but with no indication of seeing anything funny in the remark, he added: 'And what was worse, my dear sir, he went on and proved it.'"

To Recruit British Army.

Among the many novel suggestions made for the revival of recruiting for the British army is one that the soldier stay in barracks only a part of the year—say two months, and the rest of the time he reside where he might choose, "going to his work" every day, like any ordinary mechanic or laborer, also that when he had done his work for the day he be allowed to wear civilian clothes, just as police do.

UNEMPLOYED IN SHEFFIELD.

Slack Trade in the Cutlery Business Has Brought Hardship on Many Workmen.

The question how best to relieve the distress existing among the worthy poor of Sheffield is attracting the attention of the authorities. December 14 a meeting was called at the town hall by the lord mayor, which was largely attended by the representative men of the city. It was decided, in view of the depressed condition of business, that immediate steps be taken to relieve the distress, and that relief should take the form of work furnished by the city. Two registration offices were opened, where deserving poor men out of work could register and make their needs known. These offices were opened December 15, and by the 17th about 1,000 had registered and the offices were closed, as the number was much in excess of that for which employment could be found. A free-soup kitchen was opened December 17. The Vir Vale' workhouse is full to overflowing. The highest number of inmates previous to the present time was 1,785 in 1887. On December 17, 1903, there were 1,943 persons reported as seeking shelter there. Every available corner is made use of, and among applicants are 17 whole families; usually less than half a dozen families apply. A large percentage of the applicants are men without any trade; few mechanics, painters, joiners and bricklayers seek admission. Applicants are mostly men from the big works here; file cutters and hatters and others who have been working in their own homes help to make up the number.

Heretofore work has been found for the able-bodied males at the stone yard or in wood cutting, but this has been found to be unremunerative. The men are now employed in grinding corn into meal by hand. A man grinds 120 pounds of corn to flour, from which the bread they consume is made. Only English grain is used.

The amount of outdoor relief dispensed by the guardians of the Ecclesall workhouse has greatly increased, and if the winter should be severe it is anticipated that the calls for help will be greater than at present. This condition is due to the fact that the larger firms in the city have been under the necessity of discharging batches of men from one department after another all through the present year.

In the file trade here work is slack, and the edge-tool trade is quiet. Sheet-metal workers are fairly well employed. Employment in the cutlery trade is slack, and britanna metal trades employment is slack, silver platers and gilders being the only exception, they reporting work as good. Employment in wire drawing is reported slack. Nearly all branches of engineering trades here are slack; a good deal of short time is being worked. Pattern makers are fairly busy and electrical workers moderately so. At Rotherham and Lincoln engineers report employment as moderate. At Doncaster some short time is being made. At Barnsley iron founders and engineers are fairly well employed. CHAS. N. DANIELS

FRANCE'S POTATO CROPS.

Climate and Soil Are Well Adapted, But Methods of Cultivation Are Crude.

The potato crop of France is nearly twice that of the United States, although the whole country is not so large as the state of Texas.

The ground and climate of France are well adapted for raising potatoes, but the methods of cultivation differ from those in the United States from the fact that as farming on a large scale is employed, there are many farms in France of 15 to 20 acres, the labor for which is furnished by an average family, and the means for tilling the soil and harvesting the crops are those which have been in use for generations. But owing to the excellent theoretical and practical work which is being done in the French agricultural schools, model farms, etc., the farmer is rapidly realizing that by the use of up-to-date methods he can get better results from his land for the time, labor and money expended. As a general rule, the plow, the hoe and spade are the implements in use. The potatoes, either whole or in quarters, are planted about 12 inches apart, eight inches deep, and in rows separated from each other from 12 to 16 inches. They are gathered either by plowing or are dug up with a spade. A man does the digging and women and children follow picking the potatoes up and putting them in bags or baskets. After having been left to dry for about two weeks, if intended for sale, they are sorted by hand and sent to the neighboring market or are kept for the visiting buyers of the wholesale merchants. From information obtained by personal interviews with several of the local wholesale potato dealers, the only potato labor-saving machines advertised in this locality are those made by a firm in Breslau, Germany. They consist of a potato digger, a machine for preparing the ground and planting, and machines for sorting. A. B. THACKERA.

Wurttemberg Musical Instruments.

The chief exports from Wurttemberg to the United States are musical instruments, chiefly mouth harmonicas. There are found on the upper Danube several large harmonica factories in small towns. The largest one has one main and 15 branch factories and employs 1,500 people, much of the work being done at the homes of the employes. The annual output of this firm has been for several years about 5,000,000 harmonicas.

RADIUM IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

Somnambulant Wife-Beater Cured by the Use of the Wonderful Agent.

The experiments of scientists with radium are daily revealing fresh curative properties in that wonderful and precious mineral. Perhaps the most curious instance of its influence is that recorded below of the cure of a somnambulist who was addicted to wife-beating. This, states the London Mail, was described recently by Dr. A. Darier, the eminent oculist. In an interesting conversation which our Paris correspondent had with him, he mentioned some curious results which he had obtained in his work by experimenting with radium.

He recently treated a case of recent ulcer of the orbit which had destroyed the ocular globe and all the tissues. Although the patient had for years suffered from pains so intolerable that during that period he had not enjoyed a single night's rest, his agony was completely and almost instantly ended by the introduction of radioactive powder.

External application of radium has shown that it is a powerful agent in calming neuralgic and rheumatic pains, and in allaying the excruciating suffering caused by cancers which cannot be operated upon. On the other hand, Dr. Darier is bound to admit that he failed to obtain any definite result in so far as an improvement of the vision is concerned, and he does not regard as serious the talk of those who speak of restoring sight to the blind.

"In one case treated by the doctor the woman, who had long suffered from epileptic fits and giddiness, has not had a single attack since radium of weak intensity was applied to the temple."

"Radium was also tried with success," said Dr. Darier, "in a male patient who suffered from strange somnambulant attacks, during which he would get up, maltreat his wife and break everything within reach. Then he would leave the house and roam about the streets for two or three hours at the end of which time he would return home gasping and fall asleep again. So frequently did these violent fits become that his wife left him."

"He came to me and I treated him with radium applications for 12 days. Then he disappeared and I heard nothing more of him for about three months, when he and his wife came to tell me that the affliction from which he formerly suffered had gone and that they were living together again."

"I have since treated other nervous patients with radium, notably a lady who suffered from photophobia, or fear of the light. She was very neurasthenic and believed that she was ataxic. She could not walk without falling, and her eyes were so weak that she could not bear the light of day and had to wear dark spectacles. I diagnosed her troubles as neurasthenia of a hysterical origin and tried radium applications of a stronger kind than in the cases I have already mentioned, three hours per day on both temples. At the end of the third day she could bear the light without spectacles and could read and do needlework."

LADIES NOT IN EVIDENCE.

In Public and at Public Functions Wives Are Seldom Seen with Husbands.

In Japan a wife seldom appears with her husband in public, and even at great dinner parties served in private residences the mistress of the household rarely is in evidence, says the Washington Star. If she does appear it is to wait upon her lord and master and his friends. To an American wife this servitude of the Japanese spouse will seem degrading, but in the land of the rising sun "to obey" in a marriage service has a definite meaning.

To come back to the dinner party, a short time before the hour appointed for the feast, at the sound of approaching jinrikishas—the guests usually come in these vehicles—the screens at the entrance of the house are slipped back in their grooves. Smiling servants help the guests alight, while in the doorway stand a group of pretty waitresses, gay as flowers in their bright colored kimonos, bowing their heads to the ground in ceremonious salute and at the same time murmuring: "Obairi, obairi!" which, translated, means "Enter, O honored sire!"

Japanese houses, as everybody knows, are built of light wood, and the sliding panels which serve for doors and windows, have paper panes. The state apartment of a Japanese house is usually on the first floor, and the guests are led along broad verandas over soft white, velvety mats until they reach the banquetting room, at one end of which is seated the master of the house. The company slowly comes into the room and prostrate themselves three times before their host, exchange the courtesies of the day, and are then conducted to their respective seats, which are black velvet cushions placed at intervals on the floor. Soon after the arrival of the guests dainty waiting girls serve pale amber tea without sugar or cream in small cups minus handles, of wood, the tea are eaten sweetmeats made of rice, flour and sugar molded in the form of flowers, buds and leaves.

Chamberlain's Latest Mannerism.

The mannerisms of great men are always a subject of intense interest. Mr. Chamberlain seems to have acquired a new one during his tour in the country. It consists of puffing his cheek slightly when he is interrupted, as if he were blowing away the person who dared to break the continuity of his speech. It is not at all pretty, any more than that older trick of gesture, drawing a forefinger rapidly across his nose when he is making a telling point. There is no doubt as to the source whence he acquired this mannerism; it was the only peculiarity of gestulation which Mr. Gladstone permitted himself.—London Chronicle.

RARE SOUTH AMERICAN BIRD.

Seems to Be a Survival of the Period When Birds Were Evolved from Reptiles.

Specimens of the boaczin, one of the most remarkable birds in the world, are being prepared by Nelson R. Wood, of the Smithsonian Institute, for the ornithological exhibit at St. Louis, says a Washington report. The bird is one with which people of the United States are not familiar. It is a native of Brazil and Guiana. The bird seems to be a survival of the Jurassic period, when birds were being evolved from reptiles and mammals had not made their appearance.

The archaepeteryx was perhaps one of the first birds evolved from the reptiles. It was contemporaneous with the placiotherium, amphitherium and triconodon, three diminutive mammals, resembling the modern opossum, that also branched off from the reptiles. The archaepeteryx had a tall, which, although it bore feathers, was more like that of a lizard than that of a bird. The wings were relatively small and had three digits, each terminated with a claw. It is more than likely that this bird could not only fly, but could also walk on all fours and climb trees.

The archaepeteryx had a toothed bill. The beak of the boaczin is denticulated along the margin. The boaczin is about the size of a Porto Rican parrot. The eyes are surrounded by patches of bare skin, and it has briefly lashes like those of the African hornbill. The head bears a crest of feathers. In color it is olive green, with a narrow whitish bar on the wings, brown underparts and a long tail tipped with yellow. Its breast is like that of any living bird. The keel, which is highly developed in the breastbone of the best flying birds, is not away in front so that the boaczin flies poorly.

The absence of a keel to the breastbone and the structure of the wishbone have doubtless been the cause of the bird developing an enormous crop, which, unlike that of other birds, is muscular and seems to fill other functions than that of a storehouse for food.

The strongest thing about the bird, however, is that the year after the time they are hatched have a thumb, tipped with a claw, and the stories that the young of the boaczin are able not only to walk on all fours, but also climb mounting the bush with the aid of this claw, are strictly correct.

The boaczin builds its nest in low bushes along the banks of streams, where it feeds on the wild fruit. Feeding on this plant imparts to the bird an intolerable musky smell.

W. H. Bates states in his work, "The Naturalist on the Amazon," that to him the odor of the boaczin was so bad that of "musk combined with wet hides" while the bird smelled like a very stable. The boaczin is the roughly described by the people of Brazil, as a man on account of its odor. Its male voice, piping, halts and harsh, grating, hissing voice.

DEER AND DOGS FRIENDS.

Instances Where the Animals Have Played and Run Together Cited by Eunathan.

In the town of Groville, Cal.—a notable public drinking center, where I live, I very recently saw a deer still in its spots, apparently rambling about the main street, dogs that were in no way accustomed to it were so startled that they raised a commotion and passed on. The town was perfectly unexcited, relates a writer in the Hartford Times.

Two years ago there was another deer, over half grown, in the same town, which had as its companion and safeguard a large Newfoundland. These animals were often seen playing together and went down town together at their own desire. On these trips the Newfoundland seemed by instinct to know that the deer was at the mercy of other dogs, and saw to it that no dog molested the deer. The family owning these two attractive animals has moved from Groville, taking their interesting friends.

Another nearly grown doe I saw last year (acquiring the same town) standing in a little creek with some cattle. I was told that it came and went to pasture and to milking (of course the deer was not milked) daily with the cows. In 1897 I was at Eden Valley ranch for a month. A wild range country in Mendocino county, Cal., environs this ranch. His and small game is abundant there. The wild cattle in the "troughs" are the most interesting feature there.

The cattle dogs, wild hog dogs, bear dogs and deer dogs are taught to attack and pursue tirelessly. The most exciting chase and fight I ever witnessed was between these dogs and a great wild bear that succeeded in ripping two out of six of the largest and best trained dogs. The bear was finally secured alive and dragged into the corral at the tail of a riata, slung to the horn of the saddle of the chief vaquero.

For a month I saw a male and female fawn move with perfect unconcern among these dogs, and all lap milk from the same trough (the fawn does not lap but drinks like a pig and drinks milk like a starved pig). It was laughable to see them pushing each other while gulping milk. These dogs that ran off the mother cow were first to discover her young, but did not seize them as they would have done the doe. When strange dogs passing this ranch house on the road espied the fawns in the orchard or the meadow, they naturally "went for" the fawns. I expressed apprehension, but I was told by the wife of the proprietor that the home dogs kept a sharp outlook for strange dogs and always protected the fawns. I saw evidence here of this.

I know a gentleman in Virginia whose shepherd dog chased a tame deer all about the grounds at top speed to the infinite delight of both animals. After the race deer and dog would come up to their master.

CONCRETE RAILWAY TIES.

Efforts Made to Introduce Them in France Are Meeting With Some Success.

On all railways in French colonies near the tropics the ties are generally of iron, timber being destroyed in a very short time by the climate or insects. In Cochinchina iron is used exclusively. In West Africa a very hard native wood is occasionally employed.

Four or five years ago M. Sarda, a cement manufacturer at Perpignan, in the south of France, proposed the use of concrete ties and sent a few samples to the minister of the colonies, but after a careful examination the engineers of the public works department reported that they were unsuitable on account of the cost, size, and extra weight. They were also of the opinion that concrete ties were best suited to lines where the traffic was heavy and frequent express trains ran, whereas on colonial railways the traffic is light and all the train are slow. The ties, however, were satisfactory as far as strength, endurance, and immunity from damage by climatic changes and attacks by insects were concerned and might be employed if they could be manufactured on the spot in any of the French colonies.

Having failed to get his concrete ties adopted by the minister of the colonies, M. Sarda then applied to the state railway in France, and in March, 1900, sent four as a sample. They were not made entirely of concrete, but what the French call "clément armé," iron and cement combined. The framework or skeleton, consisted of five metal plates, placed vertically and held in position by stout iron wire or thin bars. The interstices were then filled with cement. A thin layer of compressed felt, about one-fifth of an inch thick, was put between the tie and the boltheads.

These four ties were placed on the line near a small depot about 12 miles from Bordeaux. In October, 1900, A year or more later the track overseer reported that no fault could be found with them, but it was impossible to judge from such a small sample. The maker was therefore requested to make the number up to 100. These were duly received and laid down between April 20 and July 1, 1902. The manufacturer had made a slight change in the construction so that the bolts could be replaced if necessary without damaging the tie.

The length of line on which concrete ties are at present used is less than 100 yards. The greatest weight concentrated on a single pair of driving wheels is about 14 tons. The rails are 11 meters (32 yards) long and weigh 28 to 40 kilograms per meter, or from 77 to 81 pounds per yard. The ties are rectangular, with rounded corners and slightly thicker where the shoe irons are placed; the average length is about four inches. The weight of each tie is about 200 pounds and the cost 14 to 15 francs (\$2.70 to \$2.90). The only means used to reduce the weight is the thin layer of compressed felt already described.

It should be mentioned that superheated cranks were noticed in 2 of the ties when they were laid down, but these cracks do not seem to have spread, for no complaints have been received from the track overseer. The experiment is too recent to enable any definite opinion to be formed, for the usual life of a timber tie in France is about 15 years, and therefore considerable time must elapse before comparison can be made as to whether cement is superior to timber in its power to resist shock, atmospheric changes, replacement of shoes and bolts, wear and tear, etc. At present it is impossible to say whether any economy would be effected in track labor or material, but in the opinion of the chief engineer of the state railway this is not probable unless the cost of the ties can be considerably reduced.

The price now charged is a serious obstacle to their employment, whatever their advantages may ultimately prove to be.

JOHN K. GOWDY.

Another New Metal. A new metal which is similar to aluminum, but still of lesser weight, has been discovered by the French engineer, Albert Nodon, and called "nodium." After him it is manufactured by an electric process. It is an alloy of aluminum, as it is called, exactly like steel. Its specific weight when molten is only 2.4. Its resistance against breaking is given as about 20 pounds per square of 0.04 inch in consistency in the air is higher than that of aluminum. Its ductility is between six and eight inches; the malleability can be compared to that of bronze. It melts at about 600 degrees. It is suitable for being cast into forms. The conductivity for the electric current is as high as that of copper of equal weight. If natural power, especially water power can be used for its manufacture, the cost in round figures is about 15 cents per pound. The inventor expects numerous uses of nodium in the near future, especially for electric wires and cables, for light but strong parts of motor cars, torpedo boats, men of war, street cars, military outfits, airplanes, etc., and for castings in place of bronze, German silver and similar metals. Nothing definite has yet been communicated as to the chemical composition of nodium nor as to the mode of its manufacture. RICHARD GUENTHER.

Cheerful Maine Woman.

She was a cheerful woman, this Rowdoinham lady, who, in answer to inquiries concerning her health, replied: "Well, I have a severe cold, a hard cough, a lame back, a lame side, and a touch of rheumatism in one leg; otherwise, I am enjoying good health."—Lewiston Journal.