

THE SPAN OF LIFE.

IN THE BOOM TOWN DAYS

CURE BY DENTISTRY.

INCREASE IN GOLD SUPPLY

BY WINNING VOICES.

CALL COCONUT A FRUIT.

LOWERS IN AMERICA THAN IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Insurance Statistics Show a Gain of One Year in Every Ten We Live—Interesting Changes.

The other day, at a meeting of the life insurance experts of New York, we were told that the span of life in America is growing longer, that the average American of to-day lives to be about five years older than the American of 50 years ago.

Why? Many influences are of course at work in producing these interesting changes; advanced medical science has practically conquered the contagious diseases and has largely decreased infant mortality; improved sanitary and hygienic science has saved the lives of thousands of city dwellers; but, after all, no single influence is so important to the welfare of our physical being as the food we take into our bodies.

No food, then, could be more interesting and important, as bearing on this question, than an investigation of the changes in our food fashions. Do we eat the same things that our grandfathers did? If not, what is the trend of our diet—toward the food of the vegetarians, which includes the much-advertised modern food products, the "cereals," or toward the old diet of the meat-eater?

Upon this point the latest census gives us striking and conclusive information. It shows, indeed, the most extraordinary changes in our diet, and changes that point to a single, consistent tendency.

In short, we are becoming more and more a nation of vegetarians. In the matter of mutton for instance, every 100 Americans in 1850 consumed 34 sheep, nearly a sheep to each man, woman and child; in 1900 the consumption had been reduced to 56 sheep to every 100 persons—a reduction of almost half.

Our turning from pork—118 hogs to every 100 persons in 1850—more than seven hogs for each man, woman and child—to 43 hogs in 1900. We eat still larger quantities of beef, however, though here, too, there is a reduction of 20 per cent. from 25 beefs to 16 persons in 1850, to 20 beefs in 1900.

But what of milk, butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry, which must be considered as meat foods in contradistinction to those which are strictly vegetarian? Here, too, though the statistics do not cover the whole period of 50 years, we find interesting changes; mostly large increases. For example, in 1880 the supply of eggs was 826 dozen for each 100 persons, and in 1900 it reached 1,700 dozen. In the same period the supply of dairy products increased by more than threefold. The only dairy product showing a decrease is cheese; 50 years ago each person ate 4 1/2 pounds annually; in 1900 the amount had dropped to one-half pound.

Reducing all these various meat products to a common denomination—dollars and cents—we find that our meat bill as a nation has decreased in 50 years by about 56 per cent.

THE REAL "YELLOW PERIL."

Napoleon Had the Cossacks in Mind When He Warned Europe Against Russia.

Last winter, when, among those of the Russians who were not hoping for war and the defeat of their own country, I inquired the grounds for their contemptuous underestimate of the Japanese, I scarcely ever got for reply more than the citation of Russia's 130,000,000 of population, her possession of one-seventh of the dry land of the earth and the Cossacks.

This faith, writes David B. MacGowan, in "The Cossacks," is based partly on the impression which the Cossacks made upon western Europe as long ago as the Seven Years' war, and which was heightened by their disorganization of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow. Napoleon himself pronounced them perfect masters of partisan warfare, furious in attack and impossible to reach, and said that he did not remember having made a prisoner of a single one of them.

Finally, he had the Cossacks in mind when he warned Europe that unless checked by such a powerful unit as he had sought to construct, Russia would enslave the world. That Napoleon's prediction has not been forgotten may be inferred from the recent assertion in various quarters that the real "yellow peril" is the possibility of the organization of the Mongolian races by Russia and that a Slave Jonathan Khan may direct a new Golden Horde against the west.

Rhode Island's Hay Crop. The one salvation of Rhode Island farmers this year is the hay crop, which has been almost phenomenal. The records of the state board of agriculture showing a very great increase in the size of the crop over preceding years. The after-feed has not come up as well as might be expected on account of the cold weather, but it is on the big hay crop that the farmer must get his money this year, and very few farmers will be able to show a balance on the right side of the ledger with the advantage of increased hay money, as the potatoes and fruit in many sections of the state will be a dead loss.—Providence Journal.

How a Resourceful Promoter Worked Off a Western City on a Paper Basis.

"Before the days of the town boomer were ended in the Indian territory a promoter bought a quarter section, six miles east of Hobart, on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad and christened it Komalty, after an Indian chief," remarked William English, postmaster at Hobart. "Then he platted his farm, planned boulevards, located alleys, parks and residence places, showed where the government building, bank, depot, etc., would be, and went out after his game."

A man who wore blue goggles could see that there wasn't any more hope of making another town so close to Hobart than there was to enthrone a wild Indian. But this modern Col. Sellers had a way of making men see things whether they were there or not. He went to a German settlement in northern Kansas and stayed a week painting rainbows for the thrifty citizens who used to Hoch der Kaiser! Glorious country, and plenty of it, he told them; soil peculiarly adapted for raising cotton, corn, wheat, rye, oats, hay, turnips, onions, potatoes, cabbage, babies, Indians—anything a Christian had a right to want, and right in the midst of this land of milk, honey and sauerkraut he had located the city of Komalty—high, dry and beautiful.

"They filled up their pocketbooks and piled into his special train. Their idea wasn't to locate at Komalty, but simply buy town lots as an investment and sell them at advanced figures to those who would come after and build the town. The train went through Komalty in the night and the investors were unloaded at Hobart. The engineer of the enterprise had his hand out on the street at break of day, and from that on peace and quiet took wings and flew out to the woods. Every saloon in town had been chartered for the benefit of Komalty's prospective owners. They would be married into one, where they would camp while the band outside told of The Watch on the Rhine and the brave ones that stood a hundred thousand strong."

"Before the round of the taverns was made it was unanimously agreed that Komalty was the best proposition before the American public and the travelers were clamoring to be led out there. They felt able to buy three Komaltys just at that time, and after the baggage car was loaded with a few kegs of 'enthusiasm' the train pulled out for the metropolis-to-be. The engineer was enabled to find the place by a mail crane near the track. There wasn't anything else man had done there. But there was the ground, just as the promoter had said, and his map to prove it had been laid out. And there was the country all round about as far as the eye could reach and the railroad and the brass band and the kegs in the baggage car. Nothing had been misrepresented.

"And so they bought town lots as fast as the auctioneer put them up, at prices ranging from \$25 to \$100 each, according to the proximity to the 'federal building,' the 'courthouse' or some other important municipal edifice calculated to attract traffic. Business was good. The operator admitted that he hadn't bought two quarter sections. He saw he could have sold both just as easy, and Komalty would have been twice as big a town on his map. It was too bad. After everything had been knocked down the train was run back to Hobart, where they had some more, and everybody turned in feeling richer than the day before.

"The dealer cleared \$5,000 after paying for his train, horse and music. This was a year and a half ago. The mail crane, like a ghost of the prairie, still shows where Komalty is, and on some days the sacks contain as many as three pieces. Sometimes the Indians have a war dance out there, and sometimes the cowboys chase a coyote through the streets." With these exceptions, primitive solitude reigns.

"I met one of the investors in Hobart recently, and rather sympathized with him for the way he had been taken in. But it was wasted. "Well," he said, "he gets a big railroad, a keg of beer apiece, some fine moolick and 'ye gets to see der gunny, all for a hunter toll. It was wort it."

Primitive Paper Making. In Matagascor a kind of writing paper used by some of the native notables and the fetish priests is made from the bark of a shrub named habova. The bark is boiled and macerated until a thin paste is obtained. Then a leaf of the plant called ravinia, or traveler's tree, is coated with pulp, formed from a particular kind of rice, and over this is spread the habova paste, on both sides of the leaf. After the coating has thoroughly dried and adhered it is polished with a smooth shell, and the paper is ready for use in writing. The manufacture of the ink employed, like that of the paper itself, is a monopoly of the notables and priests who use it. This paper may be bought by European travelers at about a cent and a half per sheet, but only a few hundred sheets are produced in a month.—Youth's Companion.

Tea Serving in Japan. No servant is ever permitted to serve tea in a Japanese house. It is the privilege of the daughter to make the beverage, while the guest who has just arrived serves it. The tea is made fresh for each guest in the same bowl, which has to be washed and dried each time, and so the "tea ceremony" is apt to be a long one. It is probably for this reason that strict etiquette forbids the presence of more than five at such tea parties.

OPERATION ON JAW THE LATEST REMEDY FOR CONSUMPTION.

Correction of Irregularities Now Regarded as Necessary to the Preservation of Health.

Not long since in St. Louis a man submitted to a serious operation to shorten his lower jaw. Little wedge-shaped pieces were cut out of the bone on either side so that the protruding member was brought into harmony with the rest of the face. Performed by a former professor of orthodontia at the Northwestern dental college, this says the Chicago Tribune, was the culmination of many wonderful devices of late known to dental surgery for correcting irregularities of the mouth and teeth.

Beauty, however, was not the reason for this case for the ordeal. It was undertaken principally for the correction of the mouth-breathing habit on the part of the patient. As a menace to health, even as a direct invitation to the dread tuberculosis germ in deadly numbers, is this habit beginning to be regarded by the dental fraternity, while dental surgery as a preventive of tuberculosis is considered not an impossibility of the future.

The fact that the seriousness of this danger is already regarded by dental specialists as the gravest reason for correcting facial irregularities not only has just now an element of popularity but offers an obvious safeguard to the careless breather.

"Formerly," says one of the leading dental surgeons of Chicago, "such corrections were made in the interest of beauty only. Men, from indifference to a slight disfigurement which could be hidden at will by mustache or Van Dyke, rarely considered treatment worth while. Women were the only adults who submitted to a serious effort to produce symmetry of mouth and teeth, with the result that their courage was always accredited to vanity. But now the correction of any physical irregularity is considered to be indispensable to a condition of perfect health. And if the malformation is such as to make of the patient what is known as a mouth breather, the importance of changing this condition in such cases may well be termed vital.

"Breathing through the mouth may be classed with overheated rooms and impure air as one of the direct agents of phthisis. It both engenders and fosters a condition that may readily result in tuberculosis. The large particles of dust and infectious materials which are intercepted when breathing through the nose, if passed directly into the lungs cause not only a host of diseases but also various catarrhal conditions. Sometimes spitting of blood results from strong gases which are more or less unconsciously inhaled by the mouth breather and which, on account of the lack of warning by the tickling sensation of the nasal tissues are taken into the lungs in quantities that would be impossible for the person who breathes through his nose. He would simply have to get out of the atmosphere.

"Particularly during sleep it is injurious by filling the lungs with an excess of impure air. Inhalation should take place through the nose and exhalation through the mouth, so as to give the lungs a period of rest. If all respiration is through the mouth this pause is lessened, hence the lungs have no chance to rest, and thereby are reduced to lesser expanding capacity, losing their elasticity and the loss of power to expand the lungs to their full capacity may give rise to the various bronchial and pulmonary diseases. When there is imperfect respiration the nutrition of the whole body is impaired, and following this may even give rise to heart lesions, insomnia and so-called 'dizziness' are common among 'mouth breathers' being the result of nervous disturbances caused by lack of oxygen, which, in turn, is the best condition possible for the development of any tendency toward tuberculosis.

"So, although going to the dentist as a prevention of consumption has a sensational sound, even in these days of sleeping in snowdrifts, its practicability is seen when it is considered that mouth breathing is usually the result of the protrusion of either the upper or the lower jaw to such an extent that the mouth is open when the muscles are relaxed and closed only when they are contracted. By correcting this perfect symmetry is produced, and the opposite condition of the muscles results—normal occlusion.

"There are many ways of producing this symmetry, the appliances generally being constructed to fit each particular case. Generally speaking, the two main lines of procedure are to bring the upper jaw forward or to retract the lower. That a correct diagnosis is not the least delicate side to the work of the dental surgeon, and a reason for the utmost care on the part of the patient for obtaining the best possible advice before undertaking an operation, was shown conclusively not long ago by a case in San Francisco. Acting upon a wrong diagnosis the lower jaw was made to recede when the upper should have been brought forward. The result was a normal occlusion produced at the expense of a fat face. But although dental surgery may do much to correct the habit of mouth breathing in the adult, it is in the child that it may be most easily corrected by bloodless surgery or even by the retracting chin cap and hood worn at night. It is in the child, too, that the habit of breathing through the mouth may do the most harm, and usually does by retarding growth of the thoracic organs, sometimes resulting in irregularities which in turn themselves establish the mouth breathing into a custom."

The Output in the Near Future May Amount to Four Hundred Millions a Year.

The statement published by our government that English enthusiasts are looking for a future output of gold in the Transvaal of from \$120,000,000 to \$150,000,000 a year is stimulating to the imagination, just as the realization of this prediction would be stimulating to the speculation and business of the world. In the first six months of this year the output of gold in the Transvaal amounted to about \$38,000,000. This, states the Wall Street Journal, is at the rate of \$78,000,000 for the year. Last year's production amounted to over \$61,000,000. The largest production was in 1898, being \$73,213,000.

The prospect is, therefore, that the production of 1904 will nearly equal that of 1898—in other words will return to the normal yield of this region. Coolie labor has just been introduced into the Transvaal, and with this solution of the labor problem there should be a continued increase in the output of the yellow metal in the Transvaal. If the production should ever reach the enormous total of \$120,000,000 the effect on the business world can hardly be overestimated. With a Transvaal production last year of \$61,000,000 the world's output of gold amounted approximately to \$130,000,000. An increase in the Transvaal production in the near future to \$120,000,000 a year would lift the total annual product of gold in the world to the stupendous sum of \$400,000,000.

Even a product of \$100,000,000 a year is an enormous addition to the world's supply of money. Allowing about 25 per cent to meet the demands of the arts and sciences, that leaves \$225,000,000 to enter into the various reservoirs of money. Inasmuch as the use of gold in the monetary systems of the world is now very largely as a reserve against credit, it may be said that an addition of \$225,000,000 to the world's money supply means an added credit capacity of over \$1,000,000,000. If, then, within two or three years by the promised increase in the production of the Transvaal, the world's output of gold is expanded to \$400,000,000 it is easy to see how enormous would be both the increase in the supply of money and in the credit capacity of the leading nations of the globe.

Even admitting, as it is argued by some, that the increase in the gold supply may ultimately work to the disadvantage of the business community rather than to its benefit, admitting that the world's stock of money may be increasing at too rapid a rate and that the international scramble for immense gold reserves involves the danger of a "yellow peril" akin to the silver peril from which the United States has only recently emerged, admitting that it is impossible to determine definitely how much or how little may be the effect of the inflation of gold upon the prices of commodities, nevertheless, no one can doubt for an instant that the enormous output of gold which has been experienced in the last ten years and which is promised for years to come must have prodigious effect upon the business and speculative activities of the leading nations of the globe.

As a matter of fact, it may be doubted whether even yet the markets have fully realized the effect of the money inflation which has already taken place, and they certainly have not yet discounted the effect of the money inflation which is yet to take place.

EUROPEAN TELEPHONE GIRLS

Are Very Leisurely in Their Ways and Not Easily Moved to Exertion.

A London correspondent who has a London-Paris-Milan wire in his room writes that in his opinion the telephone girl is not quite an angel. He finds, says the Rome Secolo, the London telephone girl slow and indifferent, the French intractable and impatient. When the Whitaker Wright trial was proceeding he found himself late with some news and rushed to the telephone. Absolute silence followed his frantic ringing, until he almost pulled the telephone from the wall. After 20 minutes or so a sweet voice said: "Minuten, please." "But," he protested, "I have been ringing for half an hour!" "Oh, really? I am sorry. I was drinking my tea."

In Paris the girls are absent-minded and usually make the connections badly, but have invariably an excuse and will not hear remonstrances. The Italian telephone girl by the side of her London and Paris sisters shines indeed. She is obliged to repeat the number wanted and so seldom makes a wrong connection, she is prompt and not exceptionally pert, but she is lazy and will often tell you that the person you want does not ring when she has made no effort to ring him up.

Tramp Stenographer. The "tramp stenographer" has come as a sort of feminine companion picture to the tramp printer, who, by the by, was much more frequently met with some years ago than he is to-day. The stenographer of a roving disposition is said to prefer hotel work, in her line, and drifts north or south, as the seasons come and go, or east or west, wherever her fancy dictates. But it is quite obvious that there is not enough work of this nature to furnish employment to more than a small number of "drifters" and the chances are that when the average stenographer gets a good, steady position she will be glad to keep it and confine her routes of travel to such length as can be enjoyed during the vacation season.—Boston Herald.

Canadian Wheat. Canada is capable of furnishing more than the 200,000,000 bushels of wheat which Britain has to import every year.

ILLINOIS FARMERS CAUGHT BY TELEPHONE GIRLS.

Young Men Get the Matrimonial Mention Through Listening to Gentle Tones Over the Wire.

Why does a prosperous young farmer go into a telephone office to get a wife? Down in Aurora recently, reports the Chicago Tribune, a wealthy young soil tiller of Bureau county went into the office of the Interstate Telephone and Telegraph company to transplant some business over the wire. He was alone with the night operator, and before he had left he had proposed to her, offered to give her everything she cared to have, and would take her to one of the finest farms in his county. He didn't wait her to be a farm slave, but to be the wife of a country gentleman. This girl told him to call the next day, and when he did so he found the day operator on duty. He made up his mind that if the night girl would not be his wife, he would ask the pretty young day worker, besides, there were a whole lot more upstairs that he would try to see.

It was ascertained that this young man owned in his own right a half section of land that was worth \$100 an acre, that he was an up-to-date farmer, came from a good family of farmers, and was possessed in all of property that would enable him to retire in ten years. During the time that he was in the telephone office he asked the kind of questions that showed he had good ideas about picking out a wife.

The Aurora incident is but a single one of hundreds of the same kind. Farmer boys are falling in love with the sweet-voiced creatures who are continually singing the same song over the wires. Some people think they do not have much more time than to say "hello" and "bye," but many of them talk themselves into a wedding. Talk is the right word in this connection, for it is the sound of their voices that infatuates a young man at the other end of the wire.

Manager Clapp of the Aurora office, one of the most experienced telephone men in the middle west, says there is something about the sound of the voice of a girl on the wire that sets a young man into a wooing mood. He says that a girl who has lived through her teens without a proposal will enter a telephone office and before she has been at the board a week some young man will want to marry her. It is claimed that the country telephone exchange is a veritable recruiting office for marriageable young women. The great web of wires that belongs to every station of this kind seems to have been spun by Cupid himself, and he liberates any who have been caught only when he finds some one to take care of a good wife.

Within the last five years thousands of girls have found employment in the country or the independent telephone office. There are lines that connect up a score or more of small towns with the larger towns. Then there are hundreds of lines that are operated by farmers almost entirely. The lines of one company connect with another so that one may talk clear across the state. The exchange of a country town sometimes has all the way from 200 to 500 subscribers. A single independent line may have 1500 subscribers. Within the last two months the director of the department of agriculture at Springfield, began agitating a project to send weather reports to these telephone companies, so that they could relay them to a large number of people free of charge. In a short time he had favorable responses from telephone lines that represented 118,680 telephones in 449 towns, and on thousands of farms.

This shows the wonderful scope of country over which a pretty girl may say the tender little things that sound all the sweeter on the wire, and which seem to have occasioned so many weddings from real love matches.

Champion Meat Eaters.

Despite the fact that the census reports show Americans are steadily drifting toward vegetarianism, we are still the greatest meat eaters in the world. Our meat still costs us every year \$100,000,000 more than our vegetables (including imported vegetable foods). In the aggregate we Americans pay every year about \$2,250,000,000 for food, or about \$30 a year (for the raw food) for each person. In addition to the foregoing it may interest you to know that among the meat foods the egg bill (\$43,300,000) is greater than that for any other item except cattle (\$422,800,000) and sheep (\$170,000,000); and that the bill for milk, butter and cheese (\$122,000,000) is nearly four times as large as that for fish, oysters and all other sea foods.—Pearson's.

Flats for Children.

Children have long been unwelcome tenants in apartment houses. But there is always some one to turn a prevailing idea upside down, especially if it is a bad idea. A New York man has built in his city a six-story block of flats designed primarily for the comfort and happiness of children. He has equipped the back yard with swings and sand beds, and reserved a large play-room on the top floor.

Raising an Important Question.

"At what point," said a delegate to the contest of mothers, "would you consider a boy too old or too large to take upon your knee?" "When he becomes so big that you can't lay him across your knee, face downward," replied a large, resolute, hard-featured delegate from the far northwest.—Chicago Tribune.

So Demanded by the Agricultural Department—Number Annually Imported.

The mooted question whether the coconut is officially regarded as a fruit has been settled in a report on coconuts recently made by the department of agriculture. Although known as a nut, the department characterizes it as a tropical fruit." The report says in part:

"With the exception of a few hundred dollars worth grown annually in Florida, no coconuts are produced in continental United States. A tropical fruit, grown almost exclusively on islands and in tropical countries bordering upon the sea, there is little territory in the United States proper adapted to its cultivation. The large quantities of coconuts and their products consumed in this country are practically all imported.

"With the acquisition of territory after the close of the Spanish-American war there came into the possession of the United States a number of islands upon which coconut production is a considerable economic factor. In the Philippines it not only plays an important part in the domestic economy of the people, but the exportation of copra (dried meat of the coconut) constitutes one of the largest items of their export trade, returning to the archipelago from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 a year. In the small island of Tutuila, of the Samoan group, copra is the chief article of export, upward of 500 tons being shipped out annually in Porto Rico the area in coconuts is 1899, according to the census, was 5,441 acres. From none of these possessions, however, does the United States now obtain any important part of its heavy imports of coconuts and their products.

"These nuts and their products are imported into the United States principally in three forms, as coconuts in the shell, as copra, and as coconut oil. Of these by far the most important as measured by value, is coconut oil, the deliveries from custom houses and warehouses for consumption in the United States in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, having been 40,074,506 pounds, valued at \$2,915,412.

"The previous high record having been in 1894, 1895, when the quantity delivered for consumption amounted to 31,722,014 pounds, valued at \$1,340,208. The principal uses to which this oil is put in the United States is in blending with other oils in the manufacture of soap, in confectionery, medicinal preparations, food compounds, for the preparation of textiles and for other purposes.

"Next in importance to coconut oil are the imports of coconuts, in the shell, of which the deliveries for consumption in the fiscal year 1902-1903 amounted in value to \$20,728. As to the quantities of nuts in the shell imported there is no official record, but a rough estimate based upon the total value of the imports and the average price of coconuts annually imported into the United States ranges from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000. As is well known, these nuts are consumed in the United States chiefly in the raw state and in the manufacture of confectionery prepared foods, etc."

SHOWS SAVED BY MUSIC.

Reputations of Comedy Singers Are Often Made by the Aid of a Good Orchestra.

Many a poor show is saved from failure because of a good orchestra. This says the Chicago Tribune, is what a prominent theatrical manager of the city says. The worse a show is the more necessary is it that the men who sit before the stage and act as the performers to get through the piece should be first-class musicians. Few chorus girls have any idea of what music and harmony really is and hardly any of them have good voices according to this man.

In order that a musical piece may go through satisfactorily the orchestra must be of a character strong enough to play the score properly and to swing the chorus when it begins to wander from the right key. If it were not for the orchestra with its music covering up the defects of the chorus many of the musical comedy ensembles would be found in the small theaters devoted to the musical comedy and burlesque," says this man. "This is extremely necessary. If we had a lot of cheap men to play for us here the public would get to think that the musical comedy was a horrible thing indeed. It is next to impossible to get a full chorus wherein each member is an accomplished singer. Consequently there are times when the efforts of the musicians in the pit come as a blessing not only to the stage manager, who is tearing his hair behind the scenes, but also to the public out in front. When the chorus get particularly bad the orchestra bears down strong, and before long the chorus is swung back into the proper key. If the orchestra was so good it would follow the chorus when it gets off the track and so queer the whole show."

Coming to It. After the judge had sentenced the colored prisoner he said: "Kin I say one word, suh?" "Yes, go ahead."

"Ef I starts in all over again en tells de truth, will you take off two years from dat sentence?" "Do you mean to say," said the judge, sternly, "that you haven't been telling the truth all the time?" "Yes, suh. I was des projeckin' 'you' it en sayin' up ter it!"—Atlanta Constitution.