

MAY PREVENT EXPLOSIONS.

Portable Electric Lamps to Be Introduced in Mining Operations to Succeed Present Oil One.

Old miners in England claim that they can always detect the presence of gas more quickly in their working places with a candle than with the ordinary safety lamp, and that they can always clear it off in a few minutes by blowing with their coats, the candle standing on the ground meanwhile, out of the way, the gas collecting near the roof. But mines are very different now from what they were in the typical old collier's days. Explosions in these days, when they did take place, were only local and did little harm beyond burning the clothes and skin of those near. In these days an explosion often means the loss of hundreds of lives and the wrecking of the mine, so that though many collieries are still worked by naked lights, either candles or small oil lamps, the number is becoming less every year, the pressure of mining inspectors being constantly directed to the adoption of safety lamps.

But the ordinary oil-burning safety lamp gives but a poor light, and it must not be used in any position much out of the vertical or it goes out, and, moreover, it is not a perfect safety lamp in the proper sense of the term, inasmuch as any one of the numerous forms will become red-hot and explode if it is exposed to a sufficiently powerful current of an explosive gaseous mixture for a sufficient time. Hence great efforts have been made to develop a portable electric lamp, which shall take the place of the present safety lamp at the face of the coal and in those parts of the mine where it is not considered safe to use lamps from the ordinary electric service.

LESSON IN CHINESE WORDS.

Here is an Easy Rule by Which They May Be Pronounced Correctly.

If a few simple rules are observed Chinese words are not difficult to pronounce. A always about as a in far; e always approximately as e in they; i very like i in the machine or pin, and a always as the u of rule. Every syllable has an independent value, and should be given that value in pronunciation. As for consonants, they are pronounced exactly as written. These three rules will secure as correct a pronunciation of Chinese names as can be secured without oral instruction, says the Chicago Chronicle.

For example, under the first rule, one would say tah-koo for Taku, not take-you, as one may frequently hear the word pronounced; lee-hoang-chang for Li Hung Chang, not Ho-hung-chang; pek-king for Peking, not pek-kin; shang-hai for Shanghai, not shang-high; tsong-le-yahmen for Tsung-li-yamen, not tsunglee yamen, and so on. Under the second rule Tientain is pronounced teeyen-tain, accenting the yen syllable, not teen-tain. Yunnan-fu is yo-nahn-foo, not Yann-fu. In like manner all words are pronounced with syllable distinctness and with uniform vowel sound. Under the third rule the proper name Szechuan is sounded not sekuan, but nearly as seh-choo-sha, touching the choo very lightly; Liaotung peninsula is li-hoo-tong.

SPOONS FROM EVERY HOTEL.

A Housekeeper's Fad That Antecedes a Party of Rooming Bicyclists of Chicago.

In the northwestern part of Chicago is a little farm, removed from the main road over which the trolley cars rumble, and almost hidden by wide clover fields, says the Tribune of that city. It is not a regular stopping place for anyone going by on the main road, for no one would suspect that anything like civilization lurked among the tall weeds on that prairie.

Purely by accident some bicyclists stopped near the farmhouse, a little, tumble-down structure with a dilapidated shed attached to it, owing to a bicycle mishap to one of the party. In inquiry for a drink of water brought to earth some of the most peculiar artificial well water ever drunk by mortal man, but the surprise came when some honey was brought out. The spoons offered to the party were undoubtedly silver, and of the best. They bore the inscription of all the big hotels of the city, including the Grand Pacific, Palmer house, Tremont, Revere and a number of others.

Some one suggested that they were souvenir spoons, but just how they came to be where they were discovered by the bicycling party is a mystery.

Changed Shirts with Each Other. The outlook tells the story of a party of the fussy, amateur generalship, which has cost the British nearly \$100,000 in South Africa. Notice was received in the various camps that on such and such a morning every man in Gen. Buller's army must change his shirt. The Imperial Light horse, who formed part of the command, had only one shirt apiece, and that was on their backs, so a messenger was dispatched to headquarters to explain. But Gen. Buller at once to the occasion. "My orders," he remarked grandly, "are imperative. If the Imperial Light horse have not got a second shirt let them change shirts with each other."

Small Boats Best. The experience of the British in South Africa is said to have demonstrated the superiority of small boats to the larger so draft animals in the field of hostilities. They can go longer without food, it is said, can do just as much good work and make a smaller target for the enemy.

LILLIAN RUSSELL A CONVERT.

Announces to Her Friends That She Has Become a Faith Curist After Much Study.

After long and diligent study of the religion Lillian Russell has announced to her friends that she is an out-and-out faith curist. She does not subscribe to the doctrines of Mrs. Eddy, of the Christian Science cult, in their entirety, but so strongly is she convinced of the power of the mind over the tendency of the body to become disorderly that she is almost hoping for a severe attack of illness in order that she may give the theory a test.

At the outset it may be said that Miss Russell has never been seriously ill in her life and that her health at the present time is so good that she is almost ashamed of herself. It is hard, indeed, for a woman to work as many as two hours a day on a hot, stuffy stage and be unable to produce a single hair. Even on days when there is a matinee Miss Russell retains her scandalous freedom from bodily aches and pains.

"I have noticed, however," she said the other day, "that when I get headaches I am able to get rid of them by simply concentrating my mind on the proposition that I have no headache."

"Of course I don't believe that I could wish myself a new arm should I have one cut off by a Broadway car, nor do I believe that my mind would be strong enough to equip me with a new lung should I fall a victim to the ravages of consumption. I do not go to those lengths. But I do say that we are too prone to drug ourselves and that the mind is in such supreme control that the ordinary ills of life can be cured by thought concentration."

"This is not a new belief with me," continued Miss Russell. "I have had as much trouble as any woman, but I have found, all through my life, that by persistently concentrating my mind on the bright side of a dark situation—that every cloud has its silver lining, you know—I have been able to live quite happily. If women could only be brought to the realization of the power of the mind we would have more healthy and happy members of our sex."

Miss Russell is not the only advocate of the faith cure in the profession. Many actresses go to greater lengths in their advocacy of the cure than the prima donna. But it is news at this time that this beautiful woman, with everything that a female heart could desire at her disposal, should come out in advocacy of the theory of the superiority of the mind over matter.

WHERE AMERICANS MAY WIN.

Portugal a Great Field for American Enterprise, Says Our Minister There.

There is a great field in Portugal for American enterprise, writes John N. Irwin, United States minister to that kingdom, in Success. Our manufacturers really ought to "prospect" in that little-known country. In the first place they are made most welcome. The king and the queen, both young and truly, regal speak English perfectly and are among our warmest admirers. They reflect the sentiment of their people. In the second place, American goods are needed, and the progressive part of the population would welcome them as a means of advancing the country's prosperity. English-made machinery now used there is of old type and not up to date. In Lisbon the old style of transportation is being changed to the electric system. While English capital is conducting the enterprise, every bit of material, from the smallest bolt to the modern cars, is of American make. Portugal sends us cork, and we send her petroleum and wheat, but in my opinion the balance of trade now in our favor could be materially increased if our manufacturers were to take full advantage of their opportunities in the little kingdom.

OBJECTED TO ANY DICTATION.

Gov. Taylor of Tennessee Effectually Ended the Interference of Legislators.

Gov. Rob Taylor, of Tennessee, was just exactly opposite to Gov. Allen, with as tender a heart as a woman, and the way he pardoned out convicts was something awful. He was waited upon by a committee of the legislature, who very flatly and in no uncertain way told him that this "wholesale pardoning must stop."

"Governor Rob" looked at the committee, tapped a bell, asked for his pardon clerk, and when he came, said: "Make out pardons for every man in the penitentiary."

The clerk bowed and withdrew. Then the governor looked at the committee, who were staring as if they thought he was going mad. "Gentlemen," he said, finally, "I am governor of Tennessee, and if this committee or any other ever again seeks to interfere with my constitutional right to pardon I'll sign every one of those pardons which the clerk is making out. Good morning."

Paper Walls at Indian Head. In order to minimize the destructive effects of possible explosions in the government's new powder manufactory at Indian Head all the buildings are provided with "paper" walls at the ends. The theory is that these light walls will be immediately blown aside by the concussion of the explosion, leaving the main walls, which are built as strongly as possible, practically unharmed.

No Turkish Crown. The sultan possesses no crown, coronation being unknown in Turkey.

HOW TO MAKE FORTUNES.

The Late Cells P. Huntington Said It Was by the Chemistry of Manufactures.

Mr. Huntington was of the opinion that the field of chemistry applied to commercial ends offered the greatest opportunities probably for amassing wealth which will open up in this country in the twentieth century, writes Holland, in the Philadelphia Press. The great fortunes from the development of the transportation business have been made. Hereafter there is to be more and more distribution of these fortunes. But Mr. Huntington not long ago said that if a chemist were to make a discovery of some combination that would take the place of rubber he would have at his hand a fortune quite as great as that gained by Bessemer when he discovered his cheap process of making steel. In fact, Mr. Huntington declared that if he were a younger man, or were beginning to-day his career, he would go to Africa or South America and undertake the cultivation of rubber, while at the same time he would keep in close alliance with all the chemists, with the hope that they might be able to make an artificial rubber.

So, too, he said that the chemist or the botanist who was able to discover in some leaf or shrub or annual plant just the qualities that are in spruce timber and by a chemical or scientific process, of which he had the trade mark or the secret, was able to deliver a pulp to paper manufacturers as good as that of spruce timber, would not wait long for wealth or enormous wealth, and in gaining great riches for himself would add greatly to the wealth of the world.

IN THE SAHARA.

A Traveler Tells of a Recent Pleasant Visit to the Great Desert.

A traveler from the Sahara desert has just returned to Washington with 500 young date palms which will be planted in Arizona, many parts of which have a climate similar to North Africa and Arabia. He found the nights pleasant on the sandy desert, there being often a difference of 50 degrees between noon and midnight. The strokes of hot wind and sand storm, made the days unbearable, but the nights were wonderful—cool, clear and windless and filled with far stars. He traveled at night, and the long caravan of which he and his baggage was a part swung silently along in the shadow of the sand dunes. The Arab guides steered their way by the stars.

This traveler witnessed the magnificent rising of the sun over the limitless waste of glittering sand, rocky heaps and promontories and clustered plumes of date palms that rose from green oases, where gay tents sheltered bands of Bedouins and their flocks and herds of sheep and camels. In such places as these he visited during the day and was served with goat's milk and bread and dates and good mutton and Arabian coffee. It was all so like a story book that he was afraid he would wake up sometimes and find it was all a dream.

WHAT THE TOURISTS SPEND.

Many Millions of Dollars Are Left Annually in Switzerland and the Riviera.

An astonishing contrast is apparent in the sums of money spent by the average visitor to these two world-famous pleasure resorts, says the New York World. In the season of 1896 about 2,300,000 tourists visited Switzerland. They paid to the landlords of 1,500 hotels and inns a little less than \$25,000,000. The average hotel bill was, therefore, only about \$1. In addition to this, about \$6,000,000 was expended for trinkets and mementoes.

These two items, in addition to a comparatively small outlay for horses and carriages, form the principal means of subsistence of the vast number of people whose livelihood is dependent on the natural features of the "playground of Europe."

The figures for the Riviera are very different. In the first place, a season's visitors are not to be reckoned by millions. A recent estimate puts the annual number at 270,000, of whom 60,000 were English and 30,000 Americans, and the money expended at about \$90,000,000, or \$225 for the average visitor.

Coal in the Rockies. By far the most important mining work in progress in British Columbia is the opening up of the vast areas of the Crow's Nest—undoubtedly one of the largest coal properties known. The measures occur in the heart of the Rockies, and extend north and south a distance of 40 miles, stretching east and west ten miles from the banks of the Elk river toward the boundary line between Alberta and British Columbia. The area is, of course, reduced by the creeks which abound on the mountain slopes and from which the coal measures have been eroded, but sufficient remains to constitute the coal fields, unique in extent as they are in richness.

New York Indians Still Pagan. Christianity has not made much progress among the Indians in New York state. There are now on the reservation there 4,850 Indians, and a missionary says at least five-eighths of them adhere to the old pagan religion, rites and superstitions.

When Flies Stick Closely. It is alleged that flies stick more closely just before a rain in fear of being blown away by sudden winds.

WILHELM TO HAVE AUTOS.

The German Emperor Is Ordering a General Assortment of Horseless Vehicles.

The Germans were slow in adopting the automobile, but now the emperor has taken it under his protecting wing and it is expected to become the fad in Berlin. A number of persons connected with the Berlin court are trying to do business with it, and there is a good deal of enterprise and readiness to speculate among the courtiers on the Spree. More than a year ago the kaiser's master of the horse acquired of a well-known carriage manufacturer in the capital if he could supply him with motor cars for the conveyance of visitors from the station to his majesty's country seat, at Wildpark, near Potsdam, the new palace. Since then the imperial post office has secured some heavy vans propelled on this principle; and now Kaiser Wilhelm himself is going to try this mode of traveling. In the month of August the kaiser visited the military drill ground at Altengraben, in the province of Saxony, and traveled the distance from Wittenberg to Ziesar and thence to Nudzitz in a motor car. The carriage-maker above referred to has offered his majesty a present of three of such vehicles, which he has graciously accepted. The roads in the neighborhood were specially put in order for the convenience of the imperial party.

HAVEN FOR CLEVER THIEVES.

Criminals Find a Safe Refuge from Justice in the Republic of Honduras.

This is one corner of Central America that is at present a perfect paradise for men who have committed any crime. It is a place where the outcasts of the world's society rule the land of their adoption—and where the officials of the government protect all thieves that come to them and make it dangerous for any detective to molest them.

This is the republic of Honduras, one of the least advanced of the states in South or Central America. Honduras, indeed, is a curious mixture of jungles and gigantic forest of coconuts and rubber trees, of bugs, vipers, snakes and crocodiles—of all manner of things that creep and crawl and sting and bite; a region where life in the daytime is a mockery, and at night one feels as though sleeping in red pepper.

Here, in every hamlet and city, are to be found men from different lands, mostly outlaws from their own country. Chicago, Boston, New York and Philadelphia all furnish their quota. England, France, Italy and even far-away Russia have their share. They make no attempt at concealment, bear the names they were born to wear, and go along about their business as if the laws of their own country had not declared them outcasts.

DOG COULDN'T STAND IT.

The Excitement Was Too Much and It Expired While Watching Women in a Fight.

They were only sisters, but the merry way in which they plucked out each other's hair by the roots in the vestibule entrance to a Dearborn avenue apartment house indicated a long-standing mutual hatred, reports the Chicago Chronicle. Several hundred excited spectators gathered from the street and nearby flats, but among them all there was none who evinced any desire to separate the women who were pounding each other and rolling on the floor in a confusion and strenuousity that won the plaudits of the crowd.

"Choke her, Ida," shouted a fat man who sided with the woman that had gained the upper hand and was scratching her opponent's face with fingers that worked like a hay tedder. It was the landlord who rushed into the crowd in a laudable effort to part the combatants. At his heels and as much excited as his master came his pet terrier. Around and around the little dog whirled, barking loudly while the landlord exerted his strength to end the fight. Just as its owner succeeded in his errand of peace the terrier fell over on its side, dead. The excitement had been too much for its weak heart.

Too Ignorant for Kansas.

A Kansas man en route to the Paris exposition declares that the only time he ever really lost his nerve was when the sailors on the ship commenced to load up the lifeboats with water and biscuits. He says that he didn't know that this was done once a week in order to have the boats always in readiness, and felt sure a great storm was coming that would swamp them all. "I was scared and asked the captain about it," he says, "and the captain laughed at me. That made me mad. These captains put on too much dog, anyway. There isn't one of them that could tell the difference between a self-binder and a straw-stacker."

To Protect Wild Animals.

An act for the prevention of cruelty to wild animals has just become effective in England. The new law extends the provisions of the act, which has heretofore extended only to domestic animals, to all birds, fishes and reptiles not included in that measure, and makes offenders liable to three months' imprisonment or a fine of £5.

Bovine Sanctity in India.

The sacredness of the cow has been enormously costly in India this famine year. When the rains failed and the pastures dried up, instead of killing and curing the cattle for food, and so helping to tide over the famine time, the cattle starved with their masters.

COURT MOURNING.

Period of Grief in Various Countries Depends Entirely on Rank of Deceased.

Now that so many countries are plunged into grief over the loss of King Humbert of Italy and the duke of Saxe-Coburg, mourning such as prescribed by the court is being worn. In England it is customary to mourn for our king or queen three months; for a son or daughter of our sovereign, such as is the case now for the duke of Saxe-Coburg, it is to be six weeks; for a brother or a sister of a sovereign, only three weeks; for an uncle, aunt, nephew or niece, the court goes into mourning for two weeks; while from three to ten days is usual for a cousin, according to the relationship. The royal regulation for the first period is a black dress, white gloves, black or white shoes, feather and fans, white pearls, diamonds or plain gold and silver ornaments may be worn, says the London Times. For the men, black court dress with black swords and buckles.

At the end of that period, which is generally a third of the whole, according to the rank of royalty being mourned for, the costume is changed, the ladies then wearing black dresses with colored ribbons, flowers, feathers, and ornaments, while the men remain as before until the court goes out of mourning. For the military and other royal servants a black cravat band is fixed to the left arm for the time specified, while at night the handle of the sword is also to be enveloped in crape. In different countries different mourning colors are used, but all over Europe black is universal.

MOUNT ARARAT ASCENDED.

The Task Was Recently Accomplished by a Party of Russian Scientists.

The Ararat mountains in Armenia comprise two peaks situated seven miles apart. They are known as Great and Little Ararat, and are respectively 17,260 and 14,320 feet above the plain. They partially belong to three countries, Russia, Turkey and Persia. The mountains are covered on the tops with perpetual snow, ice and glaciers. The summit of Great Ararat was reached in 1829 by Prof. Parrot, says the Scientific American, and on September 2, 1900, a member of the Russian Geographical society named Peeggenpohl ascended the peak with a considerable party. The difficulties of the ascent are very great, and his successful expedition will be welcome news in geographical circles. Ascents are rare, having been made in 1834, 1843, 1850 and 1856. Little Ararat is even more difficult to climb, as its declivities are greater and steeper, its form being almost conical. It is believed to be the spot where the ark rested, but there is a tradition that Mount Judi in southern Armenia is the spot. The mountain is of volcanic origin and was in eruption in 475; and in 1840 there was a vast discharge of sulphurous vapors from its sides, and a tremendous earthquake shook the surrounding country. There is considerable literature devoted to the mountain.

MONUMENT ON A MOUNTAIN.

The Difficulty of Getting Heavy Stones for the Work to Lookout Mountain's Crest.

A serious problem confronts the engineers in charge of the erection of the great New York peace memorial on the summit of Lookout mountain. The question is how to get the material for the monument to the top of the mountain, 2,000 feet above the surrounding country. The railroad which has been running to the top of the mountain as a freight line has been discontinued, and the rails will be sold for old iron. It is unsafe even if it were in operation, the ties and cross-ties being worn and rotten, says the Philadelphia Record. The track in its present condition will only safely stand a load of 30,000 pounds, the engineers say, while one of the stones to be used in the monument will weigh nearly 60,000 pounds, and many of them 50,000 pounds. There is no roadway near the spot where the monument is being erected, it being high above all the surrounding country. In case no other means can be devised to handle the material and move it to the top a road four miles in length will be constructed especially for the purpose.

Active Only at Night.

Surgeon McKenna, who has passed the last six months on the island of Midway, does not hesitate to maintain that the number of quadrupeds and insects enjoying existence in the moonlight of the tropics exceeds that of their daylight rivals so much so, indeed, that whole species and groups or species are represented only by nocturnal creatures. Forests that remained as still as the grave under the glare of the vertical sun are all in an uproar within an hour after sunset.

One of the Ironies of War.

Capt. Rank of the German navy, who took such a prominent part in the capture of the ship, writes from home that the Germans captured at that place 17 guns of various caliber and much ammunition. "These," declares Capt. Rank, "are the guns which have killed and wounded so many of my brave fellows, and which also, like almost all the enemy's guns and ammunition, come from our native country. The guns are all modern quick-firers from Krupp's."

Newfoundland Sealing.

The Newfoundland sealing season has been the best for the past 15 years, \$75,000,000 having been captured.

ENTIRELY NEW IDEA.

Frenchman Says Earth Instead of Air Transmits Signals.

His Theory Directly Contrary to the One Now Held Regarding Transmission of Messages Without Wires.

A dispatch from Paris to the London Daily News says that M. Willet, chief inspector of the French telegraph, has communicated a paper to the electricians' congress, indicating a belief that ether wave telegraphy, as recently practiced, has already, or is about to become, obsolete. M. Willet, who is one of the leading scientists of the telegraph department and the inventor of various telegraph and telephonic devices, seems to have reached the conclusion that it is the earth, and not the air, through which signals are transmitted without the use of wires.

The fact that neither the roundness of the earth's surface nor intervening hills intercept the signals suggested to him the question whether the matter telegraphed left the masts at the top or bottom. He conjectured that it left at the bottom, especially as the signaling is not affected by wind or fog and is improved by giving the masts good electric communication with the earth. His theory involves communicating through the geological beds, in which the earth's electricity has the same tension, the idea being that any disturbance at one point on the same electric level creates what would naturally be called a swell in the whole level, leaving the higher and lower strata comparatively undisturbed.

M. Willet proposes to tap these levels, boring shafts and measuring the electrical tensions with the electroscopes. The correspondent does not make the method clear, but the inference seems to be that two points, say London and Brighton, would communicate through one level, and Birmingham and Bristol through another. The French telegraph department has appointed a committee to sink shafts to ascertain the distribution of the electric levels. When this is done M. Willet undertakes to construct an apparatus that will meet every case.

The correspondent makes no reference to the transmission of signals at sea in connection with the supposed discovery.

GIVES REASONS FOR SELLING.

Bible Society Issues Statement Concerning Unfavorable Reports Circulated.

Rev. Dr. John Fox, secretary of the American Bible society, issued a statement regarding the affairs of the society, in which they say: "The recent statements in certain newspapers concerning the financial condition of the American Bible society and its reasons for offering the Bible house for sale are wholly false and without foundation. It has recently opened agencies in Cuba, Porto Rico and Manila. Its agencies in Siam and Central America have been opened within the last ten years. "It circulated last year nearly 500,000 copies of the Bible or portions of the Bible in China alone. The average issues for the last 25 years have been about 1,500,000 a year. There have been fluctuations from year to year. Last year the issues were 1,408,901 copies.

"The society is not in financial straits, and its appropriations for foreign work have never exceeded those of the last few years. "The work of the society will undoubtedly continue, as in the past, to merit and receive the liberal support of the churches. Its only reason for considering the possible sale of the Bible house are business reasons connected with the value of the property and the desirability of its location for commercial purposes."

MISTAKEN FOR A DESERTER.

Naval Constructor Thomas F. Ruhn Has Novel Experience While in Japan.

Naval Constructor Thomas F. Ruhn, who was recently on duty at Elizabeth, N.J., and who was sent to succeed Naval Constructor Hubson on the Asiatic station, has been having some experiences in Japan. While the Oregon was at Kure the commanding officer of the vessel asked the Japanese authorities to look out for deserters from the ship, and the vigilance of the Japanese system of surveillance and capture was well illustrated in the prompt arrest of Ruhn in a small town near Kure. He had been intercepted by orders while en route to Hong-Kong, and was instructed to superintend the work on the Oregon.

Mr. Ruhn's appearance in uniform appeared to justify the Japanese police in their arrest. The constructor was carried before a magistrate, to whom he disclosed his identity and his official connection with the navy. The magistrate treated him with great courtesy, apologized for the blunder, and took him home to dinner.

Chicago Appreciative.

New York, an ungainly exchange says, has 24,000 "superfluous" women. There are many superfluous objects in Chicago, says the Chronicle of that city, but not one superfluous woman.

Saw a Good Many Generations.

Harriet Willian Brand, who lately died in Brooklyn in her ninety-second year, saw generations of her family extending from her great-great-grandfather to her great-great-grandson.