

WINE SPOILED BY AGE

Champagne Becomes Unfit to Drink if Stopped Away in Cellars Too Long.

There is such a thing as a wine being too old," said a member of the board of trade, reports the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "I had that illustrated at my house the other day under rather interesting circumstances. Back in 1848 Gen. John M. Lewis, who was then sheriff and afterward mayor of New Orleans, gave my uncle a basket of four-year-old champagne. My uncle afterward moved north, taking that and other wines with him, and on his death, in the early 60's, the basket was still intact. There had possibly been some agreement about opening it at a certain time, and, at any rate, the champagne remained in the family cellar untouched and only last month my cousin, now in New York, broke the lot and sent me down four bottles. I was naturally curious to know how the old wine would look and taste, and a few days ago, on the occasion of a little anniversary at our house, I opened one of the bottles. I had considerable difficulty in removing the cork without breaking it, but it finally gave way. There was not a vestige of pop and the wine ran out perfectly dead and limp. It was pale amber in color and had a faint, pleasant bouquet, but the imprisoned gas that had once given it life and sparkle was gone forever. It was interesting as a relic, but not fit to drink, and some friends who are connoisseurs said that it had evidently been deteriorating since 1870. 'Tis a great pity my northern relatives held it in too much veneration to sample it about that time.'

TO STOP BLEEDING.

Electricity Now Declared to Be the Most Efficient Measure Employed.

The arresting of bleeding in surgical operations has always been one of the difficulties in certain cases, and the electric current has been used before this with a view to bringing about that condition of heat which is necessary in order to cause the blood to clot and so act as a block to the mouth of bleeding vessels, arresting hemorrhage.

This, indeed, has resulted in the utilization of the electric cautery, as it is called, in certain operations, the platinum wire at a red or almost white heat coagulating the tissue, because it burns through the tissues and at the same time prevents the wound bleeding to any great extent. This effect of heat was, indeed, known to our ancestors, who used red-hot irons or boiling pitch to seal the surface of the flesh after amputations, thus causing an immense amount of suffering to the patient, before the days of chloroform. A new adaptation of this use of electricity for the purpose of stopping bleeding has been devised by enclosing a platinum wire in a pair of forceps or other instrument, the wire being insulated in a bed of burnt pipe clay, and as soon as the bleeding vessel is seized by the forceps and compressed in the ordinary way an electric current is turned on, whose effect is so great that the tissues and the walls of the blood vessels are all agglutinated, so that the blood is no longer able to pass.

WOOD EMITS SWEET TONES.

A South American Tree from Which the Natives Make Instruments.

A Chicagoan recently returned from a protracted visit to South America relates that the Indians in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia make an excellent musical instrument out of the wood of the hornaguilla, a tree that grows abundantly in those countries. The instrument is on the principle of the well-known xylophone, only that underneath each piece they construct a sounding box of the same wood, varying in size to the note to be augmented and sustained. Some of these instruments are mounted on stands and have as many as 45 tones. These large instruments are played by four or five operators. The tones are quite unlike those of the xylophone, as they are not short and sharp, but are sustained by the sounding boxes, so that at a short distance they give the impression more of an organ than even a piano. Expert operators play opera pieces and the latest music upon the large instruments with most remarkable effect. This instrument is said to be a very old one, tradition dating it back to the days of the Incas, being one of the few remaining evidences of the old prehistoric civilizations. A party of Peruvians lately traveled through Mexico with one of these large instruments and created quite a sensation among the music-loving Mexicans.

French Romance of To-Day. People in England are constantly complaining that French novels are not what they were, says a writer in the Contemporary. And this is true; the crop is slighter, and the quality has abnormally varied. "Ye cannot gather grapes of thistles." A few months ago one of the first of French novelists told me how impossible he found it to lose himself in an imaginary world, while such ominous rumors fill the streets of Paris. The intricate Chinese puzzle of fashionable psychology seems, after all, a trivial thing compared to the tremendous issues of reality. And if the author feels this, judge of the sentiments of the reader! The effect of the affaire Dreyfus on literature has been the sudden disappearance of the roman-a-trois, the old provincial theme of the married lady, her husband and her lover. After a brilliant renaissance, after occupying almost the whole area of fiction, this theme has subsided, and if people read and write novels still, so a certain extent, these novels, or at any rate, the best of them, have a wholly different motive, interest, and intent.

WAYS OF THE CUBANS

Affraid to Give Information If Their Names Are Made Public.

Experience of Gen. Ludlow with a Prominent Man Who Came to Complain of Certain Abuses That Existed.

It must appear somewhat strange to some readers of American papers to frequently see allusions, in stories from Cuba, to "A prominent merchant says," or "Certain well-known Cubans say," without giving the names of the people referred to. The reason for this is that it is almost impossible to get information from any one of Latin blood resident in Cuba who thinks that what he says is going into print, unless he has an absolute assurance that he will not be quoted.

As an instance of this, a prominent man the other day called upon Gen. Ludlow and told him of some abuses that were being perpetrated. The general replied that he was very glad that he had come and told him about the matter, as, though he was aware such things were taking place, he had been unable to get the necessary evidence, and he would have his caller's words taken down and typewritten, so that he could sign the document.

"Oh, no," replied the man, "I cannot do that." "Why?" asked the general. "Because I do not want to be stabbed in the back." "Well," responded the general, "I will have the case before the courts and call you as a witness to testify as to what you told me." "I shall deny it," replied the man; "I shall say you misunderstood me; I cannot afford to have my name connected with it."

It seems to be a trait that is universal through Cuba, and if a man does give an interview where his name appears, and if any exception is taken to anything he has said, and he thinks there is any possibility of it causing him any trouble, he is absolutely sure to deny that he said anything of the kind. Consequently, those writing for the newspapers are very much hampered in their efforts to get the truth, as, if they use the name of the man they got the information from, he is more than apt to deny it, and, on the other hand, if he does not use the name, the people who read the interview are liable to doubt the story on account of the name being withheld.

ADULTERATED OIL.

Probable That a Large Amount of It Has Been Sold as Real Olive Oil to Innocent Purchasers.

It is extremely probable that a large amount of adulterated olive oil has been sold to innocent purchasers in this country. Consul Caughy, at Messina, in discussing this subject in a report to the state department, says: "I would suggest that dealers in essential oils, who purchase under chemists' certificate, take a sample in the presence of witnesses immediately upon arrival of the goods, seal it, and send, in the little bottles made for that purpose, to the chemists at Messina asking for an analysis. I have discovered that after the copper has been sealed it can be most successfully tampered with. A minute's contact of a hot iron with the line of solder which encircles the copper where it begins to taper will remove sufficient to allow two little holes to be made. If the copper is then placed on its side the contents will easily run off. The adulterant, turpentine, is readily injected by a syringe. A few passes of the soldering iron soon destroy all traces of the work. I do not wish to be understood as saying that any particular exporter has adopted this method to defraud, but I do say it can be done. Every honest shipper will be glad to learn that the second analysis agrees with the first. When the importer finds it does not, the remedy rests in his own hands. A safeguard against such frauds would be to make it a condition of the contract that chemists send one-half of the original sample, after analysis, to the purchaser under their private seal."

WANTS PURE MILK.

Health Authorities of the City of Milwaukee Will Test All Cows for Tuberculosis.

The Milwaukee health department is about to put into operation a plan whereby every cow the milk from which is sold in the city is to be tested for tuberculosis. Health Commissioner Schulz has a plan whereby he intends to make this test effective with the cooperation of the state dairy and food commission. The city only had jurisdiction within its limits, but with the cooperation of the state officers the inspection may be extended so as to include all the cows whose milk is sold in this city. At present there is no city ordinance providing for this test, but it is included and will undoubtedly be passed in the new milk ordinance which the commissioner now has ready to submit to the council.

The test for tuberculosis is made by injection tuberculin into the animal. If the cow is healthy the tuberculin has no appreciable effect. If she has tuberculosis the temperature rises rapidly, frequently going to 104 degrees.

Was Not a Barber Shop. Once upon a time a man entered a popular restaurant in London and after tucking his napkin into his shirt collar, prepared to order his dinner. "What will you have, sir," inquired the waiter, "a shave or a shampoo?"

Wireless Telegraphy. The greatest distance to which wireless telegraphic messages have been sent is 42 miles.

IDOLS OF ANCIENT PUEBLOS.

Unique Collection of Stone Images Being Photographed for the Government.

G. W. Hodge and exploration party of the bureau of ethnology at Washington, D. C., have been engaged for four days at Santa Fe, N. M., taking photographs of the unique collection of stone idols belonging to ex-Gov. L. B. Prince. It consists of over 1,000 stone idols collected in all parts of New Mexico by ex-Gov. Prince in the last 17 years and is the only complete collection in existence. The idols were all recovered by excavations made upon the sites of ancient Pueblo villages. Many of them are so brittle that they have been broken, despite the most careful handling. The appearance of the idols is curious, and, besides representing human beings with faces expressing all sorts of emotions and having their hands folded in a peculiar way across their chests, there are representations of all sorts of animals, which have peculiar decorations or inscriptions.

The idols are sculptured out of sandstone, pumice, lava and other material. Some are light enough to float in water. Some of them are almost six feet high. It is difficult to tell the age of the idols and it is only known that they were used by the ancestors of the present Pueblo Indians before the Spanish conquest. The collection of ex-Gov. Prince has been seen by comparatively few persons thus far, but for seven years the bureau of ethnology has been anxious to obtain photographs of them. Gov. Prince will probably send them to the Smithsonian institution. Gov. Prince also possesses pottery and charred corn taken out of the excavations in which the stone idols were found and has in preparation an exhaustive treatise upon the aborigines of New Mexico.

CUBAN AMUSEMENTS.

Those of the Women Especially Would Seem Very Tame and Mild to the American Girl.

The amusements of the Cubans, and especially of the Cuban ladies, would seem very tame and mild to American girls. The climate, of course, largely accounts for this, as it is not advisable to take much exercise in the sun in Cuba—at all events more than can be avoided.

Tennis is practically unknown; bicycling for girls is out of the question, except in the case of very small children; dances are certainly very popular, but concerts are a more favorite pastime, though entertaining in private houses, where singing and music are the chief features, some are main forms of amusement. In the way of refreshments, except in a very few houses, none are served.

Sunday afternoon and Sunday night seem to be exceptions to any other time, for on Sunday afternoon everybody that has a carriage is driven around the Prado, the Bois de Boulogne of Havana, and even those who have not carriages, but are able to hire a hack, join in the procession, where all the latest fashions in millinery and jewelry and fans are displayed. From the Prado they go back to their houses, and two hours later appear at the band concert in Central park, which is generally crowded from eight till ten. There are hundreds of well-dressed little girls with their nurses there. These children play a sort of game very much like "kiss in the ring" and occupy a large portion of the park, with a considerable number of onlookers at each game.

OCEANIC COMING.

The Biggest Steamship in the World Preparing for Maiden Voyage to New York City.

The greatest steamship the world has ever seen, the Oceanic, is now preparing at Belfast for her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York. Capt. Cameron, formerly of the Majestic, has been given the command of the Oceanic and is engaging her officers and crew. The graceful outlines of the Oceanic deceive the beholder regarding her great size. She has yachtlike lines, clean-cut bow and is cut away at the counters. The vessel has three-pole masts and two enormous funnels. If one of the funnels was placed horizontally on the ground track for two street cars could be built in it and the cars run through at the same time. The Oceanic is 704 feet long, 68 feet 4 1/2 inches wide and 49 feet deep. The ribs of the Oceanic are only 3 1/2 inches apart throughout her length, and to them are riveted 17,000 steel plates, many of the plates in the midship section of the ship being 28 feet long. Each plate weighs from two to three and one-quarter tons. The engines of the Oceanic have been a topic of much discussion. The steamship company says the Oceanic is not built to establish a new ocean record, but that her mission will be to leave Liverpool on Wednesday and arrive at New York the following Wednesday, storm or calm.

TO REMAIN AN AMERICAN.

William Waldorf Astor, Jr., Declares He Will Return to the United States on Attaining His Majority.

It is reported that William Waldorf Astor, Jr., who is now a student at Eton, England, has declared his intention of remaining a loyal American and returning to the United States when he attains his majority. Under the English law he would be a British subject while the son was a minor, but the young man is reported to have declared: "I was born an American, and I hope I will always be considered one."

Second British City. The second city of the British empire in size is Calcutta.

HAS CHARMED LIFE.

Remarkable Wounds of a Volunteer Just Returned from Manila.

Carries a Filipino Bullet at the Apex of the Skull—His Left Leg Shattered by Another Bullet.

With a bullet from a Filipino's rifle resting on his brain at the apex of the skull, the socket of his left eye empty, his left leg still helpless, but slowly regaining strength, and with a steel plate helping out the functions of his breast bone, Private Harvey R. Smith, company F, First Washington volunteers, is the popular wonder of one of the convalescent ward at the Presidio military hospital at San Francisco. Young Smith only the other day had the remnant of his left eye removed. Then the surgeons probed for the bullet that had left him half sightless and located it in the very top of the cheerful soldier's head. In a few days an operation will remove the bullet, which, if left alone, the military surgeons say, might cause insanity and eventually death.

Private Smith's career for seven years past has been such as few men live to tell about. In 1893 he was a passenger on an eastern road when a smash-up occurred. Both of Smith's arms, the right leg and breastbone were shattered. He was taken to the home of his parents in Chicago and for months his life was despaired of. Then his breastbone was patched up with a steel plate. The other injuries had healed, so when the Klondike fever broke out in 1897, Smith, apparently as well as ever, joined a party that endured great hardships and finally became stalled in the muck along White Pass.

Smith reached Seattle just a few days before the call for volunteers, and when the call came enlisted as a private in company F. Last April in a skirmish near San Fernando a musket bullet entered his left eye and followed his skull to the top, where it is to-day. Another musket in the same fight shattered his left leg.

Smith was invalided home on the Morgan City. The doctors say that except for the loss of his left eye Smith will be well and sound again. He is able even now to hobble about the reservation on crutches, seemingly the cheeriest man among the scores of victims of the Philippine climate and the Filipino bullets now located at the Presidio.

WANTED IT KEPT SECRET.

Mrs. Langtry Talks of Her Marriage to Mr. De Bather—Says She Is Not Forty-Seven Years Old.

Mrs. Langtry, in an interview at the London theater in regard to her recent marriage, said to a reporter: "Yes, it is quite true I am married to Mr. De Bather. The wedding occurred very quietly at my old church, St. Saviour's, island of Jersey, where my dear old father officiated so often. It was pretty much in the nature of a runaway match, as we kept it to ourselves, hoping it would leak out gradually. I see the papers put me down as 47 years old. Well, a few years either way does not matter; but I am only 39, for the old clerk at St. Saviour's took my age from the church register of births."

"I know nothing of Hugo's estates. Indeed, I have not been there yet. Newspapers, as a rule, do not spare me, and have often criticized me when I did not deserve it. The very idea of newspaper comment makes me nervous. I hope the newspapers will speak nicely of our wedding now that the news has leaked out."

"The prince of Wales was, as he always is, thoughtful. He remembered us kindly by congratulations. But I am sorry his name was mentioned, as what he did was done privately and out of pure friendship."

"Mr. Frohman is arranging with me for an American tour. I long to go, for I love the people of that country. Of course my husband will accompany me."

WORK AS DOMESTICS.

Cousins of Sir Thomas Lipton, Owner of the Shamrock, Are Employed in New York City.

Sir Thomas Lipton, owner of the Shamrock, has two cousins in New York city who are employed as domestics by the Misses Ward of 9 East Forty-fifth street. One, Annie Adams, is a kitchen maid, and the other, her sister, Maggie, is a laundress. They are the daughters of the sister of Sir Thomas Lipton's father. Their parents died in Killa-coona, County Monaghan, years ago. Annie and Maggie had to face the world alone. They came to America and became servants. "Cousin Tom," as they call their distinguished relative, has not forgotten them, and she checks have helped them over hard places. Annie, the younger, who is 37 years, said:

"Fifteen years have passed since we came to America and we have always worked below stairs. Every time Cousin Tom comes to America he writes to us and sends us money. It's a big heart Cousin Tom has. When he first came to see us, when a boy, he was full of the old Scotch notions of being good. "Sure, when he grew older he lost his firm ways and became a broth of a boy, flirting and joking and dancing with the girls of Killa-coona."

Advertisements on Railroad Tickets. French railroad companies have been ordered by the courts to provide their passengers with season tickets without advertisements. The Western railroad had increased the number of advertisements till season tickets were as thick as pocketbooks, and commuters refused to carry them.

INNOCENCE ABROAD.

Young American Visits Havana and Makes a Very Awkward and Amusing Blunder.

A short time ago a young man arrived at Havana from New York with letters of introduction to several Cuban families. He put up at a prominent hotel and was very dissatisfied with it, telling most of his new-found friends what he thought about it. After staying there a few days he paid a visit to Cienfuegos on business, returning a week later to the same hotel. That night he called on a Cuban lady and gentleman, and the lady asked him if he liked the hotel any better than before, and he replied that he did not, whereupon she said, Spanish fashion: "Our house and everything therein is at your disposal." In his innocence and ignorance of Spanish customs the young man jumped at the proposition and said he would come the next day, which he did, bag and baggage, staying there for two weeks, much to the disgust and chagrin of the man and wife, as, according to Cuban and Spanish customs, the man could never leave the house, wife and guest alone therein with only the servants. Consequently whenever he had to go to business his wife had to go, too, though he so arranged it that most of his business was brought to his house to be attended to. Before his departure the young man urged the hospitable couple to be sure and stay with him instead of going to a hotel whenever they came to New York. It is safe to say that this family is not likely to be in a hurry to again invite people to make their home with them, Spanish fashion.

ACHIEVED GREAT RESULTS.

May Wright Sewall Talks of the Work Done by the International Council of Women.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the new president of the International Council of Women, has returned to Indianapolis, Ind., from England. She describes the sessions of the council at great length, also her visit to the queen. Continuing, she says:

"Perhaps the greatest result achieved was to have the international council decide to work for peace and international arbitration. During the next five years there will be three standing committees—one on peace, one on the press and one on the laws of the countries affecting domestic relations. These committees will each have one member from each country in which a national council has been formed, so the committees already have ten members each to begin with. Twenty countries were represented at the first international council, for ten now have national councils and in ten others councils are being formed by national vice-presidents. Many other foreign countries were represented on the programme. Six halls were occupied all the time and 2,500 congress tickets were sold. You may be interested to know that the next meeting will be held in Berlin in 1904, and that there will be annual executive sessions, the next one to be held in Paris next summer. As to the social part of the council, my own personal social engagements numbered 168 in five weeks, so you see how beautifully we were entertained."

TO REGISTER COLLECTIONS.

Devices to Be Tested for the Keeping Track of the Collections of Mail Matter.

An experiment will soon be made at New York city with a number of devices for registering the time at which collections are made at mail boxes throughout the city. It occasionally happens that a collector fails to get mail from some of the boxes on his route and serious delays follow in consequence. Several plans have been proposed to prevent this neglect. One is through means of a card marked with the number of the box and time of collection, which drops out with the mail as it is collected. Another plan is for the collector to stamp the time of collection on a strip, which becomes a record of the office. Quite an elaborate plan is to have electrical connection with the post office and the boxes, so that an annunciator at the office will indicate when the mail boxes are opened. If any of these devices prove practical it will be put in operation in all the large cities.

KAISER WANTS TO MAKE GIFT.

It Is Said He Desires to Give Three Marine Paintings to His Grandmother.

Emperor William has expressed a desire to furnish three seascape paintings by himself for the decoration of Queen Victoria's new yacht, which is nearing completion. His majesty's enthusiasm as a painter of marine subjects is well known. The imperial yacht Hohenzollern is adorned with a series of imperial works, which include representations of Great Britain naval victories.

A French General.

Gen. Dodds, who conducted the French Dahomey campaign in 1892 and 1893, has been promoted to the rank of general of division. Gen. Dodds, in the course of his career, has served with great distinction in several parts of Africa, and also in the far east. He recently held the chief command in Tonquin.

Petroleum in Borneo.

The results of recent drillings in Borneo have caused many persons to think that that island will prove to be the richest petroleum field in the world.

Short Notice.

A prisoner sentenced to death in France does not know the date of his execution. He is informed of it just 15 minutes before the ax falls.

JOINS INDIAN TRIBE.

Poet Buries Himself Among a Strange People in the North.

Poet Wheeler Has Been Adopted as Si-Chi by the Head Chief of Takuah Indians in Northwest Territory.

Poet Wheeler, New Yorker, poet, Princeton man, author of cynical "Reflections of a Bachelor," has been missing from New York for two years. His departure followed close upon the report of the breaking of an engagement between him and Hattie Erminie Rives, cousin of Amelia Rives, Princess Troubetzkoy, who is herself an author, and not long ago started the reading public by the novel, "Smoking Flax." Mr. Wheeler is living in a remote Indian village in a spur of the Rockies, close on the arctic circle, in the great northwest territory, on the edge of the barren lands, hundreds of miles from civilization, where an occasional half-breed or trader is the only visitor and a white man is almost unknown.

He has joined a tribe of the Takuah Indians, has been adopted as Si-Chi (only brother's child) by the head chief, has taken on their customs and dress, speaks their tongue, and ranks as an under chief.

Mr. Wheeler was recently visited by a correspondent, who says that the poet is reticent as to reasons for becoming an exile.

The language, he says, was his greatest difficulty. "What do you think?" said Mr. Wheeler, "of a language boasting five subjunctive moods and two first persons plural?" Max Muller was right when he pronounced the Eskimo of the northwest more intricate than Greek, but the Takuah is far more complex even than Hebrew.

The same relations, when applied to persons of opposite sex, call for different words. The mother's "my son" or "my daughter" and the father's "my son" or "my daughter" are different expressions. Elder and younger brother, sister, son and daughter each require a separate term.

It was suggested that Mr. Wheeler's position might be uncomfortable in case of a tribal war. He replied that he had prevented two brushes by arbitration, and that neighboring tribes believed him a white medicine man and would not dare to kill him.

AS MALARIA'S FOE.

Army Experiments with the Eucalyptus in Cuba to Make Climate More Healthful.

Owing to frequent recommendations to Gov. Gen. Brooke of the eucalyptus tree as an anti-malarial agent, some investigations into the subject have been carried on under his orders. Attention has been called to the success obtained in cultivating the tree in the vast Campagna di Roma, Italy, where eucalyptus is now recognized as rendering the whole territory much less unhealthy. The city of Mexico is cited as another instance, where the Yigo canal, the floating gardens and other malarial districts are now well stocked with young eucalyptus trees, with the result that places which were once marshy and unhealthy have been rendered dry and innocuous.

One recommendation says that the camp of the British troops in Jamaica which was formerly malarial, has been planted with eucalyptus, the outcome already being a steady disappearance of marshy spots. The tree, which absorbs the moisture, grows very rapidly, often ten feet in a year. The wood is valuable and the honey bees seek the flowers. The honey, it is said, contains important medicinal properties.

The tree department of Santiago de Cuba, not knowing of the investigations in progress under Gen. Brooke's direction, recently made a request for several thousand eucalyptus slips, the requisition being strongly indorsed by Gen. Leonard Wood.

WHITE COLT TURNS BLACK.

Remarkable Change in Color Poses the Eastern Horseman—Animal of Blooded Stock.

A white colt foaled three years ago of blooded stock is undergoing a change of color at New York, and at the present rate will be a jet black within a few months. The case is without parallel and experts fail to offer any solution. It was in the spring of 1890, on the farm of V. L. Kirkman, near Nashville, that Black Girl, a jet black mare by a son of Luke Blackburn, foaled the snow white colt by Palentine, a son of Powhattan. The foal was a solid white all over with the exception of a black ring around each eye and a little red on the tip of each ear. The tail was about the color of new silver. It was regarded as a most unusual circumstance, in view of the fact that the color of the sire was black. The probabilities are that by this time next year the colt will be as intensely black as he has been intensely white.

Strange Coincidence.

A curious fact was revealed in connection with a recent London bazar. Before it could be held at the Albert hall permission had to be obtained from the seatholders. This, with two exceptions, was obtained, and as the objectors, an old lady and an old gentleman, refused to give their sanction, the idea of holding the bazar in the hall would have had to be abandoned but for the strange coincidence that both of these seatholders died while the matter was in abeyance.

Trained as Food Experts.

Paymasters and commissariat officials of the German army receive special training in examining the quality of food supplied the army.