Manual Advantages Have Made

Singan is practically the Chinese terminal of the great trans-Asiatie highway along which the Polos traveled, and along which the silks of the Beres were first carried to Roum. Bingan stands, in fact, just within the eastern boundary of a region that necess to realize, on an extended scale, the conception of an inclosed valley which finds expression in so many ancient legends, says the Saturday Review. Bounded on the north by the Mongolian plateau, this great basin in abut in precipitously on the south by a barrier of mountains whose summits rise from 5,000 to 11,000 feet above the sea level. An approximation of these natural barriers narrows the outlet into central Asia to the dimensions of a gorge which the Chinese have blocked by a fortress called Kiayukwan; while the eastern entrance is closed, or nearly closed, by a mountain range descending from the north which tends to join the southern barrier but stops short before the meeting is offected, leaving an interval of about 15 miles through which the Yellow river issues into the plain. As though determined, however, to complete her work, nature has closed even this gap by a remarkable bank of losss clay, against which, in former times, the river would seem to have been stored up, but now it chreaks through it by a narrow passage that constitutes the Tungkwan sicionor eastern gate.

The fortress which guards this exites constitutes the key of the east, as the Mianykwan constitutes the key of the west for the possessors of Shensi and Kassuh. Here may be said practically to commence the great Nanloo or Bouth road, whose prolongation beyond the Kiayu gate constitutes the sold highway across central Asia, and along it without doubt the ancestral Chinese immigrants made their way. Here, apparently, in this Wel basin they resolved to settle, and hence they extended their power east and south over the Great Plain.

We may begin now to realize the political and commercial importance of a city which dominated this great highway and thus "mediatised the entire traffic between North China and sthe countries beyond." When, nearly 2,700 years ago. Emperor Ping established his capital in Honan, Singan, or Changan, as it was then called, ecame the capital of the princes of Tain, who were destined 500 years later to mount the imperial throne. It was here that the first Tain emperor, Che Hwangte, issued (213 B. C.) the famous order for the burning of the books which caused his name to be execrated by the literati; and though it was destroyed so utterly during the civil wars which ensued that "fires blazed for three months among the palaces and public buildlogs," it was promptly rebuilt and made the capital of the succeeding dynasty. Here, from 208 B. C. to 24 A. D., reigned the emperors of the Mrst Han; bere, also for a few short years resided the emperor of the Sui; while of the two capitals of the great dynasty of Tang (618-906) Singan was the first and greatest.

The Sung, who reigned from A. D. :960 to 1125, made Singan their first espital. It has been besieged, destroyed and rebuilt. Dynasty has succeeded dynasty, palaces have succeeded palaces, city has succeeded city; but for nearly 3,000 years it has been a princely, an imperial or a provineial capital. Theodosius sent envoys here, bearing presents of emeralds and rubies to the Chinese monarch of the day: Marco Polo visited it and moted its greatness and wealth, and though time and political change have lowered its earlier rank it continues to be one of the finest cities in China focus of ancient legend, a center of archaeological interest and a point of the first strategic importance.

Lemon Market in China.

I know a rancher who is engaged sall these days in shipping lemons to China, says a writer in the Los Angeles Times. The market is at Canton and the fruit is sent out from Ban Francisco by the regular steamers. It was a new experience to me to talk with a man who is selling his fruit regularly and profitably after its having half-girdled the globe on fts way to the consumer. The grower told me he received an average of "three dollars a box since the initial shipment was made the first of last March. Advices from the receiver of these lemons at Canton state that they are smoother, juicier and thinner-skinned than the Italian fruit received at Canton. They further state that there was only one competitor in the market—an Italian tlealer. This indicates the undeveloped condition of the oriental trade and the ignorance of the market demands of the Chinese ports.

He Was a Union Man.
"Lady," said Tattered Toby, reproachfully, 'you do me great injustice when you speak of me as a tramp.
I am a union workman."

"Union workman!" she exclaimed.
"Pray, to what union do you belong?"
"I belong to the Would-Workers'
maion." he auswered, proudly.

"The Wood Workers'?" she repeated.
"Yes," he asserted, as he edged from the door. "It is composed of those who would work if they couldn't live

who would work if they couldn't live any other way."—Chicago Post.

A Missauthrope.
Bowery Staggers—When a feller's

down every ody tries to shove him furder!

Mell-Huh! You talk like comebody d been offering you de

tion presidency!-Puck.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Woman is a commutum that man ean't guess, but he is unwilling to give her up.—Chicago Daily News.

The Impossible He.—Hewitt—"I ad-

vertised to-day for an office boy who couldn't whistle." Jewett--"You don't expect to get any answers, do yon?"
"Curious isn't it?" "What?" "A man's handwriting is never so bad that his name can't be read when

man's handwriting is never so bad that his name can't be read when signed to a check." — Philadelphia North American.

An Atonion siel who several years

An Atchison girl who several years ago had a startled fawn look in her eyes has cultivated the look to such an extent that she now looks like a scared rabbit.—Atchison Globe.

"Have you read my new book?" asked the author of his friend. "No," was the reply; "I have been quite ill, and the doctor has warned me to be careful!"—Atlanta Constitution. Stubb—"You say he is very sensitive about being called awkward?" Penn—"Yes; when he accidentally gashed himself with a razor he tried to make people believe he had attempted suicide."—Philadelphia Record.

Miss Streeter—"I should think it would be horrid standing behind the counter all day." Miss Kashkaller—"Not nearly so bad as standing in front of it for only a little while. There are no bargain crowds on my side, you know."—Boston Transcript.

Willie—Pa, I've got to write a composition on "The Stage," and I'm afraid I'm using the phrase "theatrical profession" too often. Isn't there something just as good that means the same thing as profession?" Pa—"Yes, indeed, and even Better." 'Walk in life,' is more expressive."—Philadelphia Press.

OUR BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

Gets Information on Everything, from Building Log Schoolhouses & to Eskimo Translatione.

The United States bureau of education was originally established to collect information concerning the schools and school systems of the different states and of Europe, and to make it accessible and of use to all the people of this country. Educational experts and specialists are sperially studying the methods of other countries, devising ways of improve ment in our own schools and making researches and experiments. The results of all these efforts, says Dr. W. T. Harris, in Ainslee's, are constantly being put into form for distribution throughout the country. Reports are sent out making clear the requirements for admission into colleges, universities and schools of technology. An expert is at work on the laws regarding the legal rights of children. The National Educational association discussed recently the best methods of making a log schoolhouse into a better one; how to make the amall school into a large one; and how to obtain the best results in country schools. The bureau printed and distributed thousands of reports of these discussions. Last year war published the early history of the kindergarten in St. Louis, the first city in America that introduced kindergartens. Pamphlets have been prepared and distributed on agricultural colleges abroad; the Tennessee centennial; the actual work done by the United States government; discussions on the first common school of New England; the special education required to give a man a license to be a doctor or a lawyer; the Eskimo language translated into Anglo-Saxon in vocabulary form; reports by superintendents of states and cities; essays on the systems of different cities.

Our American consuls are asked by the bureau for educational information. The bureau is in constant receipt of such questions as: Why is coeducation to be preferred to separate education? What is the best method of imparting instruction in temperance? What are the advantages in electing women to school boards? Why are free text books selected? Who selects them? How can we do away with those districts that

have five or six pupils? When such questions are received, if they have been already made the subject of study, the bureau is prepared to answer them at once; if not, the subject is carefully considered and the report made. The bureau, in fact, acts for the whole country as a sort of clearing-house for educational literature. It has something to do as well with the agricultural colleges of America which receive patronage from the United States. The bureau is expected to see that the provisions of the law are complied with. In 1892 the government began appropriating money for agricultural and mechanical purposes. Congress thought that these colleges were using the money for the regular curriculum of Latin. Greek and mathematics; therefore in 1890 a new bill was passed giving them \$15,000 apiece, which was increased to \$16,000, then to \$17,000, and finally to \$25,000, but with the provision that this money be used only for industrial, agricultural, mechanical and similar purposes.

A Natural Sequence.

Mrs. Witts (to sick husband)—The doctor has arrived.

Mr. Witts—Then you had better telephone for the undertaker, my dear.

"Why, John, what do you mean?"
"Well, you know coming events cast
their shadows before them."—Chicago
Evening News.

Taken into Consideration.

Prospective Guest Can't you give me another room? That one isn't fit for a human being to live in.

Summer Hotel. Proprietor "That's why I only get two dollars a day for

HINDER AN ARMY'S MARCH.

Obstacles That Are Thrown in the Way of an invading Milijary Porce,

The use of obstacles in warfare is as old as war itself, and between the turf-covered holes and caltrops of Bruce at Bannockburn and Thermodern "military pits" and "crowsfoot" there is little difference, says Pearson's Magazine.

The obstacle which best fulfills the required conditions and which bas practically only one drawback is "wire

entanglement."

It does not afford cover to the enemy should he gain possession of it. It is difficult to remove or surmount, and special tools, such as cutting or nippers, are required for its destruction. It is difficult to see, and if exposed to artillery fire cannot be set slight. On the other hand, it is an obstacle to a counter attack and in bulk rather cumbrous to transport from one place to another.

"Wire entanglement" may be either "high" or "low." In the "high" variety stout atakes are driven into the ground in rows about six feet apart, about four feet being left above ground; the wire is then taken diagonally from the top of one stake to the bottom of another, and afterward horizontally between the stakes, the whole forming a network very difficult to get through.

In the "low wire entanglement" the stakes are only 18 inches above ground and the wire is stretched diagonally and horizontally between the heads of the stakes.

"Low wire entanglement" is more easily concealed than "high," and also takes a shorter time to erect, but it is not so much of an obstacle and large masses of men soon trample it down.

"Abatis" is a favorite and effective form of obstacle, and its use depends only on the number of trees available. It may be formed either by cutting off the limbs of trees and picketing them to the ground where they are wanted, having pointed out and sharpened the branches; or, especially when the edge of the wood is being held, by half cutting through trees young ones for preference, as they do not catch fire so easily—bending them over in the direction of the em-

"Military pits" have rather gone out of use nowadays, but consist, as their name implies, of V-shaped pits from 18 inches to three feet deep, with a breadth at the top of from

two to three feet. The pits are arranged in rows, checkerwise, and are usually covered with a thin layer of turf or brushwood, while sharp-pointed stakes are driven into them. They are useful against cavalry, but are hardly likely to repay the time and labor involved in their construction, and, if captured by the enemy, are easily converted into intrenchments for his

"Crowsfeet" are practically obsolete now, but may be mentioned as a relic of former days. "Crowsfeet" are made of four spikes welded together and arranged in such a manner that whichever way they are thrown one spike will always be uppermost. They are useful against cavalry, but, on account of their bulk and weight, would rarely be carried by a modera

We now come to an essentially Gallic obstacle, "chevaux-de-frise." which was largely employed during the street fighting of the French revolution. A section of "chevaux-de-frise" consists of a length (generally six feet) of iron piping, which is pierced with holes; through these holes pointed iron rods are passed, crossing one another so as to form a double row of spikes at the top, and at the same time to act as legs for the section to stand on.

"Palisades" are principally employed in the defense of ditches in front of large earthworks and are formed by driving stout, pointed stakes into the bottom of the ditch, the stakes being further secured by longitudinal beams called "ribands," so that when the attackers leap into the ditch they run every chance of being impaled.

Short List of Kiderly Brides. . .. King Alexander of Servia's marriage to Mme. Draga Maschin is by no means a sporadic case of young men marrying elderly ladies. If we remember right. Mis Anna Hathaway, who married William Shakespeare, was by many years his senior, and Mme. George Eliot was 60 years of age when she married a young man of 30. Napoleon was deeply in love with Josephine Beauharnais, who was six years older than he, and it is known how he regretted that for political reasons he had to get a legal divorce. George Sand and Alfred de Musset, Torquato Tasso and Marie d'Este. Goethe and Mme. Stein, are all instances of happy couples of uneven age, with the balance in favor of the strong sex.-Vienna Extrablatt.

In the making of confectionery it is said the Chinese possess secrets that Europeans would like to get hold of. They can remove the pulp of an orange and substitute jellies of various kinds, and no one can detect by the closest examination that the skin of the orange has ever been cut or disturbed in the least. And they fill eggs, or their shells, with nuts and sweets and the egg to all appearance is as whole and sound as a fresh laid

Time To.

Clara-I sometimes wonder if I will
ever be an old maid.

Maud-Good gracious! Haven't you

stopped wondering that ret?-Detroit

one .- Chicago Chronicle.

COSTLY PAPER WEIGHTS.

Small Bronse Dogs or Lions for This Purpuse Are Very Costly Articles.

"Of all the furnishings of the writing desk, none has received more attention than the paper weight and none is more expensive," said the clerk in the stationery department of a large jewelry store, relates the New York Sun. "Those unerthetic people who hold down their papers with an ink bottle or a five-cent metal knob can never realize the thrill of genuine delight that comes to the fastidious writer who utilizes expensive little brass dogs and such things to keep his accounts and manuscript in place. To one of this latter class it is a pleasure to open the window once in awhile and let the wind scatter loose leaves seventeen ways for Sunday, just to be able to have the satisfaction of clapping down a high-priced dog in the midst of the disorder and staying, triumphantly: There, now. Stay there, will you? There are cases where a proceeding of this kind can produce as high as \$50 worth of astisfaction. It all depends, of course. upon the value of the dog or whatever other animal or product of nature is

varied as the tastes and financial resources of writers. The average business man uses a weight made of a little bar of glass which costs anywhere from five cents to one dollar, according to the solidity and detail in workmanship. Most of the weights here come in silver and bronze and range in value from \$5 to \$75. Bronze is most expensive. It is a funny thing, but nothing stands so high in favor for a paper weight as a bronze dog or lion. Perhaps this is because the tail and head of these an mals form such handy projections for the fingers to close over when the writer reaches out in a harry for something to clap down on flying papers. But it is not to be inferred from the foregoing remark that these two specimens of the animal kingdom monopolize the paper weight market to the exclusion of other birds and beasts. All prominent representatives of the fauna and flora of the earth are reproduced in bronze and are made to subserve the utilitarian purpose of holding down papers.

"The workmanship on some of these paper weights is exceedingly fine, and that alone brings the price up to an astonishing figure. That is one reason lions come so high—there is an opportunity to put so much work on them. Here are two miniature lions, one couchant, the other rampant, which retail at \$75 each. Aren't they fine?"

The visitor gazed upon the leonine aspect of the rigid little beasts with immeasurable respect.

"But do you mean to say that people really buy such expensive things?" she asked.

"Sure," said the clerk. "We don't keep them here for fun."

VACCINE FOR CATTLE.

Discovery and Application of a Prevention of That Dreaded Disease Known as Blackleg.

The most important recent achievement by the bureau of animal industry is the discovery and application of a prevention for that dreaded disease of cattle known as blackleg. This malady in some states of the union destroys more cattle than all other causes combined: Texas, Kansas. Nebraska, Colorado and the Dakotas suffer very severely. In fact, over a large part of the beef-raising regions there is a loss of from ten to twenty per cent, of yearling stock annually through this complaint. It appears suddenly in the shape of a black swelling, usually on the hind quarter, and is invariably fatal, says the Phil-

adelphia Saturday Evening Post.

Having ascertained some time ago that the disease was caused by a bacterium, the bureau set to work to prepare a vaccine which is obtained from animals that have died of the complaint. Four years ago 50,000 doses of the stuff were sent out by way of experiment, and the results obtained were so remarkable that 350,000 doses were distributed in the following year in response to requests. In the third year 500,000 doses were given away, and in 1900 over 1,000,000 will be sent

How effective the vaccination is as a preventive of the malady may be judged from the statement, as made by cattlemen, that it has reduced their losses by blackleg to less than one half of one per cent. The vaccine is furnished to infected ranges free of charge, and anybody may obtain it by addressing an application to Dr. D. E. Salmon, of the department of agriculture. Preference is given to applications made out on regular blanks, which may be gotten by anybody who asks for them.

Blackleg is one of the most widespread of cattle diseases; it is even suspected that a malady which often causes great loss among the reindeer herds of Lapland, Siberia and northern Russis is in reality this same com-

An Adirondack Volcano.

Mount Marcy, the highest mountain in the Adirondacks, is very uneasy, with volcanic tendency. This mountain is one of the curiosities of the Adirondack section and it is said to be the first mountain in the world to have received the cooling breezes after the chaos period, and to this fact is attributed the continued salubrity of the air and general healthfulness of the Adirondack mountains. -N. Y.

Mostly Crust.

The remarks of a crusty old bach-

The remarks of a crusty old bachelor are apt to be rather tart.—Chicago Daily News. BEGGAR ACTOR WON A COIN.

Man Who Claimed to Have Been with McCullough Pinyed Touching Role.

"Madam, can you contribute toward the purchase of a breakfast for one who has been less fortunate than

yourself? There was a ring of broken pride in the voice that told of better days, and awakened interest enough to stop a busy little woman harrying down Michigan avenue to her downtown business in the early morning, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. The morning was very warm, yet the speaker was wrapped in a fuded coat, half mantle and half ulster, which graced an athletic figure that once might have trodden the boards. To halt in her quick pace down town was something unusual for the woman, but the dissipated face, with the gray, shaggy head, appealed to her, and she arked wonderingly:

"What has caused your bad luck?"
"It happened, madam," the man responded, "that the world went hard with me, among other things. I know all the stages in the descent of man, madam, and, in ract, I know the stage itself. Things were different when I played with McCullough in the '70's." He sighed as he leaned gracefully against one of the foundation pillars of the Calumet Club building, and let his eyes wander over the ruins of the burned church opposite.

The woman was compelled to admire the beggar, whose figure was as majestic as McCullough's own, and who belonged, it was evident, to the same artistic profession.

"But what brought you to this condition?" she asked, breaking in upon his abstraction as she saw a far-off kok in his eyes that might have belonged to McCullough in Blooming-

dule. "Ob. I found the current too swift for me. When I got into it I couldn't get out. When a man gets to going downward," he went on, addressing the charred walls, not the woman-"when a man gets to going downward, nothing can stop him-unless it is a woman-and-and the woman died! I should have been a different man if it had not been for that. I left her in a grave back there in Donegal, and I wentl down with the current-left her in a grave in Donegal." he repeated, forgetting his listener, forgetting his hunger, as he drew his old cloak around his once proud form and walked away, and the soft morning breeze brought back the words. "a grave in Donegal."

The woman called to him, but he did not heed her, and then she ran after him, and put a coin in his hand for the sake of a heart gone to dust in a grave in Donegal.

When she had parted with her money she walked on reflecting that it might be only a elever bit of acting after all. "And," she finished aloud, "women are the most gullible ereatures on earth"

INVOKED SPIRITUAL HELP.

College Students Consult Mediums to Get Aid in Their Coming Ex-

Here's a new idea of students wrestling with their "exams." Just call up a medium and learn what the

questions are to be.

The extreme accuracy of the work of some of the candidates at the final examination held in the gymnusium in Kampen, Holland, aroused the suspicion of the examiners, rays the New York Press. Inquiries were made, which brought to light the curious story:

At a whist party, where several of the students were present, the suggestion was made to hold a spiritualistic seance, and further to ask through the medium of the table dance what work would be set at the examination. This was done and the table dance responded somewhat amhiguously, giving first Thucydides, liber, 7, caput 73, and later on liber

5, daput 14.
Some of the students present superstitiously prepared these portions of Thucydides, and when the examination took place they were gratefully surprised to find that the first-mentioned portion was actually given as part of their work.

Strange to relate, the examination paper contained a mistake, namely, the omission of the word "eldor." but the students, who had learned their parts by heart, not noticing the omission, translated the text in full, supplying in their translation the missing word. Comparison later on by the examiners led to the discovery of this fact, and hence their suspicions were aroused.

The students were interrogated. They stated their case and mentioned that they had prepared the two portions mentioned by the table dance among their other work, although they could not then remember what the second portion was, which had been so indicated to them. It was therefore decided to ser them a fresh paper. But, stranger than ever, when they got their second paper they found it was the portion from book five, which the table had also given.

Flowers Tell Married State.

The married and unmarried women of the United States of Colombia. South America, are designated by the manner in which they wear flowers in their hair, the senoras wearing them on the right side and the senor-litas on the left.—N. Y. Sun.

Woman and the Mag.

He Another ambiguous cablegram

from Shanghai.

She-Shanghai? Oh, yes; that's where all those funny-looking, long-legged chickens come from.— Indianapolis Journal.

GETTING INTO MANILA.

Voluminous information is Required of All Who Are Permitted to Enter the City.

It was easier for that man to pass through the eye of a needle than to enter the gates of Heaven, so said the Teacher of old, and a more modern teacher has arisen to ordain the same difficulty as regards entry into Manila. Why? Is this city a much-to-be-denied paradise? Surely those who have had much experience of it will may "Noi" (with a capital N). And yet, before one can enter here, one has to write a perfect and complete little history of one's self, authenticate it and hand it over to the special department which holds the key of Manila.

Upon embarking on board a steam-

er at Hong-Kong bound for Manila one is handed a large sheet of paper, and on this paper is an array of questions, all relating to the would-be voyager's most private and personal concerns-an array fit to frighten the timid traveler and cause him to change his mind as to the destination of his journeyings. First in order, of course, is the column for the full name - half the name or the initials will do, save the Cleveland Plain Dealer. A stern fate decrees a trothful statement of your age. No giddy young thing of 49 is allowed to pervert the truth and drop any of her years. She must not figure on this document as "23 years and seven months." "Sex" is the next question and John Thomas Smith must be careful to announce that he is not "feminine," even though he may. possibly be effeminate! Whether von. rum in single or double harness must next be confessed to or woe betide the prevaricator. Occupation, whether able to read or write, nationality. last residence, seaport for landing and final destination in the Philippines are some of the further questions to be asked and then, to prove that the intending traveler is no would-bestowsway, he must state the fact of his possession or otherwise of a. ticket to his destination, and furthermore he or she must even say whether the ticket was purchased with his or her own or other people's money. Then the condition of one's finances must be declared and the actual aum of money constituting one's worldly possessions, and "if 30 or less" how much cash one has so that if one has "30" one must be very careful not to under or over estimate the amount.

la the immigrant going to join a relative?—that relative's name and address must be given. If he has even before been in the Philippines, whether he goes to work, under contrast or otherwise, are vital questions to be truthfully answered.

Whether he has ever been in prison, almshouse or lived on charity, probe deeply into his most intimately private affairs. For, though he might never have been in prison, the truthuelling traveler might feel that he should say if he has not he ought to have been, while the answer "Not yet!" to the question whether he is a

polygamist won't pars. Finally, the condition of his bealth must be stated-bis mental as well as physical—and if he tells the truth when he arrives at this stage of the self-examination he will be very apt to say, "bordering on insanity." then, to close up, he must state whether he is crippled or deformed! If we have only the \$30, made so much a point of, he may be mentioned as crippled financially, and by the time he gets through he will in all probability conclude that there are other green fields and pastures new and direct his footsteps toward them.

BOERS THEIR OWN GUNNERS.

Don't Have European Experts-Kruger's Look Into the Future.

"I wish to correct the impression that generally prevails as to the presence here of foreign experts," writes Allen Sangree, in Ainelee's. "No greater mistake is current than this. The Transvaal artillery, which is supposed to be managed by Russian and German gunners, is really in the hands of young Boers, and the engineering feats that have been accomplished must be credited to the Transvaal farmer. He it is who builds pontoons out of railroad ties, hauls a 12-ton. cannon up a mountain and executes damage with urtillery. To belong to the latter one must be a hurgher, and nearly every gun to-day in the Boer forces is sighted by lads between 17 and 21 years old. The foreign attaches will all testify to this, and, furthermore, bear me out in saying that better marksmanship with big gains is not to be seen than behind the

Boer parapets. "In bidding good-by to Mr. Kruger I asked him if he and his people would accept an asylum in America, towhich he replied that it was impossible. 'We are a peculiar people,' he said, and if God wills that we lose our independence then it is better we should all pass away. Wherever a Boer would live he must ever brood over his thoughts. The women will never forget that their husbands died at the English hands: the children will grow up to hate the conqueror, and wherever is such bitterness there could no happiness be. No, it is better that we die, for then each burgher can say to himself: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown.

of righteoneness.""

Helping Him Out.

"When was Louisiana ceded, dad?"
"Eh? Seeded? Why, I s'pose it all
depends on what they expect to grow.
Don't ask me no more such fool questions."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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