

LOCAL LUTHER BURBANK.

New Yorker Who Emulates the Example of the California Wizard.

"I am now experimenting with a Japanese vegetable in my country place," said the prosperous commuter, according to the New York Herald, "and I expect that it will prove to be a new salad to tempt fastidious American palates. Nor am I alone in this belief, for the seeds of the udo plant were presented to me by scientific agriculturists who have noted its popularity in Japan and its many good qualities. I have reason to believe that Luther Burbank, the California wizard, is on the same trail.

"The result so far obtained in my cultivation of the moyashi udo is already tempting me to think of exploiting it on a large scale as soon as I can find a good descriptive name for it. This exploitation cannot be monopolized and I advise truck gardeners to investigate its merits.

"Moyashi udo is now grown in many conservatories as an ornamental plant, and many bons vivants may be surprised to know that in it they have an oriental vegetable that surpasses asparagus, celery or lettuce as a table delicacy, and in fact it seems to be a successful combination of all three.

"The udo salad has the delightful crispness of celery, a flavor between pineapple and lettuce, and the appearance of asparagus. When served it is absolutely without fiber, white as snow and with an appearance like to fluffy silk. So tasty is it that I have to stand guard over my udo patch in order to prevent my wife from devastating it in order to garnish the table.

"However, I'm sure that its popularity could rest on the sole fact that it matures in winter time, although even at this season my moyashi udo is very palatable.

"I wonder if we're going to feel the 'yeller peril' in the vegetable line? I'm unpatriotic enough to hope so."

SHOOTS RATS FOR LIVING.

Baltimore Man Goes After Rodents Just as a Hunter Goes After Game.

There is a rat catcher who visits Baltimore periodically to rid hotels, among other places, of the rodent pests. Among the hotels he has two regular customers, and his advent is always the signal for the pleasures of the chase in a small way, says the News.

This rat catcher is not a piper of Pan. He has no method of charming rats, but goes after them just as any hunter in the big woods would stalk his game. He does not sit down in front of a rat hole and tease the rodents forth with the sweet strains on a tin flute. Instead, he carries a small air rifle, and he does the work. He makes straight for the basement, kitchen, baggage room and open plumbing, where rat holes will be found, if they are anywhere. Having located his rat hole, which he seems to accomplish almost by instinct, he listens at the opening until his keen ears detect a scratching or a squeak. He unerringly locates his quarry by this sound, inserts his rifle at just the right angle, and fires. If he misses—out what's the use—he doesn't. He hits his man every time. Then, with a long hooked wire he probes into the hole and draws his victim out. Now and then he strikes a nest of young. In such cases it is usually an easy matter to hook the nest and all and drag the pests from their palatial residence. His is a peculiar calling, but has its uses. And it's better than killing rats with poison and having them die within the walls.

PURIFIED BY ELECTRICITY.

Noisome Waters of the Schuylkill River Cleansed by the Use of Ozone.

Philadelphia's notoriously bad water is now washed and made clean by ozone. Water from the Schuylkill river contains as much as 2,500,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter; but after a preliminary straining this noisome populace is reduced to 700,000, and after the ozone treatment to from 5 to 55, and these few survivors are said to be innocuous. The water is also deodorized and freed from color. It is all done in this wise: A motor generator, producing a current of 100 alternations, is operated by a current taken from the city supply. The current from the generator is raised by transformers and condensers to a voltage of 10,000. Voltaic arcs are prevented and sparks are limited by means of resistance coils and condensers, and the current in form of a pencil of blue light passes from each of some millions of metallic discharge points across a short air gap to nickel receivers. By means of a pump air is drawn across this gap, and in its passage is partially converted into ozone; it is then forced through a stand pipe in which it meets a current of water flowing in an opposite direction. The bacteria contained in the water are instantly destroyed by the ozone and the water is purified.

Canine Precocity. A dog limped into the London hospital one day recently, and holding up a cut foot to an attendant asked him in canine language to dress it. This was done, and the dog returned to the hospital daily for the remainder of the week to have the dressing renewed.

Two Statements. Know—Some people are saying that you made most of your money in politics.

Leader—But others are saying I made most of my money out of politics. So who are ye going to believe? —Philadelphia Ledger.

BUYING A CHINESE FAMILY.

Sojourner in Hong-Kong Acquires the Whole Household for Nominal Sum.

Looking about in Hongkong for a congenial household wherein to make my home for a few weeks, I fell in with a most friendly Chinaman—an elderly person whose family consisted of himself, his wife, several children, two sampans and certain wooden gods of various sizes and degrees of power, says a writer in Pearson's Magazine. I acquired the whole for \$15 and was supposed to own everything, including the gods, for a period of three months, with board in the bargain. The food was good, too, well seasoned and palatable, though I did not always know just what I was eating. I gained flesh and I really saw something of China during those three months. The old man found his chief occupation in being head of the household and smoking opium, while his wife did washing for the vessels in the harbor, and ran the two sampans. She also acted as my foster mother and sometimes took me in a sampan to collect or deliver laundry, and I found myself indorsing the establishment among the ships of my acquaintance. Often my "foster sisters" took me in tow and we visited the neighbors or some theater, or took delightful rambles into the country, climbing the terraced hillsides to get a view of the splendid harbor. I really enjoyed being "Jack in clover" for the time, and acquired a great fondness for the Chinese life as I saw it. As a sailor I had let my hair grow long, and I now braided it in a pigtail, put on the national costume, and with tan and a little that applied by my merry "relations" I passed well enough for a native to have a good deal of sport and to perpetrate a number of jokes, one of which came near landing me in a Chinese prison if not on the execution block.

UNDER THE KNIFE DAILY.

Woman Died Recently Who Had Been in Hire of Vivisectionists for Twenty Years.

Frau Magdalen Gelly, who for 20 years has been known among the medical faculty as the "vivisection rabbit," died at the age of 62 in Vienna.

Frau Gelly exercised the curious calling of a subject for anatomical experiments, and her services were in great demand by the most eminent surgeons. She owed her remarkable reputation as a subject for experiments to an abnormal formation and development of her respiratory organs.

Over these she had a marvelous command, controlling them at will and allowing them to be freely operated upon without the use of anaesthetics. Under the operation she described to the assembled surgeons and students the sensations she experienced in her throat, nose, palate, tonsils and other organs under the action of the surgeon's knife.

Frau Gelly reported daily at the Clinical laboratory and at the private houses of the most celebrated doctors of Vienna, usually carrying a black reticule containing all sorts of objects, such as needles, marbles, pins, pencils, etc., intended to be swallowed or passed through her nostrils or ears for experiments.

As the "vivisection rabbit" was paid three and sixpence for each sitting and averaged two daily for 20 years, she has left a small fortune, and, having died intestate, the money will probably be appropriated by the medical faculty of the university.

GODDESS' DIRE WRATH.

Recent Report from India Describes Workings of Strange Superstition.

A South Indian correspondent writes: "Recently a very singular report has been abroad among the women of this district respecting the bracelets they wear. The report is to the effect that certain bracelets are very dangerous, i. e., those that are made of Bombay glass and have small moons and crescents, etc., imbedded in them. It is affirmed that a certain small worm bores its way out of this glass and bites the wearers of these ill-fated bracelets, and that whoever is bitten by this worm becomes afflicted with plague or some equally fatal disease and dies. The worm is said to be a small one with a very hard head.

"The report arose in Pithapuram, where three women are said to have died from the bite, and spread with great rapidity over the whole of the Godavery district. The result has been that thousands of these bracelets have been destroyed of late. The report goes on to say further that this glass was 'mined' in a quarry where there was an idol of a certain goddess, and that in getting the glass from the mine the idol was broken, and as a consequence the goddess has been very angry and has sent this disease as a punishment."

Bobby's Idea of It.

"Ma," exclaimed Bobby, "do you like anyone to bite you?"

"No, dear, why?"

"Well, Mr. Butts just bit sister on the mouth and she put her arms around his neck and tried to choke him. I guess she doesn't like it, either?" —Puck.

The Whole Thing.

"Yes," said young Benedict, "we went to Niagara Falls on our honeymoon just as soon as we got off the train my wife and I walked right over to see the falls."

"Magnificent, eh?" remarked Hicks.

"Yes, but you should have seen all the men gazing at her as we walked along." —Catholic Standard and Times.

TRUTHFUL JAMES TESTIFIES

Kansas Character Tells One That May Test Credulity Just a Trifle.

"This year looks like a mighty fruitful year," remarked Truthful James as he looked over a field of corn that was standing about ten feet high, and still growing, relates the Kansas City Journal, "but I've seen one or two years that would beat it all hollow. Back in 1875 I was livin' down in the Arkansas valley and everything did sure grow amazin' that year. I had a neighbor who was a little the slowest critter I ever see. He was a great feller to stand around and dream in the daytime and forget what was goin' on round him, apparently. One day he was a standin' out on some fresh plowed ground gazin' around as usual. While he was standin' there some wild mornin' glory seed that I suppose was in the ground when it was plowed up commenced to sprout and before that feller woke out of his day dream the vines had twined round his legs up above his knees and he was held fast to the ground just like he was rooted there. He commenced to holler for help and I heard him and come a runnin' with a brush scythe I had. By the time I got to him them blamed mornin' glories had growed up and covered him over, makin' him look like a livin' bower of green. I managed to whack down the vines and turn Jim loose, but some of the stalks was over a quarter of an inch thick and it took a considerable spell to get Jim unbound after I had him out loose from the ground."

TALE OF CAT AND MIRROR

An Observer Doubts Pondered Tale of the Animal's Writings Cleverness.

"I've half a mind to write to a paper in the New Hampshire village where I was born and reared," said a lover of animals, according to the Providence Journal, "and ask the editor if a story that I read in his last week's edition is a true story.

"It's about a wonderful cat that sits on the edge of the sidewalk with his back to the gutter and looks into a store window as if he didn't care for anything or anybody. When he sees by means of that window that the English sparrows are pecking close behind him he turns as cats can turn, like the whiff of a flashlight, and nails a bird or two.

"Now I've mused with cats and dogs and all kinds of living critters ever since I could walk; studied their ways and habits, and I never could make any of them pay the slightest attention to themselves in a mirror. I've held them up to the glass, thinking they might spit or growl or fight, and they weren't so much as interested. The joke was always on me.

"And you can't fool them on dummies, toys made in their own image and made perfectly—runabout rats and mice and imitations of that kind. They won't even paw them over and examine them. Accordingly, I'm rather doubtful about that very clever New Hampshire cat."

EAGLES THAT HUNT FOXES

Big Birds of Siberia Swoop Down and Quickly Snatch Up Their Unwary Prey.

A Siberian correspondent of the London Sphere sends some photographs relating to a form of fox hunting which is probably unique. The hunting of foxes with eagles takes place among the Khirgese, in the southwest district of Siberia, known as the general government of the steppes.

It is a favorite sport with the Khirgese, and takes place in the autumn and early winter, when the foxes' coats are ruddy and perfect, though hunting is not always confined to this period. The eagles selected for the purpose are powerful birds, of such weight that a small wooden support is carried by the eagle bearer. A well grown bird of more than usually fierce temperament will occasionally kill a wolf.

Directly any game is seen the birds make their flight and swoop down with great precision. "One of these birds has, to my knowledge," writes our correspondent, "killed 17 foxes in the last six weeks. I can vouch for the killing of foxes by eagles, for I personally took all these photographs and saw the whole sport from beginning to end."

Goldfish as Gold Spinners.

There is a steady demand for goldfish, both for use and for ornament, they make an attractive lure for bigger fish, hence are sought for and bought by anglers whenever such bait is needed. They are likewise purchased for the vast number of aquariums, private and public, which exist in every city and town. There are cheap goldfish and costly goldfish, some very common and others quite as rare. He who goes in for goldfish breeding on scientific lines is reasonably sure to turn a pretty profit.

Rigid Regulations.

Straight and narrow is the gate for professional men in the Argentine Republic. By law enacted in June all civil and mechanical engineers, architects, chemists, agronomists, and surveyors must hold diplomas from the national schools or universities, or if from foreign institutions pass examinations such as are nearly everywhere required of dentists and physicians.

Goats of Paris.

Goat's milk, while used considerably in the United States, is preferred to cow's milk in many countries. In Parisian streets herds of goats may be seen supplying fresh milk during the day.

REFUSES FOOD IN TRANCE.

Strange Psychological Puzzle Found for Authorities in Person of a Prisoner.

London.—A strange psychological puzzle has been provided for the authorities of Carmathen prison by Schreiner, the German butler, who is awaiting his trial on the charge of murdering his late employer, Mr. Pryse, and his wife and mother at Tynmawr, Cardiganshire. When Schreiner was first admitted to prison, he attempted to starve himself to death by persistently refusing all kinds of nourishment. Matters became so serious that his life was only saved by the prison doctor feeding him forcibly by means of a tube. Since then the man's conduct has been even more erratic. After fasting for one or two days, he will suddenly jump up and devour, with almost brute-like voracity, the food that has accumulated in his cell. Schreiner's habit is to lie stretched on his cell floor, or to stand up against the wall in what appears to be a cataleptic trance. For days at a time he will stare into space, speechless and motionless as a statue. It is even necessary to dress and undress him as though he were a doll.

The question that has been exercising the minds of the prison authorities is this: "Is Schreiner a madman or a superb malingerer?" The usual tests have been applied by the officials, but the man refuses to take the slightest notice of the outside world. Attempts to take him off his guard have failed to induce him to move a single eyelid, and the problem remains unsolved.

RAILS AT AMERICAN ARMY.

Conservative German Organ Declares Yankee Solidarity Is "Rotten"—Few Men for Navy.

Berlin.—The leading conservative newspaper, Neue Preussische Krouzeitung, prints what it calls an expose of the claim of the United States to be a great naval or military power. The article asserts that the American army is "rotten," and that ten per cent. of the soldiers deserted during 1904. The army is made up of miserable material, and, according to the newspaper, the Russian army is superior to that of the United States. "Americans are patriotic with their mouths," says the paper, "but they are unwilling to become soldiers in behalf of their own country, and they despise soldiers as a class. "The United States possesses sufficient wealth to build 100 new battle-ships, but it is impossible to man them, as neither officers nor crews exist."

The article further says that American naval officers are all too old for the ranks they hold. Ten of the admirals are over 61, and the average age of the naval captain is 57, as compared with 48 in the English and German navies. The American army, it is reported, will not bear a close inspection.

CEMETERY TOO LONELY.

Sexton Resigned Because He Could Not Bear Nerve-Trying Isolation There.

Bowling Green, Ky.—Because he had no one to keep him company, Harry Summerville, of Louisville, who recently was elected superintendent of Fairview cemetery here, suddenly gave up his position. He was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the mysterious disappearance of Robert A. Roulston, who turned up in Ireland insane and ill of typhoid fever. Summerville also left suddenly and without notice. The following letter, dated from Louisville, has been received from Summerville by the board of public works:

"Having had the honor conferred on me of being elected to the position of superintendent of your beautiful cemetery, which I very much appreciated, but not being married, with no one to keep house for me (not having been able to get anyone), also cemetery too far for me to go to my meals, I hereby tender my resignation to your honorable body."

AGED WOMAN GROWS CROPS

Asks No Help and Does the Entire Work Unaided—Husband Killed in War.

Cotton Plant, Miss.—Ninety pounds is the weight and 84 years the age of Mrs. Lizzie McKnight, who has just celebrated her last birthday. Working entirely with a hoe on land that has already raised a fine crop of Irish potatoes, Mrs. McKnight raised and gathered with her own hands a crop of 800 pounds of cotton last year.

Mrs. McKnight's husband was killed in the civil war. She can tell a great many interesting things that happened to her during that period. One year she cut and saved a large crop of wheat with no aid except her small daughter.

Mrs. McKnight is remarkably well preserved in every way. She can see to read without glasses, just as well as she ever could. She weighs about 90 pounds, but this is as much as she has ever weighed. Her mind is entirely clear.

Smokes 17,888 Feet of Tobacco.

Daniel Kelleher, who is supposed to have been 105 years old, was buried in Wilmington, Del. The deceased was born in Ireland, but had lived here most of his life. Until recently he was active and went about as a man half his age. He attributed his long life to the fact that he was a moderate user of tobacco and liquor. He smoked three plugs of tobacco a week, and it is estimated that he smoked 17,888 feet of tobacco in his lifetime.

NEW BAN ON KISSES.

A DOCTOR MAKES RULES FOR CHECKING DISEASE.

Children Should Not Blow Open Paper Bags, He Declares, or Take Bites of Each Other's Candy—More Hygiene Commandments.

London.—"There are many sources of disease, apparently so self-evident that they receive slight attention from authors in text books," writes Dr. Myer Dutch to the British Medical Journal, and he makes this his apology for directing the wider notice of the profession to a few of the innumerable ways by which infection is intentionally spread.

Dr. Dutch calls attention to the following sources of disease: Paper bags—To open them, the practice of blowing against their edges and into them is very common, and nearly all confectioners, fruiterers, grocers and purveyors of food adopt this plan. The possibilities which might ensue if the breath were infected by the germs of a specific disease can be easily imagined.

Waste paper—The use of old newspapers, etc. (often bought at rag shops), in poorer districts to wrap food also deserves attention.

Drinking glasses—Even at many high-class schools thirsty boys and girls are inadequately provided with clean drinking utensils, and drink after each other. The remedy is simple; every child might be provided with a glass in a wicker cover to take to school.

Eating—The danger to adults, and particularly children, who bite sweetmeats, etc., after each other, is obvious, and should be explained to them.

Kissing—This danger has often been referred to, and the practice of children kissing each other at school should be prohibited.

Dr. Dutch concludes by expressing the hope that at the commencement of school sessions the heads will give interesting little lectures on health to their charges.

PART ON REFUSAL TO KISS

Ten-Minute Four-Act Comedy of a Young Michigan Couple—Bride Spurns Smack from Groom.

Aubon, Mich.—Married and parted within ten minutes was the record made in this city by a young couple from out of town. It was all over a kiss. The groom thought he was entitled to a good smack after the ceremony, but the bride held up her head and refused to let him plant a kiss upon her rosy lips.

A quarrel ensued and the newly married pair separated in a huff. The groom poured his troubles into the ears of the chief of police and the bride made her way to the Michigan Central depot and inquired the time of the first train.

The chief of police went to the station and intercepted the young lady and tendered her fatherly advice, with the result that she consented to have an interview with her husband. The waiting groom was overjoyed and hastened to meet the young lady. He did not again attempt to kiss her in public.

The parties were R. J. L. Leonard, of Jackson, and Miss Cora M. Bell, of Chelsea, who were married by the Rev. Dr. F. E. Day, pastor of the First Methodist church.

ENOCH ARDEN IN REAL LIFE

After Absence of Twenty Years Missing Man Put in Appearance—Wife Had Remarried.

Sheridan, Wyo.—Enoch Arden materialized here when James Schrutthfield returned after an absence of 20 years, to find his wife married to another man, his children grown up and scattered and his house occupied by strangers. He finally located one of his daughters on a ranch in the Big Horn country and started to see her.

Schrutthfield was a freighter here years ago, before the coming of the Burlington railroad. He had a wife and four children, together with a nice home. He left on one of his freighting trips and never returned, nor did he write to his people. After waiting for him ten years the wife gave him up as dead and remarried.

Several children were born of the marriage, and five years ago she and her new husband left here. Schrutthfield's children, in the meantime, grew up, married and scattered. He refuses to tell where he has been for the past 20 years, but after seeing his daughter, he says, will leave again and never return.

Has Piano in Every Room.

Pedro Alvarado, the multi-millionaire of Farral, Mex., who was a laborer working in a mine for 50 cents a day only a few years ago, has made a strike of fabulous richness in his Palilla mine. It is reported that Alvarado has renewed his offer to President Diaz to pay off the public debt of Mexico. He has just completed a palatial residence near his mine at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. There is a piano in every room. Several million dollars of his money is said to be kept in a strong iron cage at his home, where it is guarded by an armed force of ten. He has never permitted a mining expert to enter his mine.

Two Loud Shrieks.

If the betrs of Kosciusko really have put forward a claim to the site of Chicago, which they are willing to compromise for about \$80,000,000 spot cash Chicago may be expected to shriek louder than freedom did when Kosciusko fell.

HUMOR IN A CABLE CODE.

English Bank Ordered Extra Money to Prevent Misinterpretation of Message.

Most people would consider that bank clerks who are able to find any amusement in their—to most of them—uninteresting occupation, must be possessed of a lively imagination, says the London Bankers' Magazine. A bank clerk's duties are monotonous in the extreme. The continuous posting of ledgers, or writing-up of pass books, must have a deadening effect. Still, there are occasions when bank men are able to smile, possibly even to laugh. The following, we think will prove our contention: Not very long ago, a foreign bank was approached on behalf of a lady who was seriously ill, and was asked to inform her husband (then in India) of the fact, and of her urgent need of £50. The bank's code, which contained only phrases connected with mercantile transactions, did not enable the message to be shortened; the only code word, in fact, which could be used was that for £50—"laxative"—and the message thus read: "Inform X. Y. wife seriously ill, urgently requires laxative." In this form the message might easily have been misunderstood, there being nothing therein to suggest that the bank's code was being used. In order to prevent any misinterpretation, the bank altered the amount to £55, using the relative code word, one which would be recognized at once as being used in other than its literal sense. Mrs. Y. received £55, and, no doubt, she still attributes the additional £5 to the good nature of her husband!

SUGAR IS STRENGTH-GIVING.

The Vigor of Modern Women is Attributed in Large Measure to Use of Sweets.

Various reasons have been assigned for the increase in stature and strength of the modern maiden, who has most certainly grown uncommonly tall and proportionately muscular during the last few years. It cannot be that outdoor sports, gymnastic exercises and so on have stretched her out and made her as strong as she is, because her brothers have had precisely the same advantage and they have not developed at the same rate. The secret lies in the fact that of recent years girls have become far greater consumers of sweetmeats than were their mothers and grandmothers.

Time was when we should never have dreamed of having sweets on our luncheon, dinner and tea tables. Now it would be quite extraordinary were one not to offer these dainties. What is more, we are not merely content to eat sweetmeats at our meals, but we consume them at all times and in all places between meals. It was recently said that boxes of bonbons play a conspicuous part in modern love-making, "sweets to the sweet" being apparently the text by which every young man of the day guides himself through the devious paths of courtship.

The great Russian wrestler who is shortly to enter again into contest with the Turk, Madral, tells us that the more sweet sugar one eats the stronger one grows. Sugar is the secret of strength, he declares.

SOME RECENT INVENTIONS

Many Remarkable Contrivances with Queer Names and for Various Uses.

Among remarkable recent inventions are the pneumosito, the topodict, the telemeter, the telephenears and the thermophile. The pneumosito is an automobile especially designed for use on ice, but which can just as easily be used on land. It moves by a propeller wheel run by a two and three-quarters horsepower electric motor, the propeller turning in the air and moving the carriage at a speed of 20 miles an hour. The topodict is a combination of a pantograph and telescope, by means of which any person can make a drawing in correct perspective of any scene before him, even if he knows nothing whatever of drawing. By means of the telemeter the exact distance of far-away objects can be measured and recorded. The "telephenears" is an apparatus by which a ship is automatically warned of submarine dangers. By the aid of the thermophile it is possible to furnish heat by means of a fine electric wire which can be woven into rugs, blankets or cushions, and all that is required is a very small electric battery. The inventor claims for it that it will do away with the necessity of ever having fires in even the coldest weather.

And So Forth.

"Having discovered a projectile that will pierce any armor," said the seeker for information, "what will the next step be?"

"To find an armor that no projectile will pierce," answered the naval expert.

"And then?"

"We must find a projectile that will pierce any armor."—Washington Star.

Couldn't Stand for That.

Mr. Mulcahy, who happened to be passing a grocery store, saw a sign in the window which said, "Home Grown Potatoes."

"That bates me," he said. "I don't mind givin' a clane, decent pig the run of me pa-ar-lors, but I never raise g'raites in me house, b' Jarge!"—Chicago Tribune.

Making Foreign Coins.

Uncle Sam is using his mint as a jobbing shop. With facilities to spare, he is producing the coinage of several other countries besides his own.