

THE LIGHT ARTIST.

An Important Factor Nowadays in the Designing of Houses for the Wealthy.

As people are gradually coming to realize that hot and badly ventilated rooms mean debility and eventual sickness, the "ventilation engineer" has taken his place on the staff on which the architect relies for the carrying out of his designs in dwelling construction.

ELECTROCUTED BIRDS.

Copper Conductors Make Attractive-Looking Perches, But Prove Deadly When Utilized.

It birds only knew better they wouldn't do their love-making on electric transmission wires. The imprudence of that procedure has been frequently proved, notably last year in the case of two owls and the two eagles which were cremated on the lines of a long-distance transmission circuit in California.

A similar fate has befallen a pair of fowls which sought the shelter of a power house in Canada for their evening roost. The power company which supplies the city of Three Rivers generates its current 16 miles away and transmits it to the city at a pressure of 12,000 volts.

TORTOISES BURNED ALIVE.

The Reptiles Are Cruelly Tortured in the Process of Shelling Them.

London humanitarians have received another shock, and as a result, several humane societies of England have raised their voices in a protest against the manufacture and use of combs, hairpins, cigar and cigarette cases, and other dainty articles made from tortoise shell.

The societies are making an effort to discourage the use of all articles made from the shell until more merciful measures for its production prevail.

The largest part of the shells which come to our markets are procured in several groups of islands near Ceylon. The animals are caught by the natives and their shells taken from them.

The shelling of tortoise is not as simple as the shelling of green pease, and for severity it sounds much harsher than the plucking of feathers from live birds for the adornment of feminine vanity.

After being caught, they are induced by rather warm persuasive measure to come out of their covering. They are first semi-boiled over a red ember fire until the flesh that secures the shell to the body is softened. The animal is then shelled clean, and though the suffering must be intense, one rarely dies, but in a few months grows another shell, of which it is deprived in the same manner.

Flats in French Theaters.

All Paris theaters except the new Opera Comique are full of flats, according to Francisque Barce, the dramatic critic, who ought to know. He suggests that managers drive sheep into the auditorium before the performance to attract the pests, a method that is said to have some success in Spanish hotels.

GREAT RUSSIAN FAIR.

United States Should Be Represented at Annual Exhibit at Nizhni.

Chance for American Manufacturers to Push the Sale of Their Products—France Alive to Her Opportunities.

A report to the state department from Consul Covert at Lyons lays great stress on the desirability of the United States being fully represented at the coming annual fair at Nizhni, Novgorod, Russia, which is held during August and September. This is the great annual gathering of buyers and sellers who represent the commercial interests of Russia and the buying public of all eastern and Asiatic Russia.

The Russian government realizes the need of assistance from the great manufacturing countries of the world in prosecuting its commercial conquest of the populous east and is making every effort just now to introduce modern machinery of the kinds referred to, which it is not now in a position to manufacture at home.

BOY'S IDEA OF AN OATH.

Texas Youth Says If He Tells Two Lies He Will Be Sent to Congress.

The court of criminal appeals at Dallas, Tex., has wrestled with several important cases. Among them was one that presented a novel and interesting situation. Milton Lawson, of San Antonio, was convicted of murder in the first degree and his punishment assessed at confinement in the penitentiary for a term of 30 years.

In doing so the court discussed an issue of interest not only to courts and attorneys, but to laymen generally. In the trial of the case Orange Lake, a 14-year-old boy, brother of the man appellant killed, was put on the witness stand. On being asked if he understood the nature of an oath, he made the startling reply that if he told one lie he would go to the legislature, and if he told two lies he would be sent to congress.

TOASTED HER GRANDCHILDREN

The Most Fendish Deed of an Aged Negress of Sheridan, Arkansas.

News has just reached Pine Bluff, Ark., of the fendish and barbarous deeds of an aged negress of Sheridan, a town 25 miles west of Pine Bluff, in Grant county. Several days since a white man passing the house of "Aunt Martha," this negress, heard heartrending cries within, and, stepping to the door, witnessed a sight which made his blood run cold. There, suspended over the flames, was Aunt Martha's four-year-old grandchild, being, as the negress termed it, "singid like a goose."

Tapistry Loom.

The emperor of Austria has just received a piece of tapistry representing an allegorical design that was woven by a new process in a few hours. It is 30 inches square and represents 200,000,000 crossings. Three hundred silk threads fill one inch. By the ordinary process the work, including designing—which is not necessary in the new method—would have taken three years.

RUSSIA'S SEASICK NAVY.

The Men Are Big Enough, But They Are Unable to Navigate in Rough Weather.

Any man who believes in the Russian navy should keep his eyes off the Russian bluejacket. A real sailorman has fingers bent up like fishhooks, from the lifelong habit of gripping things. The Russian sailor carries his hands like a soldier and cannot possibly be "handy." A sailor's gait ashore is a slight roll. This arises from the need of keeping up the inward side of a rolling ship.

London, the Russian bluejacket does not roll in his gait ashore, but marches. Neither has he any sense of balancing at sea, and seasickness in the Russian fleet is a source of actual weakness and danger. The Black sea squadron can only be put to sea in the three or four months of summer, and the so-called maneuvers takes place ashore on the Krenal peninsula, consisting merely of battalion drill.

One more trait of the real sailor is his self-reliance, which makes him fit for facing emergencies single handed. But the Russian bluejacket has none of this. He is not a machine in himself, but only a little bit of a machine which cannot work without the other bits. He is huge in stature—a giant compared with our men—but in his winter overcoat it is impossible to distinguish him from a soldier. Unhandy, seasick and reliant only on drill discipline, he is utterly unfit for active service.

A TERROR TO SNAKES.

The Secretary Bird of Africa Kills and Eats the Most Poisonous Reptiles.

The secretary bird, a native of Africa, and also found in some of the West Indian islands, is the king of snake destroyers, the lordliest bird that walks. It is about four feet from tip to tip, as swift on foot as on the wing. It is a wonderful boxer and as quick as the mongoose itself. It likes to play with reptiles, to get them thoroughly roused and then to swallow them at leisure. It has a long neck, slender body, strong legs and a powerful beak. Its color is clear light gray along the sides of the head and throat, wings a brown black, "highs and aldens" black, breast and tail coverts white. The cere and bare skin about the eyes are yellow and the legs and feet dull flesh color. The bunch of feathers behind its ears gives it its name. The South Africans have domesticated it and made much of its virtues. It eats all sorts of things, as stomach analysis shows. This was found in one stomach: Eleven lizards, 11 tortoises, three snakes, the size of a man's arm and several handfuls of assorted insects. When it is ready for a bout it walks around the snake and plays on the reptile's nerves of irritation. When the snake strikes the secretary bird does a side step and receives the blow on its powerful wing. After a few strikes the reptile is tired. Then the bird nabs it by the back of the neck and shakes the life out of it. If it is particularly tough he flies up with it a few hundred feet and drops it kerplunk in a way that is always fatal. Then he eats it.

EDUCATION IN SPAIN.

From the Following Account It Would Seem Its Chief Feature Is Its Absence.

A contributor to the Revue Internationale de l'Enseignement describes in a few pages the farcical system of secondary education in Spain. The schools in question are the so-called provincial institutes, where boys between the ages of ten and sixteen are instructed and examined in 35 subjects, seven of which have been added to the list by a recent decree of the minister of education—viz: Political economy, common law, history of Spain, literature, history of art, bookkeeping, and industrial and agricultural techniques. The minister also recommends visits to the museums, but, as the writer remarks, in nine times out of ten, where the institutes are situated, the only museums are the churches with their wax images. The boys work from three to four and a half hours a day, and the newspapers are in a rage over such outrageous disregard for the life and health of the Spanish youth. The deplorable condition of elementary education in the kingdom may be inferred from the status of the common school teachers as depicted in a recent number of the Pädagogische Zeitung. Out of 23,000 teachers, in round numbers, included in the last census, nearly 3,000 were receiving \$30 or less annually, 5,000 were paid from \$50 to \$100, and the salary of only 1,000 amounted to more than \$250. But the worst of it is that thousands of these poor men and women were not even paid the pittance to which their contracts entitled them.

Sensitive Clock.

A Lewiston (Me.) merchant has in his store an old-fashioned clock which is peculiarly sensitive. It sometimes stops, and if anyone steps into the store or goes by, it will start again, and if a horse steps on a certain spot in the street it will start. A man who happened to notice it, and who had one like it himself, said that his would not run after he had started his furnace in the fall. In the spring, after he ceased to keep a fire, it would run all right.

Spain's Only Naval Victory.

Only once in their history as a nation have the Spaniards achieved a naval victory. That was at the battle of Lepanto, in 1571, when, with the aid of Venetians and Genoese, they annihilated the Turkish fleet.

TWO MR. SPRINGS.

Strange Coincidence in Names of Two Soldiers at Camp Wikoff.

There were two men of the same name in the Twentieth Infantry at Camp Wikoff, says the New York Press. One, hailing from Massachusetts, is a sergeant of company I, while the other, a Pennsylvanian, is a private in company M.

Soon after the regiment arrived at Montauk Point, Sergt. Spring began to get very flattering letters from a young lady living in a small Pennsylvania town; also express packages, which were none the less welcome for being unexpected. At the same time Private Spring was deciding that he must be able to charm at a distance, because a Massachusetts girl was writing to him in a particularly affectionate strain, and wanting to know if there wasn't something she could send him.

Private Spring thought of a lot of things that he could use if he had them, but as the fair correspondent had omitted to sign her last name, it didn't seem feasible to write for them. Presently both Springs began to get letters complaining that no answer had been received to questions asked in the writer's previous letters.

At the height of the tangle Sergt. Spring was walking along the road one day, when a comrade called his name. He and another man ahead of him both walked back, asking what was wanted. "Is your name Spring, too?" asked the sergeant.

"That's what," replied the other man. "Francis Joseph Spring."

"Well, that's me, too," said the sergeant. "Say," he added, as a thought struck him, "do you get letters from a girl named Molly?"

"No, I don't," replied the other. "Not as many as I ought to."

"I do; more than I ought to," said the sergeant. "I guess they're yours."

"I've got some from Sarah that I'll trade for 'em," said the private, grinning.

"That's a go," answered the Massachusetts man, and all was satisfactorily arranged, except for the contents of sundry packages, which had been devoured.

After that the two Springs met every other day and held a mail exchange.

PLAIN OF A MILLIONAIRE.

Not Much Fun in Life for a Man Who Has Acquired Enormous Wealth.

"What is the smallest income on which a man may live in New York?" was the question I asked of a noted banker whose income cannot be less than \$100,000 a year. "Well," he replied, "my household expenses alone amount to \$25,000 a year, and I do not see how I possibly could live on less than that." Then, says the Philadelphia Ledger, a reminiscence began to cross his countenance, and, heaving a little sigh, he said: "But the happiest time of my life was when my wife and I and two children lived here on \$2,500 a year. After all, happiness doesn't depend on the amount of a man's income."

"I was quite intimate with William H. Vanderbilt when he was considered the richest man in the country. I met him one day in Fifth avenue and said to him that he ought to be the happiest man in the world. 'I am not,' the great millionaire replied. 'My health is shattered and all the money I possess cannot restore it. I cannot even drive one of my fine horses. It is painful for me to sit down. My only possible exercise is for me to walk down the avenue. I receive threatening letters daily, and my nerves are so unstrung that I am constantly afraid that some assassin will waylay me. I am over-run with people who want to get my money. I am the most wretched man in New York, and I tell you that after a person has accumulated enough to secure him against poverty and gratify his reasonable wants every dollar in addition is a burden and weighs him down.'"

CHINESE PHYSICIANS.

They Prepare Many Medicines, and Some of Them Are Very Bitter Deceptions.

The taking of a first dose of Chinese medicine is an ordeal which can be better imagined than described. It is invariably a bitter decoction, says Lippincott's. If the patient prefers, the herbs are given him in square paste-board boxes holding about a pint each, and he "cooks" them at home. A Chinese prescription contains from ten to sixteen varieties of herbs, flowers, nuts, gums, barks and roots. More than 3,000 species are classified and used as medicine, but of these only some 600 are in general use. Whether the patient takes the remedies at the sanitarium or at home, he is requested to present himself every day before the doctor for another pulse examination, so that every change in his condition may be noted and the prescription may be varied accordingly. The Chinese are clever chemists in the line of pharmaceutical preparations, and prepare many medicines for their own use in the form of pills and powders; but these are employed by the Chinese physicians in treating the ailments of white people only to a limited extent. The reason given is that the simple, hot decoctions of the fresh root or plant are the best form, because the most readily assimilated into the system.

The Best Donkeys.

The best donkeys come from Arabia. They have clean, smooth coats, hold their heads high and are used only for riding purposes. Many are sent to Persia, where they sell for high sums. They are well looked after and their harnessings are of the richest.

NO ENNUI AT GUAM.

There Will Be Plenty of Games and Books to Interest Our Marines While There.

Officers and members of the marine corps probably will not be troubled greatly with ennui at their far-away post in the middle of the Pacific. The novelty of life at the isolated little government station will keep them contented for several months. There will be many things to see and hear. To guard against discontent and weariness of spirit the government will have care for the amusement of its servants practically cut off, as they will be, from communication with home and country. Of course there will be swimming and boating, but the sports which the men enjoyed at home they will also enjoy at the island of Guam. For outdoor sports the government will see that there is a supply of balls and bats, footballs and tennis rackets and balls. During the long days when the weather outside is inclement and there are no drills the men will be able to play checkers, chess, cards and other indoor games. Col. Percival C. Pope has secured a great supply of such outfits, says the Boston Transcript.

There will be men who do not care for sports and games. For such as these there will be a well-stocked library. The government has provided a large stock of books. In addition, there are many thousand volumes of books and periodicals given privately. Some time ago Col. Pope made a request through the papers for donations of books and light reading matter. The response was immediate, and so generous that Col. Pope now requests that no more be sent to the navy yard, as it will be impossible to take them to Guam. From Boston and vicinity came over 4,000 volumes and periodicals, and New York sent almost as many more.

SNOW SLIDE IN ROCKIES.

When Railway Men of All Stations Risk Their Lives to Open the Roads.

There has never been a better time to round out one's experience of life in the Rocky mountains than during the past winter. After having seen the grandeur and beauty of the mountains in summer storms and sunshine many times, it was my good fortune to get into the midst of drifts and "slides" in the heart of the mountains of Colorado, to see the worst of it, and slip through the great snow trap west of Leadville on one of the few trains that succeeded in getting over the range, says a writer in Harper's Weekly.

There is all the difference in the world between a drift and a "slide." A rotary snow plow will merrily bore its way through almost any drift, but a "slide" brings down a mass of rocks and trees with it, and these must be removed with ax, pick and shovel. With the thermometer at 29 degrees below zero, 300 men—engineers, firemen, section men and common laborers—worked for five days, sometimes as much as 36 hours without sleep, all cheerfully risking their lives in the simple performance of duty—a commonplace courage, but all the more genuine for that—and finally, after losing four or five of their number, cleared the track for five blockaded trains. These passed through in the midst of a howling blizzard, and after various mishaps, the east-bound train reached the eastern slope of the mountains. Then came two feet of snow, blizzard after blizzard, and the blockade was once more established.

BIGGEST CHECK EVER DRAWN.

The Piece of Paper Called for the Payment of a Mint of Money.

There were made out last year two checks which were and still are the largest ever drawn in single financial transactions, says the St. James Budget. The smaller of the two checks established a record as the largest ever drawn; but although it was for more than \$55,000,000, it did not long remain the largest, being soon eclipsed by a check for \$622,500,000.

These valuable pieces of paper were drawn in connection with the last Chinese loan, and the final installment of the war indemnity money which was due to Japan from China, and changed hands in the parlor of the Bank of England, in the presence of the governor of the bank, the plenipotentiaries of the Chinese and Japanese governments, and the managers and sub-managers of the Hong-kong and Shanghai banking corporation. Their record checks were the largest ever drawn by any banking firm. It was an ordinary looking document enough, and folded would easily go into one's vest pocket. If it were possible to make a golden column of these millions by piling the coins one on top of the other, the height of 104 miles would be reached. If a chain were made of the coins, they being placed side by side, it would extend 146 miles.

English Poets of Foreign Birth.

Many of England's leading poets had very mingled strains in their blood. Tennyson's extraction was Danish, French, and English. Robert Browning had "brown" blood in his veins, for his grandmother was a creole lady. Rossetti was Italian, with an admixture of English blood. Algernon Charles Swinburne has both Scandinavian and French blood in his veins. Austin Dobson is French as well as English, and the late Coventry Patmore was "fractionally German."

Healthiest Spot in the World.

The healthiest spot in the world seems to be a little hamlet in France, named Aumone. There are only 40 inhabitants, 26 of whom are 80 years of age, and one is over 100.

THE WILLARD STATUE.

No Law to Prevent Illinois Placing It in Statuary Hall in the Capitol at Washington.

There is no law to prevent the statue of Miss Frances E. Willard in the capitol. When Mrs. Lillian Stevens was in Washington she presented the matter to Senator Mason, who looked up the law and found that each state was entitled to have two statues in Statuary hall of "distinguished residents" of the state. There is no specification as to sex. Under her law, therefore, Miss Willard's statue as provided in the appropriation by the Illinois legislature can certainly be placed in the capitol.

Congress laid down the principle in the case of the Marquette statue that it could not interfere with the selection made by the state. Statues are frequently rejected because they do not come up to the required standard of artistic merit, but the topic of the statue is not generally inquired into at all. The architect of the capitol has no voice in the matter whatever, as the offerings of the state are subject only to acceptance by congress.

Illinois nominally had already two statues in the collection, Lincoln and Gen. Shields. The statue of Lincoln, however, was the property of the federal government, and, with several others, was recently removed to the rotunda, leaving the place vacant for another contribution from the state of Illinois.

It is clear, therefore, that the statue of Miss Willard may be constructed and set up there without regard to her sex. The only question involved will be that of artistic treatment, and this, of course, cannot be determined until the work is completed. Most members of congress say there is no reason at all why the statue of a woman should not be entirely acceptable, and in any event the determination of this question rests entirely with the state.

INVOKE THE LAW.

Omaha Half-Breed Indians Want Rights Under the Treaty of 1854 Recognized.

A number of half-breed descendants of the Omaha tribe have brought suit in the federal court at Omaha, Neb., to compel the government to recognize their rights under the Indian treaty of 1854 and subsequent acts of congress.

By the terms of the treaty a large tract of the land south of the Thurston county reservation was ceded to the government by the Indians in consideration of the payment of \$40,000 a year for the first three years, \$30,000 a year for the succeeding ten years, \$20,000 a year for the next 15 years and finally \$10,000 a year for 12 years.

No complaint is made that this agreement was not lived up to, but the trouble is over the allotment made to each member of the tribe by congressional act. The complainants allege that their families selected certain quarter sections under this legislation, but were never permitted to take possession. They admit their mixed blood, but assert that they are the legal heirs and want the court to adjudicate in their favor.

OTIS' INTERPRETER.

Senator Montalvo's Estimate of the Leaders of the Natives of the Philippines.

E. V. Montalvo, who has been acting as Maj. Gen. Otis' official interpreter at Manila, has arrived in Denver, en route to his home in Cuba.

"I enlisted in the 'Cah light' battery at the outbreak of the war," said Senator Montalvo. "I became Gen. Otis' interpreter last September, and remained in that position until I set out for this country."

"Very few persons ever saw Aguinaldo. While performing official duties I met many of the most able and prominent Filipino. Secretary of State Mabini is very bitter against both the Spanish and American. He is for absolute independence, and has great influence with the people.

"Pardo de Tavera, the secretary of the interior, probably is as talented a man as there is in the ranks of those who desire independence, and Senor Luna is also one of their highest men."

WANTS KISSING MADE ILLEGAL.

Young Woman Lecturer at New York Warns Her Sex Against the Practice.

In a lecture in New York the other day before the Household Economic association Miss Marguerite Landley startled and amused the young women present by saying:

"I hope to see the day when kissing is entirely unknown. I wish it could be made illegal. It is not a clean thing to do. It should be discontinued by every thinking woman."

"Nothing I said was 'too strong,'" she repeated emphatically. "Kissing spreads disease. It is especially mean to kiss babies and children who are too small to object and who cannot escape. I never let anyone kiss me. It is a very undesirable expression of regard. I hope no one will ever try to kiss me, as I shall not let them. I take care that no one ever gets a chance."

No anti-kissing resolutions were suggested by the members.

To Study Diseases of the Tropics.

A "school of tropical medicine" has been started in London and may be subsidized by the British government. The school's object is to discover ways of combating the diseases which render the tropics so dangerous to white men, and doubtless continued study will be richly rewarded.

Wisconsin's Growth in Population.

In 1838 Wisconsin had a population of 2,333. To-day it is about 2,000,000.