Ages given in marriage licenses in the recorder's office show that men and women are marrying later in life than ten or twenty years ago. The average age, says the Kansas City Journal, is considerably above that inf ten years ago, and very much above that of 20 80 or 40 years ago. Pormerly it was the rule rather than the exception for brides to be 17 or 18 and grooms 20 or 21. Now it is almost reversed. Figures for several months show that the average bride's age is between 25 and 26 and the groom's between 28 and 29.

The average of the first six complex applying for license at the recorder's bilice on a recent day was \$3% for the men and 32 for the women. When the number of couples had reached nine the figures were reduced to 80 for the garn and 28 for the women. There figures, however, are not a good criterion, the couples applying that day, happening to be a little older than prdinarily. Figures also indicate that couples marrying in May are younger on the average than those marrying in the fall of the year.

"I don't know to what to attribute the tendency to marry later in life," said the marriage license clerk, "unless it is that it takes the young man longer to get a start in the world than it did 20 or 30 years ago. The country is more developed, there are mot so many opportunities open to him, and he must wait longer before the finds himself in a position that would warrant his taking the responsibility of supporting a family. In tother words, men no longer marry young because they can't afford it."

COOK ISLANDS ANNEXED. Great Britain Takes Formal Possess sion of Them at the Request

of the Chiefs.

On October 3, last, the governor of New Zealand landed on the Cook islands and formally onnexed them to the British empire at the unanimous request of the chiefs and people. For 13 years the islands have been under the protection of Great Britain and every enactment of the native legislature has had to receive the approval of the British resident at Raratonga before being regarded as law. But there has never been any formal and mexation of the group and the natives are probably delighted to have that ceremony carried out.

The islands, lying far southers of Samos, are off the usual lines of steamer traffic, and most of their trade is perried on with New Zealand and New South Wales. They properly bear the name of the great navigator Cook, for he discovered the greater part of the group on his second journey in 1773, and made them better known in his soyage of 1777. Cook named one of the Hervey island, and the missionaries who settled there somehow got into the habit of applying the name Herrey to "the whole group, and to-day they are called indifferently, the Cook or Hervey

All of them are coral islands, lifted while a little way above the sea level, sxcept Raratonga, the largest and most populous, whose volcanic mountain rises to a height of 4,000 feet. Raras tongs is one of the pearls of the South seas, and is rich in all the products of She southern archipelagues. The nos hives have long used cotton cloth as money, but coin is now likely to be in-Broduced

COMMON CACTUS.

Die That Lived Seven Years Under m Sealed Gines Coss in Berlin

One of the commonest of caeti in gardens is the Echinopsis multiplez, a small subglobular species, with five for six sharp ribs, and sparsely sprin-Baled with a few clusters of long, black spines on the sharp edges of the ribs. It sends up odcasionally a large, white stubular flower, which, like so many of the family, opens at night and soon withers away. In Germany a druggist named Ludwig Rust placed a specimen under a sealed glass seven years ago, and it is easid to be yet in a "thriving condition," to the surprise of the scientific men of Berlin, who sare puzzled to know where it obtains Site carbonic acid from. Many suggesitions are advanced as to the source of this element. So far as the pub-Mished account goes, however, there is no indication that the specimen was meighed before it was encased or weighed after its seven years of en-Tombment-no evidence, it may be said, that any carbonic acid was absorbed. It is just as likely to be a wase of dormancy. It is now well understood that in the absence of exciting causes dormancy in vegetation may be retained indefinitely.

Uniq' among women's clubs, per-

haps, is that which was launched five years ago in Honolulu and is now resported to be at last on a firm footing, At was started by an American schoolmencher, who was wont to invite young women to her home once a week for informal conversation on some topic, The outgrowth was a full-fledged club of 34 members, most of them being Bawaiians, with a mixture, however, of Chinese and Portuguese. The presadent this year is a Chinese girl, who grears her quaint metional costume when she fills the official chair.

Occupations for Women, The seven occupations open to worse en in 1939 were teaching, needlework. keeping boarders, factory working, expeseiting, bookkeeping and domestic service. Four hundred are open to them to-day.

MO HOLLERING IN BROOKLYN.

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

A Manhattan Lawyer's Experience with a Deaf Client Across the Big Bridge.

"One of my clients is deat," said a downtown lawyer, according to the New York Sun, "and thereby hangs a story of my trouble with a policeman in Brooklyn. My client sent one day for me to see him on business in his house over the bridge, and I was detained until a late hour. When I left he thought it would be in conformity with a Brooklyn custom to see me to my car. It was a crisp night, and we stood on the corner. I was doing the talking. He did his share, but it was not noticeable. The stillness of the hour made my loud tones sound like a megaphone in action.

The cop on the b-at came around the corner and said we must move along. Naturally I resented this. I said I had the privilege of talking to my client in the street if I wanted to. The cop said it was no time or place to be talking business, especially when such talk disturbed the peace. He said if I wanted to talk I needn't, as he expressed it, holler as if I was trying to hail a steamboat. It then occurred to me that I had been yelling along the quiet thoroughfare of the church city. I explained to the con that my client was as deaf as a cigar store Indian, but the cop said that was no excuse, and I could do nothing but obey his order.

"Don't let me hear you hollerin' any more on this side of the river,' said the cop, as I moved on."

SAVED HER HUSBAND'S LIFE. Countess Ito of Japan Proved Reg

Courage in a Time of Great Peril.

Count Ito, late prime minister of Sapan, is exceedingly proud of his pretty little wife, and well he may be, for not only is she in every way charms ing, but to her he owes his life. It is said that a number of years ago, when quite a young wopin, during a rebellion, Count Ito was hiding from his encmies, who, having tracked him to his home, sent a band of "sochis" to asshesinate him. On hearing his enemies approaching, and trapped like a rat in its hole, the count drew his sword. and prepared to die, but the countess whispered: "Do not die; there is hope still," and, removing the "hibatchi," or fire loss, and lifting up the mats and the planks beneath, she induced her husband to conceal himself in the hole low space which exists under the floor of all Japanese houses. The murderers broke into the room just as the fire boll had been replaced and demanded of the countess their victim. In vain they threatened and cruelly ill treated her, dragging her about the room by her long black heir. But it was of no availg they could not shake her resolute fidely ity. Thanks to her courage, Count Ito caped, and has lived to give to his country a new constitution and become one of the greatest statesmen of mod-

WHY MANY HEELS ARE LOST.

Modern Machine Pegging on Shoes Is Not at All Conductes to Long Wear.

"Have you noticed," seked the offservant man, according to the New York Times, "how often one sees the portions of shoe heels scattered about at the elevated road stations and other places where a lift might easily be torn off? I wonder what the reason is. In the old days the heels of one's shees were the part that clung to the uppers most closely. You newspaper fellows are supposed to know everything. Just answer that conundrum." The writer could not, but a shoe dealer could, and did. "The reason," said he, "is because in these days of machinemade show the heels are fastened on by machinery, as is every other part of the shoe. Soft from is used for the nails instead of steel, as this is handled more easily. When the lifts of the heels have been fastened in place the nails protrude. The shoes are then sent to another machine, where they are shaved off instead of being driven home, so in the days when the work was done by hand. The result is that they are insecurely fastened, and if one catches the heel of his shoe against & stair so that there is the least strain on it it gives way and pulls off. The moral is to have a set of steel nails driven into the heels when you buy # new pair of shoes."

A REAL BUSINESS WOMAN,

Miss Balfour Carefully Manages Heg Busy Brother's Estate and Household.

Miss Balfour, the sister of Arthur J.

Balfour, government leader in the

house of commons, is noted for her devotion to her brother's interests, and the manages most of his affairs, so as to leave him entirely free for his political work. She not alone superintends the household in the conventional way, but looks after outside details which are usually left to the super vision and direction of the master of the house, says a London paper. Mr. Balfour is never bothered when the chimney needs attention, the roof retiling or any other matter of this kind. Miss Balfour attends to defects and gives the order herself. She also buys the horses and carriages, and is said to be well qualified for the work and a good judge of both horses and carringes. Recently she had a special brougham made for her brother's use, attending to the details herself. As an

instance of her core and interest, it is

said that if there is a possibility of her

brother needing a conveyance and she

desires to take a drive, the heat car-

riage and the first coachman will be

less for Mr. Balfour and she will take

the second carriage and second coach-

man.

The Revenge of Mnine Marketmen Who Were Prevented from Shipping Game.

UNFAIR TO BANGOR.

Almost every town in Maine of 1.000 or more inhabitants has from one to ten markets where venison is retailed all through the open season. Here in the very heart of the game region, where from 15 to 30 tons of venison pass west every day in the week, no man can buy venison at any price, and men who want the meat of deer must ride far out on the road to Amherst or Elsworth and run the chance of meeting a hunter who is bringing a careass to market, says the New York Sun.

The famine came about through a fit of temper of the marketmen, who are angry because the new law will not permit them to ship game and game birds out of the state. Previous to 1898 from 100 to 250 partridges were sent west from Bangor every day. Marketmen had from ten to twenty gunners constantly in their employ shooting partridges, snipe and woodcock for Boston and New York markets, where birds commanded fancy prices. As soon as the law prohibiting the sale of game birds was enacted, the marketmen agreed to handle no game of any kind, and the embargo has been rigidls enforced.

Last year Fred Johnson, who is the Delmonico of Bangor, took out . license to sell renison to such of his customers as wanted deermeat on their tables at home, but the marketmen refused to patronize his place, and did all they could to injure his trade. This year he found that they were doing him more harm than the profits on sales were doing good, and when it came to take out licenses for 1900 he did not ask for a renewal. M-antime Portland, Augusta, Rockland and other Maine cities that have To deer within 50 miles of their limits. are having all the deer meat they can eat, and are getting it cheaper than the price asked for beef.

TWENTY-FOUR O'CLOCK.

A Time-Keeping System That Is Strongly leged by the Railroads.

According to a decree recently issued In Spain the hours will be there counted, after January 1, from one to twenty-four each day, beginning at midnight. The government offices, the telegraph, telephone railroad and steamship lines have been directed to observe the new method. On this condinent it may already be seen in the time-tables of the Canadian Pacific gailroad, says the Youth's Companion.

This change has long been urged in this country. Some years go, when the railroads brought about the present system of "standard time," or, as it used to be called, "railroad time," they desired to innugurate the 24hour scheme, too. The change was too radical to be popular, and rather than imperil the success of the other part of the programme, the railroads abandoned it. Time-tables are now usually printed with the afternoon hours in heavy type, and morning hours in light, and this device eliminates much confusion.

If one had nothing to do but to trate el by rail and study time-tables, the proposed change would be eminently desirable; but for 99 of every 100 acts and appointments outside of those connected with the railroads, there is no confusion arising from the present system. When we read that a lecture is to begin at eight o'clock, no one thinks it is to begin in the morning; and if Mary Minns should write to say that she will drive over at 11 o'clock, almost anyone would expect to see her in the forenoon, even if she did not add "a. m."

In astronomical observatories the 24-hour system is already in use, except that in them the day begins at moon instead of midnight.

BALLOON ASCENSIONS.

gensations Experienced by Aeronaute at Various Heights-Dangers ous Undertakings,

Two Frenchmen recently made an ascent in a balloon at Vincennes with a view to reaching the greatest altitude that could possibly be obtained. They did not succeed in passing the record, however. During their journey they kept a record of their impressions and sensations at various theights. They first began to experience the nauseating effects of the rarefied air at 18,200 feet, when their temples ached and their visions were blurred. At 20,150 feet, says the Scien. tific American, one of the adventurers was rendered so ill that he could neither speak nor reach his bag of oxygen and had to be attended by his companion.

Shortly afterward the latter was womewhat paralyzed and could only move with difficulty. But with the application of oxygen they were restored and they were but Little inconrenienced. At 21.450 feet there do-

seribed the cold as being intense and that their beards were covered with ice. When 22,400 feet was attained they were rendered so helpless and the pain was so great that they could hardly gather sufficient strength to open the valve of the balloon. When they reached the ground they were in a very exhausted condition.

Dr. Berson ascended some months ago from London to a height of 27,500 feet, while Messrs. Coxwell and Glaisher ascended to the height of 35,000 feet, at which altitude one of the travelers was rendered unconscious, while the other only just succeeded in opening the valve by pulling the rope with

A Furnace's Breathing. The furnace of an Atlantic liner will consume no less than 7,500,000 cubic feet of air an hour.

LONGEVITY OF VARIOUS RACES

At Twenty the American's Expectation of Life is Longer Than Other Nationalities.

It has often been remarked that while nothing is so uncertain as the duration of any given human life, nothing is more certain than the aggregate of years which may be assigned to a group of 100 persons or more at any particular age. The expectation of life at a given age, to use the actuarial phrase, differs considerably, as might be expected, in different countries, and Englishmen may be surprised to learn that they are not the longest lived among the white races. At the age of 20, says the London Globe, ar Englishman in average health may expect to live 42 years, and any life office will grant him a policy based on that probability. The American's expectation is for a slightly longer period. On the other hand, a German lad of 20 can count upon little more than 39% years. It would seem, therefore, that the restlessness attributed to the American temperament does not necessarily conduce to the shortening of life, nor the composure of the German to its prolongation. Possibly the better feeding and elothing of Americans in the lower classes of the population is the principal cause of their greater longevity. Their position is, pt any rate, maintained in later as well as in earlier years. The American who has reached 60 may look to complete 14 years more while the Britisher's expectation is only about 13 years and ten months, and the German's as nearly as possible 12 months less. Both at 20 and 60 the Frenchman's prospect is a little better than the German's and a little worse than the Englishman's.

A JOCKEY'S SENSATIONS.

One of Them Tells How He Feels When Riding Down the Home Stretch.

"If you ride with your head down -that is to say, bent slightly, so that the wind does not beat right on to your face-you can breathe easily, but if you hold your mouth wide open and let the air beat right in your face, then you will have great difficulty in breathing, and if the race is a long one you will become exhausted by the end of the ride." So said a well-known jockey when questioned on the subject of what his sensations were when riding in a race, relates the Cincinnati Enquirer. "A mile race on a good horse is run

in about 1:40. "A mile in 1:40 is at the rate of 36

miles an hour, so, you see, a race horse travels at train speed.

"If you want to know how it feels to go through the air at race herse speed, just hang your head out of a railway carriage window, turning your face toward the way the train is traveling.

"At the same time imagine that you are sitting in a saddle and have to hold on to your horse and guide him on to victory, if possible, keeping him. from being run down or interfered

"It is no easy task to ride a horse in a race. The jockey must have all his wits about him. He does not have much time to think how he feels. When riding in a neck-and-neck race down the home stretch I forget everything except that I must strain every nerve to pass the other horses; no thought is then given to the plaudits from the grand stand."

HARD WINTER IS COMING.

Experienced Woodsmen See Certain Indications of an Unasually Severe Season,

"All the signs in the woods," explained an experienced woodsman to a Washington Star reporter, "point to a very severe winter, though it may be a short one. The squirrels have already begun laying away their winter store of nuts, though in the immediate country around Washington the nuts have not begun to fall to any great extent. The crop of acorns, hickory and chestnuts is unusually large this fall, some trees that have come under my observation bearing at least double the quantity they did last year. This is a

very reliable sign of a severe winter. "Another sign is the crop of persimmone, which is also extra heavy. The "few frosts that we have had have not done much to ripen the persimmon and many of them are yet green. My observation convinces me that these signs are entitled to some dependence, Ahough, of course, they are not recognized as infallible by the authorities on the subject. I think I have satisfied my own mind on the bearing the persimmon has on the weather that is to follow and that this is incontrovertible: If the persimmon ripens and falls early the winter will be brief, but if it holds on to the tree late into the fall the winter is very liable to be late in its wind-up and severe while it prevails. Che-animals-are preparing for a cold winter, and there are some reasons for believing that they know what they are about."

Uses of Burlap. An enormous and increasing amount of burlap is used in this country, 500,-

000,000 yards a year, it is said. Burlan is used for making bags, it figures in coat linings, and is even entering, in a dressed-up state, into wall coverings. But it is chiefly used for packing and wrapping, and with our increasing export trade great quantities of it are demanded.

Venetables in Buenos Avres. Vegetables are usually sold in piles in Buenos Ayres, so that the purchaser has to measure quantity as well as quality by the eye. The butchers in that city do not sell meat by weight, but at so much per chunk.

VERY OLD TABLETS.

New Light on the Earliest History of the World.

Remarkable Discoveries of Dr. Hilprecht at Nippur-Eridence of Civiliantion Earlier Than Supposed Time of Adam and Eve.

Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, who has been exploring the mountains of ancient Nippur, in Asta Minor, arrived in New York the other morning on the steamer Friedrich der Grosse from Bremen. Prof. Hilprecht brought with him some of the tablets marked with cuneiform inscriptions, which he recently discovered in an old temple on the ruins of Nippur. These tablets contain records of civilization which existed as long ago as 5000 B. C. -that is, as long before Abraham as Abraham was before our time.

Prof. Hilprecht's coming has been awaited anxiously by students interested in the remote past, because his discoveries are believed to have reorganized the chronology of Biblical times, extending it back many milleniums prior to the old time reckoning of the deluge. Therefore he is looked upon as a messenger bearing news of the earliest records of civilization.

Dr. Hilprecht has been exploring the mounds of ancient Nippur for 11 years. His campaigns have heretofore been most successful, but during the past year he has made the greatest discoveries of all, the finding of the library of the ancient Temple of Nippur and the remains of a huge palace having at least two stories and containing many evidences of what might be called modern conveniences.

The library tablete throw a strong light on how people lived at Nippur at the time when Adam and Eve were supposed to be living in the Garden of Eden. Some of the tablets are dictionaries, architectural plans, building lists, grammatical exercises, contracts, bills of sale, histories and chronological lists, and not only do they form a complete record of the time, but they indicate that the civilization then existing was many thousands of years old. They supply many gaps which are known to exist in Genesis; they turn light on the origin of the Jews and the Jewish religion, and they are wonderfully corroborative of the facts outlined in the Old Testament.

"The chief point to be remarked." said the professor the other morning, "is that we have found the first Baby-Ionian temple library that was ever discovered. Hitherto we have possessed nothing more than knowledge of the probable contents of such a library, from copies found in the royal library of Ashurbanapol, in Nineveh, which was discovered 60 years ago."

PLAN YALE BI-CENTENNIAL.

College Will Hold Elaborate Celes bration November 20 to 23.

President Hadley and the members of the Yale faculty announced the other night that the plans for the bicentennial celebration of Yala on November 20, 21, 22 and 23 were about completed and that Yale is to have a celebration in which the graduates and undergraduates will take prominent parts.

The most important announcement in connection with the celebration is that by the finance committee. This committee has been occupied with collecting funds primarily for the purpose of erecting the new memorial buildings on Grove and College streets. The total amount of subscriptions up to October 26, 1900, is \$603,474.79. Of this amount \$244,-069.84 has been paid for land on which to erect the buildings, while \$99,110 is assigned by the donors to special purposes.

A total of \$292,494.10 has been paid out for site, plans and construction to date. Three additional subscriptions of \$100,000 each have been made on condition that three other subscriptions of similar amount are secured. One of the gentlemen making this

conditional promise has made one-half of his gift outright, so that the total amount definitely in sight at present may be increased by \$50,000, that is raised to \$653,474.79.

The number of subscribers to the bicentennial fund is 607.

ONE HORSE RESCUES ANOTHER Plunges in and Tows to Land Blind Animal Struggling in

Water.

A blind horse was rescued from a watery grave the other day by another horse. The blind horse wandered into a mill pond at Mountain Grove, W. Va., and soon got beyond his depth, when he began swimming around in a circle, unable to land. His distress attracted & horse which belongs to Postmaster C. Z. Herner to the water's edge, and he tried by neighing to direct the blind horse to shore. Failing in this, he plunged into the water and swam out into the deep pool to the distressed animal's relief, which was accomplished in the unique way of seizing its foretop and towing the quadruped safely to terra firms, amid the cheers of upward of 100 persons who had become

She Has Nine Lives. The approuncement of the illness of the empress of China need occasion her friends no alarm, says the Pittsburgh Times, since a woman who has been so often assassinated, poisoned and burned will easily be able to pull through an ordinary illuess.

spectators.

THE PERPLEXING LEONIDES.

Astronomers Prepare to Photograph Henvenly Display That May Not Appens.

Yale astronomers are preparing to photograph what Leonides appear in The heavens this fall. Last year at this time the most extensive preparations were made to photograph the meterorio display, but the cloudy skies and the fact that but few leonids appeared threw the astronomers into a state of great perplexity. Since then the reason for the non-appearance of the meteorites has not been discovered. Dr. Frederick L. Chase, of the Yale obg servatory, says:

"There is just as much reason to expect the leonids at this time as last year. Astronomers have not yet been able to discover why it is that with the usual regularity with which the leonids come every 33 years the shower last year failed to appear. There are two possible explanations of this. Since the last great shower in 1866 Jupiter has passed quite close to the portion of the orbit containing the meteors due in 1999, and has, according to calculations, so perturbed the path as to make them cross the line of the earth's orbit several hundred thousand miles inside the orbit -that is, nearer the sun-so that the earth may not have passed through the swarm. At the same time the stream will take but four or five hours in passing any way, and if it comes before the radiunt is above the horizon it will not be seen

"The second possible explanation is that there was a dearth of meteors in that portion of the swarm encountered. by the earth in 1899, and there is no reason to-day to think that they are evenly distributed. It is possible, however, to believe that the portion of the stream due at the intersection of the earth's orbit this year, has not yet beensperturbed by Jupiter in the same way as fust year."

TO CONDUCT A DAIRY FARM. Former Well - Known Sewspaper

Woman Buya Herd of dereeys. - OW

Mrs. Antoinette Van Hoesen Wakeman, formerly a well-known newspaper woman in Chicago, has put a herd of grade Jersey and Jersey Holstein we on her farm, near Hastings, Minn., and made the first shipment of milk to the Crescent Creamery company, of St. Paul.

Mrs. Wakeman believes that Hastings is admirably situated to become a point for the shipping of milk to the Twin Cities. She proposes to denote her place, which is less than a mile from the courthouse, exclusively to dairy products and fruit, and has built a barn, and proposes to have her herd and milk cared for on the lines indicated by Prof. T. L. Haccker, of the agricultural experiment station of the state university. Mrs. Wakeman has arranged to ship from 20 to 30 gallons of milk daily.

Although this is a somewhat unusual innovation for a woman in this part of the country, "personally conducted" farms are a profitable fad of eastern women. Mrs. Richard Watson. Gilder, whose husband is the editor of the Century, has a farm of 250 acres, where she lives nine months out of every year, and makes most profitable. Abram Hewitt's daighters are also enthusiastic and successful scientific farmers, and many other well-known women are devoting themselves to similar agricultural undertakinge.

SPIRITED COMPETITION.

New Firms Seek to Secure Contracts for the Building of Warships.

The monopoly of constructing warships of the largest type, hitherto enjoyed by three concerns in this country, promises to be invaded by four or five firms, which have expressed a great desire to make proposals for the construction of the vessels, bids for which will be opened on December 6. The three firms which have always bid upon this work are the Union iron works, of San Francisco; the Cramp Building and Dry Dock company, of Philadelphia, and the Newport News (Va.) Shipbuilding company. It now appears that these firms will have as rivals the Fore River Shipbuilding company, of Weymouth, Mass.; Town. send & Downey, of New York; the New York Shipbuilding company, of New York city; the Trigg Engine and Shipbuilding company, of Richmond, Va., and the Risdon iron works, of San Francisco. The appearance of the latter firm in the list of competitors is something of a surprise. It will make it interesting for the Union iron works, which has had no competitors in the race for naval contracts covering large ships on the Pacific coast.

Lightning Rod Miles in Length, " Bavaria has a most curious claim to normicity, which is that it possesses the longest lightning conductor in the world. It rises some yards above the top of the meteorological station on the Zugspitze, the highest point in the German empire, and rune down the side of the mountain to the bottom of Hollenthal, where there is running, water all the year round. The length of the rod is five and one-half kilometers-nearly three and a half miles.

Too Large a Bite.

Manchuria being about 800 miles one ! way and 500 the other, it is no wonder the Russian bear denies having swallowed it at the first gulp. At least two bites at a cherry of that magnitude are to be looked for, says the New York Tribune, and perhaps several more. But there is little doubt that the robust animal will worry it all down sooner or later.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS