

RED ALBUMEN FOR HENS.

It is a Mineral Substance That is Brought Here from South Africa.

For some time the press of the country has been busily engaged in discussing something referred to as "red albumen." Wholesale druggists have been interviewed, and they have declared that there is no such thing. Technically, they were right, though really they were wrong. Albumen is an animal product, ordinarily made from blood or eggs, says the Chicago Chronicle.

The so-called "red albumen" comes from a little hamlet in the Argentine Republic, about 500 miles back of Buenos Ayres. There it is known as "Beckoe albumen," though, because of its color, it is frequently referred to as "red albumen." While the wholesale druggists declare that they have never heard of red albumen, if some of our readers will ask any drug house which has close connections with the South American countries for Beckoe red albumen they will be apt to get some of it, although it is quite expensive, even in Beckoe, where, by the way, it is mined in a small way. The little hamlet lies almost wholly upon the proceeds of this Beckoe albumen mine, the output of which is said to amount about 90 per cent. of the purest albumen, thus contradicting the general impression that albumen is a purely animal product, says the Bayou Daily News.

This whole discussion was precipitated by the statement of a gentleman in a newspaper. He declared that his hundred hens, which had not been laying for some time, began to lay as soon as they were fed equal parts of red albumen (given him by his brother, who had spent several years in the Argentine Republic) and cayenne pepper. The hens, according to this gentleman, were soon laying seven dozen eggs a day, and kept that up for months without becoming broody. Here in the United States persons interested in poultry are continually discoursing about the 200-eggs-a-year hen, but in Beckoe and the immediate vicinity the hen which does not lay more than 200 eggs in 365 days is not considered worthy to be kept. The people of Beckoe attribute this marvelous productivity to the mineral albumen which they get regularly, but after all it is possible that the good people of the little Argentine hamlet are mistaken.

THE AGE OF LOBSTERS.

But Few of the Crustaceans Are Allowed to Die from Advanced Years.

According to the report of the commissioner of fisheries, game and forests of the state of New York, lobsters grow very slowly, and when eating lobsters we are consuming the production of several years of development. From two inches to three inches is the maximum growth of the first year. In two years this has increased to five inches or seven inches if food is plentiful, says the Spectator.

At the end of five years the lobster may be ten inches long. It is also fairly certain that the female lobster only lays eggs once in two years, because it moults in the alternate years, and has no spare energy left for reproduction. In lobster-catching circles there is considerable doubt as to the age to which the creatures may possibly live. There seems no particular reason why a lobster should not die of old age, though it often finds it difficult to escape its enemy, the large cuttlefish, which crushes and eats it wherever it may be, even in its own hole in the rocks.

But there is no doubt that they do not die of old age, because they have been found in articulo mortis apparently for no other reason. It is well known that sea animals often come to the shore when ill or dying.

Not long ago a very large and very old lobster was found in a shallow pool off the Lincolnshire coast, evidently dying of general decay. It was covered with sea shells and parasites, and was blind and very feeble. The Isle of Wight fishermen say that when mature a lobster's age may be guessed from its weight. Each half pound represents a year. Perhaps the largest Isle of Wight lobster was one of eight pounds, caught under the steps of the Needle lighthouse. This would represent an age of 16 years. The largest lobster yet recorded as taken in the United States weighed 33 pounds.

Raising of the Sea of Asov.

The sea of Asov, an arm of the Black sea, is to be improved for navigation by a novel method. It is joined to the Black sea by the strait of Kerch, which is about two miles wide and possesses a maximum depth of 27 feet. But at the various ports along its shores the depth is only from five to fourteen feet. Every effort thus far made by the government to maintain channels for seagoing craft has been unavailing, and it has been necessary to maintain a costly system of lightering. It is proposed, therefore, to get rid of the latter by raising the level of the entire sea, through the construction of a dam across the strait of Kerch. This dam will raise the water high enough to give 20 feet of water in all the parts. A large amount of shore property will have to be protected, and compensation for damages to existing harbor work will be included in the bill of expenses.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Author.

Edith—Who was it said: "Money is the root of all evil?" Harold—Some guy who married for it, probably.—Luck.

SAYS MORMONISM GROWS.

The Declaration Made That This Sect Now Controls in Seven of the States.

At a meeting of the members of the West End Presbyterian church of New York it was decided to indorse and work for the proposed amendment to the constitution so that polygamy may be made impossible in the United States.

Rev. N. E. Clemenson, of Logan, Utah, was the principal speaker. He told of polygamy as he had seen it in his own street, and how the Mormons were still living with many wives, contrary to their pledges when Utah was admitted into statehood. He thought the dangers in Idaho greater than in Utah, as less attention is paid to Mormons there, and they live openly with their wives under the system they call "celestial marriage," and which they deny to be polygamy.

FIFTY-FOUR STORY BUILDING.

Boston Promoter of Large Ideas Proposes a Gigantic Structure for New York.

A promoter from Boston in whom the projective imagination is developed to an enormous degree is searching New York for capital to back the erection of a 54-story office building on Broadway. The scheme has been developed so far that plans have already been drawn and a block front in the district south of the Astor house—the exact location cannot be divulged for obvious reasons—has been selected as a site for the structure.

There is no building law to prevent, and competent authorities say that from an engineering standpoint the project is entirely feasible. All that stands between the Boston genius and the realization of his dream is a dozen million dollars or so.

By his figures the building will yield a gross yearly income of \$1,600,000, and when the running expenses are deducted, he contends, enough will still be left to pay the interest on the \$9,000,000 in bonds, the sale of which is to be the company's chief hope of getting launched, and also an enticing dividend on the \$9,000,000 of stock which an eager public is to be permitted to absorb at reduced rates.

OVER NINETY MILES AN HOUR.

Fast Time Expected to Be Made Upon the London-Brighton Electric Line.

Faster even than the trains between Philadelphia and Atlantic City, N. J., is that which it is intended to maintain on the proposed electric railroad from London to Brighton, powers to construct which will be applied for next session of parliament. The road will be 47 miles long, and the trains are to make the distance in 30 minutes.

It is proposed to run a 20-minute service each way from eight o'clock in the morning until midnight. The London terminus will be at Lupus street, Westminster, and the trains on leaving the station will cross the Thames by an iron bridge and proceed on a trestleway to Beedington. There the road runs through a tunnel for part of the nine miles to Red Hill. The rest of the way is principally in the open to Brighton. The carriages are to be of the Pullman type.

Policeman's Funny Ruse.

A story is going the rounds of the Jersey City police department that a sergeant recently found out that a patrolman was in a liquor saloon, and stationed himself at the door to wait for the bluecoat to come out. Two undertaker's assistants who had been preparing a corpse on the floor above the saloon came downstairs carrying an ice box. The policeman climbed in and was borne past the sergeant to the undertaker's wagon. After the wagon had been driven around the corner the officer jumped out, sauntered slowly back to where his superior officer was standing and saluted him as if nothing had happened. The sergeant looked hard at him for a moment, peeped into the saloon and continued on his rounds.

Mrs. Marni for Matrimony.

An investigation as to whether woman's happiness lies in art or matrimony brings a novel reply from Mrs. Marni, who abandoned the stage for literature. Unlike Mlle. Jane Hading, Mrs. Marni counsels marriage. "If I had a daughter," she says, "with bent for letters I would advise her to marry first, because art should utilize, not exclude, nature, and for a woman nature implies motherhood. Let her bring up a family first, then take to authorship. Fewer women suffer from bad marriages than from no marriage."

Students Who Support Themselves.

There are about 250 students who are supporting or partially supporting themselves in various ways at the University of Michigan. The occupations vary from washing dishes to tutoring.

Won't Change Their Location.

The inhabitants of the Danish West Indies ought to be informed, says the Chicago Tribune, that Uncle Sam has no intention of moving the islands from their present geographical location.

FLOUR OUT OF MILK.

Consul in Germany Reports That a Gothenburg Doctor Has Discovered a Process.

According to Consul Bergh, at Gothenburg, Dr. M. Ekenberg, of that place, has made a discovery which will be of importance in dairy farming. He claims to have invented an apparatus by which milk can be brought into the form of powder, like flour in appearance, but possessing all the qualities of milk in concentrated form, moisture excepted. It is said this milk flour is completely soluble in water and can be used for all purposes for which common milk is employed.

The milk flour does not get sour, does not ferment, and in the dry state is not sensitive to changes in the weather. It can be kept and transported in tin cans, barrels, bags, etc. The cost of production Dr. Ekenberg has estimated at about 27 cents per 108 quarts, and he thinks that flour made from skimmed milk can be sold for about 13 cents per pound.

GHOST STEPS ON A TACK.

As a Consequence, the Seance Is Broken Up in Unghostly Confusion.

A series of spiritualistic seances which have been in progress at Austin, Tex., for several weeks past and have resulted in several hundred converts to the faith of spiritualists were abruptly terminated the other night when one of the "ghosts" which the mediums have nightly called forth from their eternal resting places stepped on some tacks placed in the "ghosts" path by a couple of doubting Thomases, who went to satisfy themselves whether the white-robed spirits had nerves or not. The promoters of the seances had warned all who attended that to touch one of the "ghosts" would not only be fatal to the experiments, but might result seriously to the doubter.

John and Henry Jacobs believed the seances to be fakes, but they had enough superstitious doubt to refrain from touching the ghosts. The tack theory test suggested itself to them and was executed with startling success. A "ghost" being called up proceeded to perambulate the room with steady tread. As he crossed the double line of tacks with upward turned points a howl of pain rent the night air, and the disembodied spirit grasped one bare foot in both hands, screaming most unghostly malediction on the doubting Thomases. The seance was broken up in a hurry.

TELLS OF A REAL TRILBY.

Professor of Psychology Says That His Hypnotic Spell Has Made an Actress Famous.

Dr. John Duncan Quackenbos, professor emeritus of psychology in Columbia, astonished his associates of the Medico-Legal society at New York the other night by telling them how a young actress, whose name was not given, bounded into fame in a single night under a hypnotic spell. The spell was put upon her by Dr. Quackenbos, who is one of the greatest authorities on hypnotism in the world.

Thrown into a hypnotic condition again and again before she appeared, her own personality was for a time submerged. She was told what she could do and what she must do. She was told of her own powers and her ability to use them. All fear and timidity were taken from her mind and the subconscious self that psychologists know is hidden in each human being was brought into control, said the professor.

TRUANTS FEAR NEW LAW.

German School Statute, Which Is Not Yet Operative, Is Doing Much Good.

Germany is undergoing a novel experience in seeing a law exercise the direct moral effect for which it was devised before it has become operative. Last year's reichstag passed a compulsory education bill, decreeing that after April, 1902, children proved to be regular truants should be taken from home and required to eat, sleep and live in the schoolhouses, altogether removed from parental influence and surroundings.

This law was found necessary, because the former system of fining and imprisoning parents of truants failed permanently to reform either them or the children.

Statistics now compiled in Dresden, Hamburg, Berlin, Hanover, Breslau, Leipzig and Munich indicate that the mere fear of the law has been effective in reducing truancy to the lowest point known in the German schools. The teachers predict that by the time the law becomes effective the need for its existence will have been practically obviated.

Russia and England in Asia.

Russia's Asiatic possessions are three times as large as the British, but have only 25,000,000 people, as compared with 297,000,000 under British rule.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

The trouble with most of us is not so much that we have a hard row to hoe but that we dislike hoeing.—Luck.

Tommy's Pop—"A diplomat, my son, is a man who, when he can't have his own way, pretends that the other way is his."—Philadelphia Record.

Some men wake up and find themselves famous, while lots of others stay up all night and never even get a glimpse of fame.—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. Justwed—"This is excellent cake. Did you get the recipe out of a book?" Mrs. Newwed—"No; I got it out of my head." Mrs. Justwed—"No wonder it is so light."—Boston Traveler.

Beher—"Is there anything in the paper?" Lyon (who has been holding the only copy for half an hour or more)—"Not a thing; absolutely nothing in it." Beher—"Smart chaps those newspaper men. To think that it took you so long to find it out."—Boston Transcript.

Pertinent.—Mrs. Duguid (president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)—"My dear children, I love all animals. I never under any circumstances hurt one. I love them so that I catch flies to feed them." Small Boy—Please, missus, ain't flies animals?"—Town and Country.

"What is the matter with Jorkins?" He told me that he has been suffering many ups and downs." "Yes, it happened at the store." "How was that?" "The boss got down on him and said that he could not hold up his end. Jorkins saw it was all up, so he turned the job down before they passed him up. Now it is up to him to find another job. That's the reason he has looked so down at the mouth, but I hear his chances are looking up a bit now." "Well, my advice to Jork would be that he practice a little side-stepping."—Indianapolis News.

GREATEST AMOUNT ON RECORD.

Eleven Millions of Dollars Once Carried by the United States Steamer "Swatara."

"I notice that the newspapers have recently spoken of the carrying of \$7,000,000 of bullion to a foreign country by one of the ocean liners as the greatest amount ever transported," said a man who has been with the navy for years to a Washington Star reporter. "It is entirely wrong. In 1885 there was brought from the mint in New Orleans to the treasury in Washington \$11,000,000, and it was brought in a steamer."

"The government decided to transport \$15,000,000 from New Orleans. It was first thought best to bring it by rail, but this was assuming a great risk. The cabinet discussed the matter carefully, and it was finally decided that the safest way would be by water. The members of the cabinet saw that there was a chance for a holdup if the money was brought by train.

"The United States ship Swatara was first designated to carry the money, but it was found that she would be inadequate to transport the whole amount, so the wooden sailing steamer Yantic was pressed into service to help out. We removed from the Swatara her magazines. The shells from the shellroom were removed, as were also the sails from the sailroom, so that all available space was utilized for packing the coin. The only weapon of defense was a Gatling gun.

"The money was conveyed from the mint to the vessels in wagons. A squad of secret service officers watched the work. The two vessels were in tow and the trip from New Orleans to the Washington navy yard occupied a little more than four days. Considerable wind was encountered off Hatteras, but otherwise the trip was without incident. The money was carried from the navy yard to the treasury by an express company.

"The money was in boxes of \$2,000 each and in bags. My recollection is that the money was in silver dollars, or the greater part of it, for, while unloading at the navy yard, one of the bags, rotten from being in storage so long, gave way and a large number of silver dollars were scattered about the wharf.

"The Swatara was a historic craft. John Surratt was brought back from Malta in the Swatara. The prince of Wales, now King Edward, paid her a visit once when she was with the American squadron at Villefranche in the Mediterranean. She was then the flagship. The prince, when he saw her, asked:

"Is this a yacht or a man-of-war?" "The Swatara is now in 'rotten row' in the navy yard at San Francisco waiting to be surveyed. The \$11,000,000 carried by the Swatara from New Orleans to Washington was the greatest amount of money ever carried by a single craft."

Various Uses of Sawdust.

A long list could be given of explosives and varieties of gunpowders that have been made from sawdust. In some the sawdust is used as an absorbent, as with nitroglycerin, in others as a filler, while in still others it is converted into forms of pyroline. By heating sawdust with caustic alkali and sulphur a brown dye is obtained which is cheap and fast, resisting both acids and alkalis, and dying cotton without a mordant. By heating cotton with caustic alkali oxalic acid is formed. A large amount of oxalic acid on the market is made by this process.—Scientific American.

Debtors Are Seized.

Debtors in Siam who had three months in arrears, can be seized by the creditor and compelled to work out their indebtedness. Should a debtor run away, his father, his wife or his children may be held in slavery until the debt is canceled.—N. Y. Sun.

TO HAVE FRENCH THEATER.

Charles Frohman Secures M. Constant Coquelle to Manage New York Playhouse.

New York is to have a permanent French theater. Charles Frohman will establish it and M. Constant Coquelle will be its artistic director. The announcement was made by Mr. Frohman the other day. A company of French players of the first rank will be engaged to produce in French, in a manner equal to the productions of Paris, plays of the classic and modern school. Associated with Mr. Frohman, if present negotiations do not fall through, will be Maurice Grau, an interested party in the plan, and M. Coquelle.

"It is a plan," said Mr. Frohman, "that has long been in my mind. Everywhere one hears French spoken in New York, French recitals and lectures are given in fashionable drawing-rooms. Harvard and Yale and other colleges give plays in French, and when 'L'Algon' was played in New York and librettos were sold in English and French it was the French edition that had the largest sale. Is not the time ripe for the establishment of a French theater in New York? I believe so, and I am going to undertake it.

"It will not be done, however, in any half-and-half way. I have nothing in mind but the best when this company is formed. I don't want any actors who ought to leave France, but those who cannot well be spared. I hope to have Maurice Grau interested with me in the project, and have talked it over with him. In fact, it was he who brought me and Mr. Coquelle together when I was abroad, and I have asked M. Coquelle to take the artistic direction of the house, the selection of the players and the repertory, and to act himself if he will. I expect shortly to have M. Coquelle's definite answer and I trust it will be 'yes.'"

EXPERIMENT IN PORTO RICO.

Good Success Promised for Tent Raising Tobacco in the Little Island.

Connection methods of growing tobacco under cheese cloth tents seem to be making rapid headway in the island of Porto Rico, according to the statement of William J. Hayes, of Tariffville, Conn., who has just returned from a tobacco plantation in the island, where he is conducting experiments. For two years various growers in Connecticut have been studying the effects of a tobacco crop raised under tents, and the good results have led to a general adoption of tenting methods. Tobacco under cheesecloth tents will, it has been found in the Connecticut valley, grow to unusual height, retain all of the excellencies of the smaller plants, grow more leaves and take on a finer flavor.

Mr. Hayes has been in Porto Rico for several months superintending experiments on a plantation near San Juan, owned by Raphael Gonzalez. He says, in speaking of the experiments: "We are now making the first trial of tent-raised tobacco in Porto Rico, using about an acre for the experiment. In two months from planting the plants have grown two feet. We have found that wind, rain and too hot suns are tempered by the covering, and that it keeps off worms, bugs and fleas. I think that by next year tent-raised tobacco will be general throughout our part of the island. Already we are being watched with interest by scores of planters."

Gold in New York Streets.

Workmen in the employ of McCabe Bros., contractors for the new subway, at New York, have been considerably excited lately owing to the fact that while taking out some rock from the excavation at Broadway and One Hundred and Eighty-ninth street one of the employes who had formerly been a western miner noticed a yellow streak in the rock and declared it was gold. A large crowd, drawn to the entrance of the shaft by the news of the gold discovery, attracted the attention of the local police who reported the news to the authorities. An investigation demonstrated that the gold could not be obtained on a paying basis owing to the limited amount produced.

If at First You Don't Succeed.

J. Frederick Tams, of Tams, LeMoine & Crane, yacht brokers, who has been in Holland, Belgium and England since October 30, has just arrived in this country. He said he had a half hour's conversation with Sir Thomas Lipton in London shortly before leaving. "Sir Thomas told me," said Mr. Tams, "that he would challenge for the cup until he either won it or was convinced that it could not be won. I certainly think Sir Thomas is very much in earnest and that his desire to win the cup comes from sporting motives only. I wanted to get him to talk about other things, but his heart is set on that cup."

Complaint of Chaplain's Uniform.

Troubles of chaplains in the United States navy were discussed by Rev. Dr. George E. Stroebridge, of Stamford, Conn., at the recent Methodist ministers' meeting in New York city. The claim was made that their salaries are insufficient. He also found fault with the uniform, which he described as a "single-breasted, shad-bellied, long-tailed frock coat such as is worn by clergymen in some foreign countries, but which simply looks ridiculous here." He said that at the opening of the Kiel canal, when the kaiser passed through the line of warships, the chaplain on the American ship was ordered below because of his grotesque appearance.

DIAMONDS IN MONTANA.

Immense Field of the Precious Stones Believed to Have Been Located in That State.

The discovery of an immense diamond field in the northeastern part of Fergus county, Mont., has caused excitement among the prospectors of Spotted Horse and Mauden.

When the report reached the former place that Tiffany, the New York jeweler, had pronounced the gems of the first water, a party of prospectors started for the Blood Creek country, where the find was made, to locate ground in what was proved to be a genuine diamond field.

Several weeks ago Cliff Doe and another prospector visited the Blood Creek country on a hunting trip, and while there Doe picked up a number of bright pebbles. Attracted by their unusual character, Doe forwarded the stones to the jewelry establishment in New York. A few days ago he received an answer stating that the gems were diamonds of the finest grade.

Blood creek is a small stream in the northeastern part of the county, located in a wild and broken country. A diamond was found in this part of the country about 25 years ago by William Grandall. The genuineness of the find is not in the least doubted at Lewistown.

AMERICAN MUSEUM ENRICHED.

Gift of \$20,000 Enables It to Buy Largest Collection of Butterflies in This Country.

Through the gift of \$20,000 by Dean Hoffman, the American museum of natural history, New York city, will receive the largest collection of butterflies and moths in this country. This addition will make the museum's collection one of the largest in the world.

Since the death of Dr. Herman Strecker many representatives of museums have visited his former home in Reading, Pa., and strong efforts have been made to obtain his collection for their respective institutions. The heirs, however, said no reduction would be made from the original valuation placed upon the collection by Dr. Strecker, which was \$20,000. Morris K. Jesup, president of the museum in New York city, has received a letter from Dean Hoffman, authorizing him to buy the collection for that sum. The arrival of the Strecker material will increase the museum collection by fully 100,000 specimens, among which are several hundred "types"—that is, specimens originally new to science and from which the first description of the species is made. The museum will receive also the Strecker library.

JAP STUDENTS' BAGGAGE.

Strange Assortment of Parcels Held by Prospective Students' Arrival at Chicago University.

A huge trunk tied with rope, two old valises, a box of books and some miscellaneous bundles were left in the doorway of Haskell hall at the University of Chicago the other day with directions that they should be taken care of by President Harper.

For two hours the students picked their way carefully through the pieces of baggage and wondered if a new mummy for the museum had left its luggage outside. The articles all bore the name of Shigeru Mohara, but Dr. Harper had gone to Morgan Park. The owner proved to be a Japanese youth who could not speak English. He came and sat with his baggage about the middle of the forenoon and smilingly awaited the advances of the faculty.

Efforts to find out the plans of the Jap were unavailing until Prof. Eri B. Hurbert, dean of the divinity school, with the aid of some sign talk, found that the newcomer intended to attend college. A Japanese student named Osrtha was sent for and with his assistance the young man was taken care of and his baggage transferred to North hall.

Cost Their Weight in Gold.

An ingenious arithmetician, writing in the London Speaker, makes the following calculation in comparing the weight in flesh of the Boers and the cost in gold of the war: Assuming that the Boer army proper contained originally about 23,879 men, averaging in weight 154 pounds, and accepting the estimate of Mr. Lloyd George, the pro-Boer member of parliament, that the war will eventually cost England some \$2,000,000,000, he makes the discovery that the whole of the Transvaal army might have been weighed out in the scales and barely equal the weight in gold which will be required before they are all led into death of captivity.

France Was Vetting Machine.

Premier Waldeck-Rousseau, of France, in his visit to Toulon, evinced interest in an invention of the chief naval constructor of the arsenal there—a voting machine, looking somewhat like a cash register, and said to possess every advantage, guaranteeing secrecy, preventing repeating, and enabling illiterate persons to vote easily. It does away with all writing and scratching. Five tickets, each having 20 names, may be voted simultaneously, straight or mixed. The results, counted automatically, immediately appear on the dial at the back of the machine.

Sign of Progressive Age.

The Michigan peach crop has already been ruined by the frost. The age is getting faster and faster, exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald. Presumably the peach crop will be getting ruined two or three years in advance.