

PARAGRAPHS WORTH WHILE

Preparations have been made for hunting a monster of prehistoric character, said to have been seen by Belgian explorers in the region of the Congo. The beast is described as a brontosaurus of massive proportions. Its home is believed to be in a subterranean sea in Central Africa.

"You're under arrest," exclaimed the officer, as he stopped the automobile.

"What for?" inquired Mr. Chuggins.

"I haven't made up my mind yet. I'll just look over your lights, an' your license, an' your numbers, an' so forth. I know I can get you for somethin', an we need the money."

The French arrested in Paris the other day the first German visitor to the city since the cessation of hostilities—barring of course the peace envoys. The individual was a German boy who had followed American troops who had been good to him. Now he goes back to Germany unless he is allowed to accompany his American friends to this country.

What is regarded as a record price for rare books was obtained at an auction in London recently. One famous library brought over \$551,800. G. D. Smith, of New York, purchased for \$7,500 some of the rarest items of the collection among which was Shakespear's "Venus and Adonis." A copy of "McFingal," a poem printed in America in 1782 and autographed by George Washington, brought \$1,125. Buyers from all parts of the world attended the sale.

Years ago a priest laboring among the Indians of western Canada adapted a shorthand system to the native language. Hundreds of Indians studied and mastered it and parts of the Bible became translated into the sign language. Finally mimeograph bulletins in shorthand came to be issued daily which were read so eagerly that a shorthand weekly paper was begun in Kamloops which now boasts of a circulation of over 3,500. The paper is called the "Kamloops Wawa."

January 2nd saw most of the 87,000 enumerators start their 30-day count of the people of the United States. The last census showed a population of about 90,000,000. The present count is expected to show some 110,000,000. Twenty-four questions will be asked of or about every resident in the United States. To take the census in the country will require it is expected, the full 30 days, but 15 days will finish the work in the large cities. The cost of the census is estimated at \$23,000,000.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING IN EARLY TIMES

The first lamps were simply empty shells, skulls of animals or vessels of rude pottery provided with a

fibrous wick through which an inflammable liquid rose by capillary attraction to be burned. Gradually, as the race acquired skill and learned to use finer materials, more elaborate and ornamental lamps were evolved, being made of glass, metal, porcelain, etc. However, until the latter part of the 18th century, when improved wicks were invented, the best lamps were very unsatisfactory, giving out comparatively little light but an abundance of unpleasant odors and smoke.

Fish and other animal oils were the principal illuminants at first but in time vegetable oils such as rape-seed oil, olive oil, etc., were used and later, when petroleum was discovered, it came into wide use. When refined and burned in a lamp specially designed to supply sufficient oxygen for the carbon of the oil to be properly consumed this mineral oil gives more satisfactory light than any liquid previously known.

In these days of high-power, convenient electric and gas lights it is hard to realize that only a few centuries ago the streets of cities and towns were lighted only by crude, imperfect candle or oil lanterns provided with horn windows. Laws compelled citizens in those times to hang out such lanterns for the guidance of belated travelers and as a safeguard against thieves and hoodlums.

CAN APES THINK

A writer in the Washington Post some time ago raised the question of whether apes are capable of thinking, declaring that it is an important one because, if they are sufficiently intelligent to think, they can be taught to work. Thus, he suggested, it may be possible to make these animals relieve man of such drudgery as cleaning the streets, shoveling coal, digging ditches, etc. Already, he said, a British scientist has succeeded in making apes pick cocoanuts, pluck fowls and operate simple mechanical devices.

From his discussion of the subject, we condense the following: Scientific investigators have found that the nervous system and the brain of the chimpanzee are much the same as those of man. There is, however, no differentiation of function between the right and left halves of the ape's brain and he is ambidextrous instead of right and left-handed, like man. The cellular and fiber structure of the cerebral centers in man and the chimpanzee are practically the same, differing only in degree. The chimpanzee's brain, that of an animal and only one-third the size of the human brain, has neither the area nor the development of the latter.

Teacher—Johnny, can you tell me where Lake Ontario is?

Pupil—Yessum; page 18.