

QUEER STORIES

Seven out of ten recruits in Russia are illiterate.

An average of eleven persons have been injured daily and one person killed every other day for the last three months by the Chicago street cars.

In using dogs as aids to sentries the Italian army, as a Roman newspaper points out, has merely revived a custom prevalent among the ancient Greeks and Romans.

According to an English court, a test for neurasthenia is to make a man stand up, with head erect and eyes closed, and whistle. A neurasthenic subject, it is said, cannot do this.

One of the leaders in New York's business world, who is also a conspicuous philanthropist, writes from a vacation resort, where he went to rest: "There is no rest in the country for a man who receives mail."

The government commissioners appointed in Italy to report on the question of woman suffrage have recommended that women engaged in trade have the right to vote for members of the chambers of commerce.

Turkey's government has placed with a firm of cotton mill owners of Leeds, England, an order for about 1,500,000 yards of khaki cloth for the Turkish army. The contract is the largest placed for khaki since the Russo-Japanese war.

There has just been unearthed from the River Annan, near Lockerbie, a relic of early Britain in the shape of a canoe in a wonderfully good state of preservation. It is of the type known as dugouts, the material being the trunk of a black oak tree, about twelve feet long, rudely shaped and hollowed out.—London Standard.

Probably one-half the drinks served in the cafes of France are sirups diluted with water or ordinary siphon soda. Such drinks cost 8 or 15 cents a glass in the cafes, and yet the conspicuous soda-water fountain of the United States is seen but rarely in France, and then only in the large cities through which the American tourist passes.

A new telegraph cable has recently been laid right across the Forth bridge. The cable, which was laid by the post office, and is its property, has taken the place of the former one, which was found to be unsatisfactory. A train of six wagons was employed to convey the cable, and this moved slowly across the bridge, while the men laid the cable down on the footpath on the up-line side of the bridge.

NORWAY'S BILL OF FARE.

Fish and Boiled Potatoes Served Day After Day.

"As we sat cozily before the cheerful blaze," writes Caroline Thorber in a delightful account of "A Motor Invasion of Norway" in the Century, "we indulged in mathematical calculations and found that we had eaten forty-two consecutive meals of fish, with potatoes never otherwise than boiled. One of the women of our party once cried from her soul to a sympathetic looking host, 'Why, oh, why, are there no chickens in Norway?'"

"There are, madam, but they are for laying purposes."

"Then why, oh, why, do you always boil your potatoes?"

"We are different from you, madam. We don't like them messy. We prefer to know a potato as a potato when we eat it."

"In our passage through the country we had certainly encountered new and unpalatable foods, but we were always nourished, for good milk, butter and eggs were everywhere at hand, and we developed powers of digestion previously undreamed of. Even so, one supper menu staggered us—note bene: Sausages, three kinds; raw salmon, pickled anchovies, shrimps, cold fried fish, cold fish pudding, cold meats, five varieties of cheese, pickles, oranges and gooseberry marmalade, tea, four kinds of raised bread, flat bread with caraway, English biscuit, Norwegian rusks, fried eggs, hot stew (variety unrecognized) and boiled potatoes."

Vast Unknown London.

There is not a single man living who knows all London, who has been through every street, or into every crescent square and terrace. This seems a hard saying, and it is one which visitors from abroad or the colonies find it impossible to believe, but nevertheless it is absolutely and incontrovertibly true. Let any one take a map of London and try to mark in red all the streets which he can honestly say he has visited and he will have to confess that he knows but little of the metropolis of the world and that the red marked streets are but as nothing compared with those he has had to leave untouched.

Impossible.

A lusty lunged auctioneer was holding forth in flowery terms on the virtues of a particular brand of cigars he was endeavoring to induce his audience to purchase. Holding up a box of cigars, he shouted: "You can't get better, gentlemen. I don't care where you go, you can't get better!" "No," came a cynical voice from a man in the crowd, "you can't. I smoked one last week and I'm not better yet!"—People.

We never waste much time on a man who admits he believes in ghosts

ITALIANS AND IRVING.

Memorial Presented by Ambassador in London to Drury Lane.

"The critics were very severe—and in my judgment justly severe—toward the 'Dante' of Sardou; but the fact remains that Irving, at the decline of his life, felt the attraction of the influence of Dante's great personality. * * * Irving's endeavor to impersonate on the English stage that powerful individuality turned his last thoughts toward Italy, and today it is those among her sons who are united to him by the brotherhood of art who offer this tribute to a man who has so highly contributed to show to mankind all the nobility and loftiness of his art."

Thus spoke the Italian ambassador in London, the Marquis of San Giuliano, at Drury Lane theater recently in unveiling the memorial to the late Sir Henry Irving presented by Signor Tommaso Salvini and the leading members of the dramatic profession in Italy, says the London Chronicle. The memorial shows the effigy of Irving in bronze, enriched by a wreath of laurels, with a background of gray marble.

The memorial has been placed on the wall at the head of the grand staircase. Around it yesterday were gathered many people well known in the dramatic world.

"You English artists," said the ambassador in the course of his speech, "have greatly assisted me in my study of the English language. Frequenting the theaters and seeing your acting I have learned more of the English character, life, feelings and mode of thought than in reading many learned books—which I have tried to forget as much as possible."

"The English artists have given eloquent proofs of their sympathy with Italy by the homage they have paid to Salvini, the magnificent benefit to the memory of Ristori, and the part they have always taken in our charitable works. When Italy was still divided, when its independence and unity were still a goal and an ideal, and to many people even a dream and a Utopia, Salvini and Ristori were among the forces which contributed to our national deliverance."

"Salvini in 1849 acted in Rome, and at the same time fought in defense of the cause of liberty. Once an alarm was raised during an interval. He went to the ramparts and after the repulse of the attack resumed the performance. Of course that evening the curtain, after the interval, did not rise with the scrupulous punctuality of the English stage."

Wanted a Pattern.

A ragged Irishman was charged in a London court a short time ago with tendering a counterfeit shilling in payment for a penny loaf.

Though forlorn in aspect, he was not destitute of that shrewdness which is characteristic of his countrymen. He stated that he was sent for the loaf by a person at a public house close by, who gave him the coin to pay for it, and that on discovering it was not good he bought the coin for three half-pence.

The Magistrate—How came you to buy the shilling after you had discovered it was a bad one?

The prisoner, with much apparent gravity, replied:

"Sure, then, your honor, I bought it so that if I should happen to have a bad one offered to me I might know it by looking at the one I had with me."

There was a burst of laughter, and the rogue was dismissed with a caution.

Shiftless Neighbors.

"I want the Globe," writes Mrs. Lyander John Appleton, "to suggest to its readers that they keep up the spirit of improvement around the house. I borrowed a stepladder of a neighbor recently, and it was broken. A lawn mower I borrowed of another was in such poor condition I couldn't use it, and the washbowl I borrowed from another neighbor leaked so badly it put out the fire. Don't these people know that such signs of neglect speak ill of them? I haven't made any jelly this summer because another neighbor's preserving kettle is cracked. Really, I shall have to move out of the neighborhood unless my neighbors improve."—Atchison Globe

Notes of Women.

A French book on the evolution of the Englishwoman finds the woman's club—which in England is a real club, not a body which holds monthly meetings—an excellent institution for both married and single. For the married woman it is her "own place, where her husband cannot worry her," while for the unmarried it is a place where she need never be dull and where she can properly entertain friends of both sexes.

Airship Bird Cages.

The canaries are having the benefit of the present craze for all things in the airship line. The latest bird cages are made in the shape of airships, to be hung in the window. And so pretty are they the wonder is the airship fashion in cages didn't become popular among canaries long ago.

Esprit de Corps.

Passenger (to motor bus conductor).—What's all this crowd about. Is it the motor show?

Conductor—Yes, sir; and the most successful show we've had so far.—Punch.

A hammock in the winter time, or a sled in the summer, can make a tombstone appear gay and cheerful by comparison

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The greater part of Holland is eight feet below the level of the sea.

A single salt works in Brazil covers an area of almost twenty-four square miles.

Texas last year produced more oil by 2,400,000 barrels than the entire country produced in 1875.

A Massachusetts man worth \$10,000,000 is discovered to have hidden it all but \$500,000 from taxation.

In Rotterdam, with a population of 400,000, fires are so scarce that the city has practically no fire department.

An automatic time signal sent out from the Hamburg observatory by telephone to all instruments connected with the system of that city has been heard as far as Copenhagen and Paris.

An enterprising American undertook to establish a trade in burglar-proof safes in the Malaga (southern) district of Spain. There was nothing doing, for burglars are unknown in that part of Spain.

King Edward recently received four first prizes for his exhibits at the Smithfield cattle show. His majesty is a tenant farmer, not a landlord, and pays a large sum every year in rent and taxes for his holdings.

In an address before the American Civic Association, Herbert M. Wilson, chief engineer in the United States geological survey, places the annual damage and waste by smoke in the United States at \$500,000,000 in the large cities alone, or about \$6 to each man, woman and child of the population.

One may read in a guide book of Venice, compiled for the benefit of strangers, this notice: "When visiting this palace strangers should show themselves especially generous in their tips, as the prince who occupies this palace has no other means of support than to share in the money given to his domestics."—Le Cri de Paris.

At twenty-four William Pitt was chancellor of the exchequer, Ruskin had written his "Modern Painters," in five volumes, which established his reputation as England's greatest art critic; Sheridan had produced "The Rivals," Byron published the first canto of "Childe Harold," and Rossini produced his most popular opera, "The Barber of Seville."

In Devonshire any person bitten by a viper is advised to kill the creature at once and rub the wound with its fat. This practice has, to some extent, survived in this country, where the flesh of the rattlesnake is accounted to be the best cure for its own bite, but as a rule the leading superstition in the United States is of the efficacy of numerous potions of whisky as an antidote for snake bite.

The Chicago Record-Herald says: "Plans are in contemplation for giving the University of Chicago the finest physical laboratory in the United States, if not in the world. It is said that before all the plans are consummated the plant will have cost \$1,000,000. All of the money is to be furnished by Martin Ryerson, president of the board of trustees of the university, who also was the donor of the present Ryerson laboratory at the university."

If an aeroplane flies faster than the prevailing wind it can, of course, make landings or headway as necessary or desired, but so long as the aeroplane is slower than the blowing wind it is more or less under control and cannot be brought down just anywhere. It is believed that when motors can be relied on for thirty-five miles an hour they not only can meet the wind almost every day in the year, but can rise from land or water at almost any open place.—New York Press.

Colonizers of all races seem to be careful savers of their earnings in the countries to which they emigrate. In recent years there has been a considerable migration of East Indian coolies to the Island of Trinidad, 2,393 having landed there last year. There was a return to Calcutta of 726, carrying with them \$86,000 in money, besides a large quantity of jewels, in which the coolies invest their savings. In the year there were also remittances to India of about \$17,000.—New York Press.

Few people, I fear, nowadays, read Maria Edgeworth; it is a pity. She is one of the finest novelists that ever adorned English literature. It was her tales, it must always be remembered, that inspired Sir Walter Scott to the composition of the "Waverley Novels." He cried aloud and everywhere his admiration for her and his indebtedness to her. Her writings have, however, a high value as historical pictures, altogether apart from their merits as literature; and of all her novels her best is "Castle Rackrent."—T. P. O'Connor, in T. P.'s Weekly, London.

The introduction of tungsten lamps is doing much to advance the use of electricity on farms. It is possible for the farmer with a small plant, driven either by a gasoline engine or by damming a small stream, to obtain sufficient current to light his house and barn with this economical type of incandescent lamp. The use of electricity on the farm, by the way, is growing and, as pointed out by the Electrical World, farmers will in time come to consider electricity a necessity. Then it will be found profitable to establish central generating stations for farming districts to take the place of the small individual plants now being installed

DAD'S OL' FIDDLE.

"Tisn't pulty, that ol' fiddle, hangin' there ag'in the wall, But among my household treasures it's the dearest of 'em all; It is scarred an' scratched an' battered, but I've got an idee it, If ol' dad was here to work it, could perduce some music yit. He was just a country fiddler of the Rack-Back-Davy sort, Had no virtuous trainin', all come to him as a forte, An' among his rippertory there was one inspirin' tune That would start us all to dancin'; which was

"Ol' Zip Coon!"

In the evenin' after supper, when the stock had all bin fed An' the modest skins was blushin' at the sun a-goin' to bed, Dad 'd set an' tune "Ol' Betsy," scrapin' in at the strings, I swear, Till he'd start ol' Towser howlin' like a death was in the air! Then he'd shet his eyes a minute a-reflectin' what to play, An' would start with "Camptown Races," take a whirl at "Ol' Dog Tray," Us a-waitin' with impatience, fur we knewed that purty soon He would start the strings a-quiverin' with

"Ol' Zip Coon!"



At the big corn huskin' dances in the country dad was there In his Sunday-go-to-meetin's, an' with bear's ile on his hair, An' he'd git to jerkin' music that 'd charm a eppycure, With his cowhide boot a-beatin' to the measure on the floor, They would waltz an' they would shottish, dance the "Ol' Virginny Reel," Till they'd see him puttin' "Betsy" into extry careful tune, Then they'd pound the lumber lively to his

"Ol' Zip Coon!"

He's a-layin' in the shadder of a willer tree back there, Where the music of his fiddle ust to electrify the air, An' the instrument a-hangin' on the wall he left to me As a every-day reminder of his blessed memory. An' I often git a-thinkin' if he had "Ol' Betsy" now Up among his feller spirits there 'd be a jolly row! He'd forgit he was in heaven an' would git her into tune, An' would have the angels raggin' to his

"Ol' Zip Coon!"

—Denver Weekly News-Times.

Diseases of Fear.

If you are afflicted with an unreasonable fear of anything, do not waste time being ashamed of yourself; hurry at once to a doctor, advises a writer in Success Magazine. A writer in the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette has compiled a list of fear diseases from which it appears that everything, from screaming at mice to being afraid to go home in the dark, is a well recognized mental ailment.

The tramp is in reality a sufferer from ergophobia, or fear of work, often complicated with agoraphobia and sapophobia, which makes him shun the bathtub. Siderophobia and astrophobia cause timid lads to go into the closet when it thunders and lightens. Any number of people have cat and dog phobias. Phantophobia is what you would have if you were afraid of your shadow, while an all-around, unqualified coward might be called a phantophobia. The list is long and includes almost every human weakness except the actress' horror of publicity.

What She Was.

Flossie and Mabel, touring the country on one of the famous see-it-if-you-can excursions, were trampin' the streets of New Orleans. A comely brunette of delicate complexion and stately carriage swung gracefully by them.

Flossie, excitedly nodding toward her, whispered loudly, "Oh, look, Mabel! There goes one of them beautiful octagons."

"Huh!" exclaimed Mabel, "what a goose you are, Flossie, dear. That isn't what they call them at all. She is a pronounced nectarine."—Success Magazine.

The Point of View.

"Isn't it dreadful the way these frauds and ways to cheat and swindle are being discovered? Just look at this page of the paper—full of them!" "And here's a long article about the customs officers holding all travelers to a strict investigation."

"Isn't that just too mean! How is Cousin Anne going to get through to me those lovely gloves she bought for me in Paris?"—Baltimore American.

Good Intentions.

Said Charon to Diabolus, "Your pavement's simply awful! To leave your streets in such a fix is surely quite unlawful."

"The contract's let for street repairs," Replied the Prince Imperial; "But not till New Year's Day is past. Shall we have good material?"—Success Magazine

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

Nearly 316,000 marriages took place in France last year.

Over 3,000 pounds of rose petals are used in the manufacture of one pound of attar of roses perfume.

During business hours the southernmost square mile of Manhattan island has a population of 200,000.

In a series of telephonic experiments a German scientist has made magnets, alternating current transformers, and even dynamos talk without the use of vibrating plates or membranes.

The United States capitol receives its annual bath a short time before Congress convenes, the toilet articles used consisting of about 2,500 feet of hose in the expert hands of one company of the fire department. Powerful streams of water at high pressure remove dust, spider webs, insects of all kinds, birds nests and other foreign substances from the many crevices.

The Archaeological Society has made five excavations around the walls of the amphitheater in King Arthur's round-table field in Monmouthshire, England, and the searchers found the main entrance, the sand which formed the bed of the arena, and a corner stone. From inscriptions on this stone they trace the date of the theater back to 110 A. D., or 1,800 years.—Popular Mechanics.

A close study of the water supply for the operation of the locks under present plans shows that the available amount of water on the isthmus is not sufficient to maintain, at all times, in the canal, the forty feet of depth stipulated for by the law. In dry years the modern Dreadnought of the navy, the large carriers of freight and the army transports will not be able to use the canal.—Julio F. Sorzano, in Van Norden Magazine.

The University of Pennsylvania was the first academic institution in America to have a professor of German. Even from the earliest days of the college the institution had a professor of modern languages which included German, and this professorship was occupied by Professor Creamer, who was himself of German descent. In 1780 a closer connection was formed between the University of Pennsylvania and the Germans by establishing the German institute.

Sow a large white sponge full of rice, oats or wheat. Then place it for a week or ten days in a shallow dish, and, as the sponge will absorb the moisture, the seeds will begin to sprout before many days. When this has fairly taken place, the sponge may be suspended by means of cords from a hook in the top of the window where a little sun will enter. It will thus become a living mass of green, requiring only a little occasional moisture.—Suburban Life for January.

A record was established by the fish commission in the distribution of fish and fish eggs for propagation and hatching purposes during the fiscal year 1909, when the output aggregated 3,117,131,911. This is 240,000,000 more fish and eggs than were distributed during the previous year. Whitefish and several varieties of perch and flatfish were used in greatest numbers. Vast quantities of the fry of the cod and the lobster also went out. Altogether the commission distributed the eggs, fry, fingerlings, yearlings and adults of almost forty kinds of fish.

The most luxurious prison in the world is in Japan, about fifteen miles from Tokio. In the midst of gardens, where flourish medlars and cherry trees, where are seen ornamental ponds with water lilies, arises the palatial prison. The cells are spacious and airy. The lighting throughout is by electricity, and the apartments are furnished luxuriously. Bathrooms with marble baths, hot and cold water being laid on; dressing rooms and reading rooms—nothing seems to be wanted to make the sojourn in this prison pleasant. In fact, it seems an ideal country residence.

In Ireland spiders are largely concerned in the cure of ague; in many localities the sufferer is advised to swallow a living spider. This ought to make one shake nearly as bad as the ague, and no doubt the better way would be to put a large black spider in a box and leave it to perish, as is the vogue in Somerset and some of the nearby counties. A lingering faith in this old world superstition must have been alive until quite recently, for the making of spider web pills is not an uncommon industry in New England, and Longfellow tells of a popular cure for the fever "by wearing a spider hung around one's neck in a nutshell."—Chicago Tribune.

According to the legend, the Spaniard's inn, still in existence, was a rendezvous of Dick Turpin, and it is said that in the stable there he stalled his Black Bess. But the Spaniard's has other associations. Its tea garden was certainly the spot that Dickens chose for Mrs. Bardell and her party to take tea in. Jack Straw's castle is quite as well known. Washington Irving mentions it in "The Sketch Book." In "The Tales of a Traveler" Irving makes Dribble, the poor scribbler of Grub street, say that during his rambles he visited Hampstead and occasionally took his dinner at the castle. It is with Dickens, John Forster, MacLise and their friends, however, that Jack Straw's castle is most intimately associated. In the bedroom which Dickens occupied may still be seen the chair in which the novelist used to sit.—Westminster Gazette

RAM'S HORN BLASTS.

Warning Notes Calling the Wicked to Repentance.



If you let a falsehood lie it will soon die.

Wouldn't it be delightful if one-half the compliments paid us were true?

We never know what our friends will do for us until we get into trouble.

It is ever common to remember other peoples' faults and forget our own.

The shorter the step from one sin to another, the sooner one wears out his soul.

Originality is a fragment of another man's thought linked with a bit of one's own.

What foolishness to live to pile up dollars if the devil is to be the only gainer by it.

Many a man's head has been turned by somebody else coming into church a little late.

Not everyone who goes to church is a Christian, nor everyone who stays at home a sinner.

Angels know how much we want the Lord to come, by what we are doing to help make the devil go.

God provided for the worst that could happen to man before He breathed into him the breath of life.

A man's vices lead him into the broad way, and after that he takes the lead and drags the vices after him.

The man who would be worthy of honest praise must practice constantly the virtues which inspire honest men to praise their fellow men.

The "drys" think that if the saloon is not taken out of politics, politics will die. The "wets" fear that if the saloon is taken out of politics, both will die.

One may part with his health in the acquiring of millions—then health is not worth as much as money, but after that health is worth more, for his millions cannot buy it back.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATION.

The American traveler, as a rule, is well informed as to all that concerns a stranger far from his own country; but he sometimes finds it difficult to understand why any other language than that of his native land should be used. Two Americans traveling in Germany wanted to send a telegram, and went to the office. The operator could not sepa a word of English, the Americans were ignorant of German, and after a conversation in which each party politely explained matters to the further mystification of the other, one of the Americans turned to his companion and said:

"Well, Jim, take one of those blanks and write out the message. Then he'll understand it well enough."

This "Jim" did, but the operator pushed back the paper with an amiable smile, but a convincing shake of his head.

The travelers looked at each other, puzzled, but "Jim" had an idea.

"I tell you what I'll do. I'll spell it out to him. The lunkhead can't help but understand if the words are all spelled to him, letter by letter."

Fortunately the message was short, and the clerk listened politely, but without a sign of comprehension. He evidently considered it another peculiar development of a strange language.

Seeing no signs of understanding, the men went in search of a friend who could write their message for them, and explained to him that the telegraph operator was evidently a stupid person.

"I don't blame him for not understanding English," said one, "but what I do blame him for is because he can't tell what a word is after you've spelled it for him. That's what I call more than ignorant!"

A Long Felt Want.

An American once went to Windsor castle and insisted upon seeing Queen Victoria. He was told that 't was quite impossible, as an audience with the queen could be had only by appointment. Still he persisted, and then they told him flat-footed that before seeing the queen he must state the object of his visit. He said he wanted to shew her a new piece of furniture, a throne bed—a perfect throne by day and a perfect bed by night.

Her Sad Finish.

"Did you ever know a girl to die for love?"

"Yes."

"Did she just fade away and die because some man deserted her?"

"No. She just took in washing and worked herself to death because the man she loved married her."—Houston Post.

Between Friends.

Miss Homeleigh—Perhaps you won't believe it, but a strange man tried to kiss me once. Miss Cutting—Really—Well, he'd have been a strange man if he'd tried to kiss you twice.

The average man spends more money on a foolish habit than he does on his wife's hats.