TOPICS OF THE TIMES

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day —Historical and News Notes.

Latest Battle Hymn: "No Meat for Me; Please Pass the Prunes."

Even the Apostle Paul would not eat meat if it caused his brother to offend.

The thirteenth child of New York parents, born the other day, was twins.

Electricity. What is it? Nobody knows. Ajax defied it. Franklin tried it and now we buy it.

It is said injections of rattlesnake venom will cure hookworm. Also pellagra. It is a kill-or-cure remedy.

West Point young men are to be permitted to haze within reason. Now we shall see whether they know where reason ends and foolishness begins.

Prof. Lowell can logically reply that the people who don't believe Mars is inhabited have never succeeded in furnishing convincing proof that it isn't.

Dr. Wiley says that living on a vegetable diet will create a race of weaklings. The doctor probably said it right after eating porterhouse steak.

It is predicted that Chicago will one day have 20,000,000 inhabitants. Fortunately, that day, like the failure of the heat of the sun, is comfortably distant.

Seldom will even a vain and unreliable woman give an untruthful answer if you ask her about her age. She will say it is none of your business.

The courts have decided that a woman has no right to open her husband's mail. They have not, however, decided what they are going to do about it.

A man is soon to be released from the Connecticut penitentiary after having been for fifty years a prisoner. He will find that there are many more things to be dodged than when he went in.

It's an ill wind that blows good to nobody. The dyspeptic who has for years been compelled to diet is not finding it necessary to make any new sacrifices on account of the high cost of living.

It is a fairly safe prediction that more human lives will be spent on aviation this year than ever before. At that, the casualty list may not be large, considering the extent of the sport and its novelty.

Democracy has made wonderful progress in Denmark. Until 1831 the kingdom was an absolute monarchy, with a most bureaucratic form of government. Now its new premier is the son of a cobbler, and not one of his eight associates in the ministry belongs to the aristocracy.

The new Queen of Belgium is probably the first Queen in history to hold a medical degree. She gained it at Leipsig before her marriage, and has given practical proof of her interest in her profession by founding a free dispensary, which she visits almost daily. Her father, the late Duke Charles Theodore of Bavaria, won eminence as an oculist.

Senator Gordon of Mississippi, appointed to succeed the late Senator McLaurin, is seventy-six years old. He served through the Civil War on the Confederate side. He has always been fond of field sports, and recently made the statement that for years he has had a forfeit of ten dollars posted that no boy who smokes cigarettes can beat him shooting. None of the candidates who have tried has yet succeeded in winning the money.

Sandwiched in the papers between articles protesting against the high prices of food and the latest report from the meat boycott was the statement that one contractor had offered to furnish meals for the Ellis Island immigration station at five cents for each breakfast, nine cents for dinner and six cents for supper. Not all food is prohibitive in price, then! Unfortunately, bills of fare were not quoted, so it is hard to judge whether full-fledged American citizens would be ready to put up with the proposed fare.

There is some truth in the assertion of James J. Hill, who says: "It isn't the high cost of living; it's the cost of high living that disturbs the consumers of the country." Mr. Hill insists that the main reason for the high prices of food is the falling off in production. If to this failure of supply, which would indeed be an adequate cause of increased prices, be added the restraint of trade effected by the interposition of trusts and middlemen between producers and consumers and the further restraint occasioned by high tariffs, the cost of living is fully explained without reference to the lesser cause of the cost of high living. High living and waste are evils that in the long run bring about their own correction. They are incidental to human weakness, but in so far as the high cost of living arises from trade restrictions the people have the remedy in their own hands. They can cut the ground from under legalized plundering and unlawful restraint of trade at the hands of greedy monopolists by exercising the power lodged in their hands to repeal or modify hurtful laws and to compel the enforcement of laws intended to protect the public against piratical adventurers who seek to turn all avenues of industrial effort into trading posts of plunder.

Some weeks ago Professor Willis Moore was reported as advancing the theory that the indomitable American spirit was due to the prevalence of northwest winds on this continent. The east wind brings humidity and pathogenic germs; it enervates and demoralizes the professor was represented as saying, while the northwest winds bring ozone, health, vigor and ambition. Now, in his "hobby" talk at Washington, Professor Moore reiterated this declaration, but with some reserve and caution. He was "somewhat of the opinion" that the wonderful energy and alertness of the American people were caused "in large measure" by our "atmospheric conditions." Of course, "atmospheric conditions" is not a phrase interchangeable with "wind," but the professor repeated his tribute to the "northwesterner," with its downward motion and its generous exploitation of the germ-free upper regions for the benefit of the lowlanders. Even in its tentative form the theory is most interesting. Chicago's "I Will" is seen in a new light—in the light of a close alliance with the air currents and atmospheric conditions of the Windy City, henceforth proud of its breezy alias. The physical transformation of the children of immigrants in less than one generation, to which another professor recently directed attention, and which has been attributed to food and cosmopolitanism and freedom, may be largely the result of the prevailing winds. The question will bear further study. What was the influence of winds in the making of the great nations in the past—Greece, Rome, Britain? What winds have unified Germany and made her powerful? Perhaps the South American revolutions are wind-begotten, and we have been unjust to poor man. "Winds and the Fate of Nations"—what a subject!

ATLANTIC CITY AS COD CENTER.

Only Deeper Channel Necessary to Bring Great Fishing Industry.

Lacking only a harbor that will allow the passage of deep-draught fishing steamers, this city, says an Atlantic City correspondent of the Philadelphia Record, can be made real headquarters of the cod-fishing industry on the Atlantic coast, according to expert fishing magnates who appeared before the national board of engineers to add their plea to that of hotel and business men for government aid for the harbor project. Quoting figures to show the gradual decline in the fishing industry both on the Newfoundland banks and the sounds and banks fished by the New York fleets, the fishermen declared that Atlantic City is now in the direct center of the greatest fishing grounds left on the Atlantic seaboard and that this city, with its splendid facilities for shipping, has claims for federal assistance toward becoming the greatest supply point for fresh cod and other fish for the Philadelphia and New York markets.

"At the present time boats from the Atlantic City inlet bring in over 3,000,000 pounds of fish each winter," declared Captain A. W. France, owner of a big fleet of fishing craft. "Codfish alone are sold from here for more than $115,000 every year and with a deep harbor that would allow of heavy-draft fishing steamers making harbor without danger the industry would amount to over $1,000,000 a year." According to Captain France, only forty-one craft are of shallow enough draft to cross the inlet bar at present, even in favorable weather, and he expressed his belief that at least 30 vessels from all parts of the East would engage in the fishing here if the channels were deepened sufficiently.

"At the present time Atlantic City fishermen catch more fish per man than do either the Gloucester, Boston or New York fishermen," declared Captain France. "Atlantic City, with its open way to the sea without danger of ice could catch enough fish to keep down the price of food fish which now soars with the freezing up of other less fortunate parts during the cold weather."

On the Branch Line.

The trains on the branch road never went very fast. There were various reasons for this, all good ones. Nevertheless, travelers from more populous districts sometimes expressed forcible opinions on the subject. Silas Wetmore, who rode back and forth to and from the junction almost every day, took it upon himself to pacify such as were unduly disturbed by the waits and stops of the little sawed-off string of cars.

One day a particularly irritable passenger sat next him. He not only complained that the train was slow, but wished to know why it was slow.

"What are we stopping for now?" he asked.

Silas looked out of the window.

"This is a station," he said, mildly.

"Don't see any," said the other.

"Oh, there isn't any building," said Silas, "but it's a stopping-place."

By and by the train went on. Presently it stopped, apparently in the middle of a field. This time the stranger did not inquire into the reasons for halting. But after another twenty minutes the same thing occurred. Finally he broke out again:

"What we stopping here for? Isn't any station here, is they?"

"No station," said Silas. "We're stopping for water."

"Water!" exclaimed the other. "Water! Why we just took in water not five minutes ago. What do you mean?"

"Boiler leaks," said Silas, patiently; and the other relapsed into silence.

Latest in Love-Making.

The art of love-making has changed, indeed, since the days when the ardent youth decked himself in ruffles and silken hose, and, rich with delicate perfumes, recited poems "made to his mistress' eyebrow." Now the suitor seeks other ways of winning his lady's favor, and there is genuine, if mistaken, romance in the story told the other day in a New York City police court by a youth arrested on a charge of petty larceny preferred by the proprietor of a drug store. The chemist observed a steady dwindling in his supplies of benzine, and finally traced it to one of his clerks. Arrested, the youth admitted the theft, and the druggist expected to learn he had suffered from pilferings in other directions. Benzine, however, was the only thing the youth had stolen, and he had taken that—just a little at a time—simply to scent his clothes so that a certain difficult maiden of his choice might believe he owned an automobile, and thereby, presumably, learn to return his love.

The beauty of some women is enough to give a man painter's colic

CRUELTIES OF FASHION.

Barbaric Taste Exhibited in the Aigrette Hat and Seal Coat.

I think we might leave Paris to look after its own conscience and begin today in London an intelligent selection of the fashions which it sends us. If we have no great oracle of our own we might at least exercise some discrimination with regard to these imported inspirations. And of all crying scandals none is more in need of reform than the aigrette hat and the seal coat, says a writer in the Graphic of that city.

The former has many fighters in the cause. As aforesaid, the League for the Prevention of Cruelty to Birds has interested many notabilities, from royalty downward. Everybody knows the facts, and even the toughest fashionable conscience cannot ignore the way in which those pretty, fluffy, feathery things are obtained. And, in truth, aigretted hats were never really popular in London for reasons unconnected with expense, whereas in Paris one saw them last summer on almost every other head.

The tale of the seal coat, on the other hand, is not a matter for congratulation, and I cannot but believe that the grewsome facts connected with seal fishing are not an affair of common knowledge. The horrors of the aigrette pale before them. Notable men have denounced them without affecting the market, and pamphlets reeking with tales of blood have attempted, all in vain, to check the popularity of the fashionable coat. In spite of bald, unexaggerated accounts of seals skinned alive, and of puppies unnecessarily destroyed to attract their mothers, the long seal coat is more popular and more worn than any other.

Truly, our taste is somewhat barbaric. We bedeck ourselves with the skins of animals in a manner which, I believe, has not been surpassed for brutality since the stone age. The head, the tail and the claws of the wretched animal dangle, au naturel, from our smartest stoles and muffs. Some people prefer to tone down the baldness of these trophies with lace and chiffon, and thus obtain an incongruous and scarcely happier result.

CURE FOR SEASICKNESS.

Apparatus Makes One Immune Without Ocean Experience.

Richard von Volkmann, a Dutch scientist and naval expert, has invented an apparatus for curing seasickness on shore, an exchange says. It is a small room or rather a large box, just about big enough to hold one person, so fixed upon two axles at right angles with each other that, when an engine is started, the whole affair moves in much the same way as a stateroom might do on board a ship at sea, imitating both the pitch and the roll.

Naturally, when put into the box a person liable to seasickness soon begins to feel all the unpleasant symptoms of the malady. But this is not permitted to continue. He is promptly taken out when he experiences discomfort, and is not put back into the box until next day. The operation is repeated day after day until the sickness is no longer experienced.

Generally speaking, people who suffer from mal de mer get it after they have been a few days on shipboard. Volkmann's box method of treatment is based upon the same theory—the object in view being to make the patient gradually accustomed to the motion, without causing any serious discomfort. A course of this sort of thing, taken as a preparation for an ocean voyage, may be expected to render a person immune to seasickness during the trip, if not for longer.

Unfortunately, there are some people who never get over the tendency to seasickness. Admiral Dewey is one of these. He suffers great distress every time he goes to sea. Not long ago a young graduate of the naval academy at Annapolis named Koenig obtained a transfer to the army because of chronic and incurable mal de mer. He was sick not only whenever he went to sea, but all the time until he gained dry land again.

Sickness at the stomach, however, is only an incident of this kind of trouble. It is the nervous system that is upset. Nobody knows exactly why. But there is an automatic spirit level in the brain, the fluid in the semi-circular canals of the ear having importantly to do with the apparatus, and a constantly repeated effort to readjust equilibrium seems to have a very disturbing effect.

"Guzinta."

"Guzinta" is not a new study, although that name for it is quite novel. A member of a school board was visiting a public school not long ago, says Lippincott's, when he encountered a small boy in the hall, buried in a book. "What are you studying, my boy?" the visitor inquired.

"Arithmetic and geography," answered the boy.

"And what are you learning in arithmetic?"

The boy thought for a minute, then he replied, "Guzinta."

"Guzinta?" said the surprised official. "What's that?"

"Why, don't you know?" said the boy. "Two guzinta four, three guzinta six, four guzinta eight, five guzinta ten."

Mamma's Business.

Little Minna was saying her prayers. When she had finished her usual petition her mother said: "You have forgotten, dear, 'Make Minna a good girl,' you know." "Oh, mether," she answered, reproachfully, "don't let's bother God about that; that's your lookout."—Harper's Magazine.

It is every woman's opinion that if her children were described in stage language, they would be referred to as "an all-star company."

Men may flatter each other occasionally, but we have observed that a man seldom overestimates his brother-in-law.

Always go to the man in the case if you wish to know if the announcement of a marriage engagement is official.

When married women sit down and look wistfully in the dark they are wishing they had money.

AMERICA'S TIMBER MINE.

One in New Jersey in Operation More Than One Hundred Years.

The wood mines of upper Tonkin, China, are not any more curious than a wood mine that has been in operation in New Jersey for more than 100 years. This mine is at Dennisville, in the swampy region of south New Jersey, and yields cedar such as grows nowhere on this continent to-day. The fallen and submerged forest is believed to be prehistoric. Logs have been mined from it more than six feet in diameter.

These ancient cedars have a delicate flesh-colored wood, and if it is a tree that was alive when it fell, the same pungent flavor when cut as pervades our common red cedar. The dead trunks are odorless. The logs lie in heaps or layers, and it has not been determined yet how many layers there are below the top stratum the miners uncover.

When these prehistoric cedars were first discovered and for 80 years afterward they afforded remunerative and constant employment to many persons who mined the logs, and to-day they are a source of considerable income to those who continue to raise the logs. The cedars are cut up into shingles and staves and made into pails and tubs and other wooden vessels. The great endurance of the wood is noted in shingles made from it a century ago and which are as sound to-day as when they were first put in use.

Near the Delaware river, eight miles west of Dennisville, cedars of the same variety have been found at a depth of 12 feet. At Cape May, on the Atlantic coast, 20 miles east, in drilling an artesian well an alluvial deposit similar to the Dennisville swamp was found at the depth of 90 feet and the drill entered a cedar log and bored into it more than six feet before its diameter was entirely pierced. This tree was alive when it fell, no telling how many thousands of years ago.

FASHION HINTS

A striking model for an embroidered handkerchief linen, has a pointed overskirt effect, cap sleeves and a most attractive waist that is "vesty" in design. The lower part of the skirt is laid in pleats.

IN CHICAGO.

Every 6 minutes a child is born.

Every 7 minutes there is a funeral.

Every 2 days some one is murdered.

Every 13 minutes a couple gets married.

Every 10 minutes an immigrant arrives.

Every 3 minutes some one is arrested.

Every 42 minutes a new business firm starts up.

Every 48 minutes a ship leaves the harbor.

Every 8½ hours some couple is divorced.

Every 10 hours some one commits suicide.

Every 7 hours some one fails in business.

Every 1¼ hours some one is killed by accident.

Every 8 hours an attempt to kill some one is made.

At the museum at Innsbruck, in Austria, there has been for a number of years a piece of pottery in the form of a basin, which experts were unable to locate as to age. It has now been determined that it was made in the twelfth century, and the great bowl is remarkable more for the design which it bears on the inner side than for its age. It shows Alexander the Great riding in an airship, which is propelled by griffins. Alexander stands holding with a great rod food over the heads of the griffins.

Altruism.

Wife—You disappoint me dreadfully. You won't do a thing to help the church.

Husband—What's the matter? Don't I stay home every Sunday so some one else may have my seat?—Harper's Bazaar.

Aeroplanes have long been in use, and now a German inventor has patented a simple sail vehicle, which makes fair progress over good roads.

Worse than Split.

The Youth—Miss Mabel, I'd like to, once in a while, with your permission, you know, call and see you.

The High School Girl—Mr. Sorreltop, you will pardon me for saying that I do not care for the attentions of a young man who not only splits his infinitives, but tears them wide apart.

They say loafing is a bad habit, and that every loafer feels the disgrace so keenly he never enjoys it; but we'd like to try it.

FARM AND GARDEN

Coal Ashes Are Worth Saving.

In many sections of the country coal is the principal winter fuel used by farmers and a large quantity of ashes result which are usually looked on as waste, but an authority says there is more value in coal ashes than is generally realized by the farmer. For the amelioration of heavy clay land they are exceptionally valuable. This is particularly so with the ashes of soft coal, as such usually are reduced almost to a dust. Coal ashes have a fertilizer value. This opinion, however, is not held generally. The coal beds contain phosphorus, potash, nitrogen and lime, as well as the other less important ingredients. When the original trees out of which were formed the coal beds were reduced to coal the mineral elements remained in them, and consequently those same elements go with the ashes.

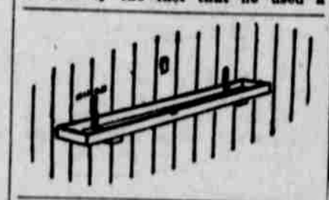
One reason why people have formed an idea that coal ashes contain no fertility is that the trees now grown have in them less carbon than those in the old days and thus the percentage of other elements to carbon is probably greater now than then, which gives a larger value to our wood ashes, but does not annihilate the value in the coal ashes. Ashes can be used to advantage without sifting, but large quantities of half-burned coal are by some considered a detriment to the soil.—Rural World.

Good Hog Sense.

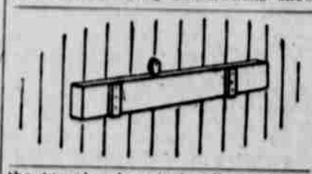
It is not a good plan to take all the pigs from the sow, unless one or two of them can be turned with her some hours after, to draw the milk she will have at that time, and again, say after a lapse of twenty-four hours. The preferred way is to leave about two of the smallest with her for several days, and after that leave only one for two or three days more, by which time the flow of milk will have been so gradually diminished that no injury will result to the sow by keeping them entirely away from her. This extra supply of milk helps also to push the smaller pigs along in growth and put them more nearly on an equality in size with their thriftier mates.—Coburn's "Swine in America."

A Convenient Calf Trough.

A farmer near Paullina, Iowa, has been using an ingenious method for feeding his calves. It was suggested to him by the fact that he used a



manure spreader in his sheds and consequently all obstructions that extended out a foot from the wall were in the way. As calves require a low manger, one can be hung on hinges so that when it is turned up it will not occupy more than five or six inches of space out from the wall. It may be any length, but it is better to have it made in sections about six feet long. The accompanying illustrations show



the trough when it is all ready for feeding purposes, and also when it is hooked up close against the wall.

Keeping Farm Accounts.

Farmers who visited the Ohio State University were interested in the system of accounts used on the farm. While the land is not tilled for the same experimental purposes as the fields at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, a certain amount of experimentation has to be done in order to determine the most profitable methods of handling the land. These experiments are the same in kind as should be conducted by farmers generally. The accounts are kept in such form as to show the results of the different methods employed on the different fields.

Selling Value of Cows.

The North Carolina experiment station proposes a plan to place a buying and selling value on cows on a basis of the yield and quality of their milk. According to the brief account of the plan it lays down a rule to fix a price for a cow at the rate of $12 per gallon of milk given per day that shows 3.5 per cent fat. To this add or subtract $1 for every one-fourth on 1 per cent fat which is above or below the 3.5 per cent.

Protecting Tree Trunks.

The trunks of fruit trees may be wrapped with paper to protect them from mice and rabbits, the paper being tied on with a cord to hold it in place. Old newspapers may be used for the purpose, the care necessary being to see that the paper entirely covers the trunk of the tree high enough to prevent the rabbits reaching the exposed portion above the paper.

Lesson of the Boll Weevil.

Agricultural teachers have urged diversified farming for many years, but with little effect until the appearance of the boll weevil. This insect made cotton farming very precarious and has led to radical modifications in the systems of farming prevailing in that section.

Raising Chicks First Principle.

The feeding and growing of little chicks is an art which everyone must learn before they can wish for success in poultry raising

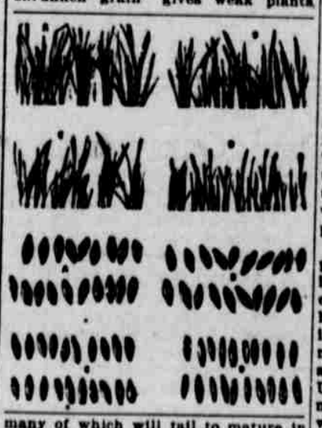
Dipping Sheep Effectively.

To rid sheep of external parasites or the scab mite they should be dipped in some effective dip. Coal tar dips are effective, nonpoisonous and do not ordinarily injure the wool. They are therefore considered among the best. Before using all dips should be tested. Mix one teaspoonful of dip with fifty to seventy-five of water, according to directions. Wrap a few ticks or bedbugs in a gauze and dip them in this mixture for thirty seconds. Then place them under a tumbler, and if they are not dead in six hours the dip is not strong enough. It should be made strong enough to make a thirty-second dip effective. Sheep are to be kept in the dip one minute. Place the dip in the tank before the water, so the mixture will be uniform.

The best time to dip is when the wool is one-fourth to one-half inch long, so that the dip will adhere to the fleece. If the ticks are present at shearing time the whole flock should be dipped at once to prevent the ticks from getting to the lambs.

Heavy Seeds Give Best Plants.

To obtain a good stand of grain it is necessary to use the largest and plumpest grain for seed. Small or shrunken grain gives weak plants



many of which will fail to mature in an unfavorable season. A sudden change in temperature, a prolonged drought or a slight frost is more likely to destroy the weak plants than the strong. The increased yield at harvesting time is quite a consideration. In the illustration the heavy and light samples of barley A B C and D produced plants as indicated with corresponding letters above.

The Farmer.

He used to wear his pantaloons
Inside his muddy boots;
He used to sing outlandish tunes
And dress in misfit suits;
He used to rise at half past four,
And milk and hoe and plough;
He doesn't do so any more,
He's counting money now.

The callouses upon his hands
Were softened long ago;
For employes prepare his lands
For nature's fertile show.
There is no sorrow in his eye
Nor anger on his brow.
Things are not as in days gone by,
He's counting money now.
—Washington Evening Star.

Potash Content of Clay Soils.

According to a recent bulletin of the New Hampshire Station, the clay and clay loam soils carry sufficient potash for the production of maximum yields of hay, and that a large part of the potash applied in fertilizers is lost so far as the crop is concerned. In other words, the addition of commercial potash to such soils is unnecessary. When barnyard manure, which contains a large amount of potash, is added, the value lies, not in the potash, but in the other fertilizing elements, and in large part in the improvement of the physical condition of the soil.

Cultivation for Forest Trees.

The young farmer forester should be experienced in the art of stimulating the growth of trees in natural groves by cultivation. When we come to think how hard the ground is in some woods it is really strange that trees get enough moisture to support themselves. The difference in the amount of rainfall absorbed by a level-plowed field and hard-baked hillside is very great, and it is wonderful how an oak or hickory growing on a hillside ever attains to great height and size.

Winter Egg Producers.

The essentials to profitable egg production are a healthy flock of fowls possessing constitutional vigor, bred from a laying strain; proper housing, and correct feeding. The best way to secure a laying strain on the farm is to select the hens of greatest vigor that naturally produce the most eggs during the winter. Mate these hens with a good male, also from a laying strain, and then select only the best daughters from this mating.

Difference in Types.

The man who has been accustomed all his life to raising the lard type of hog will have his troubles when he comes to shift over to the bacon breeds. This has nothing to do with the merits of the breeds in question, but the feeding habits, the general character and make-up of the two types are different, and some time and possibly some expense is necessary before the experienced feeder of the one type can shift over and became a successful feeder of the other.

Ventilation and Egg Fertility.

A common cause of the failure of fertile eggs to hatch is lack of sufficient ventilation. The fresh air supply depends to a greater extent than is generally known on the difference in the temperature of the air inside the machine and that of the room in which the incubator stands.

Importance of Reading Matter.

The up-to-date farmer needs a good library as well as any other professional man. The progressive man reads some at all seasons of the year, but there is more time for reading in winter than in summer, especially of long evenings. Get good books of all kinds and read them. Every dollar spent in good books will bring $10 actual return, not counting the pleasure and general information derived from the reading

SINGING OLD SONGS.

Nation's Lawmakers Pay Tribute to America's Prominent Bards.

A group of senators had gathered in the committee room. It had been a hard day, in which there had been incessant study of schedules, interspersed with wrangles over technical points, that had been wearisome. In the midst of the silence and gloom some one started to hum an old song, half-forgotten by many present. Then others began to sing or whistle familiar airs, and tell incidents of interest and moment connected with those songs that had been turning points in their own lives. Finally it was agreed among the small body of senators that, after a summary was made of the songs of the country, two names stood out prominently in American music—John Howard Payne, whose remains were brought back to Washington from foreign soil by a grateful republic, and Stephen C. Foster, says Joe Mitchell Chapple in the National Magazine. The many melodies connected with those two names will live long in the hearts of the people. It was suggested that the remains of Stephen C. Foster ought also to be brought to Washington and rest beside those of John Howard Payne in Oakhill Cemetery.

It is a singular thing that the immortal song, "Home, Sweet Home," should have been written by an American, and yet was sung first on foreign soil in 1823. It was Jenny Lind who immortalized this song in Washington. The lawmakers of the nation stood there in the twilight and paid a tribute to these two great song writers which was certainly indicative of the power of music over the human heart.

It was agreed that the songs of Stephen C. Foster, the Pennsylvania balladist, which have been translated into every language under heaven, and have touched the hearts of human beings of every race and clime, have immortalized their writer. The senators agreed that this sweet minstrel of the United States ought to have a monument such as would be worthy of one who had left so deep an impress upon the world's history.

QUEER STORIES

Paris has 30,000 liquor selling establishments.

The army is experimenting with transmitting bugle calls for long distances with the aid of the megaphone.

In the time of King Canute, the eleventh century, there was a law prohibiting English parents from selling their children to the Irish for slaves.

The Arabic mission of the Reformed Church in America has obtained permission to erect a hospital at Bassorah, near the Persian gulf, according to Consul-General Harris at Smyrna.

Mme. Anna Rogstad, the first woman member of the Storthing, which is the lower house in the Norwegian parliament, was a teacher in one of the primary grades of the public schools in Christiania when elected.

An Alma girl who is considered as belonging to the high-brow crowd was the object of a serenade the other night, and in telling a friend about it, said: "I don't think there is nothing more nicer than to be woken up at night with vocal singing."—Alma (Kas.) Signal.

Of all the strange stories going the rounds about Sidis, the boy mathematical marvel at Harvard, the strangest, and one that is vouched for, is that he has no sense of location and has to be led from place to place. He goes from building to building at Harvard, but it is said he can not go from one town to another without a companion.—Boston Record.

Living at the present time near Manchester, England, is a family of eight sisters and a brother whose united ages reaches the stupendous total of 607 years. The members of the family, named Stevenson, are: Caroline, 77; Jane, 74; Margaret, 72; Ann, 69; Robert, 67; Betsy, 65; Alice, 63; Emma, 61, and Sarah, 59. Five of the sisters and the brother are married.

The French end of the Corniche road is kept in perfect repair by a road gang that is always on patrol. The men live in a big green van, which is hauled along by the steam roller, that also acts as a traction engine. Crushed stone is ready at hand. It is spread by manual labor and rolled in by the heavy machine. In this way the roads never go to wreck and the cost of repairing is kept small.

"Bull con," a slang phrase which means to flatter, to praise with ulterior motives, had its origin in the west years ago. When the gold brick game was started the bunko men sprang a fine, high sounding combination of words upon the simple farmers. They called it an investment in "bullion consolidated." Years after the words were cut down to "bull con," and came to mean any graft that depended upon the gift of gab. Still later it was used to describe the method of flattery.

Obeying Orders.

When Bobby returned in a drenching rain from the children's party, to which he had gone with reluctance, he was wet to the skin, but in high spirits.

"O Bobby," said his mother, "you'll catch an awful cold, I'm afraid! I heard your father tell you to telephone for a cab if it rained hard—and you with your very best clothes on! Why didn't you do as he told you?"

"I did," said Bobby, stoutly, "and I sat on the box with the driver, same as I've always wanted to, and I had such a good time I'm almost glad I went to the party!"

Philosophy.

"After all," said the optimist, "the best of luck is only what you make it yourself."

"It's all well enough for you to talk," growled the pessimist, "but I never get anything but bad luck."

"Well, then, it's up to you to make the best of it."—Catholic Standard and Times.

There is probably no greater handicap than vanity.