

Dodged Seven Years' Bad Luck.
 "Traffic gets held up in queer ways," said a patrolman at Forty-second street and Fifth avenue. "It was only just the other day that we had a block-ade that tied things up for half an hour. I noticed a young woman pound- ing something against the curb. Look- ed funny to me and I couldn't fig- ure out what it was. People passing by started to run, looked again, and crowded around her. I headed for the middle of the bunch and saw she had busted open her package and was breaking a lot of mirrors on the side- walk, one by one.
 "What's all this about?" I asked.
 "Oh, mister officer," she says, "I broke a mirror a while ago, and if I don't break seven more right quick I'll have seven years' bad luck. By rights they should be broken all at once, but I could only do one at a time. And now, please, won't you help me get out of the crowd?"—From a New York Letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Improving Indian Pottery.
 The Hopi Indians of the Southwest have always been famous for their pot- tery, in the manufacture of which (though unacquainted with the pot- ter's wheel) they were skilled even in prehistoric times.
 There is a considerable market for their pots, which are quaintly and at- tractively decorated in black and colors. The United States bureau of standards is trying to help them by suggesting improved processes, and re- cently it has shown them how to make from cheap material a black stain much superior to the one at present used by the Indians. They have shown themselves glad enough to accept the help offered and it may be that we shall yet learn of useful sugges- tions to the Navajos in the line of blanket making and the production of silver ornaments.

Fire-Proofing Cotton.
 A process has been devised for treating baled cotton with a chemical compound which renders it flame and spark proof and at the same time ap- parently provides an inch or two of cotton in condition to aid in rapid drying without deterioration in case a bale is exposed to weather. On an average, 20,000 bales of cotton are de- stroyed by fire before the crop is mar- keted and most of this loss can be traced to flash or spark fire. Cotton stored in suitable warehouses would be evidence of a progressive step, for there is probably no crop of so great value that is treated with so little thoughtful consideration.—Scientific American.

Saving Power on Railroads.
 Tests on the elevated roads and sub- ways in New York and Philadelphia demonstrate that a saving in power from 25 to 35 per cent can be accom- plished by judicious coasting. On the Second Avenue elevated line in New York a check was kept on the motor- men by the installation of coasting- clocks which indicated what part of the total running time had been spent in coasting. This is hardly feasible or necessary on most surface lines, yet proper instructions to motormen, after proper training for the work, undoubt- edly results in an enormous saving of power.—Christian Science Monitor.

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