

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

"Early to bed" may result in wisdom, but, if so, how did the owl get his reputation?

Those Chinese Boxers may be good fighters, but they don't stick to the rules of the prize ring.

A good many failures are due to the fact that the so-called opportunities in a man's life are not labeled.

The Boers are expert at making treks, but General Buba has apparently been able to take the most tricks.

That Texas girl picked up by a cyclone is on record as not liking it. Still few are likely to be carried away with admiration for these phenomena.

In classic times it was believed to be sweet to die for one's country. If Aguilardo had died as many times as reported he would certainly be a regular honeyboy.

Mr. Carnegie says he could raise \$200,000,000 at short notice. Is not a man of Mr. Carnegie's age who can perform that feat taking too many risks of dying rich?

Paderewski's testimonial to the musical taste of the American people cost him nothing. The testimonials of the American people to the musical talent of Paderewski cost them many thousands.

The three gentlemen of Constantinople who were arrested for carrying plans of the sultan's apartments confessed that they had not located the exact room where the wily old monarch preserved his souvenir ultimata.

The Ruskin co-operative colony, which recently went into involuntary liquidation in Tennessee, is about to try it again in Georgia. A new expedition is also being planned to find the north pole, and a London man is figuring on starting a Christian daily.

It is the busy man, the man who labors, the workmen, if you please, of the world who have built up the community. The trouble is that they have worked without unity of purpose and on too low a grade of intelligent purpose. They are weakened by their low conception of their power and influence as well as by ignorance of how to go about it. Of all the citizenships the busy and the working man has most need of this public effort and are the ones who should press it.

Another illustration on the comparative hopelessness of The Hague peace conference is furnished in the fact that the English Government has a plan under consideration whereby every lad in the public schools of that country is to receive a military training with a view to future possibilities of being called on to serve as a soldier. If the plan matures about four million children will be subject to this new branch of learning. It is proposed to start in with their martial tuition at about the age of 11 and continue it for at least three years. During this time they will use dummy guns. When they leave school they will form armed cadet organizations, and so become in miniature exact counterparts of the present militia or volunteer regiments. All of which is quite a commentary on the way modern education is inclined to teach the young idea how to shoot.

To wed early or late, that is the question which is now agitating the minds of people who want to keep the human race headed in the right direction. Whether 'tis better to rush blindly into matrimony when one feels that he is up to his ears in love or, by waiting, run the risk of meeting some one later on who will not be opposed to taking in boarders or looking after a grocery if necessary. Mr. Edward Bok, editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, informs us that no man can afford to marry before he is 25 years of age. Mr. Bok himself remained a bachelor until he was well past 30, and we infer from the advice he now gives out that he regards his present happiness as sufficient to repay him for all the lonely years that elapsed before he really began to live. An irreverent Western critic suggests that perhaps Mr. Bok looks back upon his years of single blessedness with so much pleasure now that he wants to help prolong the happiness of others as much as possible by warning them against undue haste; but we dismiss this insinuation as unworthy of notice and too base for serious discussion.

Judge Simeon E. Baldwin recently delivered an address before the American Social Science Association on "The Natural Right of Man to a Natural Death." He took the position that a man who was hopelessly ill should be permitted to die without effort to prolong his life, and that medical men should not lengthen the lives of persons suffering from incurable diseases. To understand the startling proposition it is well to understand that Judge Baldwin is a man who does not enjoy making statements simply to see the effect and to be amused by the adverse criticism. He is a judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut and a lecturer on constitutional law at Yale. His reputation as a jurist and thinker entitles him to a respectful hearing. Should the proposition be accepted by physicians, think of the awful mistakes

that would be made. Think of the men who have been pronounced hopelessly ill who are to-day walking the streets in the enjoyment of perfect health. Their lives had been prolonged, and then came recovery that in many cases is unaccountable. Man has a natural right to live as well as to die. Life is sweet to most persons, and their wish to live is paramount to any reason of expense and burden to others that they might be. No medical man's judgment is infallible, and few physicians would care to assume the responsibility of the profession if those believed to be hopelessly ill were to be denied medicine and attention that would prolong life. Judge Baldwin's proposition is contradictory to the highest instincts of humanity.

PUGILIST WANTED HIS CHANGE

Bantam Annoyed the Conductor and Trouble Resulted.

The bantam-weight prize fighter, immaculate in a new spring overcoat and a bicorne hat, stepped on the street car with a confident air and leaned against the rear dashboard. The conductor looked him over with poorly concealed contempt. He was not to blame, for the bantam carried no three-sheet posters on his overcoat telling who he was. "Fare," said the conductor rather sharply. The slugger yawned and fished up a coin. The conductor shoved it in his pocket and rang up the fare. Then he gazed into the car and rode for some moments motionless.

The bantam touched him on the arm. "Well, what is it?" demanded the conductor, turning savagely.

"My change?" said the little fellow mildly.

"Change? Whatcher want?" cried the nickel snatcher; "change for a nickel?"

"I gave you a quarter," suggested the bantam.

"You what? Well, say, young feller, another crack like that an' off you go in the ditch," said the police conductor. The bantam looked him in the eye and said:

"Are you going to give me my 20 cents?"

"S-s-s-p-p—" the conductor started to say, linking his words together so fast that they fell over one another. And then he incautiously reached forth an arm toward the dapper little man in the light coat.

When they had stopped the car to take the conductor off he was fit for a surgical clinic. What the little fellow did to him was certainly sufficient from a scientific standpoint, and the messenger boy on the platform methodically rang up ten fares before he declared the conductor "Out." Meanwhile the little man was standing on a corner several blocks back lighting a cigarette and telling a friend that some of these conductors would get hurt some time if they got gay.—Chicago Chronicle.

LESSON FOR BOYS.

The Rise of Frank O. Lowden, a Former Burlington, Iowa, Teacher.

Frank O. Lowden, of Chicago, attorney and practical head of the Pullman Palace Car Company, and husband of Florence Pullman, and at one time a school teacher in Burlington, was in Davenport, Iowa, recently. His short stay there inspired the following in the Davenport Democrat:

"Not many years ago Frank Lowden was an Iowa farmer boy. He eventually got into the Iowa State university, where, as people of this city who knew him then tell it, he held the banner for country veridancy and awkwardness, but along with it he held the reputation of being one of the best students and quickest learners in the institution. He taught in the Burlington high school for a time, then gave up teaching for the bar, then went to Chicago, and then the rest came easily. Any bright boy might do the same. He succeeded in having one of the richest girls in the country fall in love with him, and when her father conveniently died he came into the management of his vast estate, and a foremost position as a successful attorney and a man of affairs. Every Iowa farmer boy ought to look up and take heart with the inspiring vision of Mr. Lowden's success to encourage him."

Life of Laborers on Boer Farms.

The native laborers on the Boer farms—often thirty or forty miles from the nearest village—have hard times compared to their brethren who work in the dorp (town); they are badly fed, badly housed, and too often treated as if they were cattle. One often wonders why an ill-used family of Kafirs does not pack up its few cooking pots and leave a cruel master; but the real reason of the Kafirs' submission is that they are always induced to make agreement to serve for a certain time—perhaps a year or two years—and if they go away within that period they can be brought back, beaten, and put in the trunk (as the jail is called). The only food given Kafirs on the farms is mealies (corn), of which they make a very coarse flour and then boil into a thick porridge; and perhaps once a week they get a piece of mutton as a treat for specially hard work.

Large Families.

Small families are hardly the rule among the English upper ten. The average is six or seven. The queen is the mother of nine and the Princess of Wales of six children. Lord Abergavenny is the father of ten, the Duke of Argyll of twelve, the Dowager Countess of Dudley is the mother of seven children, the Earl of Ellesmere boasts of eleven, the Earl of Inchiquin of fourteen, and the Earl of Leicester of eighteen.—Indianapolis News.

If you want to make a woman good and mad, ask her when she appears in a new dress where she had it dyed.

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