

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Scientists are looking at the teeth of the earth in order to determine its age.

Havana tobacco is becoming so cheap that some day it is likely to be made up into cigars.

Robbers who took the shoes off a Chicago man because they squeaked evidently have suffered from that habit in the past.

We knew it would come. A man in New York asks for an injunction to prevent his mother-in-law from disturbing him.

The man who is going to quit gambling as soon as he gets even with the game is like the fly on the sticky paper. It intends to go away as soon as it gets loose.

The man who knows how to dress a shop window must be taken into account when the problem of "What Becomes of Our Christmas Money" is under consideration.

A contemporary says: "The United States are the only nation in the world," etc. We hope Emperor William will not see this in time to stop the teaching of English in the German schools.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt thinks the time is coming when there will be a woman in the executive chair at Washington. When that time comes to pass there will always be a P. S. at the end of the President's message.

A New Jersey clergyman is inveighing against kissing under the mistletoe and a minister at the Newbern, N. C., conference denounced "courtship on the Lord's day." It will be a fine old world to get away from when the reformers are through with it.

The Postoffice Department may not be able to prevent the frequent jostling of women at the stamp window, but in making queen bees and ladybirds exceptions to the law forbidding live animals in the mails, does it not seek to offer compensation to the sex?

Premier Salisbury is destined to go into history as the great nepotist of English politics. It turns out that in the reorganization of his cabinet and in the appointment of other high officials closely connected with that reorganization one-fifth of all appointees are relatives of the Premier. This is certainly "feathering the family nest" with lordly contempt for public opinion. The Marquis does not care a marquee for sentiment—it is the job he covets.

The opinion grows that athletics may be overdone at colleges if carried beyond the point of compelling each student to take adequate exercise. Reform is evidently required in the interest of the students themselves, a majority of whom can ill afford the money thrown away yearly on "sport." Exercise in a gymnasium is well enough, but the teams, with their games, rivalries, etc., if not properly regulated, detract attention from studies, to say nothing of losses of life on the football field and the "cane rushes," hazing, etc., which violent sports seem to promote.

The Cincinnati Enquirer says it would not for a moment discourage the holding to strict accountability of all public men in public office, but there is unquestionably a tendency in the United States, as it seems by Mr. Chamberlain's speech there is in Great Britain, to run vigilance into persecution, to require public men to surrender property and business rights and to make what ought to be a public honor a practical disadvantage. Some of the laws on this subject are unjust and even absurd, and the haste to interpret them so as to disgrace public officials without hearing them is pernicious.

It is widely supposed that the disease called "appendicitis" was unknown to the medical profession until the last quarter of the present century. But an old London doctor, who writes upon the subject in the Lancet, says there is nothing new about it except "the name and the treatment." The disease was well described in the older medical books, and was then called "typhlitis." But its real character was rarely verified except by post-mortem examination; whereas modern surgery, with its anaesthetic and antiseptic aids, if summoned in time, is able to save nearly every patient who is not exhausted by age or otherwise depleted.

"A noble and eternal truth was uttered by Hamilton Wright Mable of the Outlook in a brief address, when he said: 'The soul of a country is always invisible. No man ever saw that thing which makes a man glad to die for his country. Monuments and statues recall it, but that spirit which prompts us to sing "Our country" has nothing tangible. "Our country" is a thing of spirit and soul.' This is a profound and terrible thing to say just now. It arouses so many questions. Where now is the 'spirit and soul' that once was America? Let us ask no further. We drift and wait on events."—Springfield Republican. Why not try liver pills?

Too Much Court Plaster. Although court plaster is useful in protecting small scratches or abrasions of the skin from harm, it should not be used over any considerable cut or wound in process of healing. These will heal much faster if simply covered with a bit of soft linen, held in place at the ends with strips of surgeon's plaster.

For Dyspeptics. Baked potatoes are digested more easily than boiled potatoes, and should therefore be preferred by dyspeptics.

No matter what a man does, some woman can prove it is a sign of a guilty conscience.

also proves that a well-trained American youth, who has health, can stand more hard knocks than any other being on earth. In 1895 Mr. White's left leg was broken above the knee. Later his left collar bone was broken and his right ankle sprained. The year 1901 was a dull one, and he passed through it with his nose twice broken and back wrenched. He did better in '07. Three fingers and an ankle were broken. In '09 his left leg was fractured. In 1910 he reached the climax of glory. The list reads: "Head injured, two ribs broken, legs temporarily paralyzed from a kick; ribs previously fractured are rebroken. It would be natural to follow Mr. White's hospital record with a few remarks on the brutality of football. But the season is over. There is no football, so let us not moralize, but glory in the physical prowess of our own men and hope that after they pass the football age the Vernon Whites of this country will put as much energy into work for themselves and humanity as they now do in sport that looks brutal but seems to be enjoyable.

In a recent address Andrew Carnegie said: "The rich man's surplus is a social trust to be administered in one's own lifetime for the good of others."

But is that giving? Did you ever feel a thrill of pleasure in donating that for which you had no use? A surplus is money which the possessor cannot find means of spending to the increase of his comfort or pleasure. Why not administer such a trust after death, through the courts, instead of "in one's own lifetime," since mere worldly gratification, and not one particle of self-sacrifice, enters into the gift of a surplus? The child saves its pennies, denials itself the little things which seem great to it, in order to give, where the gift means kindness and love. The good neighbor saves on gas bills and table luxuries in order to help his unfortunate fellow-man. The mother sits up late with her needle, forgoes that new skirt or the longed-for piece of parlor furniture that she may be able to give something to son or daughter. The sacred trust is that which is based on love and self-denial and comes from the surplus of affection, not from the surplus of dollars. To give without feeling that one has made some self-sacrifice is not giving at all, in a moral sense; it merely spending.

The French gentlemen, says the New York Journal, have always been very happy in the coining of phrases and the manufacture of proverbs. La Rochefoucauld and many others have done much to supply the world with peptonized wisdom. Of all the wise French sayings, none is more valuable or praiseworthy than the one which, translated, is: "Beware of 'they say.'"

Under "they say" hides every form of slander. Under "they say" hides the cowardice that dares not attack openly. Do not get the "they say" habit. Do not encourage that habit. Tell children and young men and all women under your influence not to listen willingly to "they say" and not to repeat the lies which have "they say" for a foundation. The United States appears to be the favorite home of "they say." "Yes, he gets a big salary, but 'they say' he has a pull with the boss." That is "they say" trying to detract from honest ability. "Yes, his married life seems happy, but 'they say' she treats her cruelly." There you have "they say" attacking decency from jealousy. "They say" is busy in almost every house and on almost every tongue in this country. It is the most active of slanderous agents on earth. When you hear a man preface a slanderous statement with "they say," ask him these questions: Who is "they"? Who says the particular thing which you now put into circulation? What do you know about that particular piece of slander that you are spreading abroad with so much enjoyment? Do you think you are to be excused for your malicious gossip merely because you drag in "they say"? Ask yourself those same questions, when you begin one of the easy "they say" attacks on character. A few such questions put to yourself and others would soon discourage the habit in your neighborhood. Think it over. Remember that this world needs charity at least as much as dry earth needs rain. "They say" is the meanest and therefore the most despicable of all attacks on decent human charity. See if you cannot do something to discourage it.

And Charles Became Silent. "Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "you are very much opposed to bargain hunting, aren't you?" "Yes." "But you will admit that there are occasions on which it is quite proper." "Perhaps. There are exceptions to every rule." "Yes; in bargain hunting it makes all the difference in the world whether you are going among the merchants seeking who offers the least expensive dress goods or whether you are visiting the bookmakers looking for the best odds."—Washington Star.

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