

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

If the army is going to have twenty-seven new dentists, the jaws of death ought to have their teeth pulled.

When trusts are formed in meat and other foods, it certainly looks like trying to turn the tables on the people.

Mr. Carnegie says that he was always a builder of air castles; but he is not left to wonder if dreams come true.

"Silent" Smith, the richest bachelor in America, is going into society. Now watch how long it will take some innocent "bud" to make him talk right to the point.

To the glory of womanhood he it said that Queen Victoria never claimed or exercised the royal exemption from doing right which some of her royal ancestors assumed.

If F. Hopkinson Smith ever finds an "Uncle Tom" company booked in opposition to his lecture he will probably gain a good idea of the way in which his recent strictures upon Mrs. Stowe's masterpiece are generally regarded.

Andrew Carnegie says he used to be afraid that he might some day go crazy! We have no doubt that some of his fellow millionaires, having heard of the plans he has made to give away money, are convinced that he is crazy.

An important change in the new uniforms of the German army is that the buttons are dark and worn beneath the cloth. The shining buttons that glistened in the sun, proclaimed to the enemy: "Here lies a brave soldier's heart. Shoot!" No rational law of war or society demands that risk.

The Zionist movement for the Jewish colonization of Palestine meets a serious check in the Sultan's decree that no Jew who enters that land shall remain more than three months, or be permitted to acquire landed property. The London Spectator refers to this action of the Turk to Russian diplomacy, which seems in Zionism a movement of Germany to acquire a "sphere of influence" in southwestern Asia. "The voice is the voice of Abdul-Hamid, but the hands are those of the Russian foreign minister."

America is becoming more and more accustomed to instances of great wealth, and possibly is also arriving at saner conclusions as to the limits of money power and the desirable uses to which it can be applied. The old saying that money is power is not true, generally, in the sense in which it is commonly used. It does not need an analytical mind to understand that there are many very obvious limitations to the power of money. A millionaire can eat no more dinners per day than the laborer (not so many, in fact) and, while he has the power and generally exercises it to command costlier foods, frequently they are no more palatable and no more nourishing than the plain food at the command of the ordinary day laborer, while the latter will probably be able to command the best sauce in the world—hunger—which the millionaire rarely possesses. The possession of money up to a certain extent, varying with the individual's capacity to use it, is power. Beyond that it becomes an incumbrance rather. To use great wealth as an end to enjoyment one must have great capacities. The sailor who, when asked what he would like to have if given his choice, wanted: First, "all the 'bacys' in the world;" second, "all the 'grog' in the world;" the third wish puzzled him. After thinking it over awhile, in despair he said: "A little more 'bacys.'" The old anecdote is a good illustration of the way in which many people would find their power in using wealth circumscribed.

In answer to an advertisement which offered, free of charge, a "two-dollar book on the secret of successful speculation," a Boston man a year ago forwarded his address. A package of attractive circulars came promptly from a New York "investment broker." Since that time the Bostonian has received from the same person twenty-three letters and two telegrams, all advising him of special opportunities in the stock market. The New Yorker's proposition sounds very fair. He does not want to handle any money, and agrees to pay himself with a percentage of the profits made in transactions he advises. He tells the investor to send his money to any one of several firms, members of the stock exchanges. The investor is to authorize these people to "buy and sell stocks for my account when ordered to do so by" the agent, who claims to have peculiar facilities for forecasting the course of the market. Many persons yield to the agent's artful and persistent solicitation, and conclude to risk a little. In the course of a few days the man who has parted with a hundred dollars or more is informed that the stock bought for his account has unexpectedly fallen in price, and his money is lost. As a matter of fact, the investor has been swindled. The agent and the broker are in collusion. No stock was either bought or sold. The broker gave the agent a certificate of purchase and sale, to make the transaction look "regular," and then the two thieves divided the victim's money. The stock exchanges can sometimes discipline such brokers, as they lately tried to do; but it is almost impossible to bring the law to bear on the "advisers" and "agents," who are as adroit as they are unscrupulous. The only way one can

get the better of them is to let them alone.

Probably no other article of daily food has been so frequent a disturber of the household peace as pie. So admirable are the qualities of good pie and so dangerous are those of bad pie that it behooves housewives to study and master the art of pie-making. An unfortunate couple were before Judge Crane in New York the other day. The husband was charged with ill-treatment of his wife, and the wife was there as a prosecuting witness, though they had been married only a year. The wife's complaint was, in brief, that her husband not only called her names because of her alleged poor cookery, but on one occasion when she served him with mince pie he not only opened the window and threw it out into the street, but pulled her hair and informed her that she was a failure as a pie-maker. He did not taunt her for not making pie as mother made it, but for utter, abject ignorance of the whole subject, and he pathetically informed the court that his conduct was justifiable because the pie tasted as if it were made of sawdust. Judge Crane, in the opinion of the Chicago Tribune, took a wise view of the subject. He did not lecture the wife for her ignorance nor punish the husband for the assault. He is from Massachusetts, where the pie was first known, if not invented, in this country. He told the youthful pair of the excellent mince pie of his boyhood, and that he could not find such pie anywhere save in his own house, for Mrs. Crane had the receipt. He appealed to the wedded pair to make up their little quarrel and go home and he would send them the receipt. They consented and left the courtroom arm in arm, and peace prevailed in their home ever since the arrival of the Judge's pie prescription. While the wisdom of the Judge is to be commended, it is hardly correct for him to assert that there are no good pies except those made from the Massachusetts receipt. The knowledge of successful pie-making has spread to other States, and, while good pies are not yet the rule, still they may be found in many localities. Much of the obloquy which has been visited upon pie has grown out of the indifference of cooks who will not take the pains to make good ones. When properly constructed pies are not only toothsome but wholesome, and good not only for dessert at the principal meal, but for three meals a day or any one of them. Considering the many virtues of pie, it is surprising that mothers do not more frequently instruct their daughters in the art of making them, and that the women's clubs do not offer prizes for them instead of for paintings, and serve them at their intellectual repasts instead of croquettes and salads.

LUNCHEONS ON WHEELS. Distributing Kitchens Now Supply the Wants of Busy Londoners. This is an age of luxury. The "Distributing Kitchens, Limited," has made it possible for the busy man or his typist—or both—to sit down in the office to a luxurious luncheon, or for the budding barrister to give a banquet in his own chambers. That is, if the luncheon is prepared to be satisfied with an entirely vegetarian meal. "Busy men and women," says the prospectus, insinuatingly, "who do not wish to leave their office, can have dainty, light luncheons sent to them in well-appointed trays, in which cutlery, tablecloths, etc., are included. Dwellers in flats who find a difficulty in procuring good cooks will find a solution in the system herein advocated. Suppose you have chambers at Charingcross or Westminster, or anywhere within a four-mile circuit of Victoria street. Your maiden aunt has come up from the country, or a friend has looked in. The day is wet, and you do not wish to go out. Drop an order-form, filled in, to the company. You can order "a la carte," or you can trust to the establishment and call for "table d'hote!" the price list comprises a choice of over 1,000 dishes. In any case, at the time appointed a conspicuous yellow cart will drive up to your door. At the rear end of the van is a stove, heated by trays of charcoal. From the interior of the van the attendant will draw forth spotless napery of the most attractive kind, dishes and cutlery of electro-plate, and your luncheon or dinner carefully reposing in its component parts in dishes placed in a block-tin case covered with green baize. The man will call back for the dishes later in the day.—London Daily Mail.

Then and Now. She was at a party. He had not yet arrived, but she was momentarily expecting him. The hum of conversation through the room had no significance for her; all her faculties were bent on the front door. Every time it opened, at every step in the hall, she would start, while her face would flush and her eyes light up with feverish expectation. Then the color would go back from her cheeks, her eyes would dull and her heart sink when another than he came into the room. Finally he arrived and took a seat beside her, and she leaned over his shoulder and joyously murmured: "My darling! my darling!" She was too happy to say aught more. Ten years later, and she again waits. It is in their own home now. His step is on the stoop; he opens the door. She springs quickly to the hall. "Wipe your boots!" she screams. Ten years ago they were not married; now they are.—London Spare Moments.

The average woman regards every photograph ever given her as something sacred, and she keeps them so long that no one can tell who the original was.

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