

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Cranks are persons who do not see things as you do.
 Wisdom is often nearer when we stoop than when we soar.
 Lipton's London tea stores made \$900,000 clean profits last year. Advertising.

A Frenchman has committed suicide because he was so homesick that no woman would marry him. Some people never do know when they are well off.
 About the worst case of contempt of court is that of a paper which refers to the Supreme Court justices as "eminent guys in Mother Hubbard gowns."

Emperor William is disappointed because his third son, whom he wanted to be at the head of the navy, cannot overcome seasickness. That seasickness does not obey his commands and spare his children is a matter of mortification to this ruler, who is under the impression that his wish and word should be respected by Neptune and the rest.

In the long continued discussion of the negro problem no solution has been offered that is more fallacious than that the negro will gradually die out. The census reports show that during the last ten years the negro population has increased by 21 per cent. Another theory on the race question advanced by Booker Washington to the effect that the tendency of the negro is to remain or migrate to the farm, has been exploded by the late census. It shows that the negro has a growing fondness for the town.

"We now know that all the theses which the first class in Harvard College defended in 1642 are false," says Edward Everett Hale; "their astronomy was all wrong, their logic was all wrong, and their theology was all wrong." While we are priding ourselves upon the intellectual successes with which this century opens, it will be wholesome to reflect that the men of light and leading in 1642 were as sure that they had the right of things as we are to-day of our own science.

The "play" of the intellect, to use a vacation pun, constitutes the delight of learning, and is often its truest inspiration. A young girl at a hotel table, some years ago, undertook to quiet a restless child by making for him little figures which she modeled from bread-crumbs rubbed between her fingers. The rapidly growing procession of Noah's-ark animals attracted the attention of a gentleman opposite. It was the sculptor Thomas Ball, who afterward told the girl she had unusual talent, took her to his own studio, and taught her to model in clay and afterward to work in marble. An interesting side-light on the pretty incident is that the young girl had modeled her figures undisturbed by a tablet of witnesses, and, on the other hand, Mr. Ball seated her in the studio with her back toward his own chair, because he "could not possibly work while anybody looked on."

A certain married woman who "glories in her sex" confesses that there are times when she envies her husband. With a business suit and a dress suit, she says, he is "prepared for any occasion," and to choose such conventional clothing costs him hardly a moment's thought; whereas with every changing season she must completely rearrange her wardrobe, not the gowns alone, but the "gowgaws to match." The older she grows, the woman says, the more heavily does this burden weigh upon her spirit. Although she is not a society woman, she meets many people; it seems a duty to array herself in the manner that the general judgment of her sex approves, and to do this demands time, money and anxious meditation. She admits that she likes to feel well-dressed. Yet what a relief it would be, she adds, if, like the sisters belonging to religious orders, women would put on uniforms and make no change except, say, from thick garments to thinner! At first thought this seems a reasonable proposition. It would be so if applied to the other sex; for man already pays an aesthetic penalty for his efforts to save himself trouble in choosing his clothing. Members of secret societies evade the penalty for an hour or two when they decorate themselves with sashes and swords and feathers; but every other assemblage of men is necessarily a sordid and cheerless spectacle. The members of any such gathering are clad so uniformly that one might logically demand they put on uniforms. Happily woman's instinct prompts her to be more original. Probably the only reason why one particular woman suggests a uniform is that some perfunctory man has charged that she and her sisters sinfully waste their time and money on dress. But that is not true of many American women. For one family broke up by the wife's extravagance, a hundred are ruined by the husband's folly. Moreover, the woman who takes pains to show herself at her best does a good deed, since she adds just so much more to the charm of life.

Bob Fitzsimmons said a good thing the other day. He was showing a young fellow how to fight to win, and he said: "Take your chance when you see it; hit from where your hand is." "Why do I win fights? Because I see

the chance when it comes, and I take it." There is a sermon in these few lines of type, a text for millions of ambitious young men and women. It fits every walk in life. In this country there are thousands of young fellows who are drifting. They are ambitious—in a mild way. They want better jobs and more money, and are always hoping that something—a hazy, indefinite something—will turn up to better their condition. The right kind of a man will hunt for his chance. All the time he will be watching for it. If he is working in an office he will be at his desk, perhaps ahead of time, but never late. The man who is around when he is wanted is generally a useful man. A good many men have missed their chance because they were habitually ten minutes late getting to work. And good work pays. It is a part of the chance. It may be over a set of books or collecting fares on a street car, or running a locomotive or laying sewer pipe. There is always a chance for advancement, and it is for the man who works to find it and deserve it. He must do the hunting. "Hit from where your hand is." Can't you apply that to your position in life, Mr. Toller? What do you make of it? Doesn't it mean that you should always be ready to grasp an opportunity and make it your own, even if the perspiration oozes out of every pore and you would much rather sit in a cool spot and dream about what you would do if you had as much money as Russell Sage? The man who "hits from where his hand is" is a worker, not a gumbler. He mixes brains and muscle and turns out a superb product. He doesn't put things off or seek for delays, or suggest to the boss that some other employe do a part of the work assigned to him. His motto is Ready.

The acquittal of Robert S. Fosburgh, charged with killing his sister, will be approved by all who followed the trial at Pittsfield, Mass. Fosburgh, a young man of prominent family, seems to have been the victim of an overzealous police official, whose anxiety to make a "case" placed an innocent person in peril of his liberty and brought into the public gaze those nearest and dearest to him at a time when the loss of a member of the family had plunged all into deepest grief. Fosburgh's sister, Miss May Fosburgh, who held the affection of family and friends, was shot and killed in her bedchamber one night last August, presumably by burglars who had entered the Fosburgh house. The incentive to the burglary was the knowledge that large sums of money were occasionally kept in the house to meet the weekly pay roll at Mr. Fosburgh's factory. The natural conclusion was that the burglars, intercepted by Miss Fosburgh, shot her with a pistol they had taken from another room, and which belonged to her brother. In the confusion resulting from the crime, the bewildered members of the family told stories that the chief of police declared were conflicting, and he evolved the theory that Miss Fosburgh had been killed during a quarrel between her father and brother. On this theory the younger Fosburgh was indicted and tried. There was no testimony, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, to show that there was estrangement between any members of the family, and there was plenty of evidence that the house had been entered by a burglar. So flimsy was the case of the prosecution that the presiding Judge at the trial characterized the proceedings as an "inquest," and instructed the jury to bring in a verdict of acquittal even before the defense had proceeded far with its witnesses. It would seem that he might have gone further and censured both the chief of police and the grand jury for acting upon evidence so slight. It is strange, indeed, from the disclosures, that the case was ever brought to trial, and stranger that the police official did not attempt to trace the thieves and murderers rather than to create a mystery about the affair that reflected on obviously innocent people.

The Doctor's Joke.
 He was a horrid doctor, anyway, and no gentleman, or he would not have been so cruel to the fair young girl who sought his aid. But even doctors are human and like to joke.
 "Doctor," she said, "I am afraid this climate is too severe for me. I have such great trouble breathing with my lungs."
 "You would have a great deal more trouble breathing without them," replied the cruel man, with a loud, hoarse laugh.
 The maiden shrunk from such a wicked man, and fled as though pursued by a mouse.—Boston Herald.

Travel Over London Bridge.
 Twenty years ago it was estimated that 200,000 persons crossed London bridge daily, 130,000 on foot and the rest in vehicles. With the growth of population those numbers have almost doubled, in spite of the relief afforded by the building of the tower bridge, half a mile downstream. It has, therefore, become an urgent matter to increase the capacity of the older bridge, and it has now been decided to accomplish this by means of granite corbels which will carry the footway as projections over the water on each side of the bridge.

Beware of Danger!
 Said the melancholy man: "Do you ever look back on your life and reflect on the opportunities you have missed?" "No, sir," answered the hustler. "It would be just my luck to miss some more while I was brooding over what can't be helped."

Said a young lady to a printer: "You may print a kiss upon my lips, but you must not publish it."

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