

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

It is easy to induce the floating voter to make schooner trips.

The man who kicks himself for having made a fool of himself only adds insult to injury.

Clothes do not make the man, but his tailor frequently gives him an expensive appearance.

Nobody can blame Gen. Miles for wanting to have a chance occasionally to do something to earn his salary.

The younger Mrs. Vanderbilt has not as yet been deprived of the privilege of employing her mother-in-law's dress-maker.

Those who are satisfied with what they have accomplished will never become famous for what they might accomplish.

Under the new code of railway etiquette it will, of course, be improper for the conductor to punch a passenger's ticket.

J. Pierpont Morgan has taken a \$12,500,000 mortgage on Chilly. There are only a few back counties left for Mr. Morgan to acquire.

The man who wears on chip on his shoulder and the woman who wears song-bird feathers in her hat both lack something of good taste in dress.

Mr. Rockefeller's Cleveland pastor says there are anarchists among the rich, but he wisely leaves the shoe to be put on by those who think it may fit them.

Blahow Fowler says there is no life so conducive to laziness as the ministry. Still, most of the ministers seem to overcome the tired feeling sufficiently to write books between times.

The distressing news comes from Atlanta that a youngster of that city swallowed a ping-pong ball and the physicians had to work several hours before the game could be resumed.

Secretary Hay has recently induced a man not to publish a book on the Boer war. It has heretofore been supposed that nothing could arrest that disease once it got into a man's system.

The Boston Herald thinks that Peter Power is the partner of the person who picked a peck of pickled peppers. A reporter called at the Power house to ask about this but was unable to find Mr. Power in.

A newspaper man who saw a good deal of Prince Henry of Prussia puts the cap-sheaf on all the eulogies by saying that the prince is the kind of fellow with whom one could very pleasantly spend six months alone on a desert island. That is the supreme and final test of character for prince or peasant, whether a man "wears well."

Pneumonia claimed ten thousand four hundred and eighty victims in New York City last year, yet pneumonia is classed as a preventable disease. It is to prevention that modern sanitary science now devotes itself. If Havana can be purified from the seeds of yellow fever by exterminating the mosquitoes, why cannot New York and the other great cities be swept clean of pneumonia germs?

Nearly twenty-five hundred students assisted in a single year is the record of Andrew Carnegie's noble gift to the Scotch universities, as given in the first annual report of the trustees of the fund. One who knows the privations which poor Scotch students will endure for the sake of an education will be prepared to accept the statement of the trustees that the remission of fees has proved to be the greatest boon to a long list of deserving students.

It seems impossible for the average American to indulge in any sport in moderation. Excess or nothing seems to be the rule. It was so with roller skating and will be so with other forms of amusement. Wheeling may come in again after many years, but it will never rage again. Most of those who use the wheel now do it as a matter of convenience in business and not for pleasure. People of means are taking up the automobile, and soon racing will be the madness of thousands for a time. When the health of the drivers shall be affected and the cost and annoyance of accidents shall become serious that sport will in its turn decline.

It is said that the influence of the cooking schools is already being felt in domestic life, and that the standard of living, or at least of cooking, is much higher because of these modern institutions. Formerly the school girl ate, or was told to eat, what was set before her, and grumblings of a gastronomic nature were not tolerated. But now the young girl looks with a critical eye upon the cook's preparations, and she knows the reason why when these do not turn out well. Through her the family has lost much of its pathetic dependence upon the professional cook, and a cookless condition is robbed of half its terrors when there is an amateur of no mean ability within the family circle. And the effect upon the pupil herself is

most beneficial, for only one who has grown brain-weary of figures and dates knows the delight of mixing up actual ingredients and awaiting material results. It is also much to be hoped that the training of amateur cooks will cause those who consider themselves professionals to look to their laurels and to give over the hit-or-miss methods of cooking, which—
So often decide if our day Shall be fretful and anxious or joyous and gay.
With higher culinary ideals the mental and spiritual development of man ought to be assured.

Speaking of the disturbance the Russian students are making, the Pall Mall Gazette remarks: "After all, it is the younger generation knocking at the door, and if the door is not opened it stands a good chance of being kicked in." The Russian police, in other words, are wrestling with the incorrigible. No doubt the police would sooner deal with Anarchists or Nihilists, whose heads they could batter and whose lives they could shorten without exciting the animosity of any one except the professional King-killer; but the gentlemen at St. Petersburg say to the police: "Go ahead! Put down that rebellion!" and the police must either obey or resign. The severity of their task may be understood by imagining the police of Cambridge and of New Haven trying to suppress the indignation of the students at Yale and Harvard—and at Radcliffe, in addition. For we read that the young women of the Russian universities are as eager for reform as are the young men, and that they suffer just as much in their eagerness. Now it is an extraordinarily serious thing for any government to be openly at war with its young men and young women—with the younger generation. In a spirit of fun or in a moment of reckless enthusiasm our own college students may lightly mock some municipal ordinance; but as for defying the police, and through them the officials of the government, and as for being fogged into submission and bundled into jail by the score—that's a matter of darker hue. It seems that all those who represent Russian youth in the arts and the sciences are in a state of sedition. We fancy that Nicholas and his coadjutors are not giving all their attention to the Manchurian question. The younger generation is inflammable, and Russia is foolish to be indifferent to that fact.

The congestion of population in cities is not peculiar to this country alone, though it is probably more marked here than elsewhere. It has prevailed in Great Britain, but has been less noticeable on the continent. It is interesting to observe that it is most prevalent, generally speaking, where commercial and industrial activity prevails. The growth of the German capital, Berlin, for one example, has been exceptionally rapid—for the continent—since German industrial activity set in within recent years. Until a dozen or fifteen years ago it was rather a sleepy city, even after the consolidation of the empire, but by 1900 it had advanced to 1,843,000 population and stood fourth among the world's cities, London, New York and Paris outranking it and Chicago pressing close behind it. Recently a new census has been taken and it now numbers 1,901,567, showing growth at the rate of about 30,000 per year. This rate has been surpassed in Chicago and no doubt this city now ranks fourth in the world. It is a curious fact that of the four cities of the world the population in each of which exceeds 2,000,000 two are in the United States, the youngest in the list of considerable nations. One might think it accidental in some way, but it is also true that the United States are the only one of the world's nations that has more than one city of more than 1,000,000 population. The last census gave us three and in equity should have given us four, for the populous suburbs clustered closely about Boston are as truly Boston as the Back Bay and Beacon street regions themselves. Within a radius of twenty-five miles around the capitol on Beacon hill there must be considerably more than 2,000,000. The development of street railway lines has checked the congestion or rather spread it over wider space for each city, and that, together with the "good roads" movement, will tend to send a return flow from the urban into the rural regions, but it will remain that urban growth will attend industrial activity and the grave and abiding problem will continue to be how to keep it as nearly healthful as possible.

Naming the Child.
Now, necessarily, when the new girl baby arrived there was much discussion among the members of the family as to what her name should be. "We will call her 'Geraldine,'" said the first grandmother. "I saw that name in a story once, and always wanted to try it on a baby."
"Oh," murmured the second grandmother, "that would never do. Let us call her 'Fanchon.'"
"But don't you think 'Eltessa' is a pretty name, and so odd, too?" put in one of the aunts.
"Excuse me, ladies," ventured the poor father, who sat nearby, "but you seem to forget that we are trying to find a name for a human being, and not for a five-cent cigar."—Baltimore American.

An Unreasonable Request.
Young Husband—I'm just about dead, putting down this carpet.
Wife—The carpet is not heavy.
"No, but I have to work in such a cramped position."
"Nonsense. Just imagine you are on your bicycle."—New York Weekly.

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