

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

The wings of riches make flying machines look like thirty cents.

If a minister's trousers sag at the knees no apology is necessary.

Fish make excellent brain food and those that get away make monumental liars.

Though the truth will out, it usually comes out too late—especially in a horse trade.

The mothers' congress covered the ground so thoroughly that there is no apparent need for a fathers' congress.

Prof. Starr thinks the time is not far distant when the white race will be washing the yellow race's shirts.

Japanese have very short legs, but an improvement may be noted after the war contractors are through pulling them.

Truth is stranger than fiction. This is proved by the fact that in truth the villain generally gets both the girl and the money.

J. P. Morgan recently defined a genuine monopolist as a man that minded his own business. There are but few of us.

A 16-year-old lady has secured a divorce in Chicago. With such an early start it is to be hoped that she may succeed in living it down.

A calf kicked a man and broke his arm. The arm is getting along all right, "but," the local paper adds, "the man's language continues feverish."

Mr. Rockefeller is reported to be harboring an ambition to become a platform orator. Perhaps he thinks some of it can never be got in any way save by lecturing.

A copy of "Poor Richard's Almanac" has just sold for \$505. Any one who will pay that sum for weather 150 years old must be somewhat dissatisfied with the present output.

A woman who wished to play with the tiger in one of the Chicago parks is thought to be demented. Yet how many men have the same strong inclination without having their sanity questioned.

Emperor William has ordered that every deserving child in the schools of Germany shall be presented with his photograph as a reward of merit. What further inducement is needed to make the German school children good?

Miami, Florida, was for a long time the southern terminus of the southernmost railroad in the United States. It no longer enjoys that distinction, for the railroad has been extended fifteen miles farther south, to Perine, a town consisting of a single store; and the right of way has been graded for a railroad round the southeastern end of the State to Cape Sable.

Five hundred women are employed in the provision stores in New York cutting meat and waiting on customers. They are as skillful as men, and their employers say that they attract custom because of their neat appearance. They wear black gowns and long white aprons. The most difficult thing they have to learn is not to wipe their hands on their aprons after cutting a slice of meat. One woman, after cleaning her hands on a towel behind her back, remarked to a customer, "It took me two weeks to remember that."

The average young man or woman who has to work for a living would rather live in the turmoil and glitter of the city than to enjoy the far more healthful, if less exciting, less "stylish" perhaps, life of the country. We do not know by what means the surplus unemployed labor of the cities can be restored to the farming communities. It is certain, however, that an adjustment of the existing false and abnormal conditions—scarcity on the farm and overabundance in the towns—would operate to the mutual advantage and benefit. There seems to be need of a campaign of education and enlightenment.

Of all the weaknesses that man is heir to none is more universal than the deficit habit, and few are as capable of adding to the discomforts of life. Not only is the deficit a problem in the life of the workingman, but men in high positions—government employes who have generous salaries—are forever living with a deficit staring them in the face. They do not spend more than they make, but they simply spend it before they receive it. Man seems naturally to fall into the habit of living a week—if he is paid by the week—or a month—if he is paid by the month—ahead of his means. He is very unnecessarily always pinched for cash, and whether it be his grocer or baker or the various men with whom he deals, he must endeavor to get accommodations until pay day.

Only a few years have elapsed since one of the railroads of the Mississippi Valley began a campaign to increase the freight produced along its lines by teaching the farmers of Mississippi and Louisiana to raise "garden truck." At first it was hard work to induce them to plant anything but cotton—an uncertain crop which furnished heavy freight for a short time and little the rest of the year. Truck gardening for Northern markets, fostered by cheap freights and aided by crop and soil experts hired by the road, soon proved enormously profitable. The State of Mississippi, interested in the new source of prosperity for its citizens, recently bought a tract of "pine-slashing" land at from \$2.50 to \$5 an acre, cleared the slashings, planted a winter crop of string beans for the Chicago market, followed it by

a summer crop of sweet potatoes for New Orleans sale, and made \$105 per acre the first year, of which \$9 an acre was put back in fertilizers. This was by way of experiment to show how supposedly worthless pine barrens became valuable when properly fertilized.

There was a boy born into the home of a New York millionaire. From the day he drew the first breath of life he had everything that child could wish. He knew no self-denial and nothing about suffering. In his life people got things by ordering them. They had things done by telling a servant to do them. Disease came to him. An operation was necessary. The lad selected a certain time for that operation, and in explanation said that his mother would be in Europe, and he would be spared worry by reason of her ignorance of the operation. It is good to know that his idea was followed; the mother was spared the worry, and the boy is recovering. Little Riner Seeger, a bundle boy in a Cincinnati store, grieved because his chum was very ill. Each day he went without a portion of his noonday lunch, and the 5 cents saved was invested in carnations, which he laid on the pillow of the sick boy. The doctor said that the flowers assisted in effecting a cure. Some one has said that children are merely little animals. They may be in their sports, in their love of outdoor life, in their almost perpetual desire for food. But right there the resemblance ends. Deeply implanted in the breast of every child there is a bit of pure gold called human love. It is there at birth. Home training, earnestness and kindness develop it, and it grows and buds and blossoms like a beautiful flower if it is given half a chance. It makes him drop his hat and run into the house at the most unexpected periods for no other reason than that he wants to give his mother a great bear hug. It makes him desire to fight when he hears his father, brother or sister spoken of slightly. He doesn't know why he feels as he does; he couldn't tell you why cruelty makes his heart quiver with anguish; why a frown drives the sunshine from his face; why harshness makes the tears come. But he loves because of the thing in his breast; the thing that made the son of the millionaire want to spare his mother; that has made the bundle boy deny himself for his chum. It is human love, and the power that rules the world put it there.

TOLD THEM WHAT IT WAS.

Mysterious Hall that Puzzled Washington Scientists for a Time.

The mystery surrounding the peculiar egg-shaped object in Miss Scidmore's loan collection of objects of oriental art in the National museum at Washington has reminded many of the older curators of a similar instance of the inability of men of science to determine the nature of curious and little-known objects, which occurred some twelve or fifteen years ago. At that time they reached the museum from a person who was in ignorance of the nature of the object he sent a singular ball, the true character of which none of the curators could tell. Some thought it was simply a ball of ivory, says the Washington Post, others that it was a very hard and dense wood; one or two advanced the opinion that it was of metal; some were positive that it was an egg, while others conjectured that it was a piece of fossil resin or fossilized wood, a seed of some plant, and so on.

Finally, after all had passed on the object, and failed to come anywhere near guessing its true nature, William Palmer, the venerable chief of the government studio and workshop, a man who has been over the world, seen everything and talked to everybody, was called in and the mysterious object that had baffled the skill and knowledge of every man of science in the city was placed in his hands. He drew forth his spectacles, adjusted them very carefully and, taking the object in his hands, he looked at it all over and when he finished his scrutiny, said:

"Why, don't you know what that is?"

"No," said the men of science in chorus, breathlessly awaiting the old man's decision.

Then the old man told them that crows, in licking themselves, got a certain amount of hair on their tongue, which rolls up in little quills, which they swallow. The hair eventually reaches the animal's stomach, where it lies for years, during the whole period of the animal's existence, in fact, and, collecting in the shape of a round ball, in time becomes as hard and compact as ivory and somewhat resembles rhinoceros horn, of which it is an allied substance.

Body is Often Renewed.

Of course everyone knows that the human body is wholly changed every seven years—the school physiologists teach that much—but it will surprise some to learn that certain portions of the anatomy undergo more frequent changes. It takes but four weeks to completely renew the human epidermis. You have new eyelashes every five months, you shed your finger nails in about the same time and the nails of your toes are renewed annually. The white of the eye, known as the cornea, is in a continual state of renewal, being kept clear and clean by the soft friction of the eyelids. These are a few manifestations of the restorative powers retained by man, who is less fortunate than the lower animals.

Crabs can grow fresh limbs; the small can renew even a large portion of its head; with eyes and feelers lizards do not worry about the loss of a tail, and if you make a cut in the caudal appendage of some of these last mentioned creatures they will grow another tail straightway and rejoice in the possession of two.

But man still possesses the wonderful restorative little cells which scientific men call leucocytes. They are always coursing through the body to renew and to defend the body from its enemies, the harmful bacteria of various maladies. These cells generate antibodies to kill our enemies. They do battle for us in hundreds of ways, and yet the majority of us know nothing of these great services rendered by our tiny friends inside.

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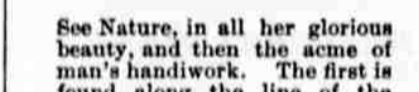
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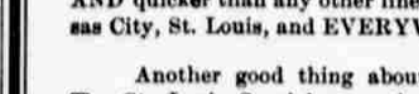
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