#### FRIVOLITY IN ENGLAND.

Claim That It is What Really Keeps the Nation Sane.

Which is worse-to be too serious or too frivolous? I have no doubt about the matter myself, so far as individuals are concerned, though all extremists are bores. The perpetually lively, feather brained, pleasure crazed creature is almost, if not quite, as irritating as the deadly serious individual. But, apropos of the accusation recently lodged against us that as a nation we are becoming too frivolous, one cannot belp saying that we are a great deal liveller than we were a few years ago, and for this relief assuredly we have cause to be thankful.

In consequence we are accused of having become too frivolous. It seems to me that we have just got matters nicely balanced. This is an age when we are prepared to be cranks on the slightest provocation. People crave for missions, they wallow in philanthropy. they pounce with avidity on new re-ligious, they will plunge into politics write attacks on women, society, the degeneracy of the age, or anything else that gives them an opportunity of airing what they call their views. So surely, if desipere in loco were not oceasionally to be permitted to us, it is fearful to think what we should become. Our frivolity is the antidote to the twentieth century disposition toward crankiness. It really keeps us sans.-London World.

### THE HOODED COBRA.

It le Vonerated In India as the Sacred Serpent.

Of all the snakes of India the name mag or hooded serpent, commonly sidered a protector and harbinger of success. The veneration of the cobra is intimately connected with the cobra ship of the sun, and is thus closely related to the orthodox Hindoo religion. According to the Mahabharata, the beaven over which India ruled was mainly tenanted by Devas and Nagas, the former being deified beroes of the Aryas and the latter those of the Naga people on earth.

Although wars continued for a long time to be frequent between rival chiefs of the invaders (Aryas) and the invaded (Nagas), a gradual fusion between the two peoples took place, and heaven was shared equally by Devas and Nagas. The serpent gods are worshiped now, as they were then, not as dangerous reptiles, nor as mere symbols, but as the delited rulers of an ancient people, whose tribal, or, rather, perhaps, racial, emblem was the naga, or booded serpent, and whose chief delty was the sun; hence the Naga temples are not dedicated to the perpent, but to the Naga rajahs, the ancleat rulers of the race.

## SOCIAL SPONGING.

The Extent to Which It Is Carried In London.

There is probably no city in the world where there is so much social sponging done as in London. At their big functions hosts and hostesses have frequently not the remotest acquaintance with many of the people who attend them and whose cheek is only exceeded by their voracity. "I have one particular case in memory," says a writer in the Boston Herald, "where s woman brought fifty of her friends. It was at the house of a millionaire, the Hon. Glin Vivian, in Eaton square. On the same occasion nearly every one else brought herself, her family and all her friends. It was a never to be forgotten gathering. Many people never succeeded in getting beyond the hall door. An excellent supper had been provided for about three or four hundred, but there must have been a thousand present. About 1 a. m. people were sitting about in the bedrooms eating sandwiches and drinking claret or champagne - in fact, anything they could grab from the supper table-and the story went that they got so hungry and riotous that they invaded the wine cellar and the larder."

## Where the Ways Parted.

Passenger (at station where the train has made a twenty minute stop for refreshments)-This is the little town where Glugsby, the famous author, used to live, isn't it? Villager-Yes, sir, but we hain't got

much use for Glugsby.

Passenger-Why not? Villager-Well, sir, the fust time he came back here, after he'd got to be a big man, he went around givin' us the

high handshake.-Chicago Tribune. His Impudent Office Boy.

"George," said his wife, "I want you to discharge that office boy of yours. Bix times when I tried to call you up by phone today he told me you were out and then snapped me off before I could ask where you had gone or when you would be back."

Yet he went next day and gave the office boy a raise of \$3 a week. Such are the ways of men.-Chicago Record-

## A Simple Man.

It takes a neighbor to disentangle a man from a handsome setting. A good many years ago, when Wordsworth was poet laurente of England, a worthy Cumberland yeoman walked many miles, in response to widely scattered notices, to hear the poet laurente address a meeting. When he discovered who held the high sounding title, he left the ball in indignation.

"Twas nobbut old Wadsworth o' Rydal, efter aw!" he said scornfully on 2 his return to his family.

"Le Shiffalab.

The shillalab, accounted Ireland's national weapon of defense, was originally a common blackthorn stick, but in modern times it has been replaced by the more wiry ash sapling. The real shillalah is a young shoot of the sloe shrub or blackthorn pulled by the root from the crevice of some rock. After being trimmed it is placed in the smoke of turf nest, which softens the hard fiber, and when it has reached a condition as pliant as rubber it is straight-

Words Passed.

Judge-You say that words passed cetween the accused and his wife. Did you hear what they were? Witness-No: I didn't hear them, but I saw them, Judge - Saw them? Witness - Yes. They were in the dictionary that he threw at her.

Experiment. "I have been married twice, once for ove and once for money."

"Are you satisfied?" "Not quite. I should like to try marging for a little of both, if I may."-

In the Restaurant, "He seems to be an experienced walter."

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Parallel Stones.

When Napoleon was a student at Brienne he happened to be saided by one of the examiners the fellowing quantion: "Supposing you were in an invest-ed town, threatened with starvation, how would you supply yourself with provisions?" "From the enemy," replied the sublicutenant of artillery. promotion from the ranks by giving the very same answer when asked the very same question. Whether it was that Napoleon had read his story some-where and luckily remembered the sergeant's answer at the right moment or whether, as one writer says agent the speech of the beef eater, "All that can be said is that two people happened to hit upon the same thought," we are unable to say, but the similarity of the anecdote is, to say the least of it, a strange coincidence.-London Standard.

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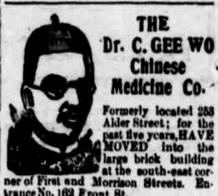
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