

POODLE PUFFS AT CIGARS.

A Stray Performing Dog Is Adopted by Many Hyde Park Residents.

A stray poodle that dances on its two hind feet and holds a lighted cigar in its mouth has appeared frequently in the neighborhood of the Hyde Park police station of late, says a Chicago paper. It is thought that the animal has escaped from some show. Almost every morning the dog may be seen on Lake avenue, near Fifty-third street, doing a number of antics for some children. The dog has no license, but it is thought that inside of a shirt while some thoughtful person will adopt the canine. It can wait beautifully.

In fact, the animal will always start to move its feet at the sound of music. Many of the policemen of the Hyde Park station have taken a great fancy to the animal and frequently given it food out of their own lunch cans. The dog is known by the name of Jack and ever since the little fellow has made its appearance in the neighborhood Jack has become a household word. As soon as a Hyde Park resident living in the vicinity of Lake avenue and Fifty-third street speaks of Jack everybody knows what he or she is talking about.

Every morning Jack makes a round of all the houses. When the dog appeared in Hyde Park one day lately he was very thin, but already a noticeable change is apparent in his condition. Jack can with ease hold a lighted cigar in its mouth for five minutes. Some of the boys have made a habit of giving the animal bits of cigarettes to hold between its sharp teeth.

DOES NOT LIKE ELECTRICITY.

Poet Queen of Roumania Will Not Have Her Galleries Properly Lighted.

Elizabeth, the poet queen of Roumania, better known to the reading world as Carmen Silva, shares with Queen Victoria a dislike for electric lights, and opposed their use in her apartments until quite recently. Her boudoir was lighted by crystal chandeliers, in the heart of which gleamed pale, colored lights. The place is filled with panel pictures and verses, all written by the queen or painted by one of her gifted court ladies. The great dining hall is ornamented with tall panels illustrating the principal works of Carmen Silva's novels, romances and poems. The room is very somber, being furnished with black oak and cordovan leather and lighted only by stained glass windows, brilliant in color and representing court balls, wedding bouquets and other royal festivities, but nevertheless they prevent the sun from penetrating the gloomy grandeur of the apartment. And this is why the queen, who loves beauty and harmony, strictly forbids the wearing of black or dark dresses at her table. She prefers a uniform and does not shrink from any fancy dress if it be gay and pretty.

Li Wants an American Escort.

LONDON, Sept. 7.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says Li Hung Chang has made a request for an American escort to accompany him on his journey to Peking, and that United States Consul Goodnow is considering his request.

Now that a proposal more in conformity with the original American recommendation has apparently met with the approval of at least a majority of the powers, the British foreign office has allowed it to become definitely known that the British government is of the opinion that it is advisable for the allied forces to remain at Peking until satisfactory arrangements for peace, etc., are concluded with the Chinese government.

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Crisis in Manchester.

LONDON, Sept. 8.—The morning papers comment upon the seriousness of the crisis which has arisen at Manchester, where suffering is likely to be caused by the idleness of operatives, and especially if, as is possible, the stoppage continues into October. The prospects of a satisfactory American cotton crop are regarded as slender.

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CLERKS' INSURANCE.

Successful Operation of Departmental Aid Association in Government Offices.

"A few years ago," said the secretary of a departmental aid association, reports the Washington Star, "one of the abuses of departmental life was the almost constant passing around of the hat for collections to aid the widow and family of a clerk who had died in service."

"Very often the deceased had been for many years in the service of the government and at his death it would be found that he left scarcely enough to bury him, and sometimes not that. And this would be true of clerks in the higher grades. It made a clerk appear mean to refuse to contribute with the others, though he may have had but a speaking acquaintance with the deceased. To those on the outside it would not seem that these contributions would be made sufficiently often to amount to a drain, but they were, and I have known of three clerks dying within a month in one large division. I recall the chief clerk of a bureau dying suddenly, and his widow did not have enough money to pay for his laying out. The word was passed around in the bureau that the chief expected the clerks to contribute liberally, and most of them handed in from \$3 to \$5, but there was a strong undercurrent of kicking."

"In all of the departments the soliciting of money for any purpose is strictly forbidden now. All have their own benevolent associations, which are encouraged by the chiefs. These associations have by-laws, constitutions and officers. Their object is to furnish to the clerks who are members an insurance which will be immediately available on death. In fact, the money is turned over to the heirs on the same day that the association is notified of the death of the member, and this ready money is often all that the widow or the heirs have in the world."

"The Pension Bureau association publishes a complete pamphlet report annually; others render a report to the board of directors only. The annual receipts from the assessments of the Pension Bureau association are about \$6,000, and \$250 is paid on death to the beneficiary. Last year it lost about 25 members, and \$36,000 has been disbursed since its formation in 1891. The assessment is 25 cents, and the membership is 1,000. Clerks do not lose their membership in these associations if they retire from their respective departments, voluntarily or involuntarily, as long as they pay their assessments. The assessments range from 25 cents to \$1."

"In the post office department the assessment is 50 cents, and the amount paid varies from \$200 to \$275, according to the number of members."

"The treasury department has two aid associations, one of which pays \$250 on the death of a member and the assessment is \$1. The interior departments association numbers about 900, and it was organized in 1895. About 100 members have since died, each receiving at death \$200, while over \$20,000 has been disbursed."

"The beneficial association of the war department has recently been reorganized, having been in existence 14 years. It has a membership of 420, the assessment is \$1, the amount paid at death \$250, and about \$5,000 has already been disbursed."

DISCARD THE CORSET.

Philadelphia Girls Follow the Advice of the Chinese Minister, Wu Ting Fang.

The corset has been relegated to obscurity by many of the most fashionable young women of Philadelphia. Mme. Goches Sarrante, who believes that women wearing the unhygienic thing should be punished by law, has rallied a host of followers from Philadelphia around her flag.

Led by Dr. Grace Spiegel, of the normal school, many of the young girls of Philadelphia are banding together against this article of feminine wear. They consider it not mildly unhygienic, but actively harmful. Dr. Spiegel's opinions on the question are: "It is really wicked for women, and especially growing girls, to force themselves into such straitjackets. They need free play of muscles to give them the best physical and mental health; they need loose clothing to allow free play of muscle. No need, as some think, of a girl's looking unbecomingly because she does not wear corsets to deform her natural figure. She can be neat, carry herself properly and feel happier without them."

"Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, puts the wearing of corsets on a par with foot-binding," said a member of the Society of the Philadelphia Woman's Medical College the other day. She knows, because she has been assisting in the entertainment of the distinguished foreigner during his recent visit to this city. "In his address to our alumnae," continued the medical woman, "he cited the Chinese dress as one mark of the emancipation of the women of his country and their superiority over Americans."

Rubber-tire buggy, at Porter's stable; nearly new; good condition. sep61w

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