

BANDON RECORDER.

A Japanese Superstition.
Writing exhaustively of dragon flies Lafcadio Hearn says in his book, "A Japanese Miscellany," of "the dragon fly of the dead."

"Unlike the equally weird name 'yurei-tombo,' or 'ghost dragon fly,' the term shon-tombo does not refer to the appearance of the insect, but to the strange belief that certain dragon flies are ridden by the dead, used as winged steeds.

"From the morning of the thirteenth to the midnight of the fifteenth day of the old seventh month—the time of the festival of the Bon—the dragon flies are said to carry the hotoke-sama, the august spirits of the ancestors, who then revisit their former homes. Therefore, during the Buddhist All Souls' children are forbidden to molest any dragon flies, especially dragon flies that may happen to enter the family dwelling.

"This supposed relation of dragon flies to the supernatural world helps to explain an old folk saying, still current in some provinces, to the effect that the child who catches dragon flies will never 'obtain knowledge.'"

How Frederick Stopped Duelling.
When Frederick the Great ascended the Prussian throne, fatal duels among officers were of daily occurrence. He resolved to put an end to the practice, and he did—for a time; as long as he reigned, in fact. He issued an edict that any officer fighting a duel and surviving would be shot or hanged.

Two officers appealed to him to be allowed to try to slay each other. Granted on two conditions, that he (the king) should choose the ground and be present at the encounter. Accepted.

Frederick chose the ground, attended the "meet" and took his seat behind the fine new gibbet he had erected in honor of the occasion. The combatants approached his majesty, saw the gibbet, became puzzled and embarrassed.

"What may this mean, your gracious majesty?" they ventured to ask.

"It means this," was the snare reply—"that the man who survives will be hanged as high as Haman on that gibbet."

There was no duel.—Fall Mall Gazette.

People Who Did Not Kill.
The inhabitants of the Canary Islands, the Guanches, were, it is supposed, but the mountain shepherds of a submerged world. Though so strong physically, the Guanches were nevertheless a very gentle race. They rarely made war on one another, and when the Europeans fell into their hands they did not kill them, but sent them to tend sheep in the mountains. So tame were the birds in this happy land that when the Spaniards first landed they came and fed out of their hands.

To kill an animal degraded a man. The butcher was a reprieved criminal and outcast and lived apart, he and his assistants being supported by the state. No woman was allowed to approach the shambles, and in such horror was killing held by these giants that no good man could be emboldened to had publicly declared that he had not been guilty of killing any animal, not even a goat. Their standard of morality was high. Robbery was almost unknown among them.

Maternal Love of the Whale.
No other member of the animal kingdom displays more maternal affection than the whale, especially if its calf is harpooned. The harpooner never throws his harpoon into the little one with the intention of killing it, for if this is done the mother will instantly forsake it. If alive and struggling, however, the dam can be easily enticed toward the boat to meet its fate. Knowing this, the whale fishermen always strike a calf if possible and thus often make captures that could not be effected under other circumstances.

As soon as the dam becomes aware of the snaring of her young she rushes toward it, encourages it to swim away and even assists it by taking it under her fin. She seems to lose all regard for her own safety and boldly attacks the boat containing the whaler's men, circles about it totally regardless of the harpoons that are hurled at her and enter her flesh.

We Grow Old in Pieces.
The general impression is that the body grows old uniformly. From birth till the age of twenty-five it grows in size and weight, from twenty-five to fifty it remains stationary, and from that period it decays. Observations of expert physiologists show us that this impression is not a correct one.

Each organ begins to age independently, each has its period for the change, and these periods differ with the various organs and do not take place coincidentally, as we may have supposed. The body attains its greatest size during the third decade and remains in about the same condition during the fourth and fifth decades, that is true, but the brain reaches its greatest size in the second decade, the kidneys reach their maximum size during the third decade, the muscles, skeleton and intestines during the fifth, the heart and lungs in the eighth decade.

Increase or decrease in the size or weight of the body consequently is not due to simultaneous increase or decrease in all its parts.

Pueblitos and the Compass.
Among the Pueblo Indians six points of the compass are recognized, and each has its color. North is yellow, west is blue, south is red, east is white, the upper regions are many colored and the lower regions are black. All the prey gods are represented by their images in these six divisions.

For example, there is the yellow mountain lion of the north, the blue mountain lion of the west, the red mountain lion of the south, and so on. Likewise it is with the other beasts, and thus a very considerable number of deities is formed. All of them must receive worshipful attention lest they get angry and revenge themselves for the neglect.

When the French budget of war is discussed, M. Gentil will ask for the vote of a credit of 250,000 francs to establish and maintain the wearing of chamois leather gloves by mounted troops.

Polly Larkin

As I have said before, there are ways and ways of getting along in this world and accomplishing what one has set her heart upon. This is the way one of our University students is managing to aid in getting the wherewithal to obtain the higher education that she covets above everything else. She is of a decidedly literary turn of mind and it is her aim in life to fit herself for a literary career. This is her first stepping-stone, the writing of the social items of the county for one of the San Francisco dailies. Nothing escapes her, and she gleams all the society gossip, all the musical and literary work of the different societies and clubs, etc., and writes it up in a racy and interesting style of her own. She is paid well for her little contribution to the society budget of the paper and she gets the experience as well. She knows how to make every dollar count and will go through the University without calling on the home people for very much assistance. It is not her intention to devote all of her time and talent to the social write-ups of the day, however, for she will take up short story writing, and more than likely in the next year or so you will find among the new books one from her ready pen. She is only one of many who are helping themselves to get the necessary funds to secure the education that so many young people can have for the asking, but who admit that they have no taste or desire for a higher education, and let the opportunity go by without a single misgiving. Some of them may live to regret the lost opportunity they have thrown away.

Polly heard a pretty girl, who had been attending one of the best-known seminaries in the State for a couple of years, telling of her career at school to another schoolmate and a married friend who was intending to send her daughter to this same seminary. "Do you know," said this pretty little miss, "we had the loveliest time imaginable. Why, we could pull the wool over all sorts of pranks, when they thought we were peaches and cream and just too sweet for anything. There was one teacher who was an old cat, always suspecting us and keeping an eagle eye on all of our movements; we just made her life miserable, and we would lay awake at nights to think of what we could do to make her mad next day. Many is the time we made her cry." She rattled on in her hilarious way until finally the lady who was getting her opinion of the school for the benefit of the daughter she wanted to send to the seminary, asked quietly, "You say you had such a good time, pray, what did you learn?" "Learn," echoed the girl, "got so I could sing one song decently—'Sweet Alice,' or 'Ben Bolt,' I think the name of it was, and that is the only thing I ever learned there; I took music lessons, but when it came to practicing it was too hard work, and so I just played what I could by ear. My, but wouldn't that music teacher fume when it came time for another lesson." "You shook me," replied the mother, "and I don't know what your parents could have been thinking about to let you continue when they discovered you were only making a jest of your school work." "They didn't know it for a long time, and when they did find it out they were disgusted and gave up trying to make a full-fledged graduate of me. It didn't hurt my feelings one bit, for I went to the seminary just for the name of having been a pupil there. Some of my chums were going and I thought I would have to go too. "I think you did not only your parents but the seminary a great injustice, and if the management has so little control over their pupils then I shall surely find another seminary to send my daughter to." The lady's quiet denunciation of her conduct didn't seem to affect this rattle-brained girl for a moment, and in spite of the warning looks cast at her by her ex-schoolmate she continued to relate her anything but commendable pranks until the lady left the room.

There are many just such foolish girls, and they may live to regret letting golden opportunities pass by while they idled away the time in a foolish and senseless way. The young girl mentioned above has already discovered her blunder, for adversity has come and she has been thrown on her own resources. She isn't fitted for a thing in the world. She couldn't teach and her musical advantages had been spurned when she had every opportunity to develop the talents she was really gifted with. A friend out of compassion gave her employment as a reporter on his paper, but her work was so crude that she gave it up of her own accord. Now she is looking after a friend's little children for her board and a paltry sum that a few years ago would not have sufficed to keep her in shoes and gloves. She has learned the bitter lesson and is reaping the result of misspent hours. Her butterfly life was soon ended and her hours of wakefulness are devoted to foolish regrets, sighs and tears. Even now she is making her blunder, for her evenings are her own, and there are night schools galore, where she could resume her lessons, or take up a business course, but she spends most of her evenings in her room weeping over the past. Instead of burying the past, that can never be redeemed, and devoting herself to the present and future that might hold the brightest possibilities for a thoroughly conscientious and ambitious girl, she spends the time in railing at fate and useless repining.

VALUE OF AN HONEST EYE.

A Business Man's Experience in Hiring an Office Assistant.

A business man said that he once devoted half a day to hiring a man whom he needed in his office. In answer to his advertisement, a great many applicants called. He rejected the first because he would not look him in the eye. "The second man," said the merchant, "was armed with a double barreled recommendation from his pastor, with testimonials as to his business ability and good character; but, though he looked me in the eye, I saw that we could never hope to get along well together, and so I dismissed him. The third interested me the moment he stepped inside the door. He was poorly dressed, and, though his clothes were whole, they were at least two sizes too small. It was evident that he held his head high and as he approached my desk looked me squarely in the eye. He said that he had no recommendation, that he had no business experience, but that he was willing to do his best to please me. In an instant it dawned upon me that before me was the man that I was looking for. He had nothing to recommend him save an honest, bright eye and a pleasant face, but that was sufficient. I engaged him on the spot.

"Since then I have seen fit to advance him over a man who had been with me three years. The latter grumbled, but there was reason for my move—the new man had proved himself worthy of promotion. His business might be definitely multiplied of the value of an honest eye. That wonderful window of the soul, the eye, is a sure index to character. If you have it not, cultivate a bright, honest, straightforward look. It will more than repay your effort. Look up and fearlessly meet the eyes of those with whom you converse. Many a choice position has been lost through an indifferent, flinching eye, and many a coveted position has been won through a fearless, honest eye. That kind of eye is better than a hundred recommendations.—Success.

This is the way one of the best editors of children's stories on the Coast tests the success of his work. He writes the stories and little squibs that he hopes will amuse the juvenile readers of the paper, goes over them carefully pruning here and there with his pencil until he thinks they are perfect. Then he gathers his own boys and girls around the fireside at night and reads them the result of his pen and fanciful thoughts. They are his critics, and they are free to express their opinions. If they don't approve of the work he crumples it up and watches it go up in smoke in the grate. If they are pleased and shout in a body, "that's good," he smiles and folds it up carefully for the printer, believing that it will pass muster with the other juvenile readers of the paper if his own little lads and lassies approve of it.

GREENING A PROBLEM.
The Green Country Brekeman Who Introduced the "Saw By."

Many years ago a green country boy applied to the superintendent of a western railway for work and, somewhat against the superintendent's wish, on account of the danger to life and limb attendant upon such occupation, was given a place as brakeman of a freight train.

On one of his first trips it happened that his train met another freight train at a station where the sidetrack was not long enough to accommodate either of them. The conductors were debating which train should back up to a point where they could pass when the new hand ventured to suggest that neither should back; that they could pass each other by means of the short side-track if the thing was managed right.

The idea excited a good deal of laughter on the part of the old trainmen, but the boy stood his ground. "Well, how would you go about it?" asked one of the conductors, confident that the lad would soon find himself against a stump.

The boy took up a stick and traced in the sand a diagram to illustrate his plan.

"Good gracious!" said the conductor. "I believe that will do it!"

"And it did do it. Today every trainman in America probably knows how to 'saw by' two long trains on a short sidetrack, but it is not so generally known that the thing was never done until an inexperienced country boy became the manager of a great railway line worked out the problem for himself.

Be Patient With Pussy.
If you want to train a cat properly, remember that pussy is not the stupid animal pictured by common superstition. Cats certainly are not so intelligent as dogs. Neither are they so sociable. But once they get to know what is wanted of them they are easily induced to do it to the best of their ability. Kindness and patience go a long way with cats. A little wholesome correction is good for a dog, but use a whip to a cat for one time only, even if ever so sparingly, and its value as a trick animal is destroyed forever. Cats are simply bundles of nerves covered over with fur, and even an unkind word or a glance from any one they love will cause them acute suffering.

Mirrors of the Israelites.
The earliest mirrors of which mention is made in history were in use among the Israelites in the time of Moses. That gentleman, as recorded in the Bible, commanded in a certain emergency that these articles should be transformed into wash basins for the priests. They were made of brass. Doubtless similar utensils of this and other materials were in use long before that. At that same period black glass was employed for the purpose, as well as transparent glass with black foil on the back. It is related that the Spaniards found mirrors of polished black stone, both convex and concave, among the natives of South America.

What the Trouble Is.
The ancient Romans, at whose sumptuous banquets trifles played an important role, supposed that their existence was one of the material results of thunder. More modern botanists have classed it as a species of mushroom, but it can scarcely be termed such. To be exact, the truffle is a tuberculous fungus, a sort of morbid extravasation of vegetable sugars analogous to oak balls or outgalls, and doubtless originating, as these latter, from the sting of an insect.

Accidental Discharge of a Pan.
A capital pun may arise by pure accident, as recorded in Bucke's "Book of Table Talk." "A Mr. Alexander Gunn was dismissed from a post in the customs of Edinburgh for circulating some false rumor. The dismissal is said to have been thus noted in the customs book at the time, 'A. Gunn discharged for making a false report.'"

Americans have increased their sale in Sydney, Australia, 100 per cent each year for seven years.

The average man likes to point to the good traits in his children as a heritage from himself.

There are so many poor grammarians that we wonder grammar is not more unpopular.

Every one ought to have a motto of his own. Mr. Ruskin's was a good one.

A TRANSIT OF VENUS.

How It Was Observed by a Party of German Scientists.

On their way between Tehriz and Teheran the members of an expedition sent to Persia by the German government to observe the transit of Venus met a solitary European lady riding in the opposite direction, a member of the English colony, who was as clever as she was beautiful. Having been long a resident in Persia, she was fearlessly riding alone a long way ahead of her caravan. The Germans marveled at such an apparition in such a dreary waste—wondered she wasn't afraid. Wouldn't she let some of them stand by until her servants and baggage came up? No, she was quite at ease, and usually in her travels was far ahead of her attendants, whose mules, more heavily laden, could not keep her pace.

"And now, gentlemen," she said, "who are you, and where are you bound for?"

"They introduced each other. One was the astronomer, another the photographer, another the archeologist, the naturalist, and so on, and they were going to Isfahan to observe the transit of Venus. The lady smiled, started her pony and waved her adieu, saying:

"To observe the transit of Venus? Ah, well, you can go home, now, gentlemen! Your duty is done. Goodby."

The fair vision disappeared at a canter toward the horizon, and it was said that the Germans did not see the joke till a long time after Venus had disappeared from their ken.—Life of Major General Sir Robert Murdoch Smith, K. C. M. G.

THE NEW MANAGER.

Why He Did Not Discharge a Certain Railroad Conductor.

Among the first railroads built in the United States was a little line about twenty miles in length. In the course of time a big tunnel line was constructed through the same country. The original line became merely a branch. For many years it was run in a cheap way, with one locomotive, one engineer and two or three freight cars.

Finally a new general manager was appointed. He had been in the office but a week when he sent for the one lone conductor who had held the position since the road was built.

"I would like to have your resignation," said the general manager when the conductor appeared.

"My resignation?" inquired the conductor in astonishment.

"Yes, sir, yours."

"What for, pray?"

"Well, I want to make some changes and get new blood in the line," was the general manager's reply.

"I won't resign," answered the conductor.

"Then I will be compelled to discharge you, a step which for your sake I had hoped I would be saved from taking."

"Young man, you will not discharge me, I have a controlling interest in the stock of this railroad and elect the president and board of directors. I shall have you fired."

The old conductor did really own the majority of the stock and, as he said, put in his own board of directors and president.

You Moltke and the Match.
It is said that at the battle of Gravelotte during the Franco-Prussian war there was for some hours at a critical point of the field an appearance of greater success on the part of the French than of the Germans. Von Moltke had been made aware of the perilous position of his forces in that quarter, and he hurried to the spot. For some time it was observed by those around him that he appeared much more anxious than usual.

He gained a prominent position, where he was greatly exposed to the enemy's fire. He held his cigar between two fingers of his left hand, from time to time striking a fuse and applying it to the weed, but always neglecting to put the cigar between his lips. When the crisis of the day was evidently approaching, the last fuse had been burnt, and nothing but the cold ashes of Moltke's cigar remained.

At length Bismarck's attention was directed to the great general, upon whose sagacity the fortune of the fight so largely depended. Moving up to him, Bismarck quickly struck a fuse, applied it to Moltke's cigar, and the welcome sight of the blue tobacco smoke curling up from the commander's lips rewarded the attention of the chancellor. Bismarck, drawing back in his stolid way, said, with exultation in his voice, "All must now be well; Moltke smokes again." The battle was won.

The National English Loaf.
The national loaf, which weighs considerably over 7,000,000 tons, contains rather over 1,015,000,000 cubic feet of the staff of life—that is to say, if turned out having the width and height of the ordinary loaf—i. e., 6 1/2 inches high and 4 1/2 inches wide—it would give every man, woman and child in the kingdom a daily ration rather less than four inches long, or in the aggregate a daily loaf 2,567 miles in length, extending from London to 300 miles beyond Mount Ararat into the heart of the dominion owing allegiance to the shah.

If baked in the form of a biscuit or cake a quarter of an inch in thickness, the area of the same would amount to over 1,119,000 acres and if baked in a circular form would entail a walk of 148 miles to circumscribe it.

It has frequently but incorrectly been stated that the area of the base of the great pyramid exactly coincides with that of Lincoln's Inn Fields, whereas in reality the latter measures 821 feet by 625 1/2 feet and the former 764 feet square. If we took Lincoln's Inn Fields as the base of a bread pyramid, the summit of the same would in height exceed that of Ben Nevis, our highest mountain, by some 15,000 feet.—Good Words.

Trying Situation.
Miss Amateur—Can't you give me a part with more speaking in it?
Theatrical Manager—For what reason?
Miss Amateur—Well, before going on the stage I belonged to a woman's debating club, and not having a chance to say much goes very ill with me.—Ohio State Journal.

HIS ENGLISH FRIEND.

A Visit That Wrecked the Nerves of an American Host.

"I've been having the time of my life, I tell you," said the suburbanite gloomily to his city friend at lunch.

"What's the matter? Pipes burst? Furnace won't work? Dog killing the neighbors' chickens?" asked the friend, sympathetically running through the list of the suburbanite's usual grievances.

"No; worse than that," sadly answered the first speaker. "I've been having an English friend visit me. It's years since I've been across the water, so one or two of his ways were a little strange. The worst of his doings was what has broken me up so. He went to bed the first night before the rest of us, and when I came along the corridor an hour or so later there were his shoes standing outside his door and frightfully muddy too.

"I looked at them in astonishment. Then I remembered the English custom of having the boy come up for the boots. We keep only two servants, you know, both women, and of course in the country you have to rub them the right way or they'll leave. I knew perfectly well that if I told either of those free and independent Irish women to clean the Englishman's shoes we'd be left servantless, and that would have been the death of my wife.

"I lifted the shoes gingerly by two fingers and carried them to my room. When I thought the servants must be asleep, I crept down stairs and got to work with a brush. At every sound I would nearly jump out of my own boots and drop his. I fumbled every moment that the girls would see my candle and give the alarm of burglars or that my friend would be taken ill and get up and find me brushing his shoes. Oh, I had a pretty time of it! He stayed a week, that Englishman, and what with loss of sleep and overstrained nerves I'm a wreck."

"Well, why on earth didn't you have the moral courage to—"

"Moral courage! I'd like to see the man who'd have the moral courage to tell an English gentleman with a monocle that the ways of even well bred people in this country differ from those he's been accustomed to! My friend, you do not know the breed! And he drew his sorrow's and braced his nerves with a several cups of unmarpassed coffee.—New York Tribune.

THE BEST TELEPHONED CITY.

What is the best telephoned city in the world? San Francisco seems to be the answer. In that city, with a population of 342,782, there are 21,324 telephones, or sixty-two per thousand. In Europe, Copenhagen is probably the best telephoned city, with 16,311 telephones to its 312,850 of population, equal to forty-nine per thousand. In Copenhagen, too, the best conditions for the public exist, although the rates are relatively as high as those in American cities. London compares very unfavorably with these figures. At the beginning of this year there were 41,111 telephones to a population of more than 5,500,000, or a proportion of seven to every thousand people. New York, with a population of 2,250,000, had 54,647 instruments, or twenty-six to a thousand.

Husbands' Motto a Bible Verse.
The Husbands' Protection society of London has as its motto the naive verse found in what is known as the Wife Beater's Bible, published in 1549, copies of which may be found in many museums and libraries. This verse is as follows:

"He jwelleth with his wyfe according to his knowledge and taketh her as a necessarye heaper and not as a bonde servant or a bonde slave. And if she be not obedient and helpfull to hym he endeavoureth to beate the fear of God into her heade that thereby she may be compelled to learne her dutie and to do it."—London News.

How to Distinguish Tender Beef.
Meat, to be wholesome, must come from a healthy animal; to be nutritious, from a well nourished one. Much used muscles absorb much food material, making rich, juicy meat. This is, however, tougher than that of parts less used, because the connective tissue and fiber increase as well as the contents of the muscle tubes.

The lean of good beef is firm, elastic and when first cut purplish red, the surface becoming bright red and moist after exposure to the air. The tenderer cuts are fine grained and well moist with fat; a thick layer of firm, light, straw colored fat extends over the ribs and loin cuts; the kidney suet is white and crumbly. Flabby, dark or coarse beef with yellow fat is poor. If it has little fat, it is from an old or underfed creature.—Beatrice Raven in American Queen.

French Bread Laws.
The French baker is not only required to conform to laws regarding weight, but he is also told in what price he must sell his bread. He is further required to deposit a certain sum of money in the hands of the municipal authorities as a surety of good behavior. In the large fortified cities he has to keep a specified quantity of flour on hand to provide for warlike emergencies.

In Germany laws of similar import are in existence and are enforced with such severity that no baker ever dreams of defying them.

He Makes It Pay.
Benson—Talk about the lamentable state of the public service! Why, there's Nestor, for instance. He has been in public office for twenty-five years, and what, I should like to know, has he ever accomplished?
Weston—Well, he has had a job at that time. Surely that's something Boston Transcript.

Where Amber Is Found.
The largest quantity of amber is found on the southern shore of the Baltic between Menel and Konigsberg, where it is cast up by the action of the ground swell after the northern gales. It is also found on the coast of Sicily, on the shores of the Adriatic, on the English beach of Norfolk and Suffolk and at Cape Sable in Maryland. Mining for amber in beds of brown lignite or wood coal is carried on in Prussia, and it is found in excavations all over Europe.

NOTES OF NOTABLES.

A new street in his native city of Rio de Janeiro is to be named after M. Santos-Dumont.

Theodore Roosevelt is the fifth president who has held membership in the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity, the others being John Quincy Adams, Pierce, Garfield and Arthur.

Mrs. Charles M. Schwab, wife of the president of the United States Steel corporation, has a large and valuable collection of miniatures, of which she is an enthusiastic collector.

The origin of Kernit Roosevelt's name is solved by the announcement that Mrs. Roosevelt's father was Charles Carow of New York, successor to the shipping firm of Kernit & Carow.

Ex-Congressman Stallings of Alabama has entirely forsaken politics. He is at present running a gristmill, a sawmill, a country store and a plantation, practicing law in his spare moments in Montgomery.

William F. Glenn of Atlanta, Ga., in a contest wrote 12,097 legible words on a postal card, consuming seventy hours in the task. The record before this feat was 5,200 words. The writing was in ink, and no lines crossed each other.

Anton Lang, who took the part of Christ in the Oberammergau play last summer, was married at Christmas to the girl who sang the "mystical song." Her father is Jacob Rutz, the village blacksmith and leader of the ch. rs.

Marsden J. Perry of Providence, R. I., the millionaire banker, traction magnate and business partner of Senator Aldrich, is said to have in his library the best collection of Shakespeareans in America. It has cost him over \$50,000 thus far.

Professor Wilbur C. Knight of the State university of Wyoming is engaged in putting together the pieces of a sea serpent which he discovered in 1885. The animal was sixty feet long and is one of the most valuable specimens ever found.

Dr. George Eitel of Claiborne, Carver county, Minn., who has just taken his medical degree at Berlin university, has already had diplomas from the universities of Minnesota, Oregon, California, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho and Montana, probably the record in the medical profession.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Ludwig Engländer and Henry B. Smith are at work on a new musical comedy.

William R. Furst has written the incidental music for Miss Henrietta Crossman's new play, "Joan of the Shoals."

The Philadelphia writer who uses the pen name of Bob Watt is to prepare a melodrama for the use of Nat M. Wills.

The famous old Moody and Sankey hymn called "Ninety and Nine" is the basis of two plays announced for early production.

Shakespeare has been mentioned several times as a factor in Mrs. Fiske's plans as the manager of a New York city theater.

Arthur Gillespie, James M. Reilly and Frederick Chapin have about completed a three act comedy opera entitled "The Gibson Girl."

Nat Goodwin has secured four new plays, one each by H. V. Esmond, C. Haddon Chambers, Madeleine Lucette Ryley and Margaret Young.

Augustus Thoms' stage version of Richard Harding Davis' "Soldiers of Fortune" will be the initial play for Robert Edson's starring tour.

ENGLISH ETCHINGS.

Some idea of the vast wealth of London may be gathered from the fact that the fire insurance carried by the metropolis is now \$4,550,000,000.

London's new telephone system, which is being put in by the government as a part of its postoffice service, will have a capacity of 14,000 subscribers, who will pay by the message.

That the fly of the valley will be chosen as the coronation flower is quite unlikely, as the time for English lilies is over by then, and, moreover, it is a foreign blossom and when massed together makes no effect, while June, on the contrary, is the month of roses.

The Constance road workhouse of the Camberwell guardians, London, is stated by an inspector of the local government board to be much overcrowded. This the inspector attributes to the excellent dietary, the inmates being given joints of meat and vegetables for dinner five times a week.

THE HORSES.

Frank S. Gorton has gone to California.

Kellar, 2:16 1/2, by Allerton, may be trained this year.



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Marsden J. Perry of Providence, R. I., the millionaire banker, traction magnate and business partner of Senator Aldrich, is said to have in his library the best collection of Shakespeareans in America. It has cost him over \$50,000 thus far.

Professor Wilbur C. Knight of the State university of Wyoming is engaged in putting together the pieces of a sea serpent which he discovered in 1885. The animal was sixty feet long and is one of the most valuable specimens ever found.

Dr. George Eitel of Claiborne, Carver county, Minn., who has just taken his medical degree at Berlin university, has already had diplomas from the universities of Minnesota, Oregon, California, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho and Montana, probably the record in the medical profession.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.