

BANDON RECORDER.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.)

It seems curious that, while practically all of the states and important cities in the country have taken measures to prevent the misuse of their seals, the great seal of the United States has been unprotected. When the measure now before the house to remedy this condition becomes a law any person who without lawful authority makes any impression of the great seal or uses such impression for the purpose of authenticating any document may be fined not more than \$3,000 or imprisoned not more than five years. A penalty of \$1,000 fine or imprisonment not exceeding ten years is provided for any person who without lawful authority counterfeits or has in his possession any likeness of the great seal. The bill passed the senate without any discussion and will undoubtedly go through the house as easily.

President's China.

The cabinets for the presidential china, which Mrs. Roosevelt had placed in the east corridor of the White House, received an invaluable addition recently in eight pieces of the Washington and Madison ware. These pieces were loaned to the collection by Mrs. James Bradley of New York city. Mrs. Bradley is a prominent member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and has taken the greatest interest in the White House collection from a patriotic standpoint. The Washington consists of an old rose English cut glass decanter, a glass preserve dish of the same make, an old Canton ware pickle dish of the willow pattern and a fish knife of Sheffield plate.

Sites For New Statues.

It has been decided that the Von Steuben statue, for which congress appropriated \$50,000, shall be placed in Lafayette square. Two available corners now remain there. The German officer who fought with the American army will probably occupy one of these places, while on the other, facing Senator Depey's house, the statue of Palski, for which an appropriation of \$50,000 was also made, will eventually stand.

President's War Bonnet.

President Roosevelt's other day received a genuine Sioux war bonnet and a Sioux buckskin coat. They were presented by John Flinn, superintendent of the Indian school at Chamberlain, S. D., in behalf of admirers of the president. A party of Black Hills cowboys is organizing to come to Washington from Deadwood, S. D., for the inauguration.

Colored Folks Alarmed.

The negroes of Washington are in a state of semitorment over the possibility of the re-establishment of the whipping post in the District of Columbia. They are holding mass meetings to protest against the "outrage" and are working themselves into a frenzy of fear and excitement. Most of the Washington clergy, including Bishop Satterlee and Dr. Schick, the president's pastor, have come out in public utterances favoring the suggestion of President Roosevelt that corporal punishment be meted out to wife beaters.

Cost of Irrigation.

The census bureau has issued a report on the condition of irrigation in the United States in 1902, showing that 33,415 systems, with 50,311 miles of main canals and ditches, were irrigating 9,487,077 acres on 134,036 farms. The amount expended in constructing all these systems was \$38,320,452. The average construction cost per acre in the arid region was \$9.14.

Troops at the Inaugural.

General Chaffee, grand marshal of the inaugural parade, has announced that only about 3,000 regular troops will participate in the parade. This number will include one regiment of infantry, two battalions of coast artillery, one squadron of cavalry, two battalions of field artillery, the West Point cadets, the "middles" and the marine corps. General Chaffee said that he had merely indicated to General Wade the number of troops wanted and that that officer would select them. The grand marshal also stated that he had received a call from Colonel Turpin of the Thirtieth regiment of heavy artillery of New York, who announced that his regiment would come, and also a regiment of infantry, making in all about 1,500 men. A full brigade of Pennsylvania volunteers and Squadron A of cavalry will be here.

A Veteran Judge.

On the coming 22d of February Charles C. Nott will have served forty years on the court of claims, having been appointed one of its judges by Abraham Lincoln in 1865. He was made chief justice by President Cleveland in 1896. The appointees of Abraham Lincoln in public office are now becoming extremely rare, and in view of this and also the length of Judge Nott's service it is proposed to celebrate it in some way that will do him honor. He was born in New York in 1827, married a daughter of Mark Hopkins of Williams college, served with distinction in the civil war and has written extensively.

A Curious Fish.

Among the many curious fish in the exhibit at the National museum none attracts more attention than the crayfish. The crayfish is a native of British and French Guiana and is remarkable for being the largest of fresh water fishes, specimens weighing 400 and 500 pounds being by no means rare. Their scales and color of some classes act as to resemble mosaic work. The head and mouth are bright yellowish green and yellow, shading by turns into grass green, emerald green, olive green, blue green, blue, grey, steel grey and silver grey on the tail, making a most gorgeous and peculiar looking fish. This specimen is a recent arrival at the museum.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

Front on a Fish.

A man who bought an old metal tub for 12 shillings at Winchester found it to be the borough bushel measure of the reign of George III, and sold it to an American for £60.—London Mail.

If the market value of advice were to take a rise the whole world would be rolling in riches.—New Orleans Picayune.

POLLY LARKIN

Everybody is talking about "Lawton's Frenzied Finance," and making a great fuss over it. Some of the news-dealers say they can hardly keep up with the demand by those who favor and coincide with the writer as well as critics who denounce the writer and his works in round terms. "I could give Lawton a pointer on 'frenzied finance,' for I know all about it," said a gentleman, the other day. "We have thirteen children in our house to clothe, feed, buy school books, etc., for the healthy, rumping, little fellows, and it takes skimming, planning, scheming and lots of patience to get along. We have had a good, sound knowledge of 'frenzied finance' every day for years, and expect to have it until our little folks are big enough to help support themselves. I have all the 'frenzied finance' I want, and Lawton cannot tell me anything about it."

Did you ever hear of Louis Fleishman's bread line? He was an Austrian by birth, and served with distinction at the battle of Solowa and earned a Lieutenant's commission. When but a mere youth he came to the United States and founded a big bakery in New York City. He possessed a kindly heart and was ever disposed to reach out a helping hand to the poor. Fleishman's "bread line" finally got to be one of the unique and interesting features of the big city and one of the most practical charities in the world; it extended around from Broadway through Tenth street to Fourth avenue. Thousands of destitute people are relieved daily, the line of applicants for bread often extending several blocks. Not only are unfortunate men supplied with rolls and bread, but each one received a cup of hot coffee. In this way Mr. Fleishman has for a number of years dispensed alms that represented an outlay of thousands of dollars. A short time ago this great philanthropist was lying at death's door, and I have never learned whether he was spared to continue his good work of ministering to the poor, or had responded to the last summons. If the latter then, he had many sincere mourners among those he had benefited with his generosity, and had made it possible for them to live without experiencing the pangs of hunger. His death would have been a great blow to the poor and destitute of New York. 'Tis a pity there are not more of these generous, whole-souled men in the world whose hearts can beat in sympathy with the poor and unfortunate, and who are ever ready to reach out a helping hand.

I saw a weak, trembling, wretched-looking mortal plead with two gentlemen on the street for ten cents to get a cup of coffee with the other day. He said, "I haven't had a bite to eat for twenty-four hours, and I am cold and hungry. I pledge you my word of honor that I don't want it for whiskey." "Oh! go 'long, I've heard of you before," said one of the men harshly, as he tried to pass him. Then he turned impatiently toward the other party. "I'm hungry." The woe-begone looks and his utterly wretched condition had its effect, and the gentleman handed him twenty-five cents with the remark, "You look as if you need it; don't thank me, just go and get your coffee." The generosity fully staggered the man for a minute, for he had only asked for ten cents and he would have considered that he was in luck if he had received that amount. "Oh, you make me tired," said the man who had refused the small amount he asked for. "Don't you know that he is nothing but a morphine fiend and that every cent he gets goes for the drug? What do you want to encourage him for? You gave him twenty-five cents—that would get him a good breakfast, and he needs it, but he will buy the drug and forget the trials and disappointments of this life while he spends a short time in the sweetest bliss he ever knows in this world; then the awakening comes and it is not so pleasant for the old fellow, but he ought to have to suffer, for he is a trifling and good-for-nothing vagabond. Pity he can't take an overdose and end it all!"

"I quite agree with you there; 'tis a pity he can't get an overdose and go where he will be judged more leniently than he could by any earthly tribunal. I know as well as you do that that twenty-five cents will go for morphine instead of coffee, but I know too the intense suffering he must endure every moment he is not under the drug. I was dangerously near to being a morphine fiend myself once. I had met with an accident and suffered so intensely that our old family physician prescribed morphine which was given me whenever the paroxysms of pain racked my body from head to foot. One day I woke up to the fact that I was a slave to the habit. It had me bound hand and foot, I had no conscience left, it seemed to me that I was morally and physically a wreck. Why, I would have stolen from my best friend to get the money to purchase the drug. Every day made matters worse. I would have moments of repentance and remorse, in which I cried out for help to break the fetter that bound me, and would swear off and make the most solemn promise that I would be a man and break off this habit that was destroying both body and soul. Talk about suffering; you, who have never formed the habit, don't know anything about it. Sleeping and waking that gnawing appetite is de-

manding that you satisfy it. How I blamed our good old family physician who had started me on the downward path with the best intentions in the world. He, himself, did not realize the danger until it was too late. He thought I was mentally and physically strong enough to not let it get the best of me. There he erred; I felt just as many other good-hearted fellows have, who did not have the chance and the encouragement I had to pull myself together and escape the bondage. No doubt that poor fellow we just met started out hopefully and with all the confidence in the world that he would be successful and a prosperous citizen, and then there came a day when sickness and pain came to rack his body, and he cried out in his misery for something that would make him forget and give him a little rest from the agony. His doctor prescribed morphine. Oh, blissful rest! Oh, golden dreams that carried him into the poppy fields and drove the demon of pain out of his life for a short time. He cared not for the affairs of business, what difference did it make if all of his cherished plans had failed owing to his inability to attend to them and keep the business moving? When he realized the danger it was too late. The mischief was done. I see it all, and my heart aches for the poor fellow, even though by this time we know he has forgotten his poverty and that he is a beggar on the street; forgotten that he is cold and hungry; forgotten that he has a mouthful to eat in twenty-four hours. He is oblivious to it all; it is his only succor from one of the cruellest afflictions that rack the human body. Don't denounce the poor fellow but pity him, yes pity him from the bottom of your heart and thank Providence that you are not bound hand and foot by the fetters of this sense appetite. Death only will release the dope fiend.

BRIEF REVIEW.

Longest Cantilever Bridge.

There is now under construction across the St. Lawrence at Quebec, a cantilever bridge which, when completed, will contain the longest span of any bridge yet erected, not even excluding the great cantilevers of the Forth bridge in Scotland. The structure is of the cantilever type, and consists of two approach spans of 210 feet each, two shore arms, each 500 feet in length, and a great central span 1800 feet in length. The total length of the bridge is 4220 feet, and although in extreme dimensions it does not compare with the Forth of Forth bridge, which is about one mile in total length, it has the distinction of having the longest span in the world by ninety feet, two cantilevers of the Forth bridge being each 1700 feet in length. The total width of the floor is eighty feet, and provision is made for a double-track railway, two roadways for vehicles, and two sidewalks. In a cantilever of this magnitude, the individual members are necessarily of huge proportions, the main posts, for instance, being 325 feet in length, and weighing 750 tons each.

Women Master Mariners.

Miss Jane Morgan of Philadelphia has passed an examination before the United States steam vessel inspectors, and they have granted her a master mariner's certificate, good for "all oceans." To get such a certificate the applicant must have sailed as a navigating officer on an ocean or coastwise vessel. Miss Morgan has had such experience on her father's yacht. Her certificate as master mariner attests her fitness to take command of any vessel. According to Captain Patterson of the New York Nautical College, there are only five female master mariners in the world besides Miss Morgan. One of these makes her living as a pilot on the Mississippi, another as a pilot on the Ohio. Many yachtswomen are expert navigators. On water or on land women are showing themselves the equals of man.

The Thrones of Europe.

There are fifteen thrones in Europe, and eight now promise to pass from father to son. The latter are those of Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Norway and Sweden, Bulgaria, Russia and Italy. The Sultan may be succeeded by a brother and the King of Spain by a sister. The Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians and the King of Roumania look to nephews, while the ruler of Holland has no visible successor at present.

Power of Earthquakes.

A Budapest scientist has made a calculation of the energy expended by earthquakes. He finds that an amount of work equal to the raising of the mass of the earth through a little less than one-fiftieth of an inch was done by each of the world-shaking earthquakes registered during the eight years from 1885 to 1902. The work done spasmodically by these earthquakes represents 75,000,000 horse-power working continually night and day.

New Broom Daily.

A Finnish housewife buys a new broom every morning—a necessary extravagance, since she sweeps her whole house every day, and the broom she uses is just a bundle of fresh, green birch leaves, whose natural dampness keeps up the dust.

Tenants Buy a Town.

The town of Castlere, county Roscommon, Ireland, is to be sold to the tenants as the result of negotiations between the landlord, the estates commissioners and the Town Tenants' League, under the land act of last year.

Loyalty to Friends and Principles.

Loyalty to friends and principles shows the highest trait of human nature.

WOMAN AND FASHION

Neatly For Girl.
No neater yet devised provides greater satisfaction and comfort than the kimono. This one is simple and graceful and includes an inverted plait at the back, which means graceful and becoming fulness. As illustrated the material is white Japanese crepe with



Kimono.
bands of pink wash silk, but all these in vogue for garments of the sort are appropriate. To make the kimono for a girl of fourteen years of age will be required five and three-eighths yards of material twenty-seven or three and a half yards forty-four or fifty-two inches wide, with one and five-eighths yards of silk for bands.

Looking Ahead.

The full skirts which have prevailed during the fall and winter will undoubtedly be good during the coming spring. Of course the fullness will be confined in plait, flaring gracefully at the knees. Walking skirts will be shorter. The correct length is three or four inches off the ground. By a trick of fashion carriage and reception skirts are to be worn three or four inches on the ground all the way around. They must be as long in front as in the back. There is a promise that the coats for spring will be adorned with an embossed pattern. Jackets and perhaps Etons will take the place of the three-quarter coats and those even longer which have been worn during the winter.

The Latest Stocks.

Some of the new stocks are almost barbaric in their color schemes, a dozen colors being piled on a background of leather or the green suede that is so good this year. But the prettiest stocks are made with little frills that spread out at the base of the collar like a tiny yoke. Most of the frills are of plaiting, with an occasional one that is flared out by curiously shaped bits of some sheer material.

A Velvet Novelty.

A novelty among the many new silk velvets which have appeared on the market is one adorned with an embossed satin spot about the size of a pea, which is of a somewhat darker shade than the groundwork. In some cases it is of quite a different color from the velvet and is outlined with a narrow rim of white, which gives it a rather curious effect.

The New Vells.

Lace vells, especially the real for spring wear, will have large designs. Bordered vells of all sorts are distinctly smart in Paris, although here they are less worn. Aboard the idea is to have the hat matched by its veil, and many of the new hats shown here have vells that came from Paris with them, each hat having its own particular veil.

A Novel Design.

House waists made with deep cuffs in gaudy style and so designed as to suggest a vest effect are among the novelties of the later season. This one is made of fancy silk, with collar and cuffs of lace, but all waisting materials are appropriate, and the design suits the entire gown as well as the separate



Blouse or Shirt Waist.

blouse. The back is laid in box plaits for its entire length, while the fronts are tucked at the shoulders and include an applied box plait at the center, which can be slashed, as illustrated, or left plain, as preferred. The quantity of material required for a woman of medium size is four and three-quarters yards twenty-one, four and a quarter yards twenty-seven or two and three-quarters yards forty-four inches wide.

The Best Man at His Wedding.

Haskins—By the way, who was the best man at your wedding? Willowsby—The person seemed to be feeling the best. You see, it was all profit for him and no risk whatever.—Boston Transcript.

The Interest in It.

Pipson—I wonder what there was in the paper today about Masters? Grimes—Didn't know there was anything. Pipson—Oh, there must have been. He was saying to me that today's issue was usually interesting.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

The Chinese still make the best India ink.
A Wisconsin dog by stepping on the trigger of a gun shot a boy.
Thus far England has imported more oranges than any other fruit from Spain.
It is estimated that the wear and tear on American railroads pulverizes 427,000 tons of iron annually.

Drivers of automobiles in England whose license to stop when requested to do so by a person driving a horse are fined.
Demand in China for Japanese canvas shoes, fans, china and antimony is increasing since the present far east war began.

The government now has on hand about 462,000,000 silver dollars, which require about 115,500 cubic feet of space to store in the treasury.
The British possessions in west Africa cover 500,000 square miles, containing 20,000,000 negroes and easily capable of producing a yearly cotton crop of 10,000,000 bales.

A traveler in Siberia is authority for the statement that the natives along the coast eat much wood. The bark is stripped from the trees and cooked until it is a pulp.
The Tasmanian parliament has inserted a clause in a new taxation bill granting an exemption of \$50 for every child of all income taxpayers whose incomes are under a certain amount.

Two old portraits of Nelson in good condition have, it is announced, been discovered in Dresden, dating from the great admiral's visit there in 1801. The one is a large pastel, the other a miniature in oil.
Optum smoking has reached immense proportions in the French ports on the Mediterranean sea. Laws have been passed in Marseilles and Toulon forbidding the "rolling of pills" in public places in those cities.

Sheep are going to the slaughter more rapidly than they are bred in this country. If the reduction going on proceeds much longer the country will realize that it is up against short home wool crops as well as sheep supply.
The University of California at Berkeley faces a magnificent view of bay, island and shore, but the high hills behind it are bare. They are to be covered with redwoods, fir, manzanita, tan and white oaks and madrones.

The ancient pagodas in Manchuria of which one bears so much nowadays are built according to the custom of centuries. A first class pagoda has either seven, nine or thirteen stories, while a second class has either three or five. But few are built now.
The house at 10 Downing street, London, is the official residence of the English premier and is always kept ready for his occupancy. Mr. Balfour stayed there while in London recently, and an open fire is always kept burning in his bedroom, whether he is in London or not.

The 700 shoemakers' shops in Canton, China, employ 8,000 men and 20,000 women, who work from daylight to dark. Since the recent production of serosene lamps the hours even have been lengthened. They get from about \$2.00 to \$5 a month in wages and their meals, consisting of rice and salt fish.

For a winter climate Canon City, Colo., has a reputation second to no locality in the United States. During the winter of 1903-04 hundreds of robins, blue birds and turtles even made their homes in that vicinity, and there was no weather during the whole season so severe as to harm the feathered creatures.

Belgium, where public libraries are almost unknown, enjoys 19,000 public houses. That means one public house for thirty-six inhabitants, or one public house for twelve men above seventeen years of age. During the last fifty years the population has increased 50 per cent, the number of public houses 238 per cent.

The English market, which on account of its great importations of Brazilian rubber is the principal intermediary between production and French industry, is of much greater importance than all the other markets. The Belgian and German markets do not furnish France half as much as do its own colonies.

At a recent medical exhibition in London a new anesthetic, called somnolone, was shown. It is a liquid whose "boiling point" is 23 degrees below zero. The moment it comes in contact with the air it becomes gas. Its great virtue, from a medical point of view, is that it breathes stops before the heart when it is administered.

Housewives in Florida scrub their floors with oranges. In almost any town in the orange growing districts women may be seen using the fruit as soap. They cut the oranges in halves and rub the flat, exposed pulp on the floor. The acid in the oranges does the cleansing and does it well, for the boards are as white as snow after the application.

The cultivation of the olive is increasing constantly, though slowly, in Spain. The area devoted to olives increased from 2,673,995 acres in 1901 to 2,682,550 acres in 1902 and 2,690,930 acres in 1903. The oil yield per acre last year was 32 gallons, or 13.8 gallons more than the yield of 1901-02 and 2 gallons more than the average.

The British Medical Journal says: "Koepe believes that the different symptoms of seasickness are due to anaemia of the brain, and that valdol acts upon this condition by raising the blood pressure. It also influences the gastric disturbances by lowering the sensibility of the nerve endings in the gastric mucous membrane and is indeed both a good stomachic and a good analeptic."

His Originality.
Uncle George—I have read your article over, and I must say it shows a great deal of originality. Arthur—Thanks, I'm sure! I flattered myself there were some ideas in it. Uncle George—Oh, I was not speaking of the composition, but of the spelling.

The Customary Glimp.
Nurdy—How did the new play end? Butts—Oh, in the usual way. Nurdy—And what do you call the usual end? Butts—in a whirl of hats and feathers and opera glasses.—Houston Chronicle.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

Lard and Peanuts.
At the beginning of last summer a certain well known literary woman in the west repaired to the shores of one of the lakes of Michigan, to prepare her cottage for occupancy during the heated term. Before going she had arranged with her husband to cause a lot of household goods to be packed and forwarded by steamer.

It appears that for some reason the shipment was delayed and that the lady was obliged to write to her husband inquiring with reference to the delay. In conclusion she had appended to her letter a postscript reading: "Please telegraph me when the goods shall have been shipped."

Pursuant to instructions, the husband personally supervised the packing of the various effects needed for the cottage in Michigan, even going down to the dock to see that they were duly conveyed on board the steamer. Moreover, as requested by his wife, he telegraphed what he had done. "Lard and peanuts on board," wired he; "will arrive tomorrow morning."

When his wife received the telegram she read: "Lard and peanuts on board; will arrive tomorrow morning."—Harper's Weekly.

Following Advice.
"Really, Mr. Hanson," said the fair girl, "I'm shocked to hear you confess such behavior in your business dealings. You should always do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

"You wouldn't have me do that all ways," "Certainly," she replied; "always." "All right. Here goes!" he cried and kissed her.—Philadelphia Press.

Unfortunates.
Mrs. Greene—I should think you'd feed your boarders a little better. You can't expect them to say a good word for you when they leave. Mrs. Skinner—Oh, but they do. Al most every one of them has a grudge against some friend of his, and he invariably recommends my house to him. I get lots of new boarders that way.—Boston Transcript.

Had to Wait His Turn.



Schoolteacher—What! You say that you are late because you have been to get your hair cut? But you're nearly an hour behind time. Scholar—Please sir, there was another man before me.

In Case of Failure.
"But," said the young man who had just been admitted to the bar, "suppose my practice should be a failure—then what?" "Well," replied the old lawyer encouragingly, "there is politics that is always open to you. Remember, there are 230 lawyers in our house of representatives and quite a few in our senate."—Judge.

Between Friends.
"I asked George if he thought you were pretty, and he said the word pretty couldn't describe you." "How nice!" "I'm afraid you don't understand me, dear. I asked him what word would describe you and he replied that he would rather not say."—Detroit Tribune.

His Benevolent Scheme.
"I'm going to endow one of the universities," said the millionaire—"going to establish a chair." "Chair of what?" asked his friend. "Well, I don't know what you'd call it for short, but it's a chair that's badly needed—a chair to teach graduates how to get a job."—Brooklyn Life.

Distraught.
"He's very refined. At dinner he never blows his soup." "What does he do when it's hot?" "Waits for it to cool." "Well, I tried that, and the hired girl came and took my plate away afore I got a single spoonful."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Schemer.
Merryman—I always keep my wife provided with good reading matter. Chubby—Any particular reason? Merryman—Yep; it keeps her amused so that when she sits up at night waiting for me to come home she doesn't care how late I stay out!—Detroit Free Press.

A One Sided Settlement.
"There is no use of a man being proud of his ancestors," said the affable man. "No," answered Miss Cayenne. "In numerous cases the ancestors would not reciprocate if they had a chance."—Washington Star.

Always in the Market.
Jinks—Why do these millionaires dress so shabbily? Winks—So folks will take pity on 'em and buy their watered stocks.—New York Weekly.

A man should feel the obligation to bring gaiety into the lives of all those whom he loves. The fact that the routine of the day has been dull doesn't excuse him for being glum and silent at his evening meal.—Arthur S. Pier.

Don't Whine.
"It doesn't pay to talk 'bout you troubles," said Uncle Eben. "De mo' you bolters 'bout gettin' cheated in a mule trade de less chance you has of workin' de mule off on somebody else."—Washington Star.

A Strong Part.
Noubrette—Yes, the understudy says he used to have a very strong part on the stage. Comedian—So he did. He used to be a scene shifter and lift the mountains and castles.—Chicago News.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

A Clever Roman Thief.
A clever robber has just taken place in Rome. One day a spruce young man presented himself to the portress of a house, asking for one of the tenants. On hearing that she had been absent for some days he replied: "Yes, I know. She was taken ill in the street and was sent to the hospital. I am a police officer sent to take an inventory of the contents of the flat. Just come up with me." And he showed her what he called his authorization. On the way up he said that he must have two other witnesses, and when these came the four of them went carefully over everything, taking a minute inventory, forcing open drawers and cupboards, nothing being sacred from them. When this was done the three witnesses signed the inventory, and the "police officer" went off, carrying with him titles and bonds to the value of several thousands of francs, to be deposited in safety at the police headquarters. That same night the tenant returned, to be greeted with great surprise by the portress, who exclaimed:

"What! Back so soon? And how are you? Did they treat you well?" "Treat me well?" exclaimed the other. "What do you mean? Do you think I have been in a lunatic asylum?" "Well, a hospital is just as bad, isn't it?" "It may be," said the tenant, "but I know nothing of either."

"Why, were you unconscious all the time?" And so on until the situation was made clear. She had been visiting friends. She hurried upstairs alarmed, to find all her little savings gone and no trace of the thief except the confusion which he had left behind.—Pall Mall Gazette.

King Edward's Private Secretary.
Should you by any chance receive an autograph letter from King Edward or Queen Alexandra the royal signature may be there, but they know nothing of the contents beyond the fact of having said to their secretaries, "Write thus and so."

To be the private secretary of popular sovereigns is no sinecure. Fifty or sixty letters a day is the average of her majesty's correspondence, while the king's duty is doubled by state papers for his signature, which no one, of course, can save him the labor of writing. Royalty reads a letter and often limits its supervision to a laconic no or yes scrawled on the margin. Then Lord Knollys and Miss Knollys, the queen's confidant, will take it and do the rest.

King Edward's skillful right hand man expands this into the diplomatic style with which most people are familiar and long believed direct royal dictation. Such very private notes as the king and queen do send to their families or intimates are discreetly burned or buried in archives, from which it would be impossible to unearth them.—Boston Herald.

China's Coal Fields.
China's resources of coal and iron are among the largest and most favorably situated in the world. The extent of the great coal fields has been put at 400,000 square miles—twice the area of France and more than seventy times the aggregate extent of all the coal fields of Britain. Of the quality of the deposits much has yet to be learned, but the distinguished German geologist, Baron von Richtofen, reports many years ago that both the anthracite and the bituminous varieties were equal to the best produced in Europe. It is expected that very soon Chinese coal will be delivered at far eastern ports at prices with which no other coal can possibly compete and that China, in consequence of this development will become a large exporter of iron.—Engineering.

Why Gibbs Deserted.
Tessie Gibbs, Benjamin's wife, appeared before Judge Dunne in Chicago, as it is related by the Record-Herald, and asked for a divorce on the ground of desertion. Mr. Gibbs was dramatic when she took the stand. "Why did he desert me?" she demanded. "Why, for no other reason than because he got weary of me; he felt tired of home, and he wanted to wander around the country. After he had left me I met him on the street one day. I stopped. So did he. "Mr. Gibbs," says I, "why don't you come home?" "Don't talk to me of such things," says he. "I've got some money for coffee and sandwiches, and I'm sleeping in the cars. It's fine."

Fish Shoals Found by Telephone.
The latest use of the telephone is in locating shoals of fish. The electric apparatus is a German patent. A microphone enclosed in a water tight case connected with an electric battery and telephone is lowered into the water. So long as the telephone hangs free no sound is heard, but on its coming into contact with a shoal of fish the constant tapping of the fish against the microphone case produces a series of sounds which at once betrays their presence. The cord attached to the microphone is marked so that the exact depth of the shoal is designated.

It Rained Geese.
Though Hungary can never hope to compete with America in tallness of anecdote, the following effort is not bad: It is reported from a village in that country that the inhabitants have been kept indoors by a heavy shower of wild geese. It is supposed that the birds flew from a moist layer of atmosphere to a cold one, got their wings frozen and were unable to fly.—London Globe.

He Sold and Left.
A lawyer had a horse that always stopped and refused to cross a certain bridge leading out of the city. No whipping, no urging, would induce him to cross it, so he advertised him. "To be sold for no other reason than that the owner wants to get out of town."

A Strong Part.
Noubrette—Yes, the understudy says he used to have a very strong part on the stage. Comedian—So he did. He used to be a scene shifter and lift the mountains and castles.—Chicago News.