The Phonograph in the Army.

A distinguished officer said to me, after we had inspected Edison's phonograph at the Press club by favor of Col. Gouraud, "I wonder can that be adapted to naval and military use?" Subsequent conversation with him developed these ideas. There is hardly a campaign of which we have a complete record; there is hardly an accident at sea of which we have ever heard, or that did not give rise to the question of the exact wording and precise emphasis on the wording of an order. The most conspicuous instance in modern times of a misunderstanding was perhaps the case of the charge at Balaklava, but the ceaseless flow of battle papers in the American magazines goes to show that what happened in the case of our Light brigade happened in substance pretty often in your great war. Now, if there were a portable form of the phonograph there could be a record of the orders given, whether in case of an action ashore or an accident afloat. Perhaps Mr. Edison will condescend to give the subject his attention.

But meanwhile I have "spotted" a use for the phonograph that probably has occurred to no one else. It has been my lot in days gone by to attend perhaps a greater number of artillery experiments than any one else not an artillery officer, and I can see how if a number of phonographs, synchronized, were placed along a range there would be a better and clearer record of the path of a shot or shell than there is at present where the use of screens inevitably causes some deflection and some loss of energy, however light. But in applying the phonograph to military and naval purposes it does seem to be necessary that there should be found some more durable, even if less sensitive, material than the wax cylinder as the receiver of the vibrations. That such a material exists can hardly be doubted; but it may interest Mr. Edison to know that already some of the smartest military minds in England are considering his invention with a view to its adoption for, or adaptation to, military purposes. I do not feel at liberty to say more on the matter at present.—London Cor. New York Times.

Swimming Examinations for Schoolboys.

One of the most sensible of school regulations is that at Eton which specifies that only those boys who know how to swim shall engage in boating. At one time the school authorities did not interfere at all in overseeing the oarsmen, and accidents on the water were not at all unusual.

In 1840, however, when a boy was drowned, the law was made that no boy should be allowed to enter a boat who had not passed an examination in swimming. One or two teachers were appointed river masters, bathing places were specified, and watermen were engaged, both to teach swimming, and to be at hand with punts, in order to prevent accident.

Bathing is permitted as soon after the Easter holidays as the weather will allow, and twice a week the river masters are present at Cuckoo weir to conduct the swimming examination. "Boating," of the Badminton library, describes the ceremony:

"A number of the boys thought by the watermen to be sufficiently proficient, appear, undressed, in a punt. About thirty yards off a pole is stuck up in the water. The master stands on a high place called the acropolis, and as he calls one name after another each pupil takes a header and swims once or twice round the pole. It is not sufficient merely to take the header and accomplish the specified distance; he must swim in approved form, so as to be capable of swimming in his clothes."

Since these formalities have been established only one boy has been drowned at Eton, though many boats are swamped under all sorts of circumstances. Those who have not passed belong to the class called "non nant."—Youth's Companion.

A Good Kind of Face.

Memory of Events.—This is shown by a wide, full forehead in the center.

Reasoning Power.—A high, long and well defined nose and a broad face exhibits this great faculty.

Moral Courage.—This faculty manifests itself by wide nostrils, short neck and eyes set directly in front.

Language.—This faculty is exhibited in many parts of the face, particularly by a large mouth and large, full eyes, opened wide.

Self Esteem.—This faculty shows itself in a long or deep upper lip. Large self esteem gives one dignity, self control and perfect independence.

Firmness.—The presence of this faculty, when very large is indicated by a long, broad chin. Firmness is synonymous with willfulness, perseverance and stability.

Perception of Character.—This is indicated by a long, high nose at the lower end or tip. This faculty is very useful, if not indispensable, to a judge in the exercise of the functions of his office.

Power of Observation.—The situation of this faculty is in the face just above the top of the nose, filling out the forehead to a level with the parts on each side of the nose. It is a faculty which enables one to concentrate the mind upon the subject being discussed.

Conscientiousness.—This is shown in the face by a square jaw, a bony chin, prominent cheek bones and a general squareness of the features of the entire face. To be conscientious means that one has a sense of justice, honesty of purpose, rectitude of character and moral courage.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

True to Her Promise.

As illustrative of the average negro character a gentleman said that an old negro woman made application for the loan of $5. He lent her the money and, true to her promise, she returned it. That was several years since, and nearly every time she has seen him since she would accost him with the salutation: "Mr. Blank, you loaned me $5, didn't you?" "Yes." "Well, I paid it back, didn't I?" "That you did." "Well, don't you think you oughter give me a quarter?" The gentleman said he generally thought so, and that he had responded to her calls cheerfully.—Albany (Ga.) News.

The ordinary is the necessary; the extraordinary we can do without. Yet, by a strange paradox, men value most what they least need.

THE CAUSE OF LANGUOR.

Not to Be Confounded with True Fatigue, Cure and Prevention.

In ordinary states of health the strongest persons are apt to feel sensations or fits of languor which they call fatigue, and for which they can give no reasonable explanation either to themselves or to others. The weather largely influences this condition. A moist and warm atmosphere always increases the disposition to languor; a moderately cold and dry atmosphere always prevents it. The sense of relaxation and disposition to sleep must not be confounded with true fatigue, arising from hard or prolonged physical or mental work, but must be taken as simply due to a condition in which there is weariness without a sufficent reason for it.

When this condition is strongly present, it is marked by one particular sign, which is of itself characteristic: it comes on after repose. The affected person experiences it most on rising in the morning, and even after a good night's sleep is still oppressed by a sense of weariness, a feeling as if the day, with all its cares and anxieties, could not be passed through. The desire, almost irresistible, is to go to sleep again, a desire which, if gratified, increases the evil and makes the day heavier than it otherwise would be. That it is not real fatigue or exhaustion which causes the sense of languor now being described is clearly shown, not only by the fact that the feeling comes on after long repose, but that it is dispersed in the day, after it has been present in the morning, by the exercise and duties of the day. I have no doubt that it is caused by the accumulation in the body of some diffusible and light chemical substance, which acts after the manner of an intoxicant and is a true intoxicant to the nervous system. The probable physiology of the condition is plain, but what is to be the cure, and, above all, what is to be the prevention?

The cure is exercise and the wearing of clothing which will give free liberation to the exhalations of the skin. Every one who is affected with the sense of languor is soon conversant with the knowledge that if he resolves to throw off the load which oppresses him and takes a short, sharp walk or other good and wholesome exercise, he is always relieved, and many find this mode of cure so certain that they invariably follow it. Others, and I fear the majority, are so oppressed that they feel as if they could not bring themselves to the effort of throwing off the sense of weariness by resorting to anything like active motion. When the oppression is the strongest and exertion is most demanded, they try to balance betwixt the two modes of treatment, the sharp exertion and the seductive sleep. They give way to the sleep; the giving way becomes a habit; in a very short time the habit lapses into a confirmed method, and with the habit structural changes in vital organs of the body are soon set up, and add rapidly to the evil. The body becomes obese, the liver becomes inactive, the mind becomes dull, and a short life is, of necessity, determined.

The treatment of languor in the healthy consists, then, in taking exercise in due, but in moderate amount. To go in for desperate exercise, as some do, is to frustrate, not to assist, cure; for desperate exercise produces actual fatigue, which nothing except rest will cure, and then the weariness from actual work and the weariness from underwork get confused the one with the other, and all goes wrong. Rightly conducted, the cure is exercise, and the prevention is continued exercise carried out daily and regularly, whatever the temptation may be to give it up. Second to this is light and porous clothing, as I have many years taught. Whatever holds or takes up the fluid exhalations from the skin is not clothing fit to wear. Whatever cannot be easily breathed through is not clothing that is fit to wear.

No kind of clothing for the human body is so good as that which admits freely into and through its meshes the most perfect purifier and the most perfect non-conductor and healthy equalizer of temperature known — atmospheric air. Patients sometimes come to me literally borne down with the weight of their own clothing. They are coated with three or four layers of heavy and close materials. These materials are saturated with the moisture from the skin, are unduly heavy, are always damp, if taken off for a short time leave excessive cold, and if kept on too long induce oppressive heat; all round mischiefs of sure and certain development. A fairly healthy person who takes reasonable out door exercise daily, and who clothes himself lightly in porous material, will feel no weariness except that which comes naturally from healthy fatigue.—Dr. Richardson in The Asclepiad.

The Making of Cheap Books.

The cheap libraries have given amusement and instruction to thousands, but it is the opinion of the shrewdest men in the trade that they have injured book publishing. After all we are creatures of habit, and we have become accustomed to buying a novel for 20 or 25 cents. People are unwilling to pay 75 cents or a dollar now. At 20 or 25 cents, unless an enormous number of copies are sold, there is not much money for the author, nor, in fact, for any one. Out of the cheap reprint has grown the summer novel, cheaply but tastefully got up, and intended to pass away an idle hour. Some of the hundreds which are published are good, but the majority are beneath contempt. They make one simply weary while reading them, and yet the publication goes on. "Of the making of books there is no end."—Current Literature.

Waterproofing Process for Leather.

It will not be long before the shoemaker can add to his stock of raw materials a waterproof leather. The process, which has been recently perfected, is not only of service on the uncut leather, but can be used in rendering worthless leather valuable by plumping, stiffening and waterproofing it for insoles, counters, box toes, etc. Every part of a boot or shoe can be "waterproofed" either before or after it is finished.—Chicago News.

Wrapping fruit trees with cloth to keep them from being injured by sunburn and insects has proved disastrous to the trees in Shasta county, Cal.

CHINESE COOKERY.

KITCHEN SUPPLIES OF A RESTAURANT ON MOTT STREET.

A Great Variety of Spices and Condiments—A Stock of Standard Foods, Many of Which Are Not Familiar to Americans—Sauces.

Long before Lucullus immortalized himself by regaling the jeunesse doree of Rome with his hundred thousand dollar dinners his prototypes were indulging in the same pleasures on a similar scale in Pekin and Fook-Chow, for gastronomy has been among the fine arts in China almost from the beginning of Chinese history. The Chinese chef has an official status of at least forty centuries' duration. Two thousand years before the Christian era he was esteemed as highly and paid as liberally as he is today, and now he is exceedingly well paid.

For example, the chef in a restaurant in Mott street came to New York from San Francisco under a contract by which he receives $100 a month, besides his board and lodging, for his services. All things considered, this salary is fully equivalent to the $6,000 a year paid to such chefs as preside in the kitchens of the Hoffman house, Delmonico's, the Union League club and the Vanderbilt mansion. The Mongolian chef, to judge by Lee-Ah, who is the distinguished individual mentioned, is curiously like his Caucasian colleague in that he is dignified, egotistical, petulant and thoroughly independent. Unlike the Caucasian, however, the great man of the Chinese kitchen believes in working himself at the simplest tasks in order to keep himself in practice.

In taking charge of the kitchen of a great restaurant his first work is to supply himself with a great variety of spices and condiments, and in this particular he is fully qualified to give points to the jaded sybarites of the Occident. In his stores will be black, white and red pepper, as well as the pimento of the tropics; curry, chutney, mustard, ginger (the favorite spice of the east), green, dried, pickled, sweetened and pulverized; see-yu, which is the father of soy and the grandfather of Worcestershire sauce; olive oil, peanut oil, cotton seed oil, clarified butter (the ghee of India); onions, shallots, chives, leeks, garlic, fu-qua and su-qua (highly cultivated bitter cucumbers); ma-tai, for which there is no English name; orange and lemon peel, vinegar, lemon juice, powdered crab and lobster shells, a curious preparation containing iron, half a dozen forms of dried mushrooms, and not less than fifty powerful condiments and spices unknown to Americans and having no English names.

In every kitchen is a stock of standard foods, but a few of which are familiar to the American eye. Among the more interesting are smoked chicken, duck and pigeon, which, unlike our smoked meats, retain the natural color and appearance; shrimps, prawns, oysters and clams which have been dried by some mysterious process, unknown to us, until they are as hard and durable as wood; a fish that suggests sardines in oil, but which is a foot in length, from two to three pounds in weight, packed in a sardine box a cubic foot in size; dried fishes which range from a tiny sprat smaller than but similar to the English whitebait, to a monster eight feet long, two feet wide, and two inches thick; preserved cabbage, which is rolled up so as to suggest a ball of yarn; bean, pea and wheat gluten in long candy like sticks, which are made by crushing the cereal and removing the starch by often repeated washings; odd sausages, of which each one is suspended by brilliant colored cords, and is stuffed, not with an indistinguishable hash or paste, but with alternating dice of fat and lean meat; huge cans filled with the famous edible bamboo tips, which look and smell like huge asparagus, but taste unlike anything in Christian markets; water lily leaves, which are used both as a food and as coloring material, imparting a beautiful green to any white food with which they may be cooked; preserved eggs, of which each one is embalmed in a rough mass of quick lime, charcoal and fish glue; sea sprouts, which resemble a string bean two feet in length.

Occasionally in the wealthiest establishments may be seen the celebrated birds' nests, which look for all the world like irregular masses of coopers' glue; sharks' fins, which are greenish white pieces of desiccated soft cartilage; beche-de-la-mer, a mollusk of a high order, which is a first cousin of Victor Hugo's devil fish; and dried sea anemones, which bear the same culinary resemblance to birds' nests that snapping turtles do to the diamond back terrapin. Some idea of the luxuriousness of the Mongol is afforded by the prices he charges for these delicacies. Dried clams cost $1 a pound; dried oysters, $1.50; sharks' fins, $2 to $3, according to quality; beche-de-la-mer, from 40 cents to $3, and birds' nests, from $20 to $50 a dozen.

In Chinese cooking sauces play as important a part as in the cuisine at Les Freres Provenceau. For the preparation of these, as well as for the thickening of soups and the concoction of "made dishes," there will be bowlfuls of the finest wheat flour and starch, and of that finest of all amylaceous foods, rice flour. In this and in other respects the stores of the kitchen contain the same articles as first class American restaurant kitchens. Whatever is to be found in our larders finds a place there, and the numerous articles mentioned add the variety which is the main distinguishing feature of the Chinese cuisine.

The furniture of the kitchen presents a curious instance of the invasion of the east by the west, for the cast iron stove or range is found beside the brick bench used in China, which greatly resembles the one recommended by Count Rumford in his famous studies at the beginning of the century. This bench is about four feet high, four feet wide and from ten to twenty feet in length. At one end of it is a large fireplace cylindrical in shape, two or three feet in diameter and three feet deep. This is used in roasting. The remainder of the top of the bench has several circular openings of different sizes. In the sides and ends there are smaller fireplaces, seldom more than eight inches square. The fuel used in cooking is kiln dried wood, hickory or some similar variety being preferred.—Harper's Bazar.

Butter Inspection in France.

Among the recent decrees made in France is one relating to the inspection of butter for the repression of fraudulent dealings. By this, special persons are authorized to take samples of butter in any place, whether the butter is exposed for sale, stored in a warehouse or in transit by land or water. No obstacle is to be thrown in the way of this, and all way bills, receipts, bills of lading, or declarations must be shown on demand. Each sample taken is to be subjected to a special examination. Pure butter, mixed butter, margarine, oleomargarine, and grease intended for consumption, forwarded in transit must be contained in closed packages, and the origin and nature of the merchandise must be conspicuously specified thereon. In every way the article to be exported must have its full history recorded.—London Times.

A COCKROACH MAIL CARRIER.

Novel Means of Communication Employed by Two Indiana Convicts.

A common cockroach was trained to act as a letter carrier between William Rodifer and "Starlight Jack" Ryan, convicts in the Southern Indiana penitentiary. It is probably the first instance on record, too, where there was any use found for this little creature. A writer in Tid Bits tells the story as follows:

Rodifer occupied a cell in the tier just above the one where Jack was confined, and for a long time they had no means of communication with one another. Rodifer was a daring fellow, but he had not sufficient imagination to get up a plan of escape, and he relied on the bright mind of his friend, "Starlight Jack," to suggest an idea.

One evening Rodifer noticed an innocent looking cockroach running about on the floor. After watching its gambolings for a time, he concluded he would use it. So, writing a short note to his friend, he tied it to the cockroach's wing, and, kneeling down on the floor, he put it out on the wall under the iron balcony in front of his cell. He calculated that it would run into the cell underneath; and it did.

Jack noticed the paper, caught the insect, and read the note. Then he answered it, and poked the little creature out on the wall from the ceiling over the door, where he released it. The roach went into Rodifer's cell and was caught. Then they fed and cared for it, and used it in this manner for some months. In fact, it grew to understand its business.

It must have been a female cockroach, however, for one day it stopped to chat with a friend, and was noticed by a warden. The note, which was written in some sort of cipher, was taken off, and the hospital steward, Dr. Sid C. McCure, read it. Then the beetle was put on the balcony floor and it ran into Rodifer's cell. Thus the officials were kept posted as to the two famous jail breakers.

After a time Jack began to suspect that something was wrong, and he added a postscript to his letter something like this:

"If everything is right, you will find a hair from my head in this note."

The warden read it as he did the others, but dropped the hair and lost it.

"Never mind it," said Capt. Craig, whose hair was red; "put one of mine in it."

The answer came back: "That last whipping must have been an awful one, Jack, for it has changed the color of your hair."

The scheming of these two worthies came to naught, however, and they served their terms.—Inter Ocean.

Japanese Coating for Ships.

The Japanese admiralty has finally decided upon coating the bottoms of all their ships with a material closely akin to the lacquer to which we are so much accustomed as a specialty of Japanese furniture work. Although the preparation differs somewhat from that commonly known as Japanese lacquer, the base of it is the same—viz, gum lac, as it is commonly termed. Experiments which have been long continued by the imperial naval department have resulted in affording proof that the new coating material remains fully efficient for three years, and the report on the subject demonstrates that, although the first cost of the material is three times the amount of that hitherto employed, the amount of dockings required will be reduced by its use to the proportion of one to six. A vessel of the Russian Pacific fleet has already been coated with the new preparation, which, the authorities say, completely withstands the fouling influences so common in tropical waters.

It occupied the native inventor many years to overcome the tendency of the lac to harden and crack, but having successfully accomplished this, the finely polished surface of the mixture resists in an almost perfect degree the liability of barnacles to adhere or weeds to grow, while presumably the same high polish must materially reduce the skin friction which is so important an element affecting the speed of iron ships. The dealers in gum lac express the fear lest the demand likely to follow on this novel application of it may rapidly exhaust existing sources of supply.—Scientific American.

A Smuggler of Coffee.

I have been told how a shipmaster got to windward of the inspector detailed to look after his vessel. He had six barrels of coffee, for which he had been offered a high price. It was during the war, and things went with a rush in those days. The master took a teamster into his confidence, who at noontime, while the stevedores were eating their dinner, drove boldly down the wharf, hailing the skipper, who was standing on the quarterdeck conversing with the officer.

"I say, Cap," he shouted, "Mr. —— sent me down here after six barrels of beans which have been sent by mistake. They belong to another vessel, and I have an order to deliver them right now. They are marked B in a diamond. Can I have 'em?"

The master blandly put the question to the officer, who had, of course, heard the conversation, and failed to detect either evil intentions or deception in the proposition. He glanced at the barrels, which had been left close to the gangway; the owner carelessly rolled one over and the beans rattled gloriously. It was a clever touch, a delicate stroke of shading and diplomacy on the part of the wily smuggler, and the bait was swallowed. The barrels disappeared, and a handsome profit was pocketed.—New York Star.

Not Fit for the Business.

Few people have an idea how few there are who could become barbers by any amount of application. I have had nineteen apprentices at various times, only seven of whom are tonsorial artists. Some boys are too nervous to acquire the ability, and particularly cigarette smokers. Others are too lazy. Still others have not the suaveness necessary, for a successful barber must be a polite man. Others have not the essential mechanism or cannot attain to the requisite lightness of touch. But morbid peculiarities are great factors in unfitting a candidate. For instance, I have just dismissed an apprentice because of his inordinate antipathy to warts. When a customer who is the possessor of a wart is down in a chair at the boy's mercy he shaves all around it with the utmost care; then a devilish grin distorts his features, the expression being the funniest I ever saw, and he cuts off the wart. The customer rises and discovers his face bleeding terribly, and the result is a row and a lost customer.—John Beck in Globe-Democrat.

Torment for the Cyclists.

The street rowdies of Chelsea have invented a new torment for the cyclists who avail themselves of Battersea park. They are not content with flicking them with switches and inserting bits of stick in the delicate wires of their wheels, but they set on little boys to run across a cyclist with a view of getting knocked over. Boy falls prostrate, howling, park keeper hurries up, takes cyclist's address, a crowd soon gathers, compensation is, of course, forthcoming, especially if the cyclist is a lady. The wounded child skips merrily off with a half crown, divides the booty and tries for another spill in another part of the park.—Pall Mall Gazette.

SOME HOTEL HAWKSHAWS.

The Men Who Have Become Indispensable to Our Bonifaces.

"Oh, he's a hotel detective, is he? Well, what on earth good is a hotel detective? What do hotels want with detectives, anyhow?"

This remark, made in a petulant tone, was uttered in the corridor of the Hoffman house the other afternoon by a western man who was on a visit to the metropolis and had been looking at the art treasures of the cafe. He eyed in a contemptuous way the well dressed little man, with a slouch hat, who was leaning against a pile of trunks near the elevator. A friend showing the western man the city sights had happened incidentally to point out Detective Jacobs as one of the features of a big metropolitan hotel.

Ten minutes later the westerner saw the little detective step up to a well dressed man in a group of three who had just sauntered into the art gallery.

"I'll have to ask you to move on, sir," the detective said.

"Who are you?" growled the man, angrily, "what do you mean by talking to me that way?"

"Just what I say, and I mean it," the little man replied, undaunted, "and here's who I am, and I know you perfectly well."

The little detective threw open his coat and showed his glistening detective shield. The well dressed man cut short his bluster instantly, and walked quickly out into the street.

He was a local bunko man, who had casually dropped into the hotel cafe with two out of town crooks. The conversation with the little detective was animated, but not so loud that anybody in the art gallery could understand it. The Gothamite who was showing the westerner around knew what was up, though, and turning to his friend said playfully:

"That's some good a hotel detective is. That was a confidence man that he talked to. Maybe he'd have caught on to you if it hadn't been for the detective."

It was an apt illustration of one of the duties of the hotel detective. In the marvelous perfection of the equipment of a metropolitan hotel in the last few years the private detective has come to be an indispensable detail, and today there is not a hotel in town that enjoys any select patronage at all that does not employ a guardian, who is empowered to make arrests if necessity arises. Some of the detectives are men specially assigned from the police force, and whose salary is guaranteed by the hotel in consideration of the policeman's exclusive service. Often, however, the special guardians are regular private detectives. They are men well trained in detective methods, and enjoy the advantage of a wide and varied acquaintance with the faces of metropolitan rascals and the confidence operators of the country.

Keeping the hotel clear of this class of crooks, however, is only a small part of the hotel detective's work. Upon them devolves in most cases the supervision of the porters and hall boys, and all the army of help that a big Gotham inn has to employ. If a guest loses anything in the hotel, or outside of it either, he is sent at once to the hotel detective to consult about its recovery; and if chambermaids or porters find articles that have been mislaid or lost, they are expected to bring them direct to the hotel detective, and he, in turn, hands them over to the hotel proprietor, or his representative, to be delivered to the owner.

It is also the detective's duty to protect his employers from the numerous and persistent army of pests known as the hotel beat, and it is due to the presence of detectives, in every well regulated city hotel, that New York has ceased to be a spot where this peculiar gentry can thrive. The petty thievery of guests' valuables has also come to be a rarity, and nowadays the man of means, stopping at any well regulated New York hotel, can feel as secure as if he were traveling with a private station house of his own in tow. More than all, however, the old time harvest of victims that Hungry Joe and his pals used to gather from hotel corridors is all cut off.

All this the detective has to do for the regular salary, but he has legitimate perquisites. These are the more or less liberal fees that good natured out-of-towners, who want to see what the life of a big city really is after dark, pay for straight tips on the places where the elephant "cuts up his most flamboyant and startling shindigs." It is worth a handsome sum to the hotel detective who pilots a party of strangers through the multitudinous and more or less picturesque maze of after dark spectacles known to the experienced man about town as "the sights." And there are few more experienced men about town than your quick witted hotel detective.—New York Sun.

The Wondrous Weather Plant.

That remarkable specimen of the vegetable world, the "weather plant," continues to excite considerable interest. Men of science, who on its first discovery were unwilling to express an opinion on its prognosticating virtues, now agree, after extensive experiments, that the shrub is in truth prophetic. Thirty-two thousand trials made during the last three years tend to prove its infallibility. The plant itself is a legume, commonly called the "Paternoster pea," but known in botany as the Abrus Pereginus. It is a native of Corsica and Tunis. Its leaf and twig strongly resemble those of the acacia. The more delicate leaves of its upper branches foretell the state of the weather forty-eight hours in advance, while its lower and hardier leaves indicate all atmospheric changes three days beforehand. The indications consist in a change in the position of the leaves and in the rise and fall of the twigs and branchlets.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Language of the World.

An English correspondent gives as a reason for possibility that the English language will become the "world speech" the mental slowness of the Anglo-Saxon race in learning two languages. They traverse the globe unaffected or undismayed by its eccentricities of speech. The English speaking countries have an area of more than one-fifth of the whole habitable globe. English is the language of the high seas, and is spoken in every maritime port. What demand can there be for Volapuk?—Boston Budget.

THE NAMES OF JEWS.

Why Some Have Chosen Gentile Surnames. English Forms—Changes.

Lord Coleridge touched upon an interesting theme the other day when he inquired of certain Jewish witnesses how it was that they had adopted the names of Mordaunt and Saville in lieu of their native patronymics of Moses and Samuel. It is not quite correct to say that Jews ever change their original names. In the synagogues they bear throughout their lives the Hebrew names—in the traditional Oriental form of So-and-so, son of So-and-so—given to them shortly after their birth. The instability of the names by which they are known to the world is due to the fact that originally, like all Oriental peoples, they had no family names, and that wherever they have congregated very closely together the secular use of the traditional genealogical forms has been tenaciously preserved. In some countries, such as Germany and Austria, special legislation has been found necessary to compel them to adopt fixed surnames. As, at different times, they have come into closer contact with the Gentile world, they have themselves seen the necessity of surnames, and it is not surprising if, under these circumstances, some of them should have chosen the most sonorous and distinguished they could find.

An examination of the lists of seat holders in the twelve principal synagogues of London shows that less than 5 per cent. of the names—such as Beddington, Clifford, Coburn, Curtis, Graham, Halford, Hamilton, Hardinge, Hardy, Herbert, Howard, Lumley, Manville, Marsden, Merton, Montagu, Morley, Morton, Neville, Norman, Russell, Sydney, Walford, etc.—are accounted for on this hypothesis.

The foreign surnames and place names preserved by the Jews of England form a small epitome of the history of the Israelitish dispersion. Side by side with the Hebrew Abrahams, the Egyptian Moses, and the English Mordaunt, we have the Greek Alexander and Margolies, the Latin Marcus, and the Arabic Mocatta. Those derived from mediæval house signs are Rothschild, Adler, Ganz, Schiff, Strauss, Silberkron, etc. Some of the occupation names are interesting. Ropho is Hebrew for physician, and Rappoport is a corruption of Rophe d'Oporto; Jalfon is Hebrew for money changer, and Mocatta is Arabic for mason.

More strictly Anglo-Jewish are the natural assimilations of Hebrew and Jewish names to English forms. Thus, Coleman is a corruption of Kalman, which is an abbreviation of Kalonymos, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Shem Tob (Good Name). Bonny is derived, through Bondi, from a Latin translation of Yom Tob (Good Day). Phillips comes from the Hebrew Uri or Meier, both meaning "light," through the Greek equivalent Phœbos and its German-Polish diminutive Pheibul. Saville is a more natural corruption of Samuel than is generally imagined, seeing that in Germany the Scriptural name has been shortened into Sanvel, and in England we have the authority of Mr. Weller, senior, to spell it with a "we." Freeman is from the German Friedmann, a translation and apocopation of Shalom ben Menachem. Haymen is derived through Hyman and Hyan from the Hebrew Haim (life). Jessel is from Echeskel, the Hebrew pronunciation of Ezekiel. Yates is from Goetz, an abbreviation of Gottschalk, which in Low German means "God's servant," and is a literal translation of Eljakim. Among simpler changes are Cowan—Cohen, Lewin—Levi, Victor—Avigdor, Archer—Asher, Jessop—Joseph, and Soman and Slowman—Solomon. Curious instances of misdirected translations are afforded by the names Marchant and Chapman, both of which are Anglicizations of the German Kaufmann or Handelsmann. Originally, however, neither of these names meant "merchant" among the Teutonic Jews. Kaufmann is a corruption of Koppelman, of which the first two syllables are a German diminutive of Jacob and the third an abbreviation of Menachem, the whole being a contraction of Jacob ben Menachem. Handelsmann has a similar history, being derived from Elchanon ben Menachem, through Handl, a recognized German diminutive of Elchanon. In the same way Seligman is a contraction of Selig ben Menachem, and Felberman a corrupted contraction of Phœbus (Uri) ben Menachem.

One of the most curious instances of an erroneous etymology is the name Jaffe, which figures among the landed gentry of county Down. It is the Hebrew word for "beautiful," and is a direct translation of the German "Schon." As a Jewish surname, however, Schon or Schen has no meaning. It is simply an acrostic of the Hebrew Schliach Neemon (faithful messenger). These acrostic names are peculiarly Jewish, and many of them are found among English Jews. For example, Katz, which one of these days will perhaps be Anglicized into Cat, is derived from the initials of Kohen Tzedek (priest of righteousness); Schatz, which in Hungary has actually been translated into Kincz, the Magyar for "treasure," is from Schliach Tzibur (messenger of the congregation); Babad is from Ben Ab Beth Din (Son of the President of the House of Judgment); Sack is from Sera Kadosh (holy posterity), and when the name of a town beginning with s is added—as, for example, Sera Kadosh Speyer (holy posterity of Speyer)—it becomes Saks or Sachs, which has been frequently mistaken for an abbreviation of Sachsen (Saxony); Bram is from Ben Rabbi Moses; Bran (corrupted into Braun, and translated into Brown) from Ben Rabbi Nachman; Bard, from Ben Rabbi David; Bersal, from Ben Rabbi Solomon the Levite, and Bril from Ben Rabbi Judah the Levite.

The exegetical names are also peculiarly Jewish. They consist of equivalents for Hebrew names, derived from collocations in biblical tests. Thus the comparisons in Jacob's blessing furnish equivalents for Benjamin in Wolf, for Judah in Lion and for Naphtali in Hart. Fisher is an equivalent for Ephraim, because it was foretold (Gen. xlviii, 19) that he should multiply exceedingly, and the fish is a symbol of fruitfulness. It is also sometimes a substitute for Moses, because Pharaoh's daughter, in giving him his name, said (Exodus ii, 10): "For I drew him out of the water."—St. James' Gazette.