

Estimates of Different Authorities and a Comparison of Dictionaries.

An interesting question suggested by an ancient writ of a book is the number of English words now existing. Considerable difference of opinion exists on this point.

Taking the first three words that occur at random, we find that from "demonstrate," in one of our modern dictionaries, there are thirteen derivatives:

Shakespeare's works, it is believed, include about 15,000 separate words, and Milton's about 8,000; but from these figures we have no criterion of the extent of the actual English vocabulary.

In Dr. Johnson's vocabulary many technical and scientific terms were omitted, and in his original preface he excuses himself in a very naive and characteristic fashion.

Ex-Governors of Pennsylvania. Ex-Governor Pollock was the oldest ex-governor of the state alive in 1884, and was succeeded by William F. Packer.

At the surgical congress at Berlin Professor Gluck, of Berlin, gave an exhibition showing a most valuable advance in surgery—namely, the successful substitution of catgut, ivory and bone freed from chalk for defects in bones, muscles and nerve sinews.

A Useful Cement. The following mixture has been used with the greatest possible success for the cementing of iron railing tops, iron gratings to stoves, etc.

The Rev. John Prince, a Methodist clergyman, aged 90, and Mrs. Cynthia Wood, aged 84, were married recently in Montreal.

NOVELTY IN EARNEST.

A CO-OPERATIVE BOARDING HOUSE IN DECATUR, ILLS.

Members Avoid the Troubles of Cooking and Live Well at a Cost of \$3.75 Each Per Week—Short History of "The Roby," Servant Girl Question Settled.

At Decatur, Ills., public interest is centered on "The Roby." This pretty little city has electric street railways, six newspapers, a dozen fine churches, a metropolitan air, clean streets, good water—and the servant girl question.

Why? Because the work was systematized. One did the cooking and laundry work, another the second work. One had the table to wait on and the dining room to care for.

"Why can't we do it?" she asked. "We can," said Mrs. Guyton decidedly. Miss Fuller put on her smart jacket and hat and called on the ladies of her acquaintance with her idea.

A few weeks later a meeting was held in Mrs. Guyton's parlors. After a number of whereas it was resolved to establish:

- 1. A co-operative association for the benefit of all its members.
2. No dues shall be contracted.
3. A president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected from among the members.

It was agreed by all present to sign the constitution, these being the charter members. Applicants for membership should have their names posted in the dining room three days before admission.

Mrs. Guyton's basement was rented, including a large dining room, kitchen and pantries, a manager installed, two cooks and three waiter girls hired, and the co-operative club, after paying a membership fee of \$2 and one week's board in advance, sat down to their first meal at The Roby.

"What do you have to eat?" "Everything in season. Stay to supper and find out. Now we get everything down to minimum cost by having each family bring its own linen and silver and fancy dishes.

"This is something like what the club eats:"

- PREPARANT: Fruit, cereal food of some kind; two kinds of meat; eggs, potatoes, biscuit, griddle cakes or rolls, toast, tea and coffee.
DINNER: Soup, relish, or salad; one kind of fish and two kinds of meat; three vegetables; pie or pudding; fruit, coffee, tea, chocolate, or milk.

"That is about as good as anybody lives," remarked Miss Fuller. "It is all so dainty and well cooked and nicely served."

I went down into the dining room, a large, cool apartment in the basement. Eight or nine tables were covered with snowy linen. Napkins in rings, silver and china were on the table.

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Hawthorne Time. High in the tops of blossoming trees I hear the hum of honey bees; A faint, sweet odor from the breeze:

The announcement of the death of Mme. Van Gobbelschroy, at the age of 91, has almost entirely escaped notice. Yet seventy years ago, as Marie Lesueur, she was one of the most famous dancers of the generation.

No one but a person connected with the Oswego post-office can have the least conception of the extent of the confusion growing out of the similarity of the names Oswego and Owego.

The result of the inquiries recently made as to the sanitary arrangements connected with the trade of baking is anything but reassuring. Bakeries are said to exist in Manchester where the cleanliness which should obtain in the preparation of food is impossible.

Several years ago the residence of Cora Pearl in Paris was entered by thieves and robbed of \$120,000. One of the robbers was captured and condemned to five years' imprisonment, but the property was not then recovered.

An electric roundabout has been constructed by a French company and fitted up in a public place of amusement in Nice. Here the electricity which is used for arc and incandescent lighting is also employed in the transmission of force to the roundabout or race course.

A remarkable trout died recently near Kelso, Scotland. Its dead body was found in a covered well only a few feet in depth. The tradition is that, some thirty-two years ago, this fish was taken from the Tweed, placed in the well and lived there until its death.

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DRAGONS. Some Pretty Big Yarns About Gigantic Monsters That Once Existed. The dragon is frequently mentioned by ancient naturalists as well as by scriptural writers and dreamers.

Three kinds of dragons were formerly recognized in India. First, those of the hills and mountains; second, those of the valleys and caves; third, those of the marshes and fens.

At Batavia, Java, a serpent was once killed and the whole body of a negro woman and the carcass of a large stag found in its stomach.

Your Own Price on the Cigars. Stranger to a bowery vendor of cigarettes, tobacco and cigars, whose whole stock in trade of cigars consisted of two partially filled boxes—Have you any ten cent cigars?

"Er, have you any five centers?" "Vender reaches toward box number two." "Oh, I say, have you any two for fives?"

A New Use for Tripe. That most succulent and refreshing viand, tripe, so little known on the table of the upper ten thousand that more than one young lady of fashion has been known to confess that she always supposed it to be a variety of fish eaten chiefly by the poor, has been put to a new use.

Curious Effects of Poisons. The animal body can be played upon as if it were a machine. The strokes of the central pump, the heart, can be slowed or quickened; the vital heat lowered or increased; the pupil of the eye expanded or contracted; the limbs paralyzed or convulsed.

Profits in High Priced Dinners. The Hoffman house chef in a moment of professional inadvertence admitted to an acquaintance that it is well nigh impossible to expend more than \$4 a plate upon the food of a public dinner.

They Stole a Freshman. A dispatch from Ann Arbor, Mich., says: The city is thoroughly excited over an abduction that took place last night. Frank J. Evans is president of the freshman class and toast master at the class banquet which took place tonight.

Electric Railways in Russia. We have long been accustomed to associate any new development of electric traction with America, but a scheme is on foot in St. Petersburg which, if carried out, will certainly leave America far in the rear.

Kaiser Wilhelm's Mother. The Empress Frederick is touched by suffering and takes much interest in charitable enterprises. She was present recently at the great meeting of the committee of the society for sending the weak and sick children of the poor of Berlin for change of air to the country.

A Strange Monster. Two Mexican fishermen killed an ugly and vicious animal of the lizard species the other day on Padre Island, but not until a hard battle had been fought. It measured four feet long and thirteen inches in circumference, with claws equal to a tiger's.

His Speech Came Back. Fred Conch, who suffered an accident in Ansonia, Conn., whereby he lost all power of speech, has as mysteriously gained it again. He was riding on the cars to Great Barrington, Mass., with his wife and child, when he felt a peculiar itching in his throat.

An Old Man's Heroic Conduct. Robert Watts, who died at Felixstowe, deserves a word of praise for his heroic conduct, which hastened his end. He was 78 years of age, and had lived at the Felixstowe ferry all his life.

A plague of frogs is reported from Northampton. The frogs and their spawn choked up the water pipes, actually cutting off the supply to some houses. People had been drinking the water unfiltered, and the reservoirs will have to be emptied to remove the frogs and cleanse the pipes.

A shower of worms, it is reported, fell near San Andreas station, in Santa Cruz county, Cal., last week. The worms resembled the grub, were white in color and had red eyes. They were a new species to the residents.

Sig. Campanini has had a tumor removed from his throat, and he has strong hopes that the surgeon's knife has restored his long lost high G.

Every Moslem believes devoutly in a personal God, in an overruling Providence, in the mission and miracles of Christ, whom they designate as the Messiah, in the duty of prayer, and the immortality of the soul, in a future state of rewards and punishments, and in the inspiration of the Bible.

The Koran says that God gave the Gospel to Jesus to proclaim, and that He put kindness and compassion into the hearts of those that followed Him; but "as for the monastic life, they invented it themselves."

Is attendance at one of the Indianapolis ward schools a little colored girl 9 years old. She is miserable, indeed, for at home she is ill treated and the shoes she wears, and often the clothes, are supplied by the teachers or some of her classmates.

"I am only a Pansy. My home is in a little brown house. I sleep in my little brown house all winter, and I am now going to open my eyes and look about." "Give me some rain, sky, I want to look out of my window and see what is going on," I asked, so the sky gave me some water and I began to climb to the window. At last I got up there and open my eyes. Oh what a wonderful world I seen when birds sang songs to me, and grasshoppers kissed me, and dance with me, and creakets smiled at me, and I had a pretty green dress.

War. We are in danger of something worse than the Libby prison speculation. It is now proposed by a speculative northerner to purchase all the battlefields of the late war, fence them in, turn them into parks, and show them to visitors at twenty-five cents a head.

Nowhere on American soil can there be found a spot that was ever so pounded and mangled and harried and scorched as this same Gate City of ours. All over the world there are men now living whose proudest boast is to say that they went through our forty days' baptism of fire or were in one of the many battles fought under our city's walls.

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A Model Dog Story. A remarkable case of animal intelligence and fidelity has developed in this city. Every one knows the late D. Watson's little dog Zolla, that used to follow him everywhere and often rode beside him in his buggy seat.