

SHORT STORIES.

Sixty per cent of the cadets at West Point are in Y. M. C. A. Bible classes. It is stated by experts in life insurance that less than 10 per cent of the policies issued are after the age of forty.

A project is under consideration to build a twenty mile automobile speedway from 50 to 100 feet wide in Mercer county, N. J. It is reported that options on the necessary property have been obtained.

It is stated that by 1907 a channel 30 feet deep and 450 feet wide between Quebec and Montreal will be completed and that Montreal will then be in a position to compete on equal terms with the other great ports.

According to the figures compiled by the Publishers' Weekly, the number of new novels and volumes of stories published in the United States in 1904 was 1,007, nearly 200 more than were recorded in 1903. The number of new editions of fiction published in the same period was 814.

Canadian emigration agents in the United States expect a great increase in the number of American farmers who will migrate to the Canadian northwest this year. Fully 60,000 persons from the United States are expected to settle in the Dominion. Last year the number was 45,000.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Fanny Rice will play in Europe this summer.

Clara Morris is playing an engagement in vaudeville.

George Ade has written a comedy, "A Second Time on Earth."

Amelia Bingham has been doing well with her new play on the road.

Kate Denin Wilson has joined the cast of "A School For Husbands."

The stock companies are growing in popularity, judging by their increase.

Giles Shine is playing Mr. Knox in a revival of Robertson's comedy, "School," in New York.

Colonel Savage will produce an opera next season by John Kendrick Bangs and Manuel Klein.

Reginald De Koven and Frederic Ranken have entered a contract by which Mr. Ranken agrees to write only in collaboration with Mr. De Koven for the next five years.

The beloved old veteran of the stage, J. H. Stoddart, whose illness at Galt, Ont., compelled him to give up the remainder of his tour in "The Bonnie Brier Bush," continues to improve in health.

GERMAN GLEANINGS.

The Berlin police authorities intend to take severe measures to suppress the practice of playing poker in public places.

Plans have been accepted by the Berlin municipality for the building of two immense popular swimming baths for both sexes.

White women are scarce in the German colonies. There are only 524 in east Africa and 229 in the German islands in the Pacific ocean.

In Germany the number of servant girls who have savings bank accounts is nearly three times as large as that of shopgirls who have them.

Professor Haeckel of Jena, the great German Darwinian, declares that the best Germans have been driven to the United States and that they have left behind a race of weaker men and women.

The Locomotive Must Go.

It was a decidedly interesting though one could hardly say a startling prediction which Senator Depew made in a speech the other night at a dinner of the Transportation club in regard to future of electricity as a motive power. "Within ten years," said Mr. Depew, "the steam locomotive of today will be seen in the museum for the inspection of the antiquarian, and we will be able to proceed over the rails by means of electricity at a rate of seventy-five miles an hour." As a railroad official of large experience Senator Depew undoubtedly knows whereof he speaks. The time set for the relegation of the steam engine to the antiquarian museum seems brief, but when we remember the progress made during the last ten years in electrical propulsion who shall say that the senator's prophecy may not be literally fulfilled?—Leslie's Weekly.

British Military Genius.

New forts are being erected and guns mounted at Singapore, and the British authorities, with their usual sagacity, are boldly advertising what ought to be hidden. Both the forts and the guns mounted on them are surrounded with immense pallings, which have been painted white. Thus every position has been earmarked, as though to give a possible enemy every facility to destroy the fortifications should occasion arise. At Aden the military authorities have painted the railings upon their forts scarlet, but the white rails round the gun positions at Singapore are even more striking and are visible at sea for a distance of five miles.—London Chronicle.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

In the Day's Work.

"And then," according to the author of a late book, "a wild shriek rent the air."

And:
"The two people hiding behind the lilac bushes felt their blood curdle."

And:
"Again came the wild, weird shriek."

And:
"Looking into each other's faces they found them the color of marble."

And:
"That sound again—that terrifying sound which made the heart stand still and the listeners to gasp for breath."

And:
"With a moan of despair, Aspasia slowly sunk on the cold earth, and Harold stood looking at her like one struck dumb."

And then, after an interval of ten minutes:

"All of a sudden it came to them that the sounds were produced by a mother licking her ten-year-old boy for drinking up the molasses on his way home from the grocery, and life went on with them in the same happy strain as of yore. Life is full of such mistakes, though, and one can't be too careful about getting the labels mixed."—Detroit Tribune.

Resented It.

"Gerald," said the young wife, noticing how heartily he was eating, "do I cook as well as your mother did?"

Gerald put up his monocle and stared at her through it.

"Once for all, Agatha," he said, "I beg you will remember that, although I may seem to be in reduced circumstances now, I come of an old and distinguished family. My mother was not a cook."—Chicago Tribune.

No Time For Details.

An American speeding over the continent of Europe in his automobile asked of his chauffeur, "Where are we?"

"In Paris," shouted the man at the wheel, and the dust flew.

"Oh, never mind the details!" irritably screamed the American millionaire. "I mean what continent?"—Chicago Post.

Giving Him Advice.



Young Masher (to rival)—I say, o' s' fellow, I hear you are an excellent runner. Is that true?
Rival (eagerly)—Rather!
Young Masher—Well, then, run home.

A Curious Sign.

If you are in a certain Irish town and are looking out for lodgings you would probably come to the conclusion that none are to be had, for, search as you will for the familiar "Apartments to Let" notice so often seen in the windows of houses in other places, you will search in vain. Instead you may observe fastened by the flap to the window a clean white envelope. This is an indication to all whom it may concern that apartments are to be had within. This curious custom is greatly in vogue at the seaside health resort, Kilkee, County Clare, where all houses that have apartments to let exhibit a white envelope.

Faith and Works.

A pretty anecdote is related of a child who was greatly perturbed by the discovery that her brothers had set traps to catch birds. Questioned as to what she had done in the matter, she replied, "I prayed that the traps might not catch the birds." "Anything else?" "Yes," she said; "I then prayed that God would prevent the birds getting into the traps, and," as if to illustrate the doctrine of faith and works, "I went out and kicked the traps all to pieces."—Household Words.

The One Thing Lacking.

Anxious Mother—Why don't you marry young Swansen? He has good looks, good family, wealth and everything to be desired. Pretty Daughter—But there is one very important thing lacking, mamma. Anxious Mother—What is that? Pretty Daughter—A proposal.

A Good Distinction.

"Remember, son," said Uncle Eben, "dat in dis life you's bound to do some things you's sorry foh, but dat ain' no reason foh doin' nuffin' dat you's ashamed of."—Washington Star.

Ungratefulness is the very poison of manhood.—Sidney.

Giant Battleship Launched.

Quincy, Mass., Aug. 31.—The new American battleship Vermont was launched here today in the presence of a large number of invited guests and representatives of the government. Governor Bell of Vermont, accompanied by Mrs. Bell, Miss Jennie Bell and her younger sister, the members of the governor's staff and many prominent citizens of the sponsor state arrived here this morning and were received by representatives of the Fore River Shipbuilding company, which built the battleship. Miss Jennie Bell stood as sponsor and christened the new battleship by breaking a bottle of champagne over the bow when the big hulk smoothly slid from the ways.

The Vermont is a sister ship of the New Hampshire, the Minnesota, the Louisiana, the Connecticut and the Kapsas, which was recently launched. The ship is designed as a flagship and will be one of the finest warships afloat. The arrangement of quarters provides ample accommodations for the following complement: A flag officer, a chief of staff, 19 wardroom officers, 10 junior officers, 10 warrant officers and not less than 761 men, including 60 marines. There is a lower bridge, both forward and aft, and a flying bridge forward, according to the latest designs. On the flying bridge is fitted a screen of bronze for the protection of the men at the wheel, and there is also a bronze chart-house forward.

There are steel masts forward and aft, the foremost having an upper and lower top only. Masts are arranged for wireless telegraph. There is one signal yard on each mast, and also a searchlight platform forward and aft

with a crow's nest on the foremast.

The armament consists of a main battery, including four 12-inch breech-loading rifles, eight 8-inch breech-loading rifles, 12 7-inch breech-loading rifles and a secondary battery, including 20 3-inch, 14-pounder, rapid-fire guns, 12 3-pounder d semi-automatic guns, two 1-pounder semi-automatic guns, two 3-inch field pieces, two machine guns, calibre 30, and six automatic guns, calibre 30.

The hull is protected at the water line by a complete belt of armor 9 feet 3 inches wide, having a maximum thickness of 11 inches for about 200 feet amidships. Forward and aft of this the maximum thickness is 9 inches, within the limits of the magazines, from which point the thickness gradually decreases to 4 inches at the stem and the stern. The magazine and shellrooms are so arranged that about one-half the supply of ammunition will be carried at each end. The total weight of the equipment outfit will be about 355 tons. The legislature of Vermont has appropriated \$5,000 for a silver service to be presented to the battleship at some future time. The total cost of the battleship, exclusive of the armament, will be about \$4,212,000, while the total cost will be over \$7,500,000.

Fire at Pendleton.

Pendleton, Or., Sept. 3.—Fire early this morning partly gutted the Matlock-Taylor building on Court street, causing a loss of between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The fire was discovered by the night clerk of the Golden Rule Hotel, who was startled by a terrific explosion, and upon making an investigation he found smoke issuing from the rear of the

building. An alarm was quickly turned in, and the fire department did heroic work in saving the entire block, finally getting the flames under control between 4 and 5 o'clock.

The news of both hemispheres—in The Weekly Oregonian.

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