TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day —Historical and News Notes.

Russia's sore spots continue to fester.

Oklahoma is a State now, but New Mexico and Arizona still have something to hope for.

And then, for instance, take the counterfeit coins. The motto, "In God We Trust," never looked good on them.

A full purse, carried in the right-hand trousers pocket, will often serve as a charm in keeping off that panicky feeling.

Always carry a dollar or two in your pocket. Nothing so irritates a holdup man as to have all his trouble for nothing.

What has become of the old-fashioned mother who suspended a bag of assafetida about her darling's neck, to keep off disease?

A scientist says that woman has a far better memory than man. She has. Anyhow, she can remind him of a lot of things that he pretends to have forgotten.

Aurel Batonyi announces that it is his intention to reveal all the "startling secrets of high society in New York and Newport." Has the man no shame?

The Duchess of Marlborough has eaten a piece of pie, thus proving that she is still a loyal American. Why should there be depression anywhere after this?

The queen of Spain is described as beautiful, notwithstanding she was very plain as a princess. Marrying a king must be better than patronizing a beauty doctor.

Emperor William says that both he and King Edward desire to maintain peace. Some of the London papers will be electing William to membership in the Ananias Club if he isn't careful.

Explorers in the Shakespearean jungle have discovered that the bard of Avon originated the idea of the telephone. It is a pity he didn't carry the idea into effect. The patents would have expired by this time.

Four sovereigns met in one English palace recently. King Edward has been entertaining the German Emperor, his nephew, the King of Spain, the husband of his niece, and the King of Norway, his son-in-law. It grows more and more the fashion for members of the European royal families to visit their folks.

After July 4, 1908, the arrangement of the stars on the United States flag will be as follows:

Secretary Wilson, who has a picturesque way of putting plain truths, reminds us that the American working man has better food than Queen Elizabeth had. The question of taste makes the comparison somewhat uncertain. Elizabethan poets mention costly delicacies not found in the full dinner-pail, such as roasted song-birds and peacocks' tongues; and epicures figure in the satires of those "spacious days." But Mr. Wilson means that for wholesome, muscle-making diet, the working man's white bread, butter, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables compose a diet which Queen Bess might have envied him.

There is something impressive in the story of a lifetime of persistent toil. But there is another point of view which deserves respect. The gadabout may be a useless member of society, but the stay-at-home is likely to be a narrow one. We find ourselves on this little planet, with its oceans and mountains and mighty rivers and wide prairies. We know not whence we came nor if we shall ever pass this way again. Surely we may do our task better in our own appointed place if we look about the world, feed our minds with the glories of nature and discover how men and women before us have lived their lives and embodied their aspirations in the great arts of building and painting and sculpture. The wheat field and the ledger and the cooking stove are facts of human life; but so are the Cologne Cathedral, the Sistine Madonna, the Canadian Rockies and the Valley of the Yellowstone.

Judge Marcus Kavanaugh, of Chicago, in his recent statement concerning law enforcement, gave some startling statistics. For instance: He shows that during the Civil War, lasting five years, about 35,000 men were killed by gun shot wounds. This is, of course, exclusive of wounded and of death by other causes. Approximately, of all the hosts engaged in that great struggle 35,000 men were actually killed. And here is the startling parallel: During the last five years of peace 48,000 persons have been murdered in this country—8,000 more than were killed during the bloody period of the Civil War! Judge Kavanaugh is a careful statistician and no doubt went to original sources for his information. If it were not so it would be impossible to believe such a depressing statement. In the light of these facts one feels as if the conferences of the nations at The Hague ought to be changed from discussions concerning the cruelties of war to the brutalities of peace. The reasons for this awful showing of homicides? One is to be found in the possibility of escape from the consequences of murder through delay and the technicalities of the statutes. Another is that a species of maudlin sentiment prevails during the trial of murderess and the jury partakes of this sentiment. The remedy? Swift trial. Less technical loopholes in the law. Rigid justice.

"A transition period" is a favorite phrase on the lips of women when they talk of present-day education or opportunity for members of their sex. When one considers the novel occupations in which women may now engage, one wonders whether anything yet remains to which they may pass on. A single issue of a great daily newspaper discusses in its pages woman lawyers, woman engineers, women who dust libraries, shampoo dogs audit accounts, write verses, edit magazines, teach social graces and move buildings. What more can the most progressive sex desire? But the truth is that every time is "a transition period" for men and women alike. Even the dark ages, when the world seemed dying, and progress to be relegated to the century's dust-heap, proved to be but the long sleep which was to refresh mankind for the toil of the age of discovery. A study of history is likely to show that the problems set for women in this transition age were already old in the time of the Renaissance, when queens ruled the world, or later in the eighteenth century, when the women of the salons molded the policies of France. The council chamber, the kitchen, the shop, the office, the college, have been asking the same questions of women which have been asked in century after century of the past. The chief of these questions is not "Do you know Greek?" or "Can you practice law?" or "Are you in society?" but simply, "Do you do well whatever you are set to do?" "Have you skill in the art of living?"

TO BAR FRAUDS FROM MAILS.

English Postal Authorities Learn a Trick from Uncle Sam.

It is generally maintained by Englishmen that the postoffice business is better managed in England than in America. There are not a few Americans who express this opinion. It is with an agreeable shock of surprise, therefore, one learns that many Englishmen are now conceding that John Bull's postoffice can learn something from Uncle Sam's much-maligned institution, says the Kansas City Star. And that is the method it adopts to check wholesale swindling of the public by rejecting the mail of fraudulent concerns. Some influential folk are now agitating for the passage of a law which will confer similar blacklisting powers.

For years past the united kingdom has been a "happy hunting ground" for the fraudulent concerns which have been driven out of the United States and other countries. They are registered there as American companies, but their whole business is done in England, for the simple reason that their native country has closed its mails against them. Abroad they have an absolutely free hand and are doing a booming business. Some of the English better-class journals take every opportunity of exposing them, but the newspapers of the largest circulation accept their advertisements and preserve a discreet silence concerning their iniquities. And the postoffice aids and abets them by accepting all their correspondence.

There is a notorious English comic weekly which devotes a whole page to offending advertisements. It would have to suspend publication at once or amend its ways if the postoffice refused to transmit it through the mails.

The amount of swindling which is carried on through fake circulars, letters and newspaper advertisements in England is appalling. The police are powerless to deal with the offenders owing to the peculiar nature of the English criminal procedure and it is really only through the postoffice that they can be driven out of business.

It is interesting to note in this connection that whereas England has been slow in following the example of Uncle Sam in dealing with the evil, her colonies have not. Australia already has a law which enables her postoffice to reject the correspondence of fraudulent concerns, and New Zealand has recently followed suit. A "black list" just published by the New Zealand postoffice contained the names of more than thirty firms or individuals who are forbidden to use the mails for business purposes.

Reward for Quick Wit.

At a certain Maine summer resort was staying last summer an old gentleman who had become noted for his little "sermons" to people. It was also said that he was not over and above generous with his cash. One day when being carried on the elevator to his room he asked the boy in charge:

"My boy, do you believe in the uplifting of mankind?"

"No, not since I've taken this job," replied the lad with a twinkle in his eye.

Whereupon the old gentleman, so pleased was he with the quick wit of the youngster, thrust his hand into his pocket and handed over a 50-cent piece.

Naturally the lad boasted to the other boys that Mr. So and So had given him a tip of a half dollar.

They declared he was only guying them; that man was too stingy to give a cent to anyone. But the elevator boy came out ahead. A day or two after the old gentleman happened to appear on the scene where a group of the hotel boys were talking.

Quick as a flash the elevator boy stepped up and told him that the boys wouldn't believe that he had given him 50 cents and asked him if he would kindly tell them the truth of the matter. The man appreciated the joke. Putting his hand on the lad's shoulder, he informed the other boys that they had been rightly informed and while doing so he fished into his pocket again and took a quarter and handed it to his friend of the elevator.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

When a farmer sees a crowd on a street, or road, down in his heart he hopes it is a broken down auto that is drawing the attention.

Sometimes we get so mad we can't see straight.

YEAR 1907 LEAVES A RECORD OF DISASTER

Natural Phenomena and Direful Accident Furnish Long Lists of Dead.

EPITOME OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

Recent Financial Disturbance—Oklahoma a State—Fine and Gift of Millions.

The chronicler who scans the record of 1907 that he may write of it finds himself confronted by an exhibit of destruction and disaster that he had not fully appreciated before. Since the opening day of the year the great catastrophes that have been accompanied by large loss of life have numbered 26, an average of slightly more than two for each month. Several of these have been great convulsions of nature. There was the earthquake that destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, out of which came the disagreeable Swettenham incident; subsequently occurred other earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in Mexico, Chile and China. An earthquake and mountain slide that destroyed the town of Karatagh, Russian Turkestan, snuffed out 15,000 lives, and a frightful typhoon at Hongkong, China, killed unknown hundreds of the inhabitants. A hurricane in the Caroline Islands wiped out 200 lives; a great flood in Japan caused 600 deaths. Among the catastrophes originating in the operations and enterprises of humanity there have been explosions—several of them in mines, others in blast furnaces and on shipboard—collisions of ships and of railway trains, the collapse of the great uncompleted bridge over the St. Lawrence river near Quebec, and the blowing up of the Du Pont powder works in Fontanet, Ind. All these produced long casualty lists.

The roll of eminent dead is also an extensive one. Sweden has lately been called upon to mourn the decease of its beloved king, Oscar II., and his son and successor has assumed the reins of government. In Persia, also, the old Shah has died and a new one rules. Not death, but abdication has also changed the governmental head in Korea. Politics, art, science, letters, and the platform have each paid its toll to death in the loss of some foremost representatives. Among the names may be recorded those of former President M. Casimir Perier of France, Senators Morgan, Pettus and Alger, Galusha A. Grow, James H. Eckels, Maurice Grau, Richard Mansfield, Joseph Joachim, Edvard Grieg, James McGranahan, Col. Will S. Hayes, Prof. Alexander S. Herschel, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Dr. John Watson (Ian Maclaren), Theodore Tilton, Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, Francis Murphy and Mrs. Helen M. Gougar. Mrs. Wm. McKinley and John Alexander Dowie are also in the list of the well-known dead.

A financial disturbance of widespread influence has made itself felt during the last three months of 1907.

The number of States in the Union has been increased to 46 by the admission of Oklahoma.

That modern minds are not appalled by large amounts is shown by two of the year's transactions. The Standard Oil Company has been fined $29,000,000 by a Chicago judge, and John D. Rockefeller has made donations of $32,000,000 to educational projects.

Two great expositions have been held. That at Jamestown, Va., did not receive the patronage expected and is in the hands of a receiver. The other was in Greater Louisville, Ky.

A public work of vast magnitude was begun when Mayor McClellan of New York broke ground for the construction of the great Catskill aqueduct which in a few years is to convey to the metropolis an inexhaustible supply of pure water.

The Harry Thaw trial in New York and the general strike of telegraphers the country over were subjects of much interest to the public while they continued.

The principal happenings of 1907 are briefly given below:

JANUARY.

2—Wreck on Rock Island near Volland, Kansas, kills 35 persons....Chas. M. Floyd, Republican, elected Governor of New Hampshire by Legislature.

5—Bomb thrown in Fourth Street National bank, Philadelphia.

8—Death of Shah of Persia.

9—James Cullen lynched in Charles City, Iowa....Gen. Vladimir Pavloff assassinated in St. Petersburg....30 miners killed by explosion in Pittsburg blast furnace.

10—Typhoon in Philippines kills 100 persons.

11—Fire near Strassburg, Germany, causes 20 deaths....$1,000,000 fire in Lancaster, Pa.

14—Earthquake destroys Kingston, Jamaica.

19—Sixty lives lost in two Big Four railroad wrecks in Indiana....Mohammed Ali Mirza crowned Shah of Persia....Admiral Davis and American squadron sent away from Kingston, Jamaica, by Gov. Swettenham.

20—Death of Josiah Flynt Willard, tramp and author....England apologizes for Swettenham incident.

23—Twenty miners killed by explosion near Primero, Colo....Thaw trial begins in New York

24—Death of Senator R. A. Alger of Michigan.

28—Explosions in mine near Saarbrueck, Prussia, kill 300 persons....100 lives lost by typhoon in Hongkong harbor.

29—Ninety miners killed by mine explosion near Thurmond, W. Va.

FEBRUARY.

7—John D. Rockefeller makes $32,000,000 gift to educational work.

12—200 lives lost by sinking of Joy line steamer Larchmont off Block Island, R. I.....Death of ex-Gov. Frank W. Higgins of New York.

16—25 persons killed and 100 injured in train wreck on New York Central in New York City.

20—$173,000 stolen from U. S. subtreasury in Chicago.

21—English steamer Berlin goes down off coast of Holland; 180 lives lost....Cornelius J. Shea and associates acquitted of conspiracy in Chicago....Mrs. Dora McDonald shoots and kills Webster S. Guerin in Chicago.

22—Pennsylvania railroad's 18-hour flyer wrecked near Johnstown, Pa....Missouri Legislature adjourned by smallpox scare.

MARCH.

4—Fifty-ninth Congress adjourns sine die....Three changes in President's cabinet take effect.

7—Strother brothers in Culpepper, Va., acquitted of murder under "unwritten law."

9—Death of John Alexander Dowie....Will J. Davis freed of responsibility for Iroquois theater disaster by Judge Kimbrough of Danville, Ill.

12—Death of M. Casimir Perier, former president of France....Magazines on French battleship Jena explode at Toulon, killing 80 and injuring 500 persons.

14—Death of Maurice Grau, impresario.

16—Burning of Helicon Hall, Upton Sinclair's colony, near Englewood, N. J.

18—Greater Louisville exposition opened.

19—Death of Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

22—Many persons killed in riots in Moldavia.

25—Death of Alexander Beaubien, first white male born in Chicago.

31—Death of Galusha A. Grow, former Congressman from Pennsylvania.

APRIL.

2—Chicago elects Fred A. Busse, Republican, Mayor and approves new traction ordinance by majority of 33,126.

4—Hotel fire in San Francisco kills 17 persons....Lunacy commission declares Harry K. Thaw sane.

9—Howard Nicholas and Leonard Leopold convicted of murder of Mrs. Margaret Leslie in Chicago.

11—Lord Cromer, British ruler in Egypt, resigns.

13—Standard Oil Company convicted in Illinois court of rebating.

14—Death of James H. Eckels of Chicago....Earthquakes at Chilapa and Chilpancingo, Mexico.

15—Great Northern's Oriental Limited derailed by wreckers at Bartlett, N. D.

16-19—Volcanic eruptions in Chile.

20—Great fire in native quarter of Manila.

26—Opening of Jamestown (Va.) Exposition.

30—Hurricane in Caroline Islands kills 200 people.

MAY.

2—Great loss of life from explosion in Canton, China.

3—Sir Alexander Swettenham retires as Governor of Jamaica.

6—Dr. John Watson (Ian Maclaren) dies in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa....Tornado wipes out towns of Birthright and Ridgeway, Texas.

10—Son born to King Alfonso of Spain.

11—Mystic Shriner special wrecked at Honda, Cal., and 31 lives lost.

12—Mine fire at Velardena, Mexico, kills 90 men....Earthquake in China kills 4,000 persons.

17—Isaac Stephenson elected United States Senator from Wisconsin.

25—Death of Theodore Tilton in Paris.

26—Death of Mrs. William McKinley.

JUNE.

5—Oscar II. resumes reign as King of Sweden.

6—Sudden death of Mrs. Helen M. Gougar.

7—Fatal and destructive tornado in Kentucky and southern Illinois and Indiana.

9—Death of Julia Magruder, novelist.

10—Great strike against government in wine growing regions of France....500 lives lost in burning of Chinese theater in Hongkong.

11—Death of Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama.

12—200 lives lost in hurricane on Caroline Islands.

13—Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco convicted of extortion.

14—Olympic Theater burns in Chicago.

16—Czar dissolves the Duma.

18—Death of Prof. Alexander S. Herschel, English astronomer.

20—Mayor McClellan of New York breaks first sod for construction of great Catskill aqueduct.

26—Fire destroys block of buildings adjoining Jamestown exposition.

30—Death of Francis Murphy, temperance evangelist.

JULY.

3—Fatal windstorm sweeps western Wisconsin.

6—John D. Rockefeller appears as witness in court in Chicago.

7—Tornado damages Long Pine, Neb.

8—Death of James McGranahan, gospel song writer.

14—Assassination of President Fallieres attempted in Paris.

15—Powder explosion on battleship Georgia kills 8 seamen and injures 13.

18—Emperor of Korea abdicates.

20—30 killed in Pere Marquette wreck near Salem, Mich.

21—Steamer and freight boat collide off California coast and 150 lives are lost.

23—Death of Col. Will S. Hays, ballad writer.

27—Death of Senator E. W. Pettus of Alabama.

28—Jury in Boise, Idaho, acquits William D. Haywood of murder of Gov. Steunenburg....Big fire at Coney Island, N. Y.

AUGUST.

1—Standard Oil Co. fined $29,000,000 for accepting railroad rebates by Judge K. M. Landis of Chicago.

8—Beginning of telegraphers' general strike.

12—Death of Robert A. Pinkerton.

15—Joseph Joachim, violinist, dies in Berlin.

19—Prince Wilhelm of Sweden at Jamestown exposition.

26—Great fire in Hakodate, Japan.

27—Nelson Morris, Chicago packer, dies.

29—Great bridge over St. Lawrence river, near Quebec, collapses, carrying 84 workmen to death.

30—Death of Richard Mansfield.

SEPTEMBER.

4—Death of Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer.

7—Anti-Japanese outbreak in Vancouver, B. C.

9—Japanese battleship Kashima blows up at Kure with loss of 40 lives.

15—25 lives lost in wreck of excursion train near Canaan, N. H.

17—First election in Oklahoma....Chicago defeats new charter.

21—Frank J. Constantine convicted of murder of Mrs. Louise Gentry in Chicago....Grandstand blown down in Regina, Pa., and 50 people hurt.

25—Flood in Japan drowns 600 persons.

28—Eight lives lost in B. & O. wreck at Bellaire, Ohio.

30—McKinley mausoleum dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

OCTOBER.

6—Death of Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, authoress.

10—Steamship Lusitania crosses Atlantic ocean in four days twenty hours... Death of Mrs. Cassie Chadwick in Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary.

12—Steamship Cypress wrecked on Lake Superior and 22 lives lost.

14—Town of San Jose del Cabo, Lower California, destroyed by cloudburst.

15—Du Pont powder works near Fontanet, Ind., explodes, killing 50 people.

16—Wall street flurry causes great slump in copper stocks.

22-23—Panic in New York and the East marked by suspension of Knickerbocker Trust Company and of various financial concerns, appointment of receivers for Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, and wild scenes on Stock Exchange.

23—Germans win balloon race from St. Louis with France second.

27—New $20,000,000 Union station opened in Washington.

30—Earthquake and mountain slide destroys town of Karatagh, Russian Turkestan, and causes 15,000 deaths.

NOVEMBER.

1—Great railway strike in Great Britain called.

5—End of telegraphers' strike....Elections in many States.

11—Death of Dexter M. Ferry, seedsman, of Detroit.

15—Death of Moncure D. Conway, American author....Fire destroys town of Cleary, Alaska.

16—Oklahoma admitted to statehood.

24—Jury in Steve Adams case in Rathdrum, Idaho, disagrees.

25—Thirteen lives lost in New York tenement house fire.

26—Death of Gen. B. D. Pritchard of Allegan, Mich., whose regiment captured Jefferson Davis.

DECEMBER.

1—Explosion in mine at Fayette City, Pa., kills 40 miners.

2—Sixtieth Congress opens.

4—King Oscar of Sweden resigns government into hands of Crown Prince as regent.

6—Explosion entombs 400 miners at Monongah, W. Va.

8—Death of King Oscar II. of Sweden and accession of his son as Gustaf V.

11—President Roosevelt reiterates his declaration that he will not again be a candidate for chief executive.

16—Dust explosion kills 75 men in mine at Yolande, Ala....Great war fleet sails from Hampton Roads for Pacific.

17—Death of Lord Kelvin, English scientist.

White Matter Determines "Brains."

According to a book recently issued by Dr. Edward Anthony Spitzka, professor of general anatomy in Jefferson Medical College, it is the white matter connecting the hemispheres of the cerebrum which in a great measure determines the quality of the human intellect, and not the gray matter, as has been heretofore supposed. Prof. Spitzka has made a comparative study of the brains of several men eminent in various walks of life and finds that the brains of various kinds of thinkers show specialized developments. Thus, the brains of musicians are richly convoluted in the auditory association area. Such abnormalities as left-handedness, partial deafness and defects of vision, he says, leave their indelible imprints upon the brain. As to judging brains by weight, he declares that: "Men of the kind who never remain steadily employed, and who usually fail to even learn a trade, stand lowest in the scale. Above them come the mechanics and trade workers, the clerks, the ordinary business man and common school teachers. Highest of all we find men of decided mental abilities, the geniuses of the pencil, brush and sculptor's chisel; the mathematicians, scholars and statesmen.

Kentucky Night Riders' Raid.

Hopkinsville, Ky., was the scene of a desperate and destructive attack by masked night riders of the night of December 6, when 500 of them entered the town, captured the police and fire departments, took possession of the telephone exchange and railroad stations and then burned three tobacco warehouses and other property aggregating $200,000 in value. So quietly had the marauders come and so thoroughly did they do their work that the people of the place had no chance to offer resistance. The store windows were broken in and the plant of the newspaper favorable to the tobacco trust was demolished. For the motives of the raid was to get even with the warehouse men who had refused to join the Farmers' Association and had dealings with the trust. Several of these men were beaten with switches and one man was shot, a brakeman who was trying to get his train away from the path of the flames. A posse followed the retiring raiders some distance, but were outnumbered. Next day Gov. Beckham ordered a company of militia to the scene to aid Sheriff Smith. Investigation is to be rigid.

Why Criminal Class Increases.

In a recent address before the members of the Chicago Woman's Club Prof. William I. Thomas of the University of Chicago made the statement that the insane and criminal classes in America are increasing more rapidly than the normal population, the birth rate among the more intelligent classes being lower than the death rate. This, he said, meant rapid race deterioration and made the question of white or yellow supremacy in the near future a grave one. He charged that child-bearing was left largely to the poorer classes, while the women of the upper classes are giving themselves over to personal ornamentation, struggles for social pre-eminence, and "the solemn sacrament of bridge whist." He declared that there were few American families whose dress and mode of living did not represent larger bank accounts than they possessed.

New Principle in Structural Work.

A new principle in engineering practice is described by the Scientific American in the case of a lookout tower built by Alexander Graham Bell, in which the structure is composed of tetrahedrons, and is said to be the first iron structure built on this principle. Each tetrahedral cell, which is the unit of construction, is made of one-half inch iron piping, and measures exactly 48 inches from tip to tip. Two hundred and sixty of these cells were employed in the tower, which rises 70 feet above the ground. Some of the advantages claimed for this method of construction are lightness, great rigidity, rapidity and ease of construction, very little false work being required, and the facility with which any part may be renewed.

Rabies a Real Disease.

Chief Melvin of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Agricultural Department says that many experiments conducted by the bureau now demonstrate that hydrophobia is a real germ-generated and infectious disease. This disease, he says, can be communicated from beasts to men as well as from beast to beast. There are two types of hydrophobia, dumb and furious. In the earlier stages of the former kind a dog is dangerous, but in the late stages it is not, as it sustains paralysis of the jaws; but a dog with the furious type of hydrophobia is very dangerous, yelping and running about with frothing mouth and without any sign of jaw paralysis. Dr. Melvin insists that as yet there is no cure for rabies known to medical science.

THE DESERTED SANDWICH.

It Had the Fatal Gift of Beauty and It Was Coveted by Many.

"Don't leave your sandwich up there on the advertising boards," said Tommy's mother; "the train will come along soon and you will forget it."

But Tommy did not heed the warning, the train came and went away with Tommy and his mother and the others, bound for Coney Island, and the sandwich remained, says the New York Sun.

It was a remarkably neat package for a sandwich. Lying there on top of the advertising boards it looked as if it had been done up by a jeweler, so rectangular was it and so precisely were the ends of the wrapper folded over.

An elderly man stood near by reading his newspaper. He had heard the talk about the sandwich and he noted that the event had turned out as Tommy's mother had predicted.

A young girl came up the stairs and walked along the platform. She saw the neat package and looked from it toward the man. He drew a step nearer to it, glanced at it as if to assure himself that it was still there, and resumed reading his paper.

Several passengers alighted from the next train, and as they passed the sandwich most of them saw it and the man and tried to decide whether it belonged to him. One young fellow strolled back, after going as far as the door of the waiting room, and walked slowly up and down the platform.

The elderly man stepped to the edge of the platform and looked along the track, as if to see whether the train was coming. Just as he turned to take his former position he saw the young man lingering close to the sandwich.

He cleared his throat with a loud "Ahem!" and rested his arm on the advertising boards a few feet away from the package. The young man took the next train that came along.

A large woman rigged out in clothes that she evidently thought were just the thing hurried up the stairs and was rushing toward the train that had just come in. Her eye caught the package, with its jewelry store appearance, and she did not enter the train.

She looked up and down the track and glanced toward the sandwich, and from it toward the man. He folded his paper, put his reading glasses in his pocket and again stepped to the edge of the platform and looked along the rails.

The woman eyed him and the package alternately. The roar of a train was heard. As it slowed down the man, all unmindful of the package, hurried toward one of the car gates. The man stood on the car platform as the train moved out.

By leaning outward as the train rushed away he could watch the package long enough to see the large woman grab it from the top of the signboards, thrust it under her summer wrap and hurry down the platform stairs faster than she came up. Quite naturally he smiled.

FEW DOGS GO MAD.

Many Authorities Have Never Identified Case of Rabies.

The Woman's Pennsylvania S. P. C. A. is out with a timely and valuable statement calculated to prevent unnecessary alarm and suffering of human beings as well as of animals. It is commended by many of our famous physicians. A part of it follows herewith:

It has been observed with regret that numerous sensational stories concerning alleged mad dogs and the terrible results to human beings bitten by them are published from time to time. Such accounts frighten people into various nervous disorders and cause brutal treatment of animals suspected of madness; and yet there is upon record a great mass of testimony from physicians asserting the extreme rarity of hydrophobia even in the dog, while many medical men of wide experience are of the opinion that if it develops in human beings at all it is only on extremely rare occasions; that the condition of hysterical excitement in man described as "hydrophobia" is merely a series of symptoms, such dread being caused by realistic reports acting upon the imaginations of persons scratched or bitten by animals suspected of rabies.

The late Dr. Hiram Corson, whose practice extended over a period of seventy years, during which time he searched diligently for the disease in man or animal, wrote under date of January 18, 1896: "I have never had a real case of hydrophobia."

Dr. Thraill Green, a physician like Dr. Corson, accurate in observation, careful in statement, and whose practice also extended over a long period, wrote under date of January 28, 1896: "I have never had a case of hydrophobia, nor have I ever seen a case in the practice of other physicians."

Dr. Matthew Woods, who has been in quest of the disease for twenty years, and who during two summers personally visited every case reported in Philadelphia, asserts that he never saw hydrophobia either in man or animal, and although six years ago, at the conclusion of a paper on the subject read before a large audience, he offered $100 to any person bringing him such a patient, yet so far no one has claimed the reward.

Dr. Charles W. Dulles, who has corresponded on the subject with most of the distinguished medical men of Europe, a physician familiar both with the literature of rabies, the history of Pasteur and the institutions called by his name, and who in addition has performed the almost incredable task of investigating either personally or by correspondence, with the physicians or others in attendance, every case reported in the newspapers of the United States for the past sixteen years, believes that hydrophobia is extremely rare, having after sixteen years of investigation failed to find a single case on record that can be conclusively proved to have resulted from the bite of a dog.

No man was ever brought up in what he regards as the proper way when he turns out to be a failure.

A fool can answer questions that a wise man would be ashamed to ask.

WHERE ALL MICROBES DIE.

Air of the Higher Altitudes Is Found Sterile and Pure.

It is an error to think that the chemical composition of the air differs essentially wherever the sample may be taken. The relation of oxygen to nitrogen and other constituents is the same whether it be on the heights of the Alps or at the surface of the sea. The favorable effects, therefore, of a change of air are not to be explained by any difference in the proportions of its gaseous constituents. The important difference is the bacteriological one. The air of high altitudes contains no microbes and is, in fact, sterile, while near the ground and some hundreds of feet above it microbes are abundant. In the air of towns and crowded places not only does the microbe impurity increase but other impurities, such as the products of combustion of coal, accrue also.

Several investigators have found traces of hydrogen and certain hydrocarbons in the air, especially in pine, oak and birch forests. It is to these bodies, doubtless consisting of traces of essential oils, that the curative effects of certain health resorts are traced. Thus the locality of a fir forest is said to give relief in diseases of the respiratory tracts. But these traces of essential oils and aromatic product must be counted, strictly speaking, as impurities, since they are apparently not necessary constituents of the air.

Recent analysis has shown that these bodies tend to disappear in the air as a higher altitude is reached until they disappear altogether. It would seem, therefore, that microbes, hydrocarbons and entities other than oxygen and nitrogen, and perhaps also argon, are only incidental to the neighborhood of human industry, animal life and damp vegetation.

A ROYAL NURSERY.

The little heir to the Spanish throne has begun his babyhood in a suite of rooms arranged entirely after the fancy of his royal mother. Spanish etiquette requires her to conform to ideas other than her own on most points, but in the fitting of the nursery her word is law. The furnishing, decorating and entire arrangement are English, and offer everything that could possibly conduce to a baby's health and happiness.

The suite, directly over the queen's apartments, on the sunny side of the palace, consists of living room, dining room, bed rooms for the baby and head nurse, bath and sewing room.

The living room is decorated in green and white, with showers of little pink rosettes. The vaulted ceiling is enameled in white, and round the walls runs a frieze of animals in Noah's-ark-like procession. Light green shades temper the sunshine.

The angles of furniture and walls are all softly rounded; so the approved method of standing a naughty child in the corner face to the wall could hardly be adopted in this case. With the exception of the rose-colored English carpets, everything in the suite is washable.

The wide window sills are cozily cushioned; an iron lattice, light and lace-like, but very strong, secures the windows from without.

In the bed room three large paintings represent "Morning," "Noon" and "Night." The first is a sunshiny picture of a baby awakening in his little bed. "Noon" shows him busy with porringer and spoon; and in "Night" he has folded his chubby hands in prayer before going to sleep.

The woodwork is white enameled, and round the ceiling a frieze of dancing children charms the eye, as does the exquisite tint and design of the blue and white tiling of the fireplace.

The little prince sleeps in the cradle that rocked father and grandfather before him. It is a stately affair, resting on four Corinthian supports. It was formerly curtained in the richest lace, flowing from beneath a Spanish crown; but the young queen mother had the crown removed, lest it fall and injure the royal sleeper below; and the lace curtains were suppressed to allow freer access of air.

The cradle linen shows embroidery of fairy-like fineness, the outer coverlet sown with butterflies and roses in white silk.

The dining room furniture is white mahogany, with the royal arms of Spain skillfully inlaid in each piece. Throughout, simplicity and good taste distinguish this ideal dwelling for a young child.

The rooms are considered the best-ventilated in all Madrid, for the young queen inherits her love of fresh air from her illustrious grandmother, the late Queen Victoria of England.

Not a Regular Attendant.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale once asked a certain senator with a good deal of solicitation if he was a church member. The senator was glad to be able to say that he was. Two or three days later, according to the story, Dr. Hale recurred to the subject and asked the name of the church. The senator gave a name. Two or three days later again Dr. Hale remarked with regret that he had looked up that church and that he was sorry to find that it had been burned down twelve years before—and never rebuilt.—Kansas City Star

Before and After.

Uncle Henry (at the zoo)—Wall, by rum! I never knowed them there kangaroos had sich long legs before.

Aunt 'Liza—They hain't got no long legs before, Henery, where's y'r eyes? Can't y' see their long legs is behind?—Toledo Blade.

Incredible.

"You may not believe me, but I know a queer sort of a fellow who declares he enjoys a concert of cats."

"He must be an admirer of the tragic news."—Baltimore American.

Time flies so fast, after a man passes fifty! Sunday comes so frequently to this writer that he doesn't seem to have anything to do.