One of the Tests.

"So your daughter made a brilliant marriage?"

"Not very," answered Mr. Cumrox.

"Your son-in-law is of noble origin?"

"Yes. But I couldn't pronounce his name properly the first time I tried."—Washington Star.

Failed to Relieve.

On the mighty deep.

The great ocean liner rolled and pitched.

"Henry," faltered the young bride, "do you still love me?"

"More than ever, darling!" was Henry's fervent answer.

Then there was an eloquent silence.

"Henry," she gasped, turning her pale, ghastly face away, "I thought that would make me feel better, but it doesn't!"

New Method.

Do you wish to choose a wife?
Flip a coin.
Or select your lot in life?
Flip a coin.
Of two evils make no choice.
Save your time, and strength, and voice
There's a better way! Rejoice!
Flip a coin.

Letting the Cat Out.

Amelia—Herbert, dear, your office is on Orange street, isn't it?

Herbert—Yes; why?

Amelia—That's what I told papa. He made such a funny mistake about you the other day. He said he'd been looking you up in Brad street.

The Poor Cat.

A young wife called her husband on the telephone to tell him a tale of woe. In tear-choked accents she said: "That you, dearie? Well, you know that lovely chicken pie I made you—that horrid old cat came in and ate it up before I could stop it?"

He answered: "Never mind, darling; I'll get you another cat."

FATAL THEATER FIRE

Hundred Die in Horrible Disaster at Boyertown, Pa.

COAL OIL SPILLED ON AUDIENCE

Flames Leap Through Hall and People All Rush Out—Many Are Trampled to Pulp.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 14.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic last night and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhodes opera house by Mrs. Monroe, of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempts to quiet the great crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions, and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror stricken people, who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement.

It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble to the stairway, and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled upon, many of them doubtless being crushed to death. At least 50 persons, realizing that exit by the stairway meant almost certain death, risked their lives by jumping from the windows. Limbs were broken and skulls were crushed by this daring method of escape.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance to the theater, endeavoring to release those who were edged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherise might have made good their escape from the furnace were held in check by the awful jam at the doors. As the flames cut their way toward the front of the building, women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames.

Once the doorways were clear, the rescuers dragged many women and children from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were so badly injured that they died before reaching the temporary hospital. Skulls were crushed and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable. In one instance, the skull of a child, apparently about 10 years of age, was crushed almost into a jelly.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunates who were overcome by the smoke and perished will ever be found.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the building. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits of the building, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the streets.

Big Fire in Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 14.—The Union station annex was destroyed by fire early today. The Union station proper was saved. The burned building contained the receiving offices of the Adams, Wells-Fargo and Pacific Express companies, branch mailing room of the postoffice, the offices of the Fred Harvey Eating House company, the Pullman Palace Car company's linen room and the Railwaymen's Y. M. C. A. rooms. The loss is estimated at close to a quarter of a million dollars.

Cut Pullman Charges.

Washington, Jan. 14.—George S. Loftus, of St. Paul, accompanied by Senator LaFollette, filed with the Interstate Commerce commission today a petition asking for a reduction of 25 per cent in the lower berth rates of the Pullman company, and the fixing of rates for upper berths at one-half the lower berth rate. The reduction is asked on all interstate business throughout the United States. Mr. Loftus represents the Minnesota Shippers' association, which started the private car investigation two years ago.

Massacred by Yaquis.

Visalia, Cal., Jan. 14.—Word of the tragic death of Mark Perkins, a prominent mine owner of Mexico, and former resident of this city, was received today by the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Perkins, of Visalia. On January 2 last, Perkins and nine Mexicans were ambushed by Yaquis near the city of Sonora, Mexico, and massacred, but one Mexican escaping. Other particulars of the killing have not yet been received.

Mining Camp Burns.

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—According to a telegram just received in this city, the great gold mining camp of El Oro, one of the largest in the republic, is being destroyed by fire. When the dispatch was filed the principal hotels and the more important business buildings of the camp had been reduced to ashes.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.

Idaho Experiment Station Tells About Manufacture and Use.

Conditions Affecting the Production of Industrial Alcohol in the Northwest, is the title of a bulletin recently issued by the department of chemistry of the Idaho state experiment station.

The purpose of the bulletin is, as the author states, to bring to the attention of farmers and others interested in the subject, the general principles underlying the processes used in the manufacture and denaturing of alcohol. The opinion is expressed that people in this part of the country will receive but little benefit from the passage of the "Denatured Alcohol Act" unless they see to it that this alcohol is made at home from home grown products. Several crops are mentioned as being the ones to which people in the Northwest will have to look as the most promising in alcohol manufacture, the most prominent being potatoes and sugar beets. It is not probable that individual farm distilleries will ever be put into operation. The idea is advanced of a community still, or a still owned and operated by a stock company, in which the chief owners of the stock shall be the producers of the raw material. Figures are given illustrating the relative efficiency of alcohol when compared to kerosene as a source of light.

It will require some time to get people acquainted with the uses to which denatured alchohol may be put, but it is confidently believed that there is a great future for this product right here in the Northwest.

"DRYING OFF" THE MILKER.

Useful Hints On Handling of Cows Before Calving.

In answer to a question how to "dry off" the milking cow, Prof. J. H. Frandson, of Idaho experiment station, gave the following suggestions:

The trouble with many dairymen is that in drying up cows they are afraid to stop milking as long as the cow shows any tendency of giving milk. In many they do not realize that to continue milking through the entire year is an exceedingly bad policy. In ordinary cases it is desirable that the cows should be dry from a month to six weeks. The object being to increase the supply of nourishment for the growing foetus as well as enabling the cow to improve her physical condition before the time of calving. When it is thought best to hasten "laying off," start by not milking the cow clean. This will generally decrease the amount to a point where it is safe to skip every other milking. In about a week the milk will generally be reduced to such proportions as to justify milking only every other day. Generally soon after this it will be safe to discontinue milking altogether.

The "drying off" is most easily accomplished when cows are fed on dry feeds as much as possible.

There are a few persistent milkers which can be done more harm by a forced "drying off" than to let them milk up to calving, but such cows are decidedly few in numbers.

Publications for Farmers.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmer' Bullein No. 158.—How to Build Small Irrigation Ditches. By C. T. Johnston and J. D. Stannard, assistants in Irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 28. figs. 9. This is a reprint of an article in the Yearbook of the department of agriculture for 1900, entitled "Practical Irrigation," giving methods for laying out and building small irrigating ditches, using only such implements as are found on most farms or can easily be made by the farmer.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 187.—Drainage of Farm Lands. By C. G. Elliott, drainage expert, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 40. figs. 19. Explains the effects and advantages of drainage and describes implements and methods suited to a variety of conditions in humid and irrigated regions.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 263.—Practical Information for Beginners in Irrigation. By S. Fortier. Pp. 40, figs. 25. This gives suggestions as to the selection of an irrigated farm, the acquirement of a water right, the preparation of land for irrigation, the construction of farm ditches, and the application of water to crops.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 270.—Modern Conveniences for the Farm Home. By Elmina T. Wilson. Pp. 48, figs. 27. This discusses heating, water supply, and sewage disposal for farm homes, and the arrangement of houses and grounds.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 277.—The Use of Alcohol and Gasoline in Farm Engines. By C. E. Lucke and S. M. Woodwad. Pp. 40, figs. 12. This gives the general results of experiments in the use of alcohol in the ordinary internal combustion engines on the American market, with some discussion of foreign experiments.

Two-Egg Sponge Cake.

Beat two eggs separately and well. Add to yolks one-half cup sugar; beat; then three-eighths cup boiling water and another half-cup of sugar and one-fourth teaspoonful salt; beat again. Add juice and grated rind of one-fourth lemon; beat again. Now add alternately the whites of eggs and one level cup flour, sifted with one and one-half teaspoonful baking powder. Bake twenty-five minutes in a greased, paper-lined, shallow pan.

Stem and wash the green grapes, put them in a porcelain-lined kettle and pour boiling water over them. Leave this on for only a minute to loosen the skins, then drain. To each quart of grapes add a cup of water, return to the fire and boil until tender. Strain the fruit and measure the pulp and add to it two-thirds as much sugar as there is pulp. Put into the preserving kettle and boil gently for about fifteen minutes more, taking care that the sugar and fruit do not scorch. Skim frequently while boiling. Pour into glass jars and seal.

Under the New Ruling.

His Lawyer—The trouble is that they've got half a dozen witnesses who saw you whipping your wife. It will be hard to establish an alibi in the face of that.

Prisoner—Gosh! I don't need any alibi. All you've got to do is to prove by me that I was drunk.

That Terrible Boy.

Mrs. Kerruthers (making a call)—Yes, indeed, Mrs. Kajones, I put in nearly the whole blessed day in the dentist's chair.

Mrs. Kajones—I can sympathize with you. I know how it hurts.

Mrs. Kerruthers—My dentist hardly ever hurts me, though. He's so careful and gentle that I don't mind it at all. I declare I slept half the time while he was at work.

Johnny Kajones—That dentist wouldn't never do for maw. When she goes to sleep she snores like a thrashin' machine.

Regarding Jack.

"Jack always ends his letters to me by saying, 'I remain, yours forever,'" said the girl who had more money than beauty.

"Yes," rejoined her girl friend, who had more beauty than money, "and if you were poor he would probably remain a bachelor."

What the Cloth Got in Boston.

If you go to San Francisco and meet a friend he will ask you to stay a week with him. In Omaha he will take you home overnight, in Chicago he will take you out to dinner, in New York he will hurry you off to lunch, in New Haven he will hand you a good cigar, and in Boston he will give you an apple.—Congregationalist.

A Wonderful Record.

Many so-called "specifics" and "cures" for rheumatism have already been brought before the public; but when rheumatism, neuralgia and kindred diseases have become chronic and threaten serious results, you may rest assured that they will help but very little, if any. Although not recommended as "infallible," the peculiar qualities of St. Jacobs Oil especially adapt it to those cases which may be termed "chronic," and which have previously withstood all known "specifics," as well as the prescriptions of the best physicians.

In Rome, in the golden age, a laborer only cost $100, and sometimes, after a great victory and an influx of captives into the capital, it was possible to buy strong, capable slaves for $5 apiece. Skilled slaves, men with trades, brought higher prices. Cicero paid $1,000 for a scribe. Catiline had a cook that cost him $2,500. A gardener was worth $300, a blacksmith $750, an actor $5,000, a physician $10,000.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Devotion to the Ideal.

The hero of the play had just died to slow, tremulous, wabbling music, but the audience insisted on his coming before the curtain and kept up the applause for the space of five minutes.

At last a supe came out and stepped forward.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he announced in a high-keyed voice, "he says he'll have the curtain raised and you can look again on his cold corpse if you want to, but he'll be d—d if he's going to vi'late the proprieties and degrade his art by coming to life again before to-morrow evening. Thanking you again, ladies and gentlemen, I will now retire."

WILL ADD TO MISERY OF A HARD WINTER.

European Labor Leaders Alarmed Over Increase in Homecoming Contingent.

STEAMSHIPS ARE LOADED DOWN

Hundreds of Destitute Aliens Wandering Streets of Paris on Verge of Destitution.

The increasing contingents of homecoming Italians, Lithuanians and other Mediterranean steerage passengers are disconcerting not only to the steamship companies, who have inadequate facilities for dealing with such a sudden and unexpected traffic, but to the labor leaders of Europe, who deny that these newcomers have sufficient money to pass the winter without working, and declare that they will thus add to the misery of what is sure to be a hard winter among the European working classes.

The figures given by the French labor bureau as to the returning emigrants are corroborated by Nicholas Martin, agent of the American line, who says that all the steerage capacity of every vessel has been taken until Feb. 1, while thousands more will be unable to return to Europe before spring. If this keeps up, a Paris correspondent says, some special measures must be taken to repatriate the hordes of disappointed adventurers, for the ordinary means are insufficient.

"To my knowledge several hundred of more or less destitute aliens are wandering in the streets of Paris on the verge of starvation, and the prefecture police books will probably multiply this figure by three," said one of the officials at the ministry of works to the correspondent. "The best we can do is to expedite their return to their native countries. Something like half of them have no more money than is barely sufficient to pay their fare."

Never since the first ship sailed out of New York harbor has there been anything like the present exodus of emigrants from that port. Day by day the crowds clamoring for transportation abroad grow greater, with no prospect of their reduction in numbers.

WORK OF IRRIGATION.

New Plans Adopted Contemplate Many Improvements.

In the irrigation division of the Agricultural Department the three main lines of work will be, as heretofore, dissemination of practical information, scientific and technical investigations, and reporting on irrigation conditions in certain districts. In view of the fact that probably about 5,000,000 acres of land provided with water for irrigation will be available for settlement at the close of 1908, it is believed that in no other way can more good be done than in supplying practical information through publications and expert advice to the new settlers on this land, and it is therefore deemed advisable to broaden the scope of this work so as to make it valuable to every class of farmers dependent upon irrigation and to every project, whether public or private.

The scientific and technical investigations will be a continuation and extension of what has already been done. Prominent features of the work will be to determine what becomes of the large quantity of water which is annually spread over cropped soils, involving a study of evaporation, seepage and distribution of losses, with a view to securing higher economy in the use of water; the relation of irrigation water to quantity and quality of crop and the adaptation of methods to different soils and crops, and a study of the more technical features of the measurement, conveyance, storage and distribution of water on farms, and the various devices used for pumping.

In the study of irrigation conditions in different localities emphasis is to be laid especially on possible improvements of present methods which will lead to a more economical use of water.

Can Copper Be Made?

That the recent experiments of Sir William Ramsay, the English chemist, are not likely to result in the artificial manufacture of copper is the conclusion of President Ira Remsen, who recently made an address on the subject before the Scientific Association of the Johns Hopkins university at Baltimore. Dr. Remsen said that the experiments in question indicated that the substance we call copper, and which we have hitherto regarded as a stable elementary form of matter is capable of undergoing a very slight decomposition, but while it is possible that a minute quantity of the element lithium can be obtained from copper by the action of radium emanation, the change is very slight, and it does not seem probable that any method can be devised by which it can be markedly increased.

One in 300 Insane.

According to the report of the New York State Commission on Lunacy, the total number of persons confined in institutions for the insane in that State is 26,357. This is a proportion of about one to every 300 of the population. The indications are that insanity has been steadily on the increase since 1897. While the percentage of foreign born to the population is 26, the percentage of foreign-born insane is 46. Insane patients of Irish and German nativity are on the decrease, while those of Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy are increasing.

The Evangelical general conference, at its recent session at Milwaukee, took a decisive step toward the union of the Evangelical church and the United Evangelical church, adopting the report of the committee on revision, which recommended the appointment of a commission from each church to arrange details of the union. It was also decided to open negotiations with other Protestant churches, including the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Congregationalists, with a view to a federation on all lines of church work into which denominational differences do not enter.

Only by Sight.

Soulful Miss—You are familiar, I presume, with the Portuguese Hymn?

Col. Lumpkin (just returned from a trip abroad)—Er—no; I saw him, of course, when I was in Europe, but I never met 'im. You mean King Carlos, don't you?

Just a Family Jar.

He (angrily)—So there was a man after you when you married me, was there?

She—Yes; there was.

"Poor fool! I wish to heavens you had married him."

"I did."—Boston Transcript.

The Scholar.

Dr. Evans, a witty member of the Parliament at Melbourne, was an old man, and the other members jokingly spoke of him as belonging to the era of Queen Anne.

Once, while making a speech, he referred to Queen Anne and was greeted with cries of "Did you know her?" "What was she like?"

"Yes, sir," replied the doctor, "I did know her. The scholar is contemporary with all time."

Peat briquettes are now being made at Norfolk, Mass., with a machine. The peat is cut up by revolving knives like a meat chopper and then pressed through a die in a continuous bar, which is sliced into briquettes by a knife operated automatically.

Self-Protection.

"You say your wife is a poor cook?"

"The worst ever."

"And yet you say that you eat all of everything that she prepares for the table. How can you do that if she can't cook?"

"Great earth, man! If I don't she will use up the scraps in some of those how-to-utilize-left-overs dishes, and that will be my finish."—Judge.

P. N. U. No. 3—08

WHEN writing to advertisers please mention this paper.

Playing "Bridge."

"Do you remember before the wedding you used to call your wife a 'poem?'" *said the bachelor caller.*

"Yes," sighed the domestic man, as he twirled an alarm clock to amuse the baby, "and I still call her a 'poem.'"

"You do? What kind of a 'poem' is she now—a 'poem of beauty' or a 'poem of love?'"

"Neither! She is a 'poem of travel.' Always on the go and never at home."

Speed.

"It takes you a long time to pass a given point," said the minute hand, en passant.

"I may be slow," answered the hour hand; "but it takes you all of sixty-six minutes to catch up with me."

Wayside Communings.

Adam Zawfox—Ever ride on a street 'thout payin'?

Job Sturky—Wunst. The jigger on the front end o' the car picked me up an' kerried me mighty near a block 'fore the conductor found it out.

Looking in the Wrong Place.

Carrie—What a sweet, happy disposition Mabel has. She can see beauty in everything.

Ethel (jealous)—She can't see it in her mirror.—Boston Transcript.