

THE SALE OF TITLES.

Brasil Has a Hospital That Was Built Upon Man's Vanity.

Dom Pedro II, who lost the throne of Brazil in 1889, was the last monarch to offer titles for sale. In order to obtain funds for the erection of a hospital in Rio de Janeiro the emperor announced that he would confer the title of "baron" on every subscriber of 100,000 milreis and the title of "count" on every subscriber of 250,000 milreis. Many proved willing to become ennobled on these terms, and sufficient money was forthcoming to endow the hospital as well as build it. Over the main entrance may still be seen the inscription, suggested by Dom Pedro, "Human Vanity to Human Mercy."

Although French titles of nobility were abolished at the time of the revolution by a decree that was issued in 1791, yet the ministry of justice issues certificates of nobility. Members of the French diplomatic service who use titles have to obtain one of these certificates and pay fifty francs for the transaction. The fees in the case of a duke amount to \$2,400, a marquis pays \$2,000, a viscount \$1,400, a baron \$900 and a chevalier \$200.

The certificate is to the effect that the pedigree of the holder having been investigated, his claim to the title he bears has been fully established, and the seal of the republic is affixed to this patent of nobility.—Chicago News.

OUR NAVAL CODE BOOK.

Jealously Guarded Signal Secrets That Are Bound in Metal.

Few things are so jealously guarded as the secret code book of the United States navy. It is a book of signals used in the daily direction of the fleet by a commanding officer—but a code of signals to be used solely in time of war and in the presence of an enemy. These secret code books are issued only to the executive officers of a ship, who are enjoined to protect them against theft by every possible means. These books are threatened not so much by the ordinary thief as by secret emissaries of other governments who desire to obtain knowledge of what the battleships would do in time of action. Governments have no scruples against theft in such cases.

The loss of one of these secret books by an officer, unless explained to the entire satisfaction of the secretary of the navy, would mean court martial and probable expulsion from the service. To the honor of the United States navy no officer has ever yet been brought up charged with loss.

The books are bound in heavy metal covers, so that in time of threatened capture they may be thrown overboard, sinking at once to the bottom of the sea and thus avoiding seizure.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Queer Legal Precedent.

Mr. Justice Holmes has the reputation of citing more peculiar cases from the old lawbooks than any other member of the supreme court. He dug up one recently to the amusement of his associates, when it was contended in a libel suit that the declaration was insufficient because the offenses were not stated properly.

"That leads me to recall a case in the old books," said the justice, "where an indictment set forth that the accused struck a man on the head, splitting the skull until a portion fell down on either shoulder, and the court held the indictment defective because it did not allege that the man was killed."

The justice observed that it was a hair splitting decision and he didn't intend it as a pun, either.—New York Times.

They Were Particular.

"We do our best to serve the public," the proprietor of the corner drug store told us, "but we can't please everybody, try as we may."

"A few minutes ago two young women swept into this place and demanded to look at our directory. I showed them where to find it. In a few minutes I heard one of them say:

"Why, her name isn't in this directory! Did you ever hear of the like?"

"Then the ladies approached me haughtily.

"Can you tell us if there is a first class drug store in this vicinity?" asked the spokeswoman. "We wish to consult their directory."—Chicago News.

A Bull From Utter.

The Usterman is not incapable of a bull, says the British Weekly. It was an Usterman marquis who endeavored himself to his tenantry by the memorable bull uttered in his speech at an agricultural dinner: "I wish my farmers would use iron tools, because they last forever and will afterward sell as old iron." It was an Usterman who at a funeral observed the awkward work of an unaccustomed hand and exclaimed as he seized a shovel: "I wasn't seven years courting a sexton's daughter without learning to do a grave."

He Was Satisfied.

"You are very beautiful," said a young man to his sweetheart.

Chivalrous.

Bibbbs—Would you marry a girl for her money? Stobbs—Well, I should consider it very unchivalrous to allow her to remain an old maid.—Philadelphia Record.

ORIENTAL CARPETS.

Some of These Made of Kashmir Wool Strongly Resemble Silk.

Generally speaking, the carpets of India can never excel those of Persia, as the materials used in the former are not of the same superior quality as those employed in the latter country. The wool of which many of the best carpets are manufactured is obtained from Kashmir. Sometimes carpets which are mistaken for silk are really of an extremely fine quality of wool known as "pashm." This is obtained from the goats of Kashmir and grows close to the skin, being protected by the long and coarse wool, it is used for the beautiful soft shawls for which Kashmir is famous.

Peculiar methods are employed by the Indian weaver in converting his

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