COLOSSAL DWELLINGS.

Magnificent Fifteen-Story Houses in New York-Parks on the Roofs.

The constellation of apartment houses facing Central Park, Seventh avenue and Fifty-eighth street is finer than any similar collection of houses in any European city. It comprises eight buildings. The houses are fifteen ordinary stories high, facing the court; nine lofty stories in height facing the avenue and street. They are of common design, and there is little danger of any of them getting lost. There are large and handsome apartment houses in Paris, but not more than four

in company.

The bold conception of these harmonious and magnificent buildings is Mr. Joseph Navarro's. The plans were studied two years before work was begun. Architects were sent abroad who traveled all over Europe. Designs were bought from European architects, brought home and ideas culled from them. An army of artisans laid the brick and mortar.

The greater features of these houses are not apparent to people who look upon them in wonder. In some of the largersuites of apartments are drawing rooms in which a reception might be given to a thousand ladies and gentle men. It may be said, to indicate the magnitude of the apartments, that some of the houses will be occupied by only eight families. A floor in one of the apartment houses is 102 by 104 feet, and comprises seventeen or eighteen rooms. Drawing-rooms, libraries parlors and reception halls are of the largest size. There is much more room in a set of apartments than in the ground floor of the largest house in Fifth avenue.

One of the gentlemen who takes apartments in one of the houses will spend out of his private means \$50,-000 in mural decoration. The courts of the houses will be adorned with flowers and fountains. All the roofs will be connected by bridges, forming a romantic and delightful place for moonlight and summer afternoon promenades. There will be some landscape gardening on the roof-flowers and plants will be cultivated there and on summer nights they will be like a private park. The view from them is broad and magnificent. Central Park, the Hudson, the Palisades, Long Island Sound and the farms beyond the Harlem come within the range of vision which extends almost to the ocean. The houses themselves are on the highest ground in New York city south of Central Park.

The elevator shafts are so constructed that if an elevator should give way it would fall on a cushion of air, by compressing which it would gradually come to a stop, and to fall with the elevator would be like fluttering down on a snow-flake. Extraordinary precauvators absolutely safe, and the device of the air-cushion, though interesting in its ingenious character, is considered superfluous.

A vexing problem to a man living in a Fifth avenue house is what to do with it in summer. He cannot take it with him to Newport. He cannot strap it up in one of his trunks and take it off to Saratoga. He is obliged to hire a watchman to watch the house and two private detectives to watch the watchman. Every occupant of the large apartment houses will have the benefit of depositing all of their valuables in the safe deposit vaults in the cellars. All they would have to do in respect to their homes before starting for Europe or the summer watering places would be to turn the key in their door and then hand the key over to the janitor.

Every room in every set of apartments in these great houses has a window on the avenue, the street or the large open court. The open, Moorish arches, which will be made beautiful with flowers, afford free ingress to the air to the inner-court and make the apartments cool in summer. The rooms are trimmed in mahogany, cherry and maple. The floors are of polished The mantels, grates and maple. fenders are such as are found in a private house costing \$100,000. Except the floors, which rest on iron beams and brick arches, doors, window-casings, and baseboards, there is no wood in the house. The stairs are iron, the partitions brick, and the balconies slate. The houses are absolutely fireproof. The Building Department consider that fire-escapes would be not only useless, but ludicrous.

There are no steam engines or boilers under the buildings. They and the electric engines are under the sidewalks. The apartments will be lighted by electricity and gas.

Each house will be owned by a cooperative joint stock company. Such great and palatial residences may make a revolution in the mode of living of the rich in New York. A gentleman living in Fifth avenue has made arrangements to move from his private residence there and live in a set of apartments in one of the houses built by Mr. Navarro. Luxury is growing co-operative. The houses are separate Common interest of the owners centers in the court and ceases at the back

Dangerous to the Eyes.

It is stated by oculists, says the New York Times, that since the building of the elevated roads there has been a large increase in a peculiarly troublesome affection to the eyes. This trouble is caused by the flying chips of iron and steel from the rails and wheels of the cars. They enter the eyes of the passengers and give rise to inflammation of a serious character. A leading oculist said: "This trouble is by no means new, but it has grown more common since people began to travel on the elevated railways. The peculiarity of the annoyance is that the sufferer does not know when the splinter enters his eye. When anything else gets into your eye you know it at once; but these little things are not felt. The only way that I can account for that is by supposing that the splinters fly so fast that they pierce the eye insensibly. Well, the next day the patient's eyes feel dry and hot. This develops into inflammation, and he goes to an apothecary's shop and buys an eye salve. That is used for several days and does not do him a bit of good, of course. Finally, when the particle has become well imbedded in the eye he goes to an oculist. The oculist sometimes has no trouble in getting out the particle, but just as often he has After it gets out the eye generally gets well at once, though sometimes we have secondary inflammation, which is very troublesome."

The oculist who was seen has contrived an apparatus for examining the eye by gaslight when the presence of one of these toreign bodies is suspectthe end of an arm which has the three universal joints. The arm is attached to a band, which goes around the patient's head. Then the lens can be adjusted at any angle so as to focus the gaslight in the eye. The oculist said such an instrument was necessary, because patients often came to him late

A Misunderstanding.

"I thought I would take a run up d see if you didn't want to buy sewing-machine," said the agent to Farmer Grimes.

"I don't know as I do," replied the farmer, "I've got most of my spring sowing done."

"But won't you need it for sewing in the summer."

"Look here, young feller, we don't We cuts and sow in the summer. gathers and binds."

"Oh, well, this machine gathers and binds."

"Mebbe you'll be telling me next that your machine will haul in the crap an' put it in the barn. Don't a contusion. Grant was never struck; come around here with any of your no more was Napoleon. Of Sir Neville big stories."

"Don't be ruffled my dear sir, I think you do not understand me. I mean a machine to sew cloth, not grain."

"Ahem! you do, do you ? Then you'd better go talk to the wimmin. It's a good thing you didn't mean the other kind, for if you'd kept on telling me about your wonderful machine for plantin' an' reapin' you'd got me a rippin' an' tearin' 'till I'd basted you."

The Answered Prayer.

In Charles the Second's reign a free table was allowed for the court chaplains. At one time, however, the king being rather in necessitous eircumstances, ordered this dinner to be discontinued, but to soften matters, honored his clergymen with his presence at the last intended dinner, The grace used to be, "God save the king, and bless the dinner;" but Dr South, who presided on this occasion transposed the words to "God bless the king, and save the dinner." "And it shall be saved," said the king, amused at the doctor's humor and instantly countermanded the

CLIPPINGS POR THE CURIOUS.

The last true believer in alchemy was one Peter Woulfe, who died about

A French nobleman recently proved, by actual experiment, that a horse may be made to curvet for two hours without moving forward half a mile.

The king of Siam's meals are prepared by a woman, the sister of his physician, sealed up and sent to his "taster," and then sent to him. It is needless to say that hot food is not considered a necessity of life in Siam.

On New Year's day in Japan there is great emulation among the merchants of sound credit to make the first sale of goods. According to law, all Japanese merchants are required to settle their accounts and pay their debts by the 31st of December, and are not allowed to buy or sell goods until they have done so. If goods are sold on the 1st of January, the merchandise is piled promiscuously on drays drawn by coolies. The merchant receives the congratulations of his friends, and together they follow the goods to their

to the United States, was derived from Samuel Wilson of Troy, N. Y., who was familiarly called by his employes "Uncle Sam." In the early history of the government, a man named Elbert Anderson bought in Troy a large quantity of beef, and it was inspected by Mr. Wilson. The boxes were directed "E. A., -U. S." The man who did the marking being asked what U. S. stood for, said, "Uncle Sam," and in this way it became the jocular name by which this country is designated.

There is an odd superstition connected with the crossbill, in Thuringia, which makes the woodcutters very careful of the nests. The bird in captivity is subject to many diseases, such as weak eyes, swelled and ulcerated feet, etc., arising probably from the heat and accumulated vapors of the stoveheated rooms where they are kept. The Thuringian mountaineer believes that these wretched birds can take upon themselves any diseases to which he is subject, and always keeps some ed. A small lens is set in a frame at near him. He is satisfied that a bird whose upper mandible bends to the right has the power of transferring colds and rheumatism from man to itself; and if the mandible turn to the left that it can confer the same service on woman.

Wounds of Generals in Action.

A curious article might be written on the immunity from wounds in action of some generals, and the ill fortune of others in becoming the billet for a bullet. No commander a more forward in the fighting line than Sheridan, yet he never got a scratch Skobeleff, who many a time went at it with his own good sword, and in his white coat and on his white charger headed every charge with a recklessness that men called madness, had as complete an immunity as if he carried the charmed life that his soldiers ascribed, and was wounded only in the quiet trenches by a chance bullet fired into the air a mile away. Wellington was but once hit, the bullet that carried away his boot heel scarce gave him Chamberlain again, one of the most distinguished off.cers of our Indian army, the saying goes that he never went into action without receiving a wound, and the gallant old man has been fighting pretty steadily ever since the first Afghan war. Bazaine was a man to whom Fortune was not stingy in the matter of wounds. At Borny there came to him the leaden reminder that he was mortal, though this time it was but a gentle hint. The fragment of a shell hit him on the left shoulder, but it had been well spent, and because of the protection of the epaulette gave him but a contusion, from which he had pain for several

Cleveland, Ohio.

The Daily Anxeiger says: "Chief Superintendent of police, J. W. Schmitt, of this city, who has been in the service a quarter of a century, endorses St. Jacobs Oil as a pain-banisher. It cured him of

They have counted 319 sorts of insects that eat the leaves or bore into the trunks of trees in Central park, New York city.

Oriental shawls were brought into Paris after the return of Bonaparte from Europe in 1801.

sixty years ago in London.

The name "Uncle Sam," as applied

days, especially when on horseback.

THE STARTLING

ravel. "I would rather die," exclaims the patient, "than have such attacks very often," Gravel forms in the system because of the impurities of the blood, and prevails among all classes. It caused the death of Nadeon III. Mr. E. Dowitt Parsons, of 271 Plymouth Ave., Rochester, N.Y., recently had a remarkable exparience with it. He is a well-knit, fine-looking, heartyappearing gentleman. One day he was prestrated with pain from the small of his back to the abdomen. For me time previous his appetite had been flokle, his bowels inactive, and he had felt sore above his hips. After voiding water he had a server pain and grawing sensation. "For some time my disorder mystified me," he said, "but one day I read of a case very like my own in a paper. I wrote the person whose name appeared, and he confirmed it fully. From that little incident I discover id I had stone in the bladder and gravel in the kidneys. I was greatly alarmed then, but the disease has lost its terrors to me now, for I am fully recovered-cured by DR. DAVID KENNE. N. Y.) which I must cordially commend to all person suffering from kidney disorders, pain in back, stone gravel. My wife also regards it as especially excellen for women. Under the effects of this medicins man cases of stone and gravel have been perfectly oval of stone by the knife when size prevented through the natural channels, and he has at a case! and the cause is due to his using never lost a case! and the cause is due to his us FAVORITE REMEDY in the after treatment.

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