

USURIOUS DESPOTISM.

Shylock Methods Employed by Berlin Money Lenders.

Thousands of Prussians Driven to Ruin or Exile Every Year—Marrying for Money the Sole Remedy.

All Berlin sighs under the despotism of usury. The government, or at least the pillars of the government, sigh and suffer the most. For the past six months one huge trial for usury has followed another, and the end is not yet.

The cause is expressed by the untranslatable word "standertruedichten," by which is meant the thousand and one considerations which Germans deem due to their rank or station in life.

While many stove dealers have tin-smiths' plants make their own pipe, very few now manufacture elbows, which they can buy cheaper from the manufacturer.

A "money marriage" is the sole remedy left them to adjust their affairs under normal conditions; but "money marriages," too, are becoming less and less frequent.

Each year scores of cases occur in Berlin of young hopefuls ending their brief butterfly existence by a well-directed bullet; of despairing fathers quitting the service of that state to which they had devoted the best years of their life.

NEW USE FOR BICYCLES.

Discovered in London That a Wheel Will Show Whether a Man is Intoxicated. A new test of inebriation has been discovered by an Englishman, says the New York World.

An interesting question is thus opened, and a question that admits of a good deal of argument. A competent London authority, after due reflection, has declared that if the man drinks steadily and only makes use of straight

liquids, there is no reason why the alcohol should not readily balance him. But if, on the other hand, he mixes his drinks with exasperating carelessness, combining, for example, Scotch ale and Dublin stout with dry champagne and seltzer, there is every reason to fear that the heavy liquors might fly off to one side, leaving the center of gravity upset and tumbling the rider to the ground.

Treating the question seriously, however, the bicycle as a detector of inebriety would seem to be a valuable test. It is hardly likely, however, to be accepted as a conclusive argument in the police courts. In nearly every case that can be imagined the magistrate or the bench would prefer a medical man's testimony.

STOVEPIPE AND ELBOWS.

An Important Feature in the Business of 40,000 Dealers in Stoves in This Country. Tin and sheet iron workers dealing in stoves usually make their own stovepipe, while the bulk of the product of stovepipe manufacturers is sold to dealers in stoves, hardware and house-furnishing goods.

Stovepipe is sold in joints, two feet in length, and in various diameters. In anthracite regions the pipe averages five or six inches in diameter, but in soft coal regions it is mostly seven or eight inches in diameter.

While many stove dealers have tin-smiths' plants make their own pipe, very few now manufacture elbows, which they can buy cheaper from the manufacturer. There are numerous patents on elbows. There are elbows that are made all in one piece, and others are made in sections.

The antiquity of modern inventions has often been the subject of remark by way of commentary upon the old saying that "there is nothing new under the sun." An extreme case is reported by the London News.

SOCIETY'S NEW FAD.

Planting a Little Acorn at a Birth or Marriage. Society has a new English fad, it might be more properly called a suggestion of a fad, for it requires time to become an oak.

Society has a new English fad, it might be more properly called a suggestion of a fad, for it requires time to become an oak. When the duke of York was married a loyal subject planted an acorn. The loyal subject assiduously cultivated the tiny sprig which presently appeared above ground.

The German emperor is ambitious to win success also in amateur theatricals. This is the most difficult undertaking he has yet ventured on, and if he could be assured of absolutely unreserved criticism he might learn that there are meters and bounds beyond which even emperors cannot pass.

PLENTY OF WILD FRUITS.

Nature Has Been Very Generous This Year.

The Abundance of Berries and Nuts, It Is Said, Presages Severe Cold and Lots of Snow the Coming Winter.

If there is anything in the old belief that a season of abundant wild fruits, and especially nuts, presages a cold and snowy winter, we may expect severe weather five, six and seven months hence, says the New York Sun.

Just after the strawberries came the wild blackcap raspberries, abundant and excellent. They were greedily eaten by birds and boys and like wild creatures. Blackberries are still ripening, because their season is longer than that of most other wild fruits.

The nuts promise well, and upon these the weather indication is supposed especially to hang. An abundant nut crop is held to indicate a providential care against snow and cold, for the needs of squirrels and other wild creatures that lay in winter stores.

DEGENERATION IN BOSTON.

Time-Honored Spots Being Ruthlessly Wiped from View. Notwithstanding the sentiment in the commonwealth against the demolition of the state house it will have to go, writes G. W. Wilfred Pearce, of Boston, to the New York Sun.

The process of disfiguring the public garden and the common goes merrily on. The old burying ground on the common, wherein rested the bones of many soldiers of the revolution and John, the inventor of Jellies soap, has been vandalized by the promoters of that queer conception, the subway, in which electric cars running south and west are to go.

Seven peanut and balloon peddlers and two astronomer who used to cater to the wants of Bostonians have shut up shop, owing to the decay of trade on that famous ground. Even well-bred Boston dogs consider it bad form to bathe in the frog pond where the fountain squirrels only on Sunday.

There were two incidents with a moral: A boy was sent to town to sell some potatoes. He returned at night, and threw down the bag and said, surlyly: "Nobody that I met asked me for potatoes. Business must be awful dull!"

M. Trouve, the well-known electrician of Paris, has brought out a tiny telephone no larger than a franc piece, and in conjunction with Rostoff, the "wizard," has applied it to clairvoyance. The telephones attached to the ears of the blindfolded performer are hidden by a wig and connected by fine wires, but invisible, to a transmitter behind the screen.

FREE. The Northern Pacific Farmer, Published at Portland Oregon, now in its twenty-first year, is the best and in fact the only truly weekly agricultural paper published in the Northwest. It is edited by Frank Lee, the granger editor, assisted by scores of correspondents, and contains from 16 to 32 pages weekly, of agricultural, horticultural, stock, poultry, Western market reports, and other items of interest that no one who has any interest in the farm or the Northwest can afford to be without.

How to Prevent Croup. Some reading that will prove interesting to you mothers. How to guard against the disease. Croup is a terror to young mothers and to post them concerning the case, first symptoms and treatment is the object of this item.

American Estates in London. John Chamberlain is to prepare the bill of fare for the Thanksgiving dinner of the American Society in London, and it promises to be as appetizing a meal as ever a table groaned under.

War Inevitable. Congressman S. C. Hyde of Spokane, who takes his seat in Washington in December, in expressing his views on the Venezuelan question and Munroe doctrine, said: "The English nation is our rival."

Hood's Pills cures all liver ills, relieve constipation and assist digestion. 25c.

Over Thirty Years Without Sickness. MR. H. WETTSTEIN, a well-known, enterprising citizen of Byron, Ill., writes: "Before I paid much attention to regulating the bowels, I hardly knew a well day; but since I learned the evil results of constipation, and the efficacy of AYER'S PILLS, I have not had one day's sickness for over thirty years— not one attack that did not readily yield to this remedy."

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Pills, I have not had one day's sickness for over thirty years— not one attack that did not readily yield to this remedy. My wife had been, previous to our marriage, an invalid for years. She had a prejudice against cathartics, but as soon as she began to use Ayer's Pills her health was restored."

AYER'S Cathartic Pills. Model and Diploma at World's Fair. To Restore Strength, take Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Heart is Stronger

Fainting Spells, Neuralgia and Blood Poison

Hood's Sarsaparilla Gives Health and Comfort.

C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.: "Dear Sirs: I saw Hood's Sarsaparilla highly recommended in newspapers. I had neuralgia in my head, back and arms. I also had weak fainting spells and could find nothing to do me any good. After reading the testimonials about the good Hood's Sarsaparilla was doing I decided to give it a trial. I have taken it regularly since early last year and can truthfully say it has perfectly cured me."



Miss Rosa Sheldon, La Center, Wash. I do not suffer now with any breaking out on my head, nor have any fainting spells. The action of my heart has been strengthened and I am free from all pain.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures. Be Sure to Get Hood's. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all liver ills, relieve constipation and assist digestion. 25c. per box. Hood's Pills cure Nausea, Stomachache, Indigestion, Biliousness, 25c. per box.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. Awarded Gold Medal Midwinter Fair, San Francisco.

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