THE TELL-TALE TICK.

I had knocked around in Australia for five years, put in a year's service in India, and had a whack at the Transvaal insurrectionists as a volunteer, only to settle down at last, as a telegraph operator at Rocky Forks, a telegraph station between Omaha and Sioux City. It was my business to transfer messages between the two places, and to connect with points further along.

The next station, fifteen miles further up the road, was Dismal Point, and here Tom Brown, my oldest and truest friend, operated. Tom and I had roughed it all over the world together, and when we settled down here it was to be near each other.

One day Tom telegraphed down to me that he would meet me at Rocky Forks next Tuesday for a day's shooting. He said he would come down on the 5 o'clock train in the morning and wait for me to get off at noon. After that we would go up into the hills and shoot along the points of the ravine.

I liked nothing better than a day's outing with Tom, and I quickly ticked back word that he could rely on me next Tuesday, as that was my day off.

The following day there came a message through Omaha that the United Express would ship $12,000,000 in bullion over the road to Sioux City the next Monday night, and that the train would pass through my station, Rocky Forks, at 8:15 in the evening. I telegraphed back that I understood it, and then I opened up the instrument and asked Tom if he had received his message yet. He said that he had, and would look for the train seventeen minutes earlier at Dismal Point.

That day and the next I passed in my usual way. Sunday was uneventful, and would have seemed long, except for the constant ticking of the instrument, which was kept busy sending messages about the important shipment to be made the next day. Monday evening at 7:30 I looked at my watch. "The train will soon be along," I said. "I guess I will call up Tom, and see if he knows where it is."

"The express train is one station up the road," said he, "and is ahead of time. It will wait here five minutes. I'll let you know as soon as it leaves here. Tomorrow——"

There was a sudden pause in the ticking and then a strange hand sent the message, "That is all."

I called up Tom again, but he did not answer. I kept calling, but no response came, and I thought that the wires had become entangled.

I waited for the express with its $12,000,000 in bullion until 8:15, but it did not arrive. Then I telegraphed up road to Tom, but there was no answer. I waited five minutes longer and telegraphed again, but still no response.

"The wires must be down," I said.

I walked out upon the platform and looked up the road. To my surprise I saw in the distance an engine coming toward me, slowly swinging down the track. As it came nearer I saw it was empty, and as it passed me I boarded it.

Reversing the engine, I started back up the road. I went with such fire as I could get up, back to Dismal Point. Here, in front of the station, stood the express car, rifled of its contents. Across one of the trunks the express messenger lay dead. The engineer and fireman were so badly stunned that at first I thought they, too, were killed, but after some time I brought breath back into the life of the former. He, poor fellow, was too dazed to speak, and I lifted him into the car, thankful that he was alive.

When I stepped into the little station where Tom always sat, an awful sight met my eyes. There sitting at the instrument with his back to the door, was my old friend, a dagger sticking through him, and fairly pinning him to the table. I grasped the wooden handle, and pulled it out with all my strength, only to receive his cold body in my arms.

Well! they never found out the robbers of the train. The engineer had been struck from behind, and could remember nothing; and after waiting only long enough to see my old friend buried, I resigned my position at Rocky Forks, and struck out again. But on Tom's grave, back in the woods at Dismal Point, I put a shaft of wood, and on it I carved these words: "Living, I will pursue you to the end of the world. Dead, I will come back to you."

Below it I put Tom's name and age, and vowed aloud the oath that I had there written, to find the murderer of poor Tom Brown.

Three years later, I found myself stationed at New Elsworth, a suburb of New York. I was in charge of a private wire connecting with the New Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, which communicated with all parts of the world. It was one of the richest organizations of the new world, and I was proud to be an operator in its employ.

My duty here was to transmit the private messages of the company; for here the president had his summer home, and here also were the trustees, and those who manipulated the road.

I never liked the president of the company, though he lived in the handsomest house in the place and treated me with uniform courtesy. He had a cold uncertain manner that did not seem to be worthy of trust. Certainly I should not have put my millions into his hands.

One night, when he did not reach home, his wife came down to the telegraph office and asked me if I had heard from him. I was forced to tell her no. This happened frequently; and one evening, when he had been late and she had made three trips in her carriage to the telegraph office, he said to me: "To-morrow I will have a private wire put in my office in Pine street and when I am detained, I will telegraph you, and you can send a message to my wife."

The next day the wire was put in, but as the president came home promptly that night, it was not used. But on the following day at 5 o'clock I got a telegram from him telling me that he would not be home until 8 o'clock, and ordering me to send word to his wife. I did so by the station messenger.

An hour later there came another message from the president's office. It was that he would be detained still later, and telling me to send word home to that effect.

"Is that all?" I asked.

The message came back in sharp staccato notes:

"That is all." I leaned back in my chair cold and faint, for the hand was the same that had sent me the message on the night poor Tom Brown was killed.

The next day I came to the city on a leave of absence to investigate the life of Anson Tryson, president of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company. I found that three years before he had been a laborer on the Sioux City Railroad, with not a dollar to his name, and that his sudden rise had been the talk of Wall street.

Well, I did not let it drop there, but I hunted down the case until I proved that Anson Tryson, with a gang of accomplices, had robbed the express train that night, and killed my old friend Tom Brown. And one day I took a trip up country to see him swing for it.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

A DAGGER STICKING THROUGH HIM, PINNING HIM TO THE DESK.

Prices Paid Modern Authors.

Rudyard Kipling commands the highest price of any living author, according to the Pall Mall Gazette, which says that it paid $750 for each of his "Barrack-Room Ballads" and that "The Seven Seas" brought him $11,000. He has received 50 cents a word for a 10,000-word story. Anthony Hope charges $450 for a magazine story, reserving the copyright. Mr. Gladstone's price for a review is $1,000. Conan Doyle received $35,000 for "Rodney Stone," Mrs. Humphry Ward $40,000 for "Robert Elsmere," $80,000 each for "David Grieve" and "Marcella," $75,000 for "Sir George Tressady" and $75,000 for "Bessie Costrell." Ian Maclaren has made $35,000 out of "The Bonnie Briar Bush" and "Auld Lang Syne." Rider Haggard still asks from $75 to $100 a column of 1,500 words and will not write for less than $10,000.

The highest price ever paid for a novel is $200,000, which was handed over to Alphonse Daudet for his "Sappho." Zola's first fourteen books netted him $200,000, and in twenty years he has made at least $375,000. Ruskin's sixty-four books bring him in $20,000 a year. Swinburne, who writes very little, makes $5,000 a year by his poems. Browning, in his later years, drew $10,000 a year from the sale of his works, and Tennyson is said to have received $60,000 a year from the Macmillans during the last years of his life. Mr. Moody is believed to have beaten all others, as more than $1,250,000 has been paid in royalties for his hymns.

Two Opinions.

A well-known novelist delivered a lecture recently in a New Jersey town. After the lecture, when the people met, it was the proper thing for one to ask the other:

"Were you at the lecture?" and the answer in every case was: "Oh, yes! I was there, but I didn't hear a word. Did you hear the lecture?"

"Well, no! I was there, but I couldn't hear, either."

A friend, who met the novelist, asked him what kind of audience he had and how he liked the town.

"It's a fine place," was the reply, "and I had the most attentive audience that I have ever spoken to. No one made a sound, and I didn't have to raise my voice above a whisper."

Did you ever notice how bold you are in suggesting what another man should have done under critical circumstances?

The colored girl baby is born to blush unseen.

SAGACIOUS HORSE.

Noble Animal Saved Its Owner from Drowning.

Those who have owned a favorite horse will readily understand the affection which grows between the faithful beast and the master. Tales of the sacrifices made by the intelligent animale to save the master suffering or peril are well authenticated, but it remained for a cayuse of this place to leap into the "Big Muddy" to rescue its master from drowning. The rescue was accomplished not without difficulty and danger to the horse, for the current is very swift and extremely treacherous here.

Billy Collins is the owner of the pony, which he calls Ned. The two have been together from the time several years ago when Ned was a frisky colt, careless of everything but the desire to toss a pair of heels into the air and dash across the commons to the west of the town. Even before the colt was old enough to carry his young master he displayed an evident fondness for him. If Billy called, no matter how wild Ned might be so far as others were concerned, the pony always ran to his master. If Ned neighed Billy flew to his succor. So horse and master became almost bedmates.

The other day Billy decided to go up the river a ways and do some fishing. He took along the usual accoutrements and mounting Ned set his face to the north. There is a fine place for the catching of channel cat up that way and Billy on arriving turned Ned loose to crop the grass while he pushed out a small boat into the stream and anchored it with a big stone. All went well for a time. Billy was landing a fair number of fish and Ned was enjoying unwonted liberty. But the boat tripped its anchor unknown to the boy and began to travel slowly down stream.

Finally the boatman snared a big fish. He tugged mightily and succeeded in bringing his quarry to the upstream side of a snag. Here there was a fight and the boat was overturned and the boy tossed into the wild current. He was in imminent peril, as he could not swim well. But Ned could, he knew, and even as he was clutching at any protruding branch of the snags with which the river is lined he yelled loudly for Ned.

Ned heard the call and galloped to the bank. He seemed to realize the danger of his master and ran down the steep bank and plunged into the water. He swam rapidly out to the drowning boy and seized him by the collar of his coat. Then he headed for the shore, holding his head and his master's well out of the water. He struggled in the swift current bravely, while they drifted down stream. They passed a point in the river and the faithful pony was dragged under the water in the eddies. But he held on tightly and at last, almost exhausted, drew his young master to shallow water. Then he walked a short way and lay down in a foot of water to rest.

Ned is prized by Billy beyond all price. His exploit has been told and the country rings with praises of the ungainly, ugly, but brainy animal.—Kickapoo (Kan.) correspondence of the Chicago Chronicle.

SO PRETTY AND SO MUCH ALIKE

The Day Mrs. Sherman Brought Home the Twins.

An old acquaintance of John Sherman sends the following: As most of us know, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were childless. A time came when, after much consideration and thought, they decided to adopt a child and heir. Mrs. Sherman requested some of her intimate friends to assist in the search of a desirable infant, one honestly and gently born, and without parents to follow on afterward and embarrass. A friend in New York subsequently telegraphed her to come at once and take her choice of two beautiful babies. There was great excitement in the Sherman home pending Mrs. Sherman's trip to New York after the baby. On the next day she telegraphed to her husband: "Will be home this afternoon. Send carriage to the depot." The carriage went, and the Senator remained at home, walking the floor, looking at his watch, watching each carriage as it came in sight.

The train was a little late. He was becoming nervously anxious. Finally the carriage hove in sight; he marched out to meet it at the curb, threw open the door. There was Mrs. Sherman and a nurse, each stepping out with a baby in arms. Such an expression as came over that stern Sherman face was never seen before. It could not be described. He was at a loss for words for a minute or two and finally was able to stammer:

"Wife, what does this mean?" She replied: "Husband, they were so pretty and so much alike that I could not make a choice and so I selected both." They were twin girl babies. For the next few days it was a show to watch Mr. Sherman as he enjoyed and caressed the newcomers.

One of the twins sickened and died within a few weeks and the other is now "his daughter," Mrs. McCullom.

Sells Rum to the Heathen.

The recent voyage of a certain brig from Boston to the gold coast of Africa, as described for publication by her captain, is interesting reading. It will doubtless interest the temperance and missionary societies to know that the brig left Boston laden with 170 hogs heads of rum for the little-known gold coast. Although she took some other articles, most of the profits of the voyage were to come from the rum. So utterly primeval is this isolated part of the African coast that the cargo had to be landed through the surf from the vessel. Through some remarkable aboriginal instinct the natives scented the cargo almost before the brig was in sight, and as soon as she was at anchor dived through the waves like hungry sharks.

Among the interesting facts about the African natives related by the captain is that since there are no beasts of burden and no conveyances on the gold coast the barrels of rum are rolled inland by hand, so that liquor has thus been rolled hundreds of miles into the country. It is further related that the natives have become so infatuated with rum carried from various countries to their coast that a vessel which proposes to have cargo landed must carry it as currency, or no business can be done. Gold is a depreciated currency as against rum on the lonely coast. The wonderful 4,000-mile voyage of this brig to the gold coast with 170 hogsheads of New England rum offers some most interesting suggestions for missionaries and temperance reformers to ponder.—Boston Globe.

There is no fixed rule in life for the benefit of mankind. Samson got into trouble because he had his hair cut, and Absalom got into trouble because he didn't.

People make the mistake of trying to solve the troubles of each other, instead of every individual looking after his own.

GOOD ROADS

Highways.

In building a highway the first and most important consideration is that of drainage, for if this is not good the base of the pavement will begin to yield, and yielding of the base means the destruction of the pavement. If the soil is soft and wet a very good foundation may be made of moderately large stones welded tightly together. They keep their position well, and at the same time allow for drainage. Where there is a clay soil it is well to excavate about six inches of it and fill in with sand or gravel. This allows the water to flow off instead of remaining on the clay and developing soft spots. After taking ample precautions for the drainage, the bed should be brought to the proper grade before the road material is placed upon it. For the road material it is sometimes well to begin with a layer of two or three inches of sand. This should be rolled. Aside from the matter of drainage, it affords a sort of cushion for the pavement.

The best, and in the end the most economical material for a highway, is that of macadam construction. This consists of broken stone from two to three inches in largest dimension, which is put on the road in layers about two inches thick. Each layer is rolled and the interstices filled with smaller pieces of broken stone or gravel before the next layer is placed. This broken stone should be from six to ten inches in thickness, depending upon the amount of traffic on the road. If the foundation is good such a road will require but few repairs for many years to come, or until it is practically worn out. The addition of a layer of broken stone will make it as good as new. If this road is considered too expensive a very good roadbed may be made of a mixture of loam and clay. This should also be thoroughly compacted by rolling before traffic is allowed upon it.

These are but two of the various kinds of road materials. They are both good, but they cannot always be recommended. The selection of a road material is a matter which depends largely on local conditions, and no fixed rules can be applied. The judgment of a competent engineer should be sought in order to determine the best and cheapest material for a certain locality. —Edwin M. Grimes, in Farm, Stock and Home.

Cost of Bad Roads.

According to statistics collected by the office of road inquiry of the Department of Agriculture, the amount of loss each year by the bad roads of the country is almost beyond belief.

Some 10,000 letters of inquiry were sent to intelligent and reliable farmers throughout the country, and returns were obtained from about 1,200 counties, giving the average length of haul in miles from farms to markets and shipping points, the average weight of load hauled and the average length per ton for the whole length of the haul.

Summarized, it appears that the general average length of haul is twelve miles, the weight of load for two horses 2,000 pounds, and the average cost per ton per mile 25 cents, or $3 for the entire load.

Allowing conservative estimates for tonnage of all kinds carried over public roads, the aggregate expense of this transportation is figured at $946,414,000 per annum. Those in a position to judge calculate that two-thirds, or nearly $631,000,000, could be saved if the roads were in reasonably good condition. At $4,000 per mile a very good road can be constructed, and if any amount equaling the savings of one year were applied to improving highways, 157,000 miles of road in this country could be put in condition.

The effect of this would be a permanent improvement, and an exchange says not only would the farmer be astonished in the sudden reduction in his road tax, but he would also wonder at the remarkable falling off in cost of transportation. He would also find that he required fewer horses and less feed for them. He could make two trips to market a day instead of one, when ability to get his goods there at a time when high prices are ruling is a matter of great consequence.

Farmers are beginning to apply a little simple arithmetic to some of these matters, and it is not too much to expect that in the near future we shall see a decided revolution in the condition of our rural highways.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Acute Hearing.

With some fortunate persons the perception of sound is wonderfully keen. An able violinist went to fill an engagement in a strange city, and engaged apartments in a street where all the houses were built according to one pattern. Returning to his rooms late one night, and having entirely forgotten the number of the house, he was at loss to find his lodgings, until a musical expedient occurred to him. He imagined that he should be able to distinguish the sound of his landlady's street door bell, and so he deliberately went along the street, ringing each bell, till he arrived at one of a certain tone, which he at once recognized as the right one, and on hearing which he waited until he was admitted. This nicety of ear is not confined to musicians. An English lieutenant, on leave of absence from his regiment, spent a night at one of the hotels of Manchester. The following morning, as he was sitting at breakfast, a band of street musicians came past, and in one of the instruments he thought he recognized the peculiar style of the playing of a man who had performed on that instrument in the band of his regiment, but who had deserted. The officer immediately ran downstairs, found his surmise correct, and, greatly to the deserter's astonishment, caused him to be at once arrested.

Electrified Rain in Spain.

Maurice Despres, an electrical engineer of Cordova, Spain, reports a remarkable shower of electrified rain which he recently witnessed. The day had been warm and windless, and about 5 in the evening the sun was overcast with dense clouds, lowering to the horizon. Soon after dark there was a flash of lightning, and two minutes later great drops of rain fell, which cracked faintly on touching the ground. From each of them sparks darted toward the walls, trees and soil they fell upon. The phenomenon lasted several seconds, and apparently ceased when the air between cloud and earth became saturated with moisture.

A small boy always feels smart when he wears a mustard plaster for the first time.

Some folks enjoy nothing so much as going around talking suspiciously about their neighbors.

How Are You This Spring?

Tired, nervous?
Can't get rested?
Tortured with boils, humors?
That is not strange. Impurities have been accumulating in your blood during winter and it has become impoverished. This is the experience of most people. Therefore they take Hood's Sarsaparilla to purify their blood in spring.

I. M. White, Salem, Or., says: "The members of our family have derived much benefit from the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. My father was severely troubled with humor, but it readily yielded to Hood's Sarsaparilla."

Thomas A. Coleman, Davidson, Or.: "Four or five years ago I had sores on my feet so that I was unable to wear shoes. I saw Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised to cure scrofula, and I procured two bottles. By the time I had taken them my feet were well."

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is America's Greatest Medicine. Sold by all druggists, $1; six for $5. Be sure to get Hood's.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

Swallowing His Words.

"While I was at Moscow," writes a traveler, whose words are reproduced by the Detroit Free Press, "a volume was published in favor of the liberty of people. In this book the iniquitous conduct of the public functionaries, and even of the sovereign, were censured severely. The book created indignation, and the offender was at once taken into custody. After being tried in a summary way, he was condemned to eat his own words. A scaffold was erected in a public square, the imperial provost, the magistrates and the physicians of the czar attending, the book was separated from the binding, and the margin cut off. The author was then served, leaf by leaf, by the provost, and was obliged to swallow this unpalatable stuff on pain of the knout, more feared in Russia than death. As soon as the medical gentlemen were of the opinion that he had eaten as much as he could with safety, the transgressor was returned to prison. This punishment was renewed the following days, until after several hearty meals, every leaf of the book was actually swallowed."

IT WILL PAY.

It will pay to carefully read the descriptive advertisement of Alabastine appearing in this paper, explaining the difference between those goods and kalsomines.

Consumers should bear in mind that Alabastine is unlike all the various kalsomines sold on the market under different names. Alabastine stands pre-eminent and alone as a durable wall coating, and all consumers in buying should see that the goods are in packages and properly labeled.

Captain Cuttle in Safety.

Many are the prayers that are breathed for those that have gone forth to brave the dangers of the open ocean, remarks a writer in The Illustrated American, yet catastrophes on record have occurred in still water within sight, almost within touch of land. The Episcopal prayer book contains a formula of praver for those at sea, which may perhaps include those that are upon the waters of rivers or anchored in harbors. The horrors that have occurred within close range of land make more grewsome than humorous the remark of Captain Cuttle, who, when in a stress of weather, under close-reefed foresails, with the hatches battered down, used to retire to his cabin and murmur as he sipped his grog, "God help the poor creatures on shore tonight!"

HOME PRODUCTS AND PURE FOOD.

All Eastern Syrup, so-called, usually very light colored and of heavy body, is made from glucose. *"Tea Garden Drips"* is made from Sugar Cane and is strictly pure. It is for sale by first-class grocers, in cans only. Manufactured by the PACIFIC COAST SYRUP CO. All genuine *"Tea Garden Drips"* have the manufacturer's name lithographed on every can.

King is the most ancient of titles. It, or its equivalent, is found in every known language.

I believe my prompt use of Piso's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kans., Dec. 12, '95.

Pictures can be adjusted at any height by a new device consisting of a rod with a flat hook at the upper end to fasten it on the molding and a series of ratchet teeth on the back side of the rod, with a sliding member to engage the teeth and support the picture.

Grease can be easily removed from a new sink trap which has an interior section fitting tightly in the trap which can be lifted out when the cap is removed, conveying the grease and dirt with it.

A Bicycle Coincidence.

A remarkable coincidence has just happened at Portsmouth, England, which is thus recorded by The Westminster Gazette: A local doctor, visiting a colleague at his surgery three miles off, left his bicycle resting against the curb outside. When his call was ended, the bicycle was missing, and he communicated with the police, afterward returning home. An hour or two later a constable on duty in the neighborhood of this doctor's surgery saw a cyclist fall from the machine he was riding, which had skidded on the tramlines. The man, a young gunner in the Royal Artillery, was found to be seriously hurt, and was taken to the surgery for medical treatment. The doctor recommended the man's removal to the hospital, his leg being fractured. As he was being taken away the doctor looked at the bicycle, and found that it was his own! The police are now investigating the affair.

SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES.

Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen smarting feet and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight-fitting or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for chilblains, sweating, damp, callous and hot, tired aching feet. We have over 10,000 testimonials of cures. Try it today. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25c. in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

The largest hotel in the world is the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York city, a $10,000,000 establishment, built by millionaires for millionaires.

Work in the Patent Office.

In 1897 there were received 45,661 applications for patents, and in addition a large number of applications for designs, trade-marks, etc. Patents granted numbered 23,729, including designs; 65 patents were reissued, 1,671 trade-marks registered and 14 labels and 16 prints. The number of patents that expired was 12,926. The total expenditures, $1,22,843; the receipts over expenditures, $252,798. The total balance to the credit of the patent office in the treasury of the United States January 1, 1898, was $4,970,438.

In proportion to population more patents were issued to citizens of Connecticut than to those of any other state —one to every 786 inhabitants. Next in order are the following: Massachusetts, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York.

To residents of England 706 patents were issued; to residents of Germany, 551; Canada, 286, and France, 22.

The number of applications received for examination during the year was greater than for any other in the history of the office. Applications awaiting action December 28 last numbered 11,382, due to the inadequacy of the office force. For the 10 years beginning in 1840 the average number of application was 1,186, and for the eight years beginning with 1890 it has grown to 41,479 per year.

THAT SETTLES IT.

With the bloom and beauty of the season, its balmy airs and delightful temperature, we feel like living with new life, and are therefore often very careless in taking care of ourselves. It is this forgetfulness that lays us liable to attacks of rheumatism, the more liable because we think there is little danger of its coming on, but rheumatism is an easy thing to take and sometimes a hard thing to get rid of unless we take the advice of others and learn that the best way possible is to use St. Jacob's Oil. It has been used so long as a sure cure that this advice is given in good faith from the testimony of thousands.

If an Egyptian dies before noon the funeral must take place the same day. If death occurs after noon the funeral may not be delayed after the next day.

ABOUT CHANGE OF LIFE.

"I suffered for eight years, and could find no permanent relief until one year ago. My trouble was Change of Life. I tried Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and relief came almost immediately. I have taken two bottles of the Vegetable Compound, three boxes of Pills, and have also used the Sanative Wash, and must say I have never had anything help so much. I have better health than I ever had in my life. I feel like a new person, perfectly strong. I give the Compound all the credit. I have recommended it to several of my friends who are using it with like results. It has cured me of several female diseases. I would not do without Mrs. Pinkham's remedies for anything. There is no need of so much female suffering. Her remedies are a sure cure."—MRS. ELLA KRINER, Knightstown, Henry Co., Ind.

By the way, the leading druggists tell us that the demand for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is simply beyond their power of understanding; and, what is best of all; it does the work promptly and well.

There died recently in the village of Mauvages, Alsace, a man by the name of Becu, who is the last of the family from which Mme. du Barry sprang. Her real name was Becu, and she was born in Vaucouleurs, a short distance from Mauvages.

A Frenchman has discovred that "the poison of the hornet renders one immune to that of the viper." People, however, will be slow to accept the conclusion that the hornet sting offers any particular advantages over other more agreeable and time-honored remedies for snake bites.

It is said that one person in 800 is blind to the X rays: that is, when looking through the fluoroscope they cannot see the bones of the hand, coins in a book, etc. This is no doubt analogous to color blindness.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark.

I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look Carefully at the wrapper and see that it is *the kind you have always bought*, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M.D.

One Great Bonanza.

The value of the metal production in the United States during the past year is estimated at over $762,000,000. This production, says The Engineering and Mining Journal, not only emphasizes the great total value, but also the immense variety of the mineral production of the United States. Not only is this country the largest producer of iron and steel, copper, lead and silver and of gold, but almost every mineral and metal known to commerce is found within our borders and mined or prepared in some quantity.

Sheepskins Made Into Velvet.

M. Puech, of Mazamet, France, is the inventor of an interesting method, by means of which the wool on sheepskins can be converted into velvet. Up to this time sheepskins with the wool on them have only been used for rugs, carpets or the lining of clothing, and the wool has been left in the curled or combed state. Seeing that the natural disposition of the innumerable fibres is perfectly regular, and suited to velvetization, the inventor conceived the idea of removing all the impurities from the skin and adjusting them in such a way that the hairs would not tangle or mat.

Ask Your Doctor

what effect alum has upon the stomach. Then make up your mind whether you will put any more low-price baking powder into your husband's or children's food.

Schilling's Best is pure cream of tartar and soda. Nothing else. 604

Want to Feel What They Are Eating.

The inhabitants of Sikas, Turkey, owing to the oppression of the tax gatherer, who, the more industrious he finds them the more he demands, and that out of proportion to the means, have no ambition to lead other than a hand-to-mouth existence. Their principal food is made from unsifted whole wheat, that has been threshed on the ground by means of a drag drawn repeatedly over it by oxen, and usually has a large admixture of dirt and stones. The people prefer this to fine grade flour, because they say they can feel they are eating something.

GREAT BENEVOLENCES.

In the great cities of the United States the condition of the metropolitan poor is constantly being ameliorated by the grand benevolences of wealthy people. Sanitary reforms are frequently suggested and carried out with earnestness and intelligence. Among sanitary reforms those produced by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in dyspeptic stomach, disordered liver, bowels or nervous system are very conspicuous.

George Sewell Boutwell, the youngest man ever elected governor of Massachusetts, and now the oldest of her ex-governors, has just celebrated his 80th birthday. It is 47 years since he was chosen governor.

Honoring a Dead Cat.

The most novel incident that ever occurred here was the funeral of Old Bill, the favorite old cat of the town, says a correspondent of the New York World, writing from College Corner, O. A pretty casket, covered with black cloth and lined with blue sateen, and having the usual outside trimmings, with a large name-plate, inscribed "Old Bill," was made, and the old pet laid in state in his last nest. He was the property of Barkley, the druggist, and the pet of the entire inhabitants. At the drug store, where he lay in state, hundreds of people viewed the remains, and many brought flowers as a last token of their friendship. The body was taken in a carriage by the immediate friends to the grave in the rear of Barkley's residence lot, where it was buried with more care and solemnity than many humans receive.

The Sadbury river aqueduct in 359 days, has delivered 15,857,300,000 gallons to Chestnut Hill reservoir, and 35,500,000 to Lake Cochituate.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.

We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the past 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

An Oregon inventor has devised a steam plow which he thinks capable of plowing 15 acres a day.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE $2.00** trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 930 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Waterloo, Ia., has a church for which one glacial boulder furnished practically all the material.

After being swindled by all others, send us stamp for particulars of King Solomon's Treasure, the ONLY renewer of manly strength. MASON CHEMICAL CO., P. O. Box 747, Philadelphia, Pa.

Use Dr. Pfunder's Oregon Blood Purifier now.

The law which at present governs the practice of law in France forbids the simultaneous practice of medicine and pharmacy, even by a person who may be in possession of diplomas in both subjects.

They Rejected Money.

In this country and in the civilized world generally we are so accustomed to the circulation of coins that we are apt to forget that there are millions of human beings who know nothing whatever of coins, and conduct their transactions by means of cowries, brass rods, pieces of cotton or cloth and divers other articles. On the West coast of Africa brass and copper rods are in vogue, and form an important article of commerce from the Birmingham district of England. Recently an effort has been made to displace this form of currency by forcing the natives to use silver coins, but without success.

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25 CTS. PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS.

The Prince of Wales is about to be elected grand master of the English Free Masons for the 24th time. This breaks the record of his predecessor, George IV.

Hugh and Hector McLean are 88 years of age, are twins, were born in North Carolina, have lived in the house in which they were born all their lives and have never had a quarrel.

Heidelberg chemical students are compelled to take accident insurance policies ranging in cost from 2½ cents for the onlookers to 75 cents for the experimenters.

In the spring cleanse your system by using Dr. Pfunder's Oregon Blood Purifier.

The oldest living clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Edward Allen, of Tiverton, Devon, recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Improved Plumb-Bob.

In a new plumb-bob the center is hollow and contains a horizontal shaft carrying a spring drum on which the cord is wound, with a central hole in the top for its passage in unwinding.

To prevent the covers of dinner pails coming loose the ends of the pail are bent to spring toward the center when the cover is in place, thus locking over the rim and making it impossible to remove the cover until they are drawn outward.

Good Health

Is the working capital of humanity. He who loses that is wrecked indeed. Is your health failing you, your ambition, vigor, vitality wasting away? When others fail consult

DOCTOR RATCLIFFE

For the speedy, safe and permanent cure of all **Nervous, Chronic and Special** diseases, even in their most aggravated forms. There is no man in the world who has effected so many permanent cures in both Men and Women of troubles which other physicians of acknowledged ability had given up as hopeless as this eminent specialist.

NERVOUS DEBILITY and all its attending ailments, of YOUNG, MIDDLE-AGED and OLD MEN. The awful effects of neglected or improperly treated cases, causing drains, weakness of body and brain, dizziness, failing memory, lack of energy and confidence, pains in back, loins and kidneys, and many other distressing symptoms, unfitting one for study, business or enjoyment of life. Dr Ratcliffe can cure you, no matter who or what has failed.

WEAK MEN. He restores lost vigor and vitality to weak men. Organs of the body which have been weakened through disease, overwork, excesses or indiscretions are restored to full power, strength and vigor through his own successful system of treatment.

VARICOCELE, hydrocele, swelling and tenderness of the glands treated with unfailing success.

SPECIAL DISEASES, inflammation, discharges, etc., which, if neglected or improperly treated, break down the system, cause kidney and bladder diseases, etc.

DISEASES OF WOMEN. Prompt and especial attention given to all their many ailments.

WRITE if you are aware of any trouble. DO NOT DELAY. Call on Dr. Ratcliffe today. If you cannot call, write him. His valuable book free to all sufferers. CONSULTATION FREE and confidential at office or by letter.

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Moore's Revealed Remedy will do it. Three doses will make you feel better. Get it from your druggist or any wholesale drug house, or from Stewart & Holmes Drug Co., Seattle.

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N. P. N. U. No. 15, '98.

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ALABASTINE

ALABASTINE IS WHAT?

Alabastine is a durable and natural coating for walls and ceilings entirely different from all kalsomine preparations, made ready for use in white or twelve beautiful tints by the simple addition of water (latest make being adapted to mix with cold water) put up in dry powder form, in 5 pound packages, with full directions on every package.

WHAT ARE KALSOMINES?

Kalsomines are cheap temporary preparations manufactured from chalks, clays, whiting, etc., are stuck on the wall with decaying animal glue. Alabastine is a cement, which goes through a process of setting, hardens with age, can be re-coated and re-decorated from time to time without having to wash and scrape off its old coats before renewing.

MUCH SICKNESS

Particularly throat and lung difficulties, wrongly attributed to other causes, is the result of unsanitary conditions of walls and ceilings. Think of having bedrooms covered with layers of molding flour paste to feed vermin, with paper to hide them and absorb the mo