

OPENING UP AFRICA.

PROPOSED RAILWAY LINES BEING SURVEYED.

Extend from the Congo to the Central African Lakes, Traversing Almost Impenetrable Forests—Dauntless Vigor of Belgian Enterprise.

When we hear that two railroad routes are surveying through the dense forest of equatorial Africa in regions that have never been penetrated by white men except when Emin Pasha pushed through them, just before he was murdered, it is easy to see that great changes are occurring in Africa. A while ago men were exploring the land merely to improve the maps and see if the country was worth anything. Now they are entering new regions with the sole purpose of making preliminary surveys for railroads. Business, and not research, is giving impetus to their efforts.

The Congo State has decided to have outlets to the Indian Ocean and the Nile, as well as to the Atlantic. It also desires to tap the great central lake region and make a highway for some of its commerce to the west and down the Congo. There is another potent reason for building the proposed railroads. Beyond Stanley Falls the Congo affluents are so cut up by rapids that they can not be used as routes to connect the provinces of the eastern frontier of the states and the great lakes with the railroad and river route below the falls. So railroads are essential to unite the eastern and western provinces.

A party of six engineers headed by Mr. Adam, formerly at the head of the engineer corps of the Congo Railroad Company, have begun the survey for the railroads. The station at Stanley Falls is the point of departure. There will be only one road for several hundred miles east of Stanley Falls. Then there will be a bifurcation, one line running to the northeast to some station near the south end of Albert Nyanza, where it will be at the head of navigation in the Nile Valley. The other road will turn to the south and terminate at the north end of Lake Tanganyika, where steamers will connect it with the south end and with the Stephenson wagon road between Lakes Tanganyika and Nyassa, which was put into good condition last year. Of course, when Cecil Rhodes gets his transcontinental railroad up into the lake regions it will form a junction with both these lines.

It is known that for a good deal of the way these roads will traverse densely wooded country, just like the terrible forests through which Stanley passed on his way to the relief of Emin. The difficulties of building the roads are expected to be very trying, but Belgian enterprise has carried other formidable undertakings in equatorial Africa to success, and it is fully expected in Belgium that the building of these roads will begin as soon as the preliminary surveys have been completed.

The success of the Congo Railroad, which has been opened just a year, and is already earning good dividends, has made African enterprise very popular in Belgium. In the month of May its receipts for freight and passengers were \$232,000, and in the first eleven months of its operation its gross earnings were \$1,000,138.—New York Sun.

SYSTEM OF STREET SIGNALING.

The Very Latest Discovery in Wireless Communication.

In the bustle and noise of our large cities it is never an easy matter, and sometimes it is quite impossible, to make a remark to a friend one meets in the streets. Besides, when your acquaintances are numerous, a lot of valuable time is wasted saying in many words what might readily be conveyed by a single gesture.

There is a language of flowers, a language of postage stamps, of fans, of handkerchiefs and the like. But, says the Chronicle, it has occurred to an inventor that dwells in Chicago that Chingans are very much in want of a system of signals to express the things men commonly say to each other when they meet in the streets.

This system has many advantages. Like wireless telegraphy, it can be used from a passing car to a man on the sidewalk. You can stand on Rush street bridge and ask a friend in a river steamer to lend you a five. From the parquette of a theater you can invite an acquaintance in the gallery to dine with you on the following evening. You can converse from one side of the street to the other. You can say good morning without taking your pipe or cigarette out of your mouth. You can talk in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindustani, Yiddish—in fact, in every language of the globe. If you happen to forget a man's name no awkwardness will arise. And the saving of time will be immense.

The key to the new system is as follows: First finger to temple—Good morning. Second finger to temple—How are they coming? Third finger to temple—Hello, old chap! Fourth finger to temple—Cold, isn't it? Thumb to temple—Windy. Finger to chin—Can you lend me a V? Finger to cheek—Will you dine with me to-morrow?

A Rise in Life. Cassidy—in this blessed country of ours a man can come up from nothing! Just look at our Major!

Cassidy—He did! He hasn't got a drop of Irish blood in his veins!—Puck.

BOER MILITARY TYPES.



THE Boers have no regular army, with the exception of a small force of artillery known as the State Artillery. This force, until after the Jameson raid, consisted of 32 officers, 70 non-commissioned officers and 280 men, and a telegraph corps of one officer and fifteen men. On Jan. 13, 1894, the Volksraad authorized the Government to increase the corps by enrolling another 400 men. In the event of war, however, all citizens capable of bearing arms, between the ages of sixteen and sixty, are liable to be called upon for military service, and, so, too, are all the "backs" living in the Transvaal. In the war against England in 1881, the Boers put some 6,000 men into the field, but this number does not, of course, represent the total available force at the disposal of the Transvaal Government. According to the census taken in 1894, some 22,300 men are liable for service in the time of war. And these might be joined by Boers from Cape Colony, Natal and the Orange Free State. Every citizen liable for service must, when summoned to do so, present himself at the place to which he is ordered, with a horse, a rifle and a hundred rounds of ammunition. The State Artillery was originally organized by an Austrian, and the caps of the regiment are to this day of the Austrian pattern. The officers are for the most part members of the wealthy Transvaal families. The guns are drawn by mules, which are driven in the manner customary in South Africa—that is to say, two men sit on the limber box, one to drive and the other to use a long bamboo-handled whip. The gunners, it should be stated, are all mounted. Besides the State Artillery, which represents the regular army, there are three foot and six mounted volunteer corps in the Transvaal. These corps furnish some 2,000 men, who are for the most part drawn from officials and people employed by the Government, and consist of men of various nationalities. The Pretoria Cavalry, which is the smartest of these corps, is composed entirely of officials and sons of well-to-do Boers. The Volunteer Corps are not intended to take the field against a European power, but to garrison towns.

QUEER CANADIAN INDIANS.

The Kwakiutis of British Columbia—Their Fast-Deforming Customs.

Most people probably imagine that the North-American Indian of to-day—what there is left of him—is a fairly civilized being in his general mode of life; that though he may not take with any special kindness to the plough and the pruning hook he is at least no longer wilds the scalping knife or warps idols. The researches of Dr. Franz Boas, under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History, among the Kwakiutis, of British Columbia, however, as published in the reports of that body, contain some reading matter that will be surprising to many.

The Kwakiutis belong chiefly between Rivers Inlet and Cape Mudge, in British Columbia. They are a tribe of light-colored Indians, whose faces and expressions readily recall those of the lower class Japanese and Koreans across the Pacific. They differ from the other Coast Indians by having very high-bridged, often hooked, noses, and very long faces. The shape of their heads is artificial. Like the Flatheads and some tribes in Mexico and South America, they deform the head in infancy, so that the upper forehead, which we consider a sign of intellect, is depressed perhaps in order to obtain an approach to the skull of a bear or bird. What the object of this intentional malformation is forms one of those problems that appeal to the imagination of the archaeologist. A collector of antiquities in Mexico has made a specialty of these deformed skulls, and is said to argue that they are attempts to produce a head like some four-footed beast, the coyote or raccoon, for which the ancestors of the tribes in question had a special reverence, perhaps in the nature of totem worship.

The Kwakiutis and other tribes of the northwest coast are tremendous steklers for family pedigree, and some of them hang their coats of arms or the insignia of their ancestry on the outer wall in a way that seems to obtain no



KWAKIUTI INDIANS.

where else is quite so spectacular a fashion. The ancestor is represented by his totem, while other beasts, monsters, and figures represent the tribe, and hence arises a chain of totems to represent the family tree. The illustrations give a totem pole in place before Indian houses at Rivers Inlet, British Columbia. They are carved from the trunk of a tree, elaborately painted, and set up in proof of the standing of the chief who owns them. What is very odd, and certainly not without analogies in European heraldry, a chief can buy the right to use a totem from another tribe, and also the patent to sing certain songs belonging to that tribe. The seller may never use totem or song again. If he does, that constitutes a grievance which is apt to result in bloodshed.

What is chiefly notable in these representations of demons, men, monsters and birds, beasts, and fish is the pronounced taste for a conventional image. These Northwest Indians are perfectly capable of imitating creatures exactly with the means at their command, wood of various colors, bark, grasses, seaweed, furs, and feathers; but from this they carefully abstain in their carved work.

The earliest travelers who describe their dances mention the exactness with which they imitated birds and beasts, having dressed for the part. Thus they appear as crows and imitate the gait and other movements of the bird exactly; and so of wolves and bears. But when it comes to carvings for permanent embellishment of the house like the totem-posts, or for occasional use in dances and other rites like the complicated masks representing details of the air, earth, and ocean, only the strongest characteristic of each is seized. The long bill of raven or heron, the eagle and owl, with their curve beaks, are recognizable at once. But the bear is changed from its nat-

ural look, the wolf's jaws are tremendously lengthened, while creatures like the thrasher shark or "killer whale" and giant squid have still greater liberties taken with them.

What is often a very disgusting ceremony is the initiation of a new member into a cannibal society. The novice returns emaciated and in a state of frantic ecstasy from the woods, bringing pieces of old corpses, skulls, or bones, which he chews in order to strike awe into the hearts of the spectators. The purpose seems to be to frighten the unsophisticated by showing a daring in the handling of disgusting objects which proves the super-

Home-Loving Sovereigns. The three most powerful sovereigns in Europe are all conspicuous for their love of domestic life. These are Queen Victoria, the Czar and the German Emperor.

The Queen has been a devoted wife and mother. The happiness of her children and grandchildren concerns her more deeply than the routine of public business or the issues of foreign diplomacy. Her ministers are allowed to govern her empire, but she is the head of the royal family, and rules her children and grandchildren by love, but with absolute authority.

The Czar dislikes military pomp and court functions, and is only at ease and happy in the retirement of his own home with his wife, to whom he is devotedly attached. The German Emperor is a hard worker, and is intensely interested in foreign diplomacy and public business; but he is also an affectionate husband and father, takes a deep interest in the training and education of his children, and is a home-loving sovereign.

The examples of these three powerful rulers are of great value. They set the style of domestic life in three empires, and it is the good old fashion of love and peace in the home.

Applause by Machinery. A Vienna journal describes a curious contrivance which will render the "claque" in theaters superfluous, and substitute for it a machine performing the same duties. The inventor, Herr Zimmerman, has ascertained that two leather sacks filled with air, when brought violently together, make a noise precisely like that produced by the clapping of hands. He placed pairs of leather sacks in hidden places throughout a theater, and then connected them by wires with the wings, so that they could be set in motion by electricity on a button being pressed. The register in the wings controls the apparatus in all parts of the house, and can produce applause from the gallery, the pit, or the stalls at will. Herr Zimmerman claims that this invention is now in use in several theaters in Paris and Berlin.

Cody Called for a Cat. Col. Cody, the eminent scout, helped to build a church at North Platte, and was persuaded by his wife and daughter to accompany them to the opening. The minister gave out the hymn, which commenced with the words: "Oh, for ten thousand tongues to sing." etc. The organist, who played by ear, started the tune in too high a key and had to try again. A second attempt ended like the first in failure. "Oh, for ten thousand tongues to sing my great—" came the opening words for the third time, followed by a squeak from the organ and a relapse into painful silence. Cody could contain himself no longer, and blurted out: "Start it at five thousand, and maybe some of the rest of us can get in."—San Francisco Wave.

ORIGIN OF LABOR DAY.

A Holiday Now Observed Generally in All but Nine States.

Labor day is almost generally observed in America, being celebrated in all of the States except Arkansas, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, North Carolina, Nevada and Vermont, and even in these States there are certain cities that observe it.

The origin of Labor day dates back seventeen years ago, when, on Sept. 5, 1882, the General Assembly of the Order of the Knights of Labor convened in New York City. The various labor organizations of the city and vicinity paraded that day and afterward held a picnic, at which addresses were delivered. The Knights of Labor of New York were not working openly at that time, the name of the order was kept secret, and such public expressions of the sentiments of the members as went out to the world went under other names than those selected to designate the local assemblies. Under different names the local assemblies were represented in the Central Labor Union, and the coming of the General Assembly to New York was a subject for discussion at several meetings previous to the opening of the convention.

When the General Assembly was opened, on Sept. 5, a communication was read from the secretary of the New York Central Labor Union, Matthew Maguire, inviting the members of that body to review the great parade from the grand stand at Union Square. A recess was taken in order to comply with the request of the Central Labor Union, and the members of the General Assembly witnessed the first Labor day parade.

During the time that the various organizations were passing the grand stand at Union Square Robert Price, of Lonaconing, Md., turned to the general working foreman of the Knights of Labor, Richard Griffiths, and said: "This is Labor day in earnest, Uncle Dick."

Whether that was the first time the term had been used is not known, but the event was afterward referred to as the Labor day parade. In 1888 the organizations of New York paraded on the first Monday in September. When in 1894 the Central Labor Union of New York had the question of parading up for discussion, George K. Lloyd, a Knight of Labor, offered a resolution declaring the first Monday in September to be Labor day. The resolution was adopted and steps were at once

taken to have the Legislature enact a law making the first Monday in September a legal holiday, to be known as Labor day. The agitation rapidly extended to other States, with the result that Congress eventually made the day into a national holiday.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Home-Loving Sovereigns. The three most powerful sovereigns in Europe are all conspicuous for their love of domestic life. These are Queen Victoria, the Czar and the German Emperor.

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A girl's idea of taking care of her brothers is to tell on them whenever they do anything a girl wouldn't do.

LIVING IN THE KLONDIKE.

Some of the Methods by Which Life Is Sustained There.

One of the pioneer gold seekers Dr. Sweeney was fortunate in meeting was George W. Carmack, the discoverer of the Klondike, and from him gathered much interesting information concerning the habits of the Indian tribes on the Yukon and the white men who long before the discovery of the treasure hidden beneath the frozen mines and gravel of the Klondike Valley, lived with them and shared the hardships of their daily life.

"Some of the things that Carmack told me," said Dr. Sweeney to a Seattle Post reporter, "were entirely new to me and all very interesting. One of the things I have always been anxious to know was how white men lived who hunted and trapped along the Yukon in the days when it was thousands of miles to the trading posts and civilization. Carmack explained to me:

"We were compelled," he said, "to do just as the Indians did. In the summer time, besides game and fish, we ate berries, for Alaska is the home of all sorts of berries, and besides these we obtained other substitutes for the vegetables of civilization. The principal of these were grass roots, certain small bulbs or tubers and the inside bark of winter trees.

"In the winter we ate fish, meat and berries, which the squaws dried in the summer and stored away. Then also the little bulbs I have mentioned came in very handy. I have forgotten now what they were called, but they, as all Alaska men know, form the principal food of the timber squirrels of that country during the winter.

"It was by rifling the boards of these little animals that we obtained our supply of bulbs in the winter. Their hoards are always to be found in a solitary spruce tree in a thicket of stunted pines. That was the way in which we located them. The reason for this I never knew.

"As a substitute for bread—of course the Indians had no flour—we ate a species of pudding made of the blood of the game we killed, boiled with dried berries and sometimes with the little bulbs from the squirrel hoards."

"I asked Carmack how the Indians in those days obtained salt for their meat. Every one knows that to a white man, at least, salt is a necessity and not a mere flavoring matter. In answer Carmack told me something that was entirely new to me. He said that the Indians made it a practice not to throw away the water in which they boiled their meat, but allowed it to remain in the kettle. In course of a short time, he told me, the water or broth would become extremely salty, and could then be maintained at whatever degree of saltness deemed desirable by the addition of fresh water to replace some of the salt broth dipped out and thrown away."

A WATERLOO BABY.

The Great-Grandmother of Baron De Lesseps' Young Wife.

Years ago an English lady paid a visit to the island of Mauritius. She was introduced to a lady of great beauty and commanding appearance, who ordered every one about and whose features were unmistakably Spanish. Who was this lady? An infant picked up on the field of Waterloo from behind a wagon after the battle. Her parents were known to God alone. She was found by an ensign, Heltiger by name, perhaps an officer in the King's German legion. He placed her under the care of a soldier's wife, paying for her support, and, as she grew up, seeing how beautiful and talented she promised to be, had her educated, and finally married her, as Dick Swiveler did the Marchioness. He held in his latter days an appointment in the Mauritius, and here follows the extraordinary pendant to this romantic tale.

The great granddaughter of the Waterloo "walf and stray" (they marry very early in those tropical climes) was the wife of Baron de Lesseps, the originator of the Suez and the unfortunate designer of the Panama canal. At the age of 17 she fell in love with the Baron, then above 70, and proposed to him, according to the custom of the Mauritius, by a floral offering. The old Baron was so amazed that he declared that she must intend the offering for his son, who was with him. "Non, monsieur, c'est a vous." The poor Baron was in a state of imbecility at the time of the Panama failure, when his son and others went to jail. It is to be hoped that the great granddaughter of the Waterloo baby was a loving and faithful nurse in his infirmities of mind, body and estate.—Cornhill.

Curious Plants.

Among other botanical curiosities of Colombia is a singular tree known as "leche miel" by the people and as "lactuca edulis" by the scientists. Its sap, when analyzed, contains almost the same properties as cow's milk and in almost the same proportions. During the spring of the year the sap of the milk tree is gathered by the natives as the people of New England gather the sap of the maple, and they not only drink it, but manufacture a creamy substance that resembles butter in its taste and properties. The fermented milk makes a drink that is very much like koumys, which they preserve in gourds.

Another curiosity is a plant of the laurel family, botanically known as "mirtica gutta," which yields a species of vegetable wax, and might be made a profitable article of commerce if it were cultivated. The wax is of greenish color and disagreeable odor, but when boiled and purified loses those qualities and becomes white. To make candles, and when refined it gives a clear, soft light. The wax is obtained by boiling the crushed fruit of the laurel in water. When the water cools the wax congeals on the top. A well-grown plant will furnish from fifteen to twenty pounds a year. The wax is also used in making soap.—W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record.

Children Kept Free.

At Roubaix, one of the socialist strongholds of France, the 11,000 public school children receive free food and clothing at the expense of the town.

Up in a Balloon.

The occupants of a balloon a mile high command a radius of ninety-six miles.

BROTHER OF THE KAISER.

Prince Henry of Prussia, Who Is to Visit the United States.

Prince Henry of Prussia, who is coming to America, is the younger brother of Emperor William. He is, of course, a grandson of Queen Victoria, and his beautiful wife, who was Princess Irene of Hesse, is also grandchild to the Queen of England. Prince Henry is in command of the German squadron on the Asiatic station, and it is promised that he will visit San Francisco in his flagship, with the purpose of crossing the continent and calling upon President McKinley. He is a whole-souled, sensible fellow, an excellent sailor, and a capable commander. It is proof of his sense of justice that he



PRINCE HENRY.

declines promotion out of his turn in the rank of admiral, although his request would secure the coveted honor. He is affable, approachable, full of animal spirits, and the only man living who is on terms of familiarity with the Emperor. He is immensely popular among all classes of Germans, and is regarded as quite a hero. It was to him, when he sailed for the China seas, that Emperor William used the expression, "milled flat," when voicing a pledge that Germany would hold what belonged to it, and would claim all to which it was entitled.

QUEER STORIES.

The water melon grows wild all over Africa. It was cultivated in Egypt B. C. 2500.

The picture, "The Angelus," was painted by Jean Francois Millet in 1867-68. He died in 1875.

Geographically and geologically, the British Isles are included with the continent of Europe; politically, they are not.

Were it not for the multitude of storks that throng to Egypt every winter, there would be no living in the country, for after every inundation frogs appear in most incredible numbers.

The government assumes the responsibility for registered mail matter up to \$10. That does not mean that it will pay \$10 for a dollar article lost from the registered mail, but will pay the value of, and not more than \$10 for, any article lost from the mail.

In a joint land operation the senior officer, whether of the army or of the navy, would command the forces. Admiral Dewey did not go ashore at Manila to take part in the land attack; even if he had done so, General Merritt and General Otis would have ranked him; it was not until March 3 of this year that he ranked Otis.

Until consolidation Brooklyn landholders paid taxes in advance; New Yorkers at the end of the year. So the Brooklyn property holders paid their taxes for 1898 in December, 1897, and paid none in 1898; the New-Yorkers paid their 1898 taxes in December, 1898; all property owners will pay their 1899 taxes in December, 1899. The Brooklyn people have not saved a year's taxes.

Neither Well Nor Sick.

Huge as are the complete dictionaries of the language already, they will be very much larger still by the time the next generation has its day, if new words are added to the motley tongue at the present rate. So far as I can learn none of the lexicons contain a word I heard a girl at Chevy Chase use just a few days ago. She was a trifle pale, and the young man with her was so solicitous that I inferred she had recently been ill.

"How do you feel?" I heard him ask. "Oh, all right," I heard her answer. "I'm not ill now. I just feel a little lick."

"Sick?" said he. "No, lick," she repeated. "Don't you know the word? It doesn't mean exactly sick, and it doesn't mean quite well. It means just out of sorts, and it's ever so much shorter and more convenient to use."

Personally, I think it's a word worth adopting, and when I'm neither well nor ill I shall hereafter be "lick."—Washington Post.

Fore-sight.

Among the myriad anecdotes of dog-fish intelligence, but few illustrate the precious gift of prudence so effectively as the following story, cited in the diary of Sir M. E. Grant Duff: The clergyman has a small dog, which would delight your soul. It is accustomed to sleep with his children, but never knows in whose bed, as they fight for it every night. One evening all the household had gone out, leaving their supper, consisting of meat, peas and little cakes, on the kitchen table. When they returned the tables had entirely disappeared.

When the children went to bed, however, each child found, under its counterpane, a meat pie and a little cake. In its uncertainty as to its resting place the dog had determined to be prepared for all emergencies.

Sound Argument.

Hogan—Schwarzmeister was tellin' me that Uncle Sam could never lick the Filippinos. Grogan—An' did yez show him he was wrong? "O! did. O! think he will be out in about a fortnight."—Indianapolis Journal.

Barbers' Pictures.

Bob Uricho (the barber)—Men of my profession are very good story-tellers. Customer—Yes, and they usually illustrate their stories with cuts.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

MR. FILIPPINI'S SEA UTILITY.

The Man Who Looks After the Meals on the American Liners.

Alexander Filippini is said to be the only man engaged in his peculiar calling. He spends practically no time on land, frequently reaching port in time to sail back again on another liner upon the same day. Mr. Filippini is known as the traveling inspector of American liners. His work lies in overseeing and improving the service of meals on the ships. Such numbers of people have to be provided for that unless a perfect system is established, every one attending to his duties like clockwork, the meals take an unreasonable time and people are badly served. For years it has been found difficult to establish a uniform system in the saloons of the vessels, those in charge of each vessel having different methods. Complaints were continually being made by passengers. To systematize steamship cooking on a new basis, Mr. Filippini, who for years previously superintended at Delmonico's, was called in. It at once became evident, on his first voyage, that he had undertaken an enormous task, so many changes would be absolutely necessary.

When the first report was turned in and approved, full authority was given to Mr. Filippini, and he started out with new courage, adopting the best ideas on each ship. He goes on board a ship without previous arrangement and watches the preparation and service of meals, shows the cooks and bakers essential details, sees that the table stewards are in good training, what supplies are lacking—all this has to be reported upon. Cooks have to be kept from carelessness, and great promptness is essential. Some cooks, for instance, were apt to make sauces carelessly, to waste supplies, to hold back flavorings, brandy, for instance, and to keep little supplies for themselves, while bakers sometimes forget that bread can be made twice as good by thorough kneading. Such were the difficulties. Then Mr. Filippini also studies the people traveling at various seasons and prepares menus for each day to suit the tastes of people from all parts of the globe. He gives close attention to the second and third cabins as well as to the saloon, so that, with the preparation of his reports, his time is fully occupied.

Mr. Filippini is a man of middle age, with black mustache and hair slightly mixed with gray. Some have taken him to be a detective. It is stated that after his first year's work on shipboard he had saved the company \$15,000 over and above his salary as the result of his work.

The early training Mr. Filippini had is rather different from that given to prospective chefs of to-day. As a boy he went to a cooking institute in Lyons, France. Here were taught separately all the branches of the trade. Then, instead of having to pay for instruction, he was employed by the school as an instructor. Later he traveled through Europe and learned a great deal more in Switzerland, Germany and other countries, coming from there direct to Delmonico's. He has recently made a short trip to study the preparation of foods in the largest cities of Europe, and he knows in what special dish or food each city excels. For instance, he found that the best bread was made in Turin, Italy, and Geneva, the reason being that they pay more attention to kneading.—New York Sun.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

In a new Indian club a frame is formed of spring wire, with a covering of leather or other material, the handle consisting of a coiled spring, which imparts flexibility to the grip and allows the club to be swung with greater ease.

Two Californians have designed an adjustable hanger for electric lights, comprising a reel suspended in a bracket, to be attached to the ceiling, with a spring mechanism on the reel which winds up the wire by which the lamp is suspended.

Penholders can be held in position for writing without gripping them with the fingers by the use of an Illinois man's attachment, consisting of a piece of thin metal bent to fit the portion of the hand between the ball of the thumb and the base of the first finger.

A Massachusetts man has patented an anti-fouling coating for ships, consisting of a layer of paint, a layer of comminuted soft metal, a second layer of paint and an outer coat of comminuted copper, presenting a smooth surface closely studded with bare articles of copper.

A Washington man has designed a combination cane and umbrella which comprises a hollow tube with internal screw threads at each end, and the central rod of the umbrella carrying screw-threaded sleeves which can be fitted in the ends of the tube to hold the latter over the umbrella.

How the French President Lies. The rule of life at the Elysee is as simple as circumstances will permit, for, except when obliged to give official entertainments, M. and Mme. Loubet take their luncheon at 12 and their dinner at 7 in a small dining room, the furniture of which is as plain as the menu on the table, though now and then they have an intimate friend join them at the former meal. M. Loubet, simple as are his tastes and frugal as is his fare, is fully alive to the importance of maintaining the dignity of his office.

Spurious Manuscripts.

An English officer, who is now engaged in some exploring work in Central Asia, has discovered that there exists in Khotan a regular manufactory of old Asiatic manuscript relics, and so large is the output that he believes that at least 65 per cent. of the manuscripts which have reached Europe from Central Asia during recent years are spurious.

Coals of Fire.

Ethel—Lottie Totkins said you was too mean to live, 'cause you wouldn't let me play with her. Found Mother—And what did you say, Ethel? Ethel—I heaped coals of fire on her head. I said I hoped her mamma wasn't as mean as you are.—Ohio State Journal.