Alien Mortals.

Think for a moment of the narrow limits of our knowledge! Sixteen hundred millions of featherless bipeds, more or less, are picking up a living, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, on this pretty planet of ours; of what infinitesimal proportion can you really unveil the secrets and gauge the virtues and the happiness How many people do you know intimately enough to say whether their lot is, on the whole, enviable or the reverse? Every human being is a foreign kingdom to every other. We make a short excursion into their minds; we touch at a port here and there; and we say glibly that we know them intimately. We know not how many dark corners are carefully hidden away from all strangers, and what vast provinces have never been reached in our most daring travels. How, then, can we judge one another? Such utter ignorance of our neighbor's thoughts and motives should make us wondrous charitable.

A Heart Story.

Folsom, S. Dak.—In these days when so many sudden deaths are reported from Heart Failure and various forms of Heart Disease, it will be good news to many to learn that there is a never failing remedy for every form of Heart Trouble.

Mrs. H. D. Hyde, of this place, was troubled for years with a pain in her heart which distressed her a great deal. She had tried many remedies but had not succeeded in finding anything that would help her until at last she began a treatment of Dodd's Kidney Pills and this very soon relieved her and she has not had a single pain or any distress in the region of the heart since. She says: "I cannot say too much in praise of Dodd's Kidney Pills. They are the greatest heart medicine I have ever used. I was troubled for over three years with a severe pain in my heart, which entirely disappeared after a short treatment of Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Latest Electrical Novelty.

Down near Atlantic City, N. J., there has been in successful operation for several months an experimental trolley road minus the trolley. More astonishment still there is no third rail or storage battery to be seen on this unique bit of road. Without any apparent means of obtaining the all-important electric current, motor cars will draw a 200,000-pound load on this road. Of course, the secret of it all lies in the application of a new system. Every sixteen feet a point of connection is established midway between the rails where a metal button projects above a box through which passes the powerful current carried along wires in a subway. A person might step on this button and one of the rails at the same time and not receive a shock, but, as the car passes over, a powerful magnet underneath attracts the button and in raising it establishes the circuit which supplies the motor with enough of the essential fluid to propel the car along the sixteen feet of track to another point of contact. The saving of expenses in installation and maintenance over that of the old systems, the freedom from overhead wires which so seriously interfere with the fighting of fires in the cities, and the immunity from fatal shocks which it insures are factors which will no doubt bring about its rapid adoption.

Conflicting Evidence.

The Widow—I wonder why Minerva was called the goddess of wisdom?

The Bachelor—Probably because she wasn't foolish enough to marry.

The Widow—Then why was Solomon, who had a thousand wives, called the wisest man?

Science and Invention

Gravel will shrink eight per cent; gravel and sand, nine per cent; clay and clay earths, ten per cent; loam and light sandy earths, twelve per cent. These figures are useful in making estimates for such work.

Among the innumerable experiments with liquid air two are particularly curious. A ball of india rubber immersed in it becomes as brittle as glass, but a ball of lead, in the same circumstances, acquires elasticity, and will rebound like rubber.

French statistics show that a total of 238,703 horse-power from the falls of the Alps is now used for generating electricity. The electric power serves the following: Aluminum works, 22,536 horse-power, other metallurgical factories 20,485; chlorate of potassium works, 9,000; calcium carbide works, 104,466; sodium chlorate works, 13,500; transmission of power and lighting, 38,727; various industries, 19,989.

It is reported from Johannesburg that a new and unexpected source of wealth has been discovered in the territory of the late Boer republic. Near the eastern border of the Transvaal, on the edge of the lofty South African plateau, three valuable lodes of tin ore have been found, and the deposits are apparently so extensive that predictions are heard that the new colony may prove to be as rich in tin and copper as it is already known to be in gold.

The human body changes its temperature very slightly under any conditions of heat or cold, but a Russian naturalist finds that the body temperature of insects is practically that of the atmosphere. It usually rises more slowly than the air, though more rapidly when the air is very moist. When the insect begins to move, the temperature rises rapidly, and may reach about 38 degrees C. (102.2 degrees F.) Below—0.5 degrees C. insects remain motionless, and the wings are not moved until the temperature reaches about 12 degrees C.

The latest new form of dirigible balloon, invented by L. J. Andersen, of London, has two elongated gas-bags of the same shape and size placed side by side, like the two hulls of a catamaran boat. The car is suspended beneath, being equally supported by both balloons, and the driving propeller is placed behind their rear ends, and half-way between them. In experimenting with a model having balloons seven feet long, the inventor finds that this form of air-ship possesses advantages in steering and in maintaining a straight course. He is constructing a full-sized apparatus with balloons 70 feet long, to be driven by a 50-horse-power electrict motor.

After forty years of agitation, led by Liverpool merchants, the British government has just sanctioned the use of a weight of fifty pounds in place of the standard "hundredweight" (112 pounds), and "half-hundredweight" (fifty-six pounds). The reform was demanded because the immense quantities of cotton, corn, tobacco and other American products landed at Liverpool were calculated by the sellers in pounds, while the buyers were compelled to reckon in "hundredweights," which did not represent the number of pounds that the name implies. It is claimed that the reform will save a great amount of time and labor and prevent many errors. It is also regarded as an entering wedge for the introduction of the decimal system in England.

QUEER USES FOR CEILINGS.

Men Have Employed Them as Substitutes for Savings Banks.

Some time since a Liverpool gentleman died, as it was thought, intestate. No will could be found, and the next of kin had already entered into possession when the decorators, in whose hands the deceased's old house had been placed for renovation, came across the long-sought-for document, pasted on the library ceiling, where it had been hidden from view by a layer of paper, which had been placed there by the eccentric testator himself.

The celebrated Beau Brummel, during the first years of his exile, while yet his fame as a dandy was preeminent, had the ceiling of his bedroom covered with mirrors, so that even while at rest he could study elegance and assume a graceful pose. For such a purpose a glass ceiling is, however, not unique, and the notorious duchess of Cleveland had such another constructed to gratify her vanity.

For a far different reason did a certain Yorkshire gentleman of the last century, mentioned by Mrs. Gaskell in her "Life of Charlotte Bronte," have his ceiling paneled with mirrors. Ardently devoted to the sport of cock-fighting, he continued to the last to enjoy his favorite pastime, and even when on his deathbed his room was the scene of many an exciting fight, which, lying on his back, he saw reflected in the glass overhead.

Another invalid whose tastes were certainly more aesthetic was a gentleman who died lately at Munich. Confined for many months to his bed, he gratified his love for art by having his ceiling papered and covered with his most treasured pictures, which he in his younger days had acquired. These were changed from time to time for others in his collection, which in their turn were contemplated with delight by the crippled connoisseur as he lay stretched on his couch of pain.

During a police case heard a year back at Tottenham the prosecutrix told the magistrate that she had taken the prisoner in out of charity and had permitted her to remain. This the prisoner denied, saying that she paid 2s 6d a week. "You only paid 2s," retorted the other, "and that is marked on the ceiling." This novel idea of converting a ceiling into a rent book evoked a roar of laughter in court.

An eccentric Brighton pedagogue was wont to use the ceiling of his schoolroom as a blackboard. It was covered with a casing of blackened and polished wood on which the dominie, by means of a long, chalk-pointed rod, used to draw geometrical figures and diagrams while discoursing on the subtleties of Euclid. This unusual proceeding was but the practical application of a quaint theory of his that the elevation of the pupils' eyes induced sharpness of intellect.

Much annoyed at the barefaced manner in which the photos of his friends and acquaintances that were scattered in profusion about his rooms, were appropriated by his many visitors, a gentleman well known in Parisian society hit upon the ingenious device of having them affixed to the ceilings of his flat. Three large rooms are thus decorated, and that callers, should they desire, may obtain a clear view of the portraits, opera glasses of special construction are supplied.

When in 1893 Mlle. Forrester gave a dance at her house in Paris the ceiling of the ballroom was so constructed that at given intervals it discharged upon the dancers a fine rain of white rose, cherry blossom, jockey club and other scents. This pleasing surprise was likewise prepared for his guests by a wealthy Russian nobleman, who, however, heightened the effect by having the ceiling exquisitely painted with the flowers whose essences descended upon those beneath.—London Tit-Bits.

HOW ZOOS GET WILD ANIMALS.

Bait Used by Recruiting Agents and Travelers.

Getting recruits for the zoological parks is not by any means the easiest thing in the world, though the authorities themselves do not bear much of the trouble in this connection. The work is mainly done by travelers and natives of countries from which the wild beasts come, from whom the various zoological societies of the world buy, except when the purchases are made from professional wild-beast dealers.

Some of the latter employ regular recruiting agents, whom they send out whenever they receive orders which they cannot execute with stock they have in hand. If the park authorities order an African lion of a dealer and the dealer has not a suitable beast on hand recruiting lions in Africa begins at once and continues until a good specimen has been obtained.

The different methods by which the various wild animals are captured in their native state are interesting. Lions are generally caught by being tempted to thrust their heads through nooses of strong cords composed of twisted hides. Pieces of meat are used for bait, but frequently the hunters have many days of hard chasing before the lion can be persuaded to try the noose. When he does the cords are pulled quickly around his throat, stifling him, and other stout cords are then bound around his legs. Restoratives are then administered to revive the animal, whose efforts to free himself from the noose have brought on exhaustion, and he is carried away and put in a specially constructed cage for shipment.

Tigers are more savage than lions and can rarely be captured when full-grown. Recruiting is accordingly carried on among the cubs, the parent tigers being killed and the young, left without protectors, being easily caught. The cubs readily accustom themselves to captivity.

Perhaps the most difficult of all wild animals to capture is the giraffe, says the New York Times. In addition to being very rare, giraffes are exceedingly timid and are very swift-footed. There is no special way to capture a giraffe, as almost every way has been tried, and all have been almost equally unsuccessful. The method which has occasionally resulted in a capture is by using a long cord, at each end of which is a round weight. This cord is thrown by the hunter in such a manner as to wind around the animal's legs, either bringing it to the ground or rendering it incapable of escaping before it is made a prisoner. Most of the giraffes in captivity have been caught by chance when young.

A House Divided.

Most persons have had the experience of walking with a friend out of step and trying to shift just at the moment when the friend also makes the attempt. This is an instance of thwarted harmony much like that which appears in a story, told by V. C., of an elderly couple. They were childless, and had never been united by the bond of other lives linked with their own. So they were always in a state of well-bred disagreement.

On the subject of meals they disagreed thoroughly, and each usually suggested a dish for the Sunday dinner which the other did not approve. One Saturday the man came home from market with a basket.

"You needn't worry about to-morrow's dinner any more, Maria. I've got it."

"And so have I, George. You were so undecided———"

"Undecided? I told you want I wanted."

"Well, I mean you didn't decide as I did. So I bought a goose."

"Why, so have I. I told you I'd like a goose."

"Well, now we are agreed for once, anyway."

"Yes, and I suppose we'll have cold goose and stewed goose for the next two weeks."

They relapsed into their usual silence.

Sunday forenoon the wife asked, "Do you want a little quince in the applesauce with your goose?"

"Your goose, you mean."

"No ,I don't. It seemed so absurd to have two geese in the house that I sent mine to Aunt Jane."

"What! I sent mine to Uncle Joe!"

Dressed for a Long Walk.

Mrs. Malaprop—I walked twenty-five miles yesterday.

Mr. Parlormop—Did you wear a pedometer?

Miss Malaprop—Oh, no, indeed—just a short skirt.—Harvard Lampoon.

Temporary Opinion.

The Fiancee—The idea of his thinking that he is unworthy of me.

The Confidante—Yes, but you needn't argue the matter with him. He'll discover his error in time.—Brooklyn Life.

Some women have so much powder on them that kissing them must taste like the first bite in a biscuit.

Up-to-Date Magazine Work.

Hack Writer—How would you like an article on Solomon?

Magazine Editor—First rate, if you can only furnish a complete set of portraits of his wives.—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

Little Willie.

Willie—Mr. Oldboy, why do they say you are in your second childhood?

Mother—Willie!

Willie—Oh, I know; it's because you are baldheaded, just like baby Dick.—Boston Transcript.

It All Depends.

"They tell me," said the youth, "that men who work live longest. Do you believe it?"

"Well," remarked the sage, "it depends a good deal on who they try to work."

Something Alike.

"Why is a kiss over the telephone like a straw hat?"

"Because neither one is felt," remarked Mr. Wise.

And then the old maid was heard to remark that current events were certainly shocking.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The president of the Republic of Andorra, in the Pyrenees, gets the smallest salary paid by any civilized government. It is only $15 a year, and he thinks of asking for a ten per cent increase, which would make it $16.50.

Eight relatives of Premier Sedden of New Zealand draw on an average of $25,000 each in salary from the government.

P. N. U. No. 18—1904.

STORY OF THE MUFF.

Once Its Color Betokened the Rank of the Wearer.

"Do you know that the color of a muff once betokened the rank of the wearer?" said a furrier to a Philadelphia Record man as he stroked a beautiful sealskin muff. "In the days of Charles IX. no lady could have worn this fur, for black was decreed by the King to be the badge of the common people and the court followers were restricted to the colors.

"Muffs have gone through more styles than it would seem possible to invent for such a simple article of convenience. It has been long and narrow, like a sheaf, and, again, large and round. At the beginning of last century the test of size was to try the muff in a flour barrel. If it went in without much trouble then that muff was too small to be really fashionable. At the present day almost anything is proper, but those enormous cylinders would certainly draw much attention. One of the most curious styles was that of Louis XIV., called the 'chieus mauchons,' because they were made to convey little dogs in.

"The muff when first introduced was the exclusive property of the nobility and originated in Venice. These muffs were very small and consisted of a single piece of velvet, brocade or silk, lined with fur and the openings fastened with rich jewels. Such arrangements came in during the early part of the seventeenth century, but in the previous century the ladies frequently carried a piece of rich fur, which they used either as a muff or a neck piece.

"The muff reached its highest point in the reign of Louis XV., when the productions were exquisite. Then fashion declared for a cloth muff instead of fur, and the furriers made a great uproar. They petitioned the Pope to excommunicate the wearer of a cloth muff, but to no purpose. Finally some ingenious merchant bribed the headsman to carry a cloth muff on execution day. The women shrank from such association and the fur won the day. We now associate the muff only with cold weather, but in the old days it was a regular part of woman's dress and was carried in all weather. As late as 1830 a muff and a straw bonnet were not deemed incongruous."

Savage Athletes.

In this age of athletics one might think that no people ever showed so much interest in feats of muscular might and skill as those who have perfected football; but modern games, and even the games of the Greeks at Olympia, may have been more than matched by the sports of peoples who are now held in little esteem. A writer on the Canary Islands gives an account of their athletic training which makes even the college giants of to-day seem weak and effeminate.

The Canary Islands were subjected by Spain about the time Columbus discovered America. The conquest was due solely to the superiority of European weapons, and not to better skill and prowess. The native soldiers were trained athletes, developed under a system which held athletic sports an important business, like military drill.

Spanish chronicles have left us accounts of the sports of the islanders. From babyhood they were trained to be brisk in self-defense. As soon as they could toddle the children were pelted with mud balls, that they might learn how to protect themselves. When they were boys stones and wooden darts were substituted for the bits of clay.

In this rough school they acquired the rudiments of warfare which enabled them, during their wars with the Spaniards, to catch in their hands the arrows shot from their enemies' cross-bows.

After the conquest of the Canaries a native of the islands was seen at Seville who, for a shilling, let a man throw at him as many stones as he pleased from a distance of eight paces. Without moving his left foot he avoided every stone.

Another native used to defy any one to hurl an orange at him with so great rapidity that he could not catch it. Three men tried this, each with a dozen oranges, and the islander caught every orange. As a further test, he hit his antagonists with each of the oranges.

Fishhook Cactus.

Many a traveler in desert lands, when in danger of dying from thirst, has been saved by the plant known as the water or fishhook cactus, says the New York Commercial. During the moist season it stores up a large quantity of water for the subsequent dry one, when all the ground is parched with heat and only channels filled with stones mark the course of former rivulets. So well has this cactus provided for the safety of its precious liquid that it is no easy task to obtain it. The exterior skin is more impenetrable than the toughest leather, and, besides, it is protected with long, wiry spines curved into hooks at the end, yet so strong and springy that if a large rock be thrown against them they remain uninjured. If the spines be burned off one may, by long and tedious effort, cut through the rind with a stout knife; otherwise nothing but an axe will enable them to get at the interior of this well-armored plant. When the top is removed and a hollow made by scooping out some of the soft inner part it immediately fills with water, cool and refreshing, though a blistering sun may have been beating upon the tough skin above it all day. The water, when first obtained, has a whitish or smoky tint, but when settled is as clear as crystal.

Doing His Best.

"Have you ever made any effort to do your fellow man any good?"

"Certainly," answered Senator Sorghum. "It is a well-known fact that money widely distributed can accomplish but little. In order to exert its full force and achieve great works it must be concentrated."

"Well?"

"I have been doing my best to concentrate as much of it as possible."—Washington Star.

A Query Answered.

Laura—We have no infallible formula for removing a double chin. Consult some man who says he can shave himself in the dark.—Baltimore News.

The Cause of It.

"What's the cause of all this twaddle about elevating the stage, I'd like to know?"

"Want to get it above the level of the women's hats, I suppose."

Jarring an Actor.

"What did you think of my death scene?" asked the actor.

"Well, it seemed to me it came a little too late in the piece," was the reply.—Chicago Evening Post.