

BULKY POST CARDS.

Ping-Pong Balls and Other Articles in the Mails.

Banknotes Employed as Writing Paper by Extravagant or Foolish Persons—The Message of a Dying Soldier.

The use of ping-pong balls as post cards is the latest freak of seekers for novelty.

It started in Liverpool quite recently, and despite its obvious disadvantages, is spreading in England. The principal result is much unhappiness to the postman and a recent new regulation in some places forbidding all such unhandy missives.

The balls were stamped, an address written under the stamp, and the message scrawled on the rest of the surface. These clumsy and bulky post cards were posted in Liverpool by the thousands and gave the post office authorities an immense amount of extra work, says Hearst's Chicago American.

Among those idle people who from time to time have wasted their superfluous energies in testing the forbearance of the postal officials, is a man in Southampton, England, whose favorite form of missive used to be a postage stamp. But as he wrote the address on the face of the stamps, the authorities decided that they were not bound to deliver them. It was probably the same person who afterward posted a complete pack of playing cards, each neatly addressed on the back, but with no message whatever on the colored side.

Another very peculiar letter found in a London pillar-box last autumn was a green apple on one side of which was cut an address, and on the other the simple, but expressive message: "Sour—like you."

Bank notes have been employed as a writing paper more than once by extravagant or foolish persons. Among the effects of an English miser who died about 15 years ago was found a \$3 note on which the deceased had written directions as to the disposal of his property. At Hampstead there lived until recently a wealthy bachelor of whom it was said that he once wrote a proposal of marriage to a lady on the back of a \$50 note, and because it was sent back without a word of comment by the recipient, refused ever afterward to have anything to do with the fair sex.

Whiting paper, or, indeed, paper of any kind, is usually at a premium among soldiers on active service. Many very curious substitutes came from the British soldiers in South Africa. One of the commonest has been mealie leaves. "Mealie" is the South African name for maize. Round the maize cob grow a number of strong enveloping sheaths, which, when dry, turn to a pale yellow color and can then be written upon.

After Colenso there was found grasped in the stiffened hands of a dead soldier a piece of leather with a dying message scrawled upon it with a stump of pencil. It was a layer of the sole of the dead man's boot, which had probably been loosened with much marching, and which he had contrived to rip off. It safely reached the poor fellow's family in England.

From the Philippines, too, some curious letters have been received by the friends of American soldiers fighting in those islands. One of the most ingenious was a piece of native bamboo, about a foot long, on which an address had been carved with pen-knife. The letter was inside this hollow tube, and held there by wooden pins at each end. The writer explained that he had found it impossible to get an envelope or to find any gum to make one, so had had recourse to this expedient.

The ceiling of a room is, as a rule, so far out of ordinary reach that the idea of using it for writing on seems strange. But in a case tried last year in England it transpired that a landlady had been in the habit of using her ceiling in lieu of a rent-book. Upon it were inscribed the various amounts received from her lodgers. As it was, of course, impossible to bring this strange rent book into court, a certified copy had to be made for the use of the judge.

The Way of the Frontier.

The way of civilization in a new land passes comprehension. Its motto seems to be: ruin first; there is time afterward to save. Civilization is a good deal like a wild, full-blooded boy; it must first sow wild oats, waste its patrimony, disgrace its antecedents; then it is ready to begin the serious work of life. That has been the history of the range country; swift ruin for 30 or 40 years, with a resulting wreck that it will require a century of hard work, perseverance and self-control to save.—Century.

Who Identifies.

Bunco Steerer (sneakily)—Pardon me, but aren't you my old friend Farmer Mossbacher, of Goshkong?
Farmer Broadhead (mysteriously)—No; I am old Nick Sleuth, the famous detective, disguised as a "good thing;" but don't gimme away, young man.—Puck.

Inconspicuity.

Barkley—Poynter's greyhound was awarded a prize of \$10 for perfect form at the dog show.

Barker—Yes; and then the ladies' humane society had Poynter arrested, and he was fined \$20 for shaping his dog with corsets.—Judge.

Scarcity of Game.

City Sportsman—Have you seen anything worth shooting at around here?
Farmer—Well, no; not till you came.—Somerville Journal.

NO POUND WEIGHTS IN TROY.

The Measure Exists Only in the School Books and Not in the Jewelers' Shops.

"Did it ever occur to you," said a college professor to a Chicago goldsmith, "that you have no such thing as a pound weight?"

It had; but the professor is willing to bet that not one graduate of a high school out of twenty has an idea that there is not a metal weight of 12 ounces to represent the Troy pound.

But there is no such thing. Twelve Troy ounces make a pound, but there is no such material unit of measurement. There are the grain, the scruple, the drachm, and the ounce weights, but nothing more. The man who has ten pounds of gold in reality has only 120 ounces, and for him to go into the gold market and speak of gold as by the pound would be for him to be laughed at.

Incidentally these units of measurement in the Troy scale look a good deal more like Greek or Chinese coins than they look like weights, says the Chicago Tribune. For the average high school graduate to pick up a set of these weights would be to bewilder him.

It is the contemplation of such absurdities of the English tables of weights and measurements that bring the student to the metric system as the sane solution of it all.

WOMEN VOTERS.

Are More Conscientious Regarding Their Franchise Privileges Than Men.

An Australian newspaper tells of some curious facts shown by the new electoral rolls of South Australia. The number of men on the rolls has shrunk in a little over three years from \$3,640 to 76,767. On the other hand the women voters have increased during the same period from 68,375 to 71,682. In the three chief metropolitan districts the men voters have dropped from 36,587 to 30,484, a reduction of nearly 16 per cent. Women voters in the same district have slightly increased their numbers, and now count more than 22,801. The women seem to be growing more conscientious in the fulfillment of their political duties and the men more careless.

When equal suffrage was granted in New Zealand the estimated number of adult women in the country was 139,913. Of these, 109,461 registered to vote. Of the women who registered, 83 per cent. voted; of the men who registered, only 67 per cent.

According to the report of the Wyoming secretary of state, 90 per cent. of the women vote. In Denver, at the election last November, 31,780 men voted and 23,449 women.

HUMAN BEINGS NOT IMMUNE

Records Show That Contagious Diseases Frequently Attack People a Second Time.

It is a fallacy, widespread but nevertheless a fallacy, for anyone to suppose that a person who has once had smallpox, measles, scarlet fever or other contagious disease is thereby made immune to that particular disease for the rest of his life. A Swiss physician has been examining the records of such diseases, and in the statistics at his disposal—which are very defective, as comparatively few physicians take the trouble to report such observations to the medical journals—he finds no less than 228 persons who have had smallpox twice, nine who have had it three times and one who has had it seven times. For scarlet fever he finds 144 double and seven triple attacks. A hundred and three persons had two and three had seven attacks of measles; 203 had typhus twice, five thrice, one four times, and even cholera shows 29 second and three third attacks. The natural inference is that during the prevalence of an epidemic one should not rashly expose himself to contagion even if he has already had the disease.

MAKE BEGGING A BUSINESS.

Two Young Men Who Raise Money for Charitable Institutions for a Percentage.

Two of the most energetic and successful young men of Philadelphia follow the odd business of petitioning money for charities, says the Record of that city.

You, for instance, are interested in an orphan asylum that has a deficit this year of \$8,000. You go to the young men and tell them you want the money.

"Leave us," they make answer, "all your literature—your catalogues, reports, announcements—everything you have ever published."

And they master that literature and then they visit the asylum and inspect it thoroughly. By this time they are acquainted themselves with the character of the institution in question, learning whether or not the benevolent rich would be likely to help it if its case were laid before them. According to that likelihood they set their price, saying they will "beg" for the place if they are given ten, twenty, or thirty per cent. of all the money they solicit.

They make, it is estimated, \$3,500 a year a piece.

Wonderful Marksman.

The most unrelenting shot in the world is M. Gaston Bordenyere. Taking several repeating carbines, and standing ten yards from a piano, he "plays" or, to speak strictly, he shoots in very brilliant style, a complicated selection from "Cavalleria Rusticana." The piano is "armored" for its novel experience.

IS A FROG FISH OR GAME?

Problem with Which Canadian Government Officials and Experts Are Wrestling.

The dominion of Canada has another and peculiar grievance against this country. Canada is a land in which frogs multiply and grow fat because of the immense stretches of waste places, yet because of the enormous demand for their legs in the United States the Canucks are fearful that unless restrictions are placed upon the killing of their native croakers there will be none left in the country.

The dominion department of marine and fisheries can do nothing practical, it appears, to stop this destructive export of frogs' legs until they determine whether the frog is fish or game. If a frog is a fish the department at Ottawa has the power to institute a close season for it. If, however, it should be decided that the frog comes under the category of game the question of a close season must be settled by the provincial authorities.

If the law officers of the different governments interested fail to come to an agreement on the subject the matter will probably be submitted to a committee of experts. Everybody agrees that something must be done to prevent the total destruction of a valuable article of both food and commerce. If it should be decided that the frog is neither fish nor game, it may be necessary, in order to secure a law for its protection, to obtain from the imperial parliament the passage of an amendment to the act of British North America.

FOUND IN A LETTUCE HEAD.

Fine Collection of Microbes Gathered from Its Leaves by a Scientist.

There is really such a thing as getting too much for one's money, as, for instance, when one buys lettuce at five cents a bunch and has a menagerie and a flower garden thrown in.

Even the casual consumer of salads occasionally has a temporary loss of appetite from the discovery of a large white scale or a small green worm among the crisp crinkles of his lettuce.

But these discoveries are only a faint suggestion of the glories of animal life which lurk undetected in those same inviting leaves. A man by the name of Ceresole, having found more than the usual number of insects pasturing upon his plate of salad, went out into the market place and bought samples of lettuce, andive, radishes, celery and the like.

The wily Ceresole washed his marketing in sterilized water and examined the sediment. A simple microscopic survey revealed a luxuriant, if not pleasing, fauna of 52 species, comprising amoebae and anguillulae, along with the eggs of the Toenia, Oxyuris axaridis and Ankylostoma.

Not content with these pleasing revelations, the curious Ceresole undertook a bacteriological investigation and added to his previous discoveries a rich menagerie of microbes, including micrococci, staphylococci, streptococci, sarcinae.

There were others. But why enlarge upon the matter. Enough is enough. And the moral of this is you can't be too careful about washing your salads.

PROPHECY OF GLADSTONE.

One That the Grand Old Man Made Many Years Ago Which Has Come True.

Prophecies, even when the prophets are politicians, sometimes come true, says the St. James Gazette. Here is a notable Gladstone utterance which we can now look back upon as quite prophetic. Speaking or writing 23 years ago of the "menace which, in the prospective development of her resources, America offers to the commercial pre-eminence of England," the grand old man predicted that America, and America alone, "can, and probably will, wrest from us that commercial primacy. We have no title, I have no inclination, to murmur at the prospect. If she acquires it, she will make the acquisition by the right of the strongest; but, in this instance, the strongest means the best. She will probably become what we are now, the head servant in the great household of the world, the employer of all employed; because her service will be the most and ablest. We have no more title against her than Venice, Genoa or Holland has had against us."

Draw for Partners.

Parisian hostesses have invented a new method of dealing with one of the principal difficulties incident to dinner parties—that of pairing off the guests. On arriving in the drawing-room the guests find two baskets of flowers. Hidden in the blossoms are numbered tickets. The men are requested to shut their eyes, put a hand into one basket, adorned with forget-me-nots or some other blue flower, and pull out a card. The ladies perform a like ceremony, drawing their tickets from a bower of pink blossoms, generally roses. The corresponding numbers then look for each other, and, having sorted themselves out, pair off and go in to dinner.

Great Britain is Small.

Great Britain is only half as big as Sumatra, and double the size of Newfoundland. It stands fifth in point of size in the list of the world's islands. England, without Wales, is almost identical in point of size with Roumania. It is less than one-quarter as big as France or Germany. The whole British Isles occupy only one-sixteenth part of the surface of the globe.

Twin Family Medicines

Save a Doctor Bill and may be Your Life.

HOW IS YOUR LIVER? Rather a pointed question. So it is, and OREGON LIVER REGULATOR hits the point. For a sick headache, the kind that is caused from a deranged stomach, dizziness, nervousness, dyspepsia, constipation or any ailment of the stomach, liver or bowels, there is no medicine that will relieve you so quickly and permanently as OREGON LIVER REGULATOR. Regular size, 25c. and 1.

D. J. Fry, Salem, Oregon. Star, Idaho.
Dear Sir.—Enclosed find 25c. for a package of Oregon Liver Regulator. We used the medicine when we lived in Salem and found it superior to anything we ever tried for headache and biliousness. Yours truly, REV. ANSON COX.

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