

BUILDS OWN HOME.

Plucky Woman Constructs House to Live In at Auburn, N. Y.

Having Finished the House Itself, She is Sinking a Well in Her Kitchen and Has Yet to Build a Barn.

Without the aid of any one Mrs. James Place, an elderly woman, has built a house at Auburn, N. Y. There are three rooms below stairs and two above. She now occupies it with her husband, who is a wounded veteran of the civil war.

The house is plain, but is well built and well finished in the interior. Mrs. Place's special joy is the winding oak staircase, which she constructed with much hard labor. The walls are all ceiled with fine matched hardwood, because Mrs. Place does not believe in plaster.

"My husband is not strong, and for years hasn't been able to do hard work," she said. "We needed a permanent home, but we saw no way of having one until I went at it myself. We bought this building lot in West Auburn and I put up the house. It contains 3,000 feet of lumber, and by the time I have built the piazza and a few outside improvements it will require another 1,500 feet.

"I used 50 pounds of large nails, 15 pounds of spikes, and 20 pounds of shingle nails. I drove every one of them myself, and I didn't hit my thumb as many times as you might expect.

"I have a great deal to do yet. Just now I am sinking a well in the kitchen so as not to be dependent upon my neighbors for water. Then after my verandas and steps and walks are added I must grade the lot. It is 160 by 120 feet, and will require lots of work.

"After that I shall paint the house, and then—then I've got to build a barn. Do you see that fine, English bred colt out there?" she said, pointing to a sleek young horse in the next lot. "Well, that's Kitty. She is a valuable colt, and we think the world of her. She has got to have a home, too, and I must build it."

In one of her tiny front rooms Mrs. Place has opened a little store. It contains a stock of candy, confections and notions, which she will try to sell to the neighboring trade. "Then," she says, cheerfully, "I guess we'll be as comfortable as most folks."

BALLOONING AS A TONIC.

Dr. Naugier, a French Physician, Declares Air Voyages Benefit Anemics.

Dr. Naugier asserted at the latest meeting of the academy of medicine at Paris that experiments he has made demonstrate that a balloon ascension acts on the human system as the most powerful tonic known.

A two hours' voyage in the air, he declared, caused astonishing multiplication of the red corpuscles in the blood and that condition persists for ten days after an ascension. Five such excursions, he averred, are more beneficial to an anemic—that is, a person whose blood is thin and watery, or a consumptive—than a sojourn of three months in the mountains.

Dr. Naugier believes that the good effect begins to be felt immediately, and that a lengthened stay in the air is only detrimental in causing nervous irritation. The municipal council will be asked to provide a large balloon, one capable of taking up in the upper air daily 50 patients, or children who are too poor to afford a change of climate.

POINTS FOR A BARBER.

Qualifications Which Go to Make Up the Polite, Attentive and Successful Artist.

At the meeting of the New York State Barbers' association in Brooklyn the other day, Mr. Prinz delivered a course of instruction, and among other things said: "When you get an apprentice see that he has a fair education and the actions of a gentleman, and don't let him chew tobacco or use it in any form during business hours. Don't let him get too fresh with the customers. And another thing, should a customer make a confidant of a barber the barber should not violate that confidence, but consider it a professional secret." There are said to be 81,000 barbers in New York state.

TEST OF NEW GUN.

Disappearing Gun Carriages of Mounts on Fischer's Island Work Satisfactorily.

The board of which Col. Randolph is president, appointed to test and report upon the disappearing gun carriages, returned from Fischer's island, where the tests of the twelve, ten and six-inch guns mounted on disappearing carriages were made. The tests were very satisfactory, especially with the larger guns. Thirty shots were fired from the ten-inch gun with an average interval of 33 seconds between each shot. Ten shots were fired from the 12-inch gun, with an average interval of 59 seconds between each shot. This broke the record in the firing of guns of such size.

Dense Population in Belgium.
The recent census returns show that the population of Belgium now stands at 6,802,816, having doubled during the last 69 years. Belgium is now the most densely populated country in Europe.

CO-EDS ARE STIRRED.

Felt Chancellor Andrews with Degree of Questions About Marriage.

Coeds, as well as men students, stirred by the lectures that Chancellor Andrews is giving at the University of Chicago upon the effects upon the individual and society of bachelorhood, old-maidism and the married state, fired many questions at him the other day when he arose to begin his afternoon lecture.

One maid asked if Dr. Andrews did not think that a good measure for preventing desertion and non-support would be to imprison the guilty party for a year.

"Yes, for five years," came the quick response. "If you can get hold of the man who has been guilty of non-support or desertion, why 'jog' him. For wife-beating the same penalty would do, or perhaps six years would be better."

"I would say the same for husband-beating," he added, while the men grinned and the coeds tittered.

Cooperation between the states was the principal reform in the present system of marriage and divorce laws urged by Dr. Andrews. He said that this would call for a compromise of many different theories, and that perhaps no one would be satisfied with the result, but that a compromise agreed to by the legislatures of all the states would be far better than the present medley. He said that an enactment should be made in every state to make it more difficult for persons with children to secure divorces.

MAY ADOPT METRIC SYSTEM.

Action of Colonial Conference in London May Hasten Legislation in This Country.

Enthusiastic indorsement is given by government officials in Washington to the recent colonial conference in London in adopting resolutions making the metric system of weights and measures compulsory throughout the British empire. For years the adoption of the metric system has been advocated by officials of the treasury department. At no time previous to the last session of congress, however, was the matter taken up with such prospect of favorable action as last winter. A bill was favorably reported to the house, and is now on the calendar of that body, which provides that the system shall be used exclusively by the government departments after January 1, 1904, and that four years later it shall be made the standard system of the country.

Great stress was laid on the joint action of the United States and Great Britain in this matter, and the great mass of testimony which was taken before the house committee on coinage, weights and measures, both from government officials and American manufacturers, was nearly all in favor of the adoption of the system, and all made the prediction that should the United States act first England would speedily follow. The Decimal Association of Great Britain took a poll of the British house with the result that 259 members of parliament were openly in favor of adopting the system, and that 40 more would vote that way.

JAPAN ITS OWN SHIPBUILDER.

Kokio Matsukata, Travelling in This Country, Says Foreign Craft Will Soon Be Unneeded.

In five years Japan will be building all of its ships, and will no longer be obliged to go abroad for even war vessels, according to Kokio Matsukata, who is in this country to study the American shipbuilding industry, as part of a tour around the world, to gather information on the subject. He has visited the South Chicago (Ill.) plant, and will inspect the Cramps' establishment in the east before going to Europe. His home is in Kobe, and he is connected with one of the leading Japanese companies.

"In recent years our people have made wonderful progress in this line," he said. "Our merchant marine is prosperous, and has expanded beyond our own hopes. The government gives heavy subsidies and encourages the business in every way possible. Until recently we have been obliged to go abroad for our vessels, buying them chiefly in Europe. But we have studied shipbuilding, and already have plants that can produce almost any sort of craft. Soon we will be building every class of vessel except the heaviest battleships, and in a few years more will be making them, too."

LIGHTNING'S OFF PRANKS.

Bolt Melts All a Woman's Jewelry Without Seriously Injuring Her.

During a thunderstorm at Coffeen, Ill., the other day, lightning struck Mrs. Frank Neller, of St. Louis, melted a gold watchchain which was about her neck, and also four gold rings on her left hand. The rings ran together into one piece. In her hand was an umbrella with a steel rod and the rod was twisted out of shape. Her left shoe was torn off. She was rendered unconscious for an hour, but has fully recovered. Mr. and Mrs. Neller had stepped into a church, and running down, the bolt stunned Mrs. Neller. Neller was also severely shocked.

Sphinx Nose is Evidence.
The story that the Egyptian Sphinx is disintegrating on account of climatic changes is interesting, but not necessarily alarming. The disintegration began long ago, says the Chicago Tribune. Look at the poor thing's nose.

NEW YORK'S CITY HALL.

More Than \$250,000 to Be Expended in Making Extensive Alterations in the Building.

The municipal art commission has approved plans for alterations in New York's city hall which will very much change the appearance of this well-known downtown building. The plans call for an expenditure of more than \$250,000. In the basement several small offices under the main entrance will be made into one for a large marriage bureau. On the main floor the roundels and corridors will be repaired and the stone work renovated. In the mayor's office various doors and passages that are of little use will be torn out. The gaudy wall paper and ceiling in the mayor's office will be removed and a white enamel ceiling and walls will be substituted, bringing back the appearance of the building as near as possible to the original colonial style. The hangings and furnishings of the rooms will be in harmony with the decorations.

On the second floor the walls and decorations in President Cantor's offices will be treated similarly to those of the mayor's office. White enamel decorations will be used in all cases, and in every way possible the colonial appearance of the original building will be revived. Partitions will be removed, making a spacious room, which can be used for receptions and hearings, at which the borough president would preside.

NAVAL ENGINEERS ELATED.

Experiments with Oil as Fuel on Warships Prove That It Can Be Successfully Used.

Naval engineers are elated over the results of the liquid fuel experiments on board of the Pacific ocean steamer Mariposa. Some time ago Lieut. W. P. Winchue, passed assistant engineer, was detailed to take a trip of several thousand miles with the Mariposa, the object being to acquire technical information bearing upon the use of oil as a substitute for coal on board ships of war. The importance of the experiment has been increased recently by the scarcity of coal, and it is expected that Lieut. Winchue's report will indicate the possibility of using liquid fuel with the same results attained with coal.

In the meantime experiments are being conducted in Washington at an elaborate plant, equipped with boilers, a board of naval officers has been detailed to conduct these local experiments. It has already been found that results of a most promising character are assured. There has been much difficulty, however, in obtaining oil. Some sources of supply, notably those in Texas, have not been regular, and the price of the material has greatly increased.

FIGURES ON MINERALS VAST.

Geological Bulletin Shows Production for Year in This Country is Valued at Over \$1,000,000,000.

The United States geological survey has issued its annual statistical summary of the mineral products of the United States for the calendar year 1901. It shows for the entire country a grand total of \$1,992,224,380, as the value of minerals produced in 1901, as against \$1,064,408,221 in 1900. This comprises \$566,231,096 worth of non-metallic mineral products, \$324,872,284 metallic products, and \$1,000,000 (estimated) of mineral products unspecified, including building sand, glass sand, iron ore used as flux in lead smelting, tin ore, nitrate of soda, carbonate of soda, sulphate of soda, and alum clays used by paper manufacturers.

DOCTOR REWARDED.

Dr. Schwinger Appointed to the Chair of History of Medicine at Berlin University.

Dr. Schwinger, who treated Prince Bismarck to reduce that statesman's flesh, has been appointed professor of the history of medicine at Berlin university. Prince Bismarck was so grateful that he tried to have Dr. Schwinger appointed nearly 20 years ago, but university circles raised a protest. Dr. Schwinger was Bismarck's physician up to the prince's death, living at Friedrichsruhe. Medical professors of a number of universities are circulating a protest to the government against the appointment, asserting that Dr. Schwinger has never written or taught on the subject of medical discovery.

French Water Power Project.

A prominent electrical concern of Paris, which is closely connected with the General Electric company of New York, is now securing all the water power available in the department of the Alpes Maritimes, with the object of supplying light and power to towns on the southeastern coast of France. The company also hopes to supply power for the electric locomotives which the Paris-Lyon-Mediterranean railway proposes to test on the Cannes-Monaco railway during the winter.

Prefer White at Meal Time.

Experimenters at the University of Chicago have found that mosquitoes have a strong preference for dark red and blue, says the Chicago Record-Herald. They still seem to be able, however, to find the white spots now and then.

A Fatal Mistake.

Prince William made a fatal mistake when he offered to renounce his title for the girl. That, says the Chicago Record-Herald, left no inducement for the latter.

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