Selections

THE CARPET SEWER.

A Wonderful Machine That Does the Work of Twenty Women.

Twelve hundred dollars for a sewing machine would suggest to the average householder a silver mounted, gilt cased, jewel incrusted piece of mechanism which ordinarily would have a show place in a front parlor of the millionaire's granite residence on the boulevard.

As a matter of fact, this $1,200 sewing machine proper isn't bigger than the crown of an opera hat, and it's fully as homely. It resembles a sewing machine about as much as it does a gas range. It costs $1,200 largely for the reason that it romps up and down the seams of a carpet or sewed rug, putting about twenty of the old style women carpet sewers permanently out of business in every shop in which the machine is used. Incidentally it does the work far better and more accurately than the women workers ever did it.

However, this framework of the machine is a formidable bit of engineering work altogether. Stretching thirty-eight feet down the wall of a long room in a State street store, this frame and carrier structure is not unlike a model for demonstrating the monorail car for the newest thing in transportation.

In the main this superstructure is not unlike the slide bar of a typewriter, with its parallel ratchet bar, on a large scale, suspended about four feet above the floor by steel supports fastened down securely. At intervals of about four feet are miniature "stations," corresponding to those of an elevated railroad, and at which the traveling sewing machine may be stopped automatically or past which it may go on an express schedule, at the will of the operator. The traction power is delivered from a series of one inch round belts that travel from one end of the framework to the other, driven by a small motor and against which various pulleys of the machine impinge.—Chicago Tribune.

Old Putnam.

Old Putnam, the eighteen-year-old pet horse of Battery C, Fifth United States artillery, died at Fort William McKinley, near Manila, Dec. 12. Old Putnam, who had been enjoying well earned ease on the retired list after his useful life, first went to the Philippine Islands in 1898 with the Astor battery. He was later assigned to Captain Reilly's battery, F, Fifth field artillery, with that battery in China. When the allied armies arrived at Pekin, Putnam and another horse of the name of Corregidor were pulling the first of the American light field guns. Just as they had started up a hill to gain one of the positions overlooking the city Corregidor's traces broke, and a moment later, after that horse had been cut away from the gun, Putnam, straining every muscle, started up the hill, arriving there in time for the American gun to open the first fire in the storming of Pekin.—Chicago News.

Poet Southey's Grandson.

At Shap, in Westmorland, Charles Southey, son of the late vicar of Askham and grandson of the poet Robert Southey, has been sent to jail for a week for begging at Patterdale Hall Sunday night. He told the bench a pathetic story. His father, he said, gave him a good education, but no trade, so he took up literature. He got married and had a comfortable home, but his wife left him years ago, and he had to sell his home. Afterward he stole half a sovereign, for which he was sent to prison. He had since been unable to pursue literary work, his appearance being against him.

"I have not known what it is to have a proper meal for a long time," added the prisoner, "but have had to subsist at the best of times on fish and chips in common lodging houses."—London Mail.

French Artillery Invention.

Colonel Deport, the well known French expert, has just invented an improvement in the three inch field gun that will enable the battery to be worked by five men instead of six. This will free 2,400 men in the French army, enough to serve twenty-four new batteries. The colonel's system consists in employing the recoil to open the breechblock, which then shuts automatically on the cartridge being introduced. There is also an ingenious contrivance for obviating the necessity of lowering the gun, and the total weight is reduced by six hundredweight for the gun and almost as much for the ammunition wagon, which thus makes the new model especially fit for use in the artillery attached to independent cavalry divisions.

Racing on Snowshoes.

By traveling ninety miles across an unknown country and mostly in the dark in fifteen hours the winner of the military skee race in the Swedish northern games has splendidly shown the possibilities of snowshoes as a means of locomotion. In a former contest some years ago over a distance of 138 miles the start was made at 6 o'clock one morning, and the majority of the competitors completed the journey early in the afternoon of the following day, while in a more recent race the first man home, a Finn, covered the distance, forty miles, at an average speed of eight and a half miles an hour.—Westminster Gazette.

TIDES IN THE EARTH.

The Moon Pulls Our Solid Globe Out of Shape Twice a Day.

That the attraction of the sun and moon not only causes tides in the ocean, but has a corresponding influence on the solid earth itself, has now been definitely proved by Dr. O. Hecker, a Prussian physicist. A quarter of a century ago Professor G. H. Darwin concluded that there must be tides in the solid earth as well as in the fluid seas, but he was unable to detect them, and his only conclusion was that the earth's mass was very rigid—at least as rigid as steel. Dr. Hecker now confirms this conclusion, but with his improved instruments and methods he has been able to detect and measure the amount by which the moon pulls the solid earth out of shape twice a day. Dr. Hecker's measurements, which lasted continuously more than two years, were to ascertain the lunar influence on the earth's gravity by observing the oscillations of a delicate pendulum. It was by comparing his results with the figures as calculated for a rigid earth that he was able to detect the tidal deformation caused by the pull of both moon and sun. Dr. Hecker's pendulums were a complicated series of bars joined together, and they were installed in a specially designed brick lined room seventy-five feet below the surface of the ground, where the temperature remained practically constant at about 12 degrees centigrade, or 54 degrees F. A continuous record of their position was kept by means of photography. Working here daily from December, 1902, to May, 1905, Hecker carried on the laborious series of observations that have now established the existence of lunar and solar tidal waves in the solid but flexible mass of the globe.—New York Herald.

Lost—A French Colony.

The government of France has mislaid a colony, and the government of Mexico has found it. It is Clipperton island, a little isle in the Pacific ocean, 10 degrees north and 109 degrees longitude west. It is one of a large group of islands which are visited periodically by a French warship. Some time ago, when the warship visited the island, the French sailors found soldiers there in Mexican uniform and the Mexican flag floating serenely over the island. The island is directly east of the mouth of the Panama canal, which gives it a certain amount of importance. The matter has been placed in the hands of the French foreign office, and "communications are pending." The warship discovered that the French government had mislaid the island two years ago.—Harper's.

Saving an Ancient Fresco.

It is not only in England that church restorers are allowed to do much as they like. An interesting story comes from Hal. The church is under restoration, and the workmen came across traces of a fresco. Its existence had been unknown, and, according to the plans, the plaster was to come away. Fortunately a townsman knew a process by which the plaster could be taken off intact on canvas. He obtained permission to make the experiment, and it has been carried out with success. He is said to be now the possessor of a valuable fifteenth century painting. The Brussels museum authorities have learned of the existence of the painting, and they are endeavoring to prevent the alienation of this interesting work of the middle ages.—London Globe.

What Becomes of the Corn.

People often wonder, particularly those who have traveled for hundreds of miles through the corn belt, what becomes of the corn which is grown every year. In the year 1908, when the total crop was 2,666,000,000 bushels, 241,000,000 bushels were consumed in flour and grist mill products, 8,000,000 bushels in the manufacture of starch, 9,000,000 for malt liquors, 17,000,000 in the production of distilled liquors, 40,000,000 for glucose, 190,000,000 for export and 13,000,000 for seed, making a total of 518,000,000 bushels, or 19.3 per cent of the entire crop. The remaining 80.7 per cent, or 2,148,000,000 bushels, seems to have been used almost entirely for feeding purposes.—Corn Reporter.

Eliminating Fog.

All navigators will be interested in the news which comes from Liverpool that Sir Oliver Lodge recently succeeded in completely clearing away for a radius of sixty feet a thick fog by means of electrical discharges. The Marine Journal states that the Lodge system consists of driving electricity into a fog laden atmosphere at a very high voltage from a series of disks at the top of poles. The current acts directly upon the constituents of the fog, the electric influence whirling these hither and thither, causing them gradually to fall to the ground. A test is soon to be made of the apparatus in London.

Thousands of Women's Clubs.

Nobody knows how many women's clubs there are in the United States. The General Federation of Women's Clubs was registered in the almanacs of 1908 as having over 3,000 clubs in its membership, with 150,000 women on their rolls. But that was in January, 1908, and the federation grows every year amazingly. It contains, too, only a few out of the numberless women's clubs in the land, since there are small clubs, societies and circles everywhere which do not affiliate themselves with any state or national organization, but exist simply for the pleasure and profit of their own membership.—Harper's Bazar.

COLOR WORDS.

Red Seems to Be the Favorite With Most of the Great Writers.

Upon tabulating the words used by Shakespeare referring to colors it is revealed that out of every hundred color words thirty may be classed as red. Next follow twenty-two white, twenty black, seventeen yellow, seven green and only four blue. Thus Shakespeare's favorite color word was red, and investigation will show that this is the characteristic color of nearly all great writers. For instance, it is the color word most often employed by Tennyson.

In all great works of human interest red predominates, as it is the color of the very strongest of our passions and impulses—the color of hot blood. There is no color so warm, so full of joy and life, so overflowing with vitality.

Red is the color of glowing iron—of heat and passion. In nature red hastens the growth of trees, while at the same time it quickens all rotting and decay. Plans grown under red glass will grow four times as quickly as under white light, and grow to four times their usual height.

Red in excess has an evil effect. For example, an excess of red light makes one irritable and nervous. In excess red produces homicidal mania—the desire to kill. The effect of red upon various animals is well known, it having the power of enraging the bull, the tiger and the turkey.—London Scraps.

ONE BUSINESS REFORM.

Brought About by Frank Statements From Former Employees.

If the manager of a business institution knew all that his employees know about the details of the business many things would be different. The manager of a large mercantile house recently conceived the idea of writing a personal letter to every employee who had left the house during the last five years, inviting a frank statement of the reason for leaving. The former employees, now expecting neither censure nor favor, were very frank and explicit and, as a rule, wrote letters that could not fail to command respectful attention. One man told how hard he had worked to support his mother and how, when he asked for an increase, he was shifted back and forth between different superiors for several weeks without having his request rejected or acceded to and he grew tired and sought another position. Another told of the impositions of the department manager and of his inability to get relief from a nagging disposition which was taking the heart out of hundreds of other men in his department. Many points of obvious mismanagement were brought to light which had virtually driven away good men who had been educated to the business. The manager has been busy ever since instituting reforms based upon the information he received.—Collier's Weekly.

A Barber and Poet.

Jasmin, the Gascon poet, who was also a barber, was once visiting the mayor of a French town and had promised to give an informal recitation to the townspeople. The hour arrived, but his host did not appear. Several important personages assembled to accompany them to the hall, but the mayor remained invisible, busied with his toilet. Finally, fearing the impatience of his guests, he opened the door of his chamber to apologize and showed his face covered with lather.

"Just a moment," said he. "I am finishing my shaving."

"Oh," said Jasmin, "let me help you."

He at once doffed his coat, gave a finishing touch to the razor and shaved the mayor in a twinkling with what he called his "hand of velvet." In a few minutes he was in the hall receiving tumultuous applause for his splendid recitations.

Modest Goldsmith.

Oliver Goldsmith was an underpaid man from start to finish. Two hundred and fifty dollars for "The Vicar of Wakefield" was bad enough, yet for "The Traveler" he got but $100 and $25 for his "English Grammar." For "The Deserted Village," however, his publisher sent him $500. This he at once returned, with the message: "It is too much. It is near 5 shillings a couplet, which is more than any book owner can afford or, indeed, any modern poetry is worth." So he died with $10,000 worth of debts. "Was ever poet so trusted before?" said Dr. Johnson.

The Hissing.

"I frequently experience a hissing sound in my ears," remarked a patient to a doctor. "What would you advise me to do?"

"What is your occupation?" asked the medico.

"I'm an actor."

"Then I'd advise you to adopt some other vocation."

In Doubt.

Hairdresser (while giving lady a vigorous shampoo)—Will you have anything on your head when I am finished, madam? She—I am sure I don't know. I was in hopes you would leave enough hair to pin my hat to.

Very Convenient.

Caretaker (to prospective tenant)—Yes, this 'ouse is most conveniently situated. There's a music 'all close and 'andy, and there's a pub just over the way, and a pawnbroker's round the corner.—London Tit-Bits.

When a king creates an office Providence at once creates a fool to buy it.—Colbert.

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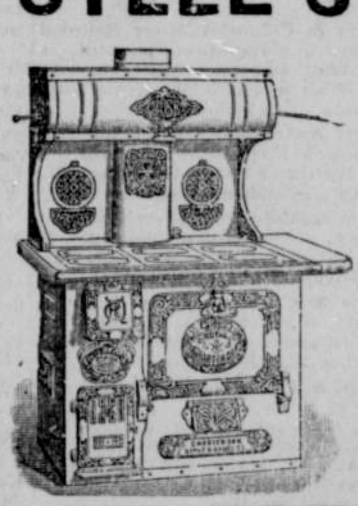

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We are going to do our part by boosting.

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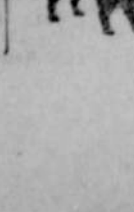

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