

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

Their Effect in the First Theaters in Which They Were Used.

The first theater in the world to use incandescent lamps was the Academy of Music, on Halstead street, Chicago, the plant being installed by the Western Edison Light company.

The first theater to be completely lighted with incandescent lamps was the old Haverly theater, then located on Monroe street, where the Inter Ocean building now stands.

HE WON THE HOUSE.

Ned Harrigan's Plea at a Critical Point in a Play.

Edward Harrigan once said that the most trying moment in his theatrical career occurred in New Orleans soon after the civil war. He had gone south with his company and, yielding somewhat to popular request, put on "The Blue and the Gray."

COWBOYS OF SPAIN.

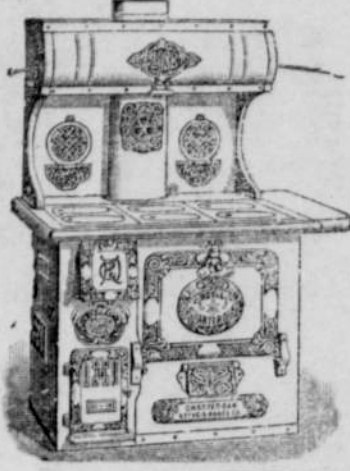
Splendid Horsemen, but They Use Their Spurs Without Mercy.

The perfection of Spanish horsemanship is to be seen among the vaqueros, ranaderos and garrochistas, by which various names the mounted herdsmen of the Andalusian plains are known.

Every farm seems to maintain a large number of these, for each herd, flock or drove has its own herdman, goatherd or swineherd, as the case may be. The vaqueros are a fine looking lot of men. Tall, thin, light and loosely made, they look ideal horsemen, as in point of fact, they are, though their mounts are poor.

The vaquero rides very high on a huge saddle, with a long stirrup and straight leg, using a single rein and a very heavy curb, but he has such beautiful hands that, although using this barbarous bit, he never cuts his horse's mouth about. It is different with the animal's sides, however, for he uses his spurs without mercy, and the white horses—of which there are a large number—all have ominous red stains behind the girths.

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A DENTAL CURIOSITY.

The Set of Artificial Teeth That Washington Endured.

It may not be generally known that the Father of His Country was one of the first Americans to wear artificial teeth. By the time the war of the Revolution had ended he had parted company with most of the outfit which nature had given him.

The teeth were carved from ivory and riveted, wired and clamped to a somewhat ponderous gold plate. Three brass clamps in particular figure conspicuously in the roof of the mouth and must have caused difficulty, if not anguish.

At the last account these teeth were the property of a dental institution in Baltimore.

A Useful Coffin.

A writer in an English church magazine once found in a collier's cottage a Staffordshire a coffin used as a read and cheese cupboard. Notwithstanding his wife's remonstrance, he sold the story of the coffin as follows: Eighteen years ago I ordered that coffin. The wife and me used to have good many words. One day she said, 'I'll never be content till I see you in thy coffin.' 'Well, lass,' I said, 'I that'll content thee it'll soon be one.'

"Next day I gave directions to have the thing made. In a few days it came home, to the wife's horror. I got to it and said, 'Now, lass, are thee content?' She began to cry and wanted the 'horrid thing' taken away. But at I wouldn't allow. In the end she accustomed to seeing it, and as we wanted to turn it to some use we had some shavings put in and made it into a read and cheese cupboard. We have ever quarreled since it came."

Circulating Libraries.

Long before the Revolution a young enter in Philadelphia when he had been off his working apron at night and to sit poring over his dozen of old books by firelight. He soon knew them by heart and hungered for more. At books were costly, and he had but little money. He had eight or ten ones, young men who, like himself, were eager for knowledge. Ranging a books on a shelf, he invited his friends to do the same, that each of them might have the benefit of them. Ben Franklin thus laid the foundation of the first circulating library in his country.

On Pa.

"My son," said Harker as he pointed the ivy in front of the cottage, "always be like the vine—climb." The little boy was thoughtful. "I don't think I'd want to be like that," he responded seriously. "And why not, Tommy?" "Cause if I was I'd be a porch member."—Chicago News.

He Got the Raisin.

"You want more money? Why, my son, I worked three years for \$11 a month right in this establishment and I'm owner of it." "Well, you see what happened to you boss. No man who treats his sub that way can hang on to his business."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Nice Selection.

"Now that you have looked over music, what would you like to play?" "Whist or domino."—Boston Transcript.

RULE OF THE ROAD.

Decided Abroad by the Sword and Here by the Gun.

Several travelers were seated in the hotel lobby discussing the difference in customs of the various countries they had visited. "What struck me as most peculiar abroad," said one, "is the custom of keeping to the left instead of the right, as we do here. Why is the rule reversed?"

"I think I can explain that," said a reserved looking man in the corner. "In medieval and later periods abroad men were in the custom of wearing swords. The sword was worn, as it is now, on the left side. Consequently in drawing their weapon it was done with the right hand, and to get quickly upon guard a man had to have his right side to his opponent; hence the custom of keeping to the left.

"In America when every man carried his life in his hand on account of savage Indians all men carried guns. The easiest and most natural way to carry a gun, either afoot or mounted, is over the left arm with the muzzle pointed outward, and it takes but a very slight movement to throw the butt against the right shoulder. For that reason the early settlers kept to the right of the road so their weapon could instantly be brought to bear on any mark that was necessary."—Philadelphia Times.

Romance of a Shadow.

It is hard to believe that a shadow is probably the origin of all astronomical, geometrical and geographical science. The first man who fixed his staff perpendicularly in the ground and measured its shadow was the earliest computer of time, and the Arab of today who plants his spear in the sand and marks where the shadow falls is his direct descendant. It is from the shadow of a gnomon that the early Egyptians told the length of the year. It is from the shadow of a gnomon that the inhabitants of upper Egypt still measure the hours of work for a water wheel. In this case the gnomon is a hurra stalk supported on forked uprights and points north and south. East and west are pegs in the ground evenly marking the space of earth between sunrise and sunset. In a land of constant sunshine a shadow was the primitive chronometer. It was also the primitive footrule.—London T. P.'s Weekly.

Men With Green Hair.

"Copper is scarce," said a broker, "but there is still enough of it left to turn the copper worker's hair green." "His hair green?" "Precisely. In those copper districts where the ore is of a low grade it is roasted in open furnaces to refine it and make it more marketable. A gas emanates from the furnaces that turns the firemen's hair a bright green, this arsenic green that the firemen's hair takes on.

"So if you ever see a man with green hair you can say, a la Sherlock Holmes: "There, my dear Watson, is a copper furnace tender."

A Request.

"I shall never forget," says the eminent man of wealth during the course of his little speech on "How to Become as I Am," "I shall never forget how I saved my first hundred dollars."

At this juncture a weary individual in the audience, who has heard this story many times and has read it many times more, interrupts: "Well, if you can't forget it, for heaven's sake give the rest of us a chance to."—Chicago Post.

A Friendly Tip.

Saplegh—Would you—er—advise me to—er—marry a beautiful girl or a sensible girl? Hammersley—I'm afraid you'll never be able to marry either old man. Saplegh—Why not? Hammersley—Well, a beautiful girl could do better and a sensible girl would know better.—Exchange.

All They Could Find.

"What's all that noise in the next room?" "My wife and three of her girl friends are trying to play whist with only forty-seven cards in the pack."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

BIRTH OF A WING.

Evolution of the Aquatic Pupa Into the Dragon Fly.

Says a writer in the Scientific American: "A wonderful spectacle is presented by the sudden apparition of an insect's wing at the completion of its metamorphosis. The transformation of the grub into the butterfly, though familiar, is none the less amazing, but the evolution of the active and gossamer winged dragon fly from its ugly and sluggish aquatic pupa is still more impressive. Early on a May morning the pupa emerges from its cocoon at the bottom of a ditch, swims on its back by paddling with its long haired paws to the stem of an aquatic plant and climbs up out of the water. Then, after a momentary pause, the skin suddenly bursts open and the perfect insect appears, with closely folded wings, which soon unfold and assume their final form.

"The older naturalists thought that the insect 'swallowed air,' with which the wings were inflated. In reality the air is absorbed in the digestive organs, causing an increased blood pressure, which mechanically expands the wings. The presence of dew is also necessary; hence the first flight is always made at dawn.

"This spectacle of the birth of a wing may be observed in dragon flies reared in an aquarium, the atmosphere of which should be moistened with an atomizer when the pupa rises to the surface."

Ego.

An ego is a Latinized I. All men are created egos and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable something of which neither statute, ukase, edict, injunction, beggar, magnate, book agent nor promoter can deprive them. He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who fleches from me my ego takes that of which he already has enough and makes me not at all.

Women without votes have egos and, strangely enough, would still have them if they secured the vote; hence egos are not a political issue. An ego is what a man is when he has nothing and is nothing else; that is to say, he is then first person singular and no particular gender.

An ego is neither soul, body, spirit, family, country nor race. It is neither moral nor pathological. A criminal has just as much ego as a parson and no more. Some egos are better than others, chiefly our own.—Life.

Cookney Chivalry.

There was a crush in the pit, and the anaemic looking girl stood with the late comers behind the last bench. The young man in front of her, comfortably seated, was not too absorbed in the musical comedy to note that the girl looked tired as she dozedly stood out the first act. He rose when the curtain fell. "Would you," he asked, pushing past her, "like to mind my seat while I go out for a drink?" The age of chivalry is not past.—London Chronicle.

Individuality.

To each intellect belongs a special power. We belong to ourselves, and we lose control of our own when we try to be some one else. The original mind is a magnetic center for the attraction of other minds. But the lodestone loses nothing by attraction; it remains the same.—London New Age.

A Goal He Had Never Reached.

"You are the greatest inventor in the world," exclaimed a newspaper man to Alexander Graham Bell. "Oh, no, my friend, I'm not," said Professor Bell. "I've never been a reporter."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Plain Talk.

"Shave," said the crusty person in council. "Close?" inquired the barber. "No, I'm not close, but I'm not in the habit of giving tips if that's what you're driving at."

He who reigns within himself and rules prejudices, desires and fears is more than a king.—Milton.

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