THE HORSELESS AGE.

ADVENT OF THE AUTOMOBILE WHICH WILL EFFECT A GREAT CHANGE.

Everything From the Family Carriage to a Heavy Truck Will be Propelled By Power—The Passing of the Horse—Economy of the System.

The twentieth century promises to change the whole appearance of the streets in the great cities of this country.

It is the beginning of the horseless age.

New York, which usually leads the world in improvements has been far behind in the use of automobiles.

Paris has had the first place in this line of progress. There are over two thousand motor vehicles in operation at the French capital. Its boulevards present a truly twentieth century sight, with their long lines of swiftly moving carriages and bicycles, with scarcely a horse to be seen.

London is only a little behind Paris in this respect. Cabs, coaches and wagons of this pattern now throng its streets.

Even slow-going Germany is ahead of New York. The little city of Stuttgart has issued an ordinance barring truck horses off the streets within the city limits.

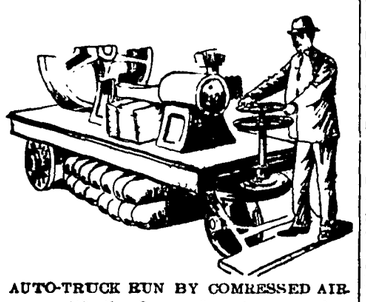
This action was taken because it was found that slow-moving draught horses were actually in the way of the swift automobiles. The City Fathers made up their minds that the streets should no longer be congested by horse trucks. By that simple decision they have made Stuttgart an object lesson for the world.

COMPRESSED AIR MOTOR CARRIAGE.

So universal has the motor become that even the Bavarian farmers in the surrounding country use it for carrying their produce to the city market.

The new coaches for Fifth avenue will be unlike anything ever seen on New York streets. They will be car shaped, with the motorman up in front and a broad platform at the rear. They will seat twenty-four inside and be equipped with seats on top for half as many more.

The new compressed air company trucks will be odd sights on the streets. One variety of them will look like a railroad flat car, with the motorman standing at one end on a low running board. These will be for carrying the heaviest kind of freight. Then there will be coal carts and lighter wagons for general express and delivery purposes. The source of their power will be air compressed to 2,000 pounds pressure per square inch. This is stored in steel cylinders under the trucks, and when released runs motive



AUTO-TRUCK RUN BY COMRESSED AIR.

gear with the force of a steam engine, yet with none of the smoke, puffing or the disagreeable features of the locomotive.

The cost of operating motor vehicles is said to be one-half to one-fourth that of horse power.

This opens up a most delightful prospect of a carriage for every family. There would be no need of drivers or stables, for the machine could be kept under the front stoop or run down an incline into a basement room. It would be ready at an instant's notice, and could be managed by any member of the family.

Let no lover of horses regret such a prospect. To exile the horse to the

AN ELECTRIC MOTOR BUGGY.

country would be the greatest blessing to that animal.

The passing of the horse would mean also cheaper and more abundant food for people. Farm land now devoted to growing hay and grain, to be sold at high prices in the city for horse feed would then be devoted to cultivating food stuffs for man.

It is hardly to be expected, nor even desired, that the horse should entirely disappear. He is a picturesque animal on the boulevards, in the park drives and on the bridlepath. There he enjoys life and gives pleasure to sport-loving humanity. It will be a happy fate, not a sad one, that restricts him to the pleasure world.

Commendable Editorial Restraint.

A South Portland girl while making some cute little curlicky beau catcners on the back of her neck lost her grip on the curling tongs and dropped them down her back inside her clothing. A great deal might be said in regard to this accident, but it really does not seem necessary.

A LONG WAY AROUND.

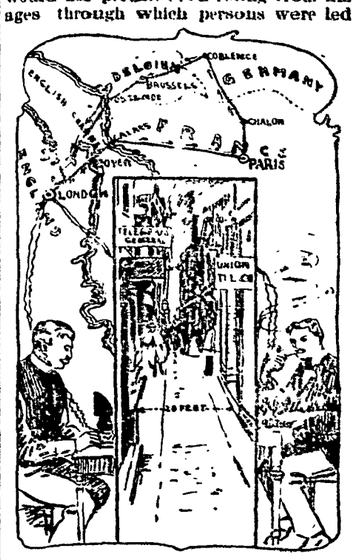
A Cable Message Over Five Lands to a Man Across the Street.

The telegraph offices of the London-Brussels and London-Paris cable companies are directly opposite to each other in one of those narrow streets of London where one hardly has room enough to change his mind.

The operators are good friends, and often when work is slow cross to each other to have a friendly chat.

It happened during the English Soudan war that the operators were kept constantly at their instruments, not having time for calls. The operator of the Paris cable discovered that he had left his pipe on the table of his colleague across the way the night previous.

To go over for it was an impossibility. The clicking of the instrument would not permit even rising from his ages through which persons were led



THE COURSE OF THE DESPATCH.

chair. He could not catch the eye of his friend to communicate to him by signs.

He called the Dover office to connect him with Calais, across the Channel; then the operator there put him on with Paris, thence with Chalon, Coblentz, Brussels, Ostend, and back to England with his comrade across the way.

Then he sent the following message: "If it is possible for you to return my pipe without it being compelled to follow the route of my despatch, please do so immediately." His friend happened to have an assistant, who took the pipe over at once.

This message traveled through England, France, Germany, Belgium and England.

New York's Little Shops.

New York, with all its greatness, is in some respects the most condensed place on earth. Down in Mulberry street there is a shop just wide enough for a cobbler's bench and hardly long enough to permit three customers to stand in line. Here the industrious doctor of soles sits all day long and plies his trade, interrupted occasionally by a customer, who obscures his lay light.

There are cigar stores so diminutive that a man can scarcely turn around in them. In Broadway, not far from Herald Square, is a place for the sale of the fragrant weed in which a customer can hardly lift his arm without knocking down a box of cigarettes or a pile of stogies. It's the proper thing for the purchaser to back out of the place after cautiously applying the match to his recently acquired cigar.

Smallest of all is a restaurant near the South ferry, where there are a shelf and three chairs, and the pies are placed on edge. On busy days those who desire the particular brand of crullers, stew and coffee offered there for sale are obliged to wait outside the door for a place at the shelf.

A Giant Moose Head.

The largest moose head on record is in the possession of Mr. W. F. Sheard of Tacoma, Wash. It is the head of an Alaskan moose and the antlers measure from tip to tip 6 feet 6 inches. The widest moose antlers in England were in the possession of his royal highness the duke of Edinburgh. They measured 59¼ inches across or ¾-inch under 5 feet. The Alaskan specimen, 6 inches higher than a 6-foot man, is also immensely wide and massive in the "palm" of the horns.

An Old House.

The oldest house in America is in St. Augustine, Fla. In 1564, is was built by the monks of the Order of St. Francis and the whole of the solid structure is composed of coquina, a combination of sea shells and mortar, which is almost indestructable. When Francis Drake sacked and burned the town this was the only house left in the trail of destruction. It has been purchased by the well known antiquarian, J. W. Henderson, who will make it his winter residence.

A Wonderful Carpet.

The Queen of England is possessed of one of the most remarkable articles ever made in prison. The superintendent of Agra jail two years ago received an order to weave a carpet of special design for her majesty. On it 28 of the deftest convicts of the establishment have been engaged. The carpet measures 77 feet by 40 feet, and is estimated to contain no fewer than 20,000,000 stitches.

A Black Record.

There is no part of the world which has such a black record for wrecks as the narrow Baltic sea. The number in some years has averaged more than one a day, the greatest number of wrecks recorded in one year being 154. About 50 per cent. of these vessels became total wrecks, all the crews being lost.

Matrimonial Lottery.

A matrimonial lottery takes place four times a year in Smolensk, Russia. A young maiden is raffled for, 5,000 tickets being issued at 1 rouble each. The money is given to the girl as her dowry, and the holder of the lucky ticket marries the girl.

Encouraging little rights is as helpful as criticising great wrongs.

THE GRIP MICROBE

SOME DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE PROLIFIC AND TROUBLESOME GERM.

While They Require a High Temperature to Breed, No Degree of Natural Cold Can Kill Them—Valuable Advice for Treatment of the Disease.

The influenza or grip germ has been found to be a bacillus shaped like a rod and about three times longer than it is broad. The bacilli are usually grouped in pairs. These bacilli have never been found naturally except in the human body or its secretions. They are abundant, in cases of influenza or grip, in the lung and bronchial tissues, in the nasal secretions and in the sputum or spittle.

They are found first usually as free clumps of thirty or forty. They get into the system through the nose and mouth. As they require the presence of oxygen or air for their development the breathing tract from the nose down to the lungs becomes their breeding place. They cannot breed below a temperature of 80 degrees, and they flourish best at blood heat—98 degrees. When thrown out of the body in sputum, or otherwise, they remain dormant until they are again taken up into another human system. No degree of natural cold can kill them.

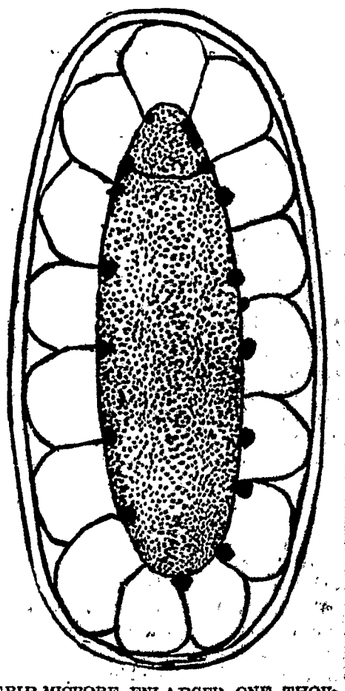
These germs die quickly, in twelve to twenty-four hours, when dried or or placed in water. In human sputum they may live for one or two weeks. They are known to live for weeks months, and probably for years, in the body in cases of chronic bronchitis, consumption and other chronic lung inflamations. They may also grow in the throat secretions of some healthy persons.

This bacillus was discovered by Professor Robert Pfeifer in Berlin in 1892. It may be grown in laboratory cultures, as is bacillus of consumption, typhoid fever, malaria and the germs of other diseases. Artificial influenza germs invariably require blood or haemoglobin smeared over the substance in which they are to be grown. When examined under a microscope they are stained with dyes, as in their natural state they are almost colorless.

MICROSCOPIC VIEW OF THE SURFACE OF THE HUMAN TONGUE.

There is a general impression that grip germs flourish best in the mild, foggy, unseasonable weather of winter. It has been found lately that the weather has absolutely nothing to do with the direct breeding of these germs. But these germs attack persons during times of sudden change of temperature, because the human system is apt at such times to be below the normal and unable to resist their onset.

Individuals, for self protection, must rely upon strict observance of those conditions which their own experience has shown them conduce most to their well being. Nourishing and well-cooked food, wholesome drinks, sufficient sleep and personal cleanliness are essential. We cannot eat the same food, drink the same fluids, or live by identical iron-clad rules.



GRIP MICROBE ENLARGED ONE THOUSAND BILLION TIMES.

Every one must judge for himself, but he must certainly avoid irregularity in hours, over-eating, abuse of stimulating drinks, insufficient sleep and exposure to conditions that he knows are likely to give him a cold in the head or a sore throat, for the germs of influenza find in a mucous membrane already weakened by inflamation a soil in which they flourish luxuriantly.

It is especially desirable to avoid rooms, or an atmosphere that is foul with exhalations from the human body or other impurities. Sudden changes of temperature should be guarded against by paying particular attention to the clothing, making changes in the outer clothing rather than in underwear. It might be well also to wash or rinse the nose, mouth or throat night and morning with an unirritating solution of some one of the numerous toilet disinfectants that can be found in any drug store.

As an additional preventive, use quinine for its tonic effects simply, five grains in the morning after breakfast or two grains night and morning.

A Lucky Find.

While kicking about in some dirt at the city dump, Leadville, Colo., Frank Burkhart unearthed a cave in which he found fifty sacks of gold and silver ore, stolen from the mines, and valued at $110,000.

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

The Famous Structure That Leads to Dark and Dismal Cells.

The Bridge of Sighs spans the Rio della Paglia and connects the ducal palace with the carceri or prisons. The bridge dates from 1607. It is a graceful arch, 32 feet above the water, enclosed at all sides and arched overhead. It contains two separate pass-

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

for trial or judgment. It is in the rear of the palace and hangs over the dark waters of the narrow canal.

The poetic sentiment attached to the bridge, which gave it the famous name it still bears, arose from the belief that many a political prisoner, innocent of wrongdoing, was led over this span and down into the dungeons below, whence there was no escape. So damp and foul are these cells that they are called "wells." Travelers in search of the hideous always visit them. Their gloom and horror have been painted in words in Dicken's "Pictures from Italy."

Standing on the Bridge of Sighs Byron wrote his splendid poem on the rise and fall of Venice.

Some question has been raised as to the stability of the foundations of this bridge. It is known of course, that the mediaeval architects of Northern Italy were men of extraordinary ability; but their skill exhibited itself more in the artistic than in the engineering side of their profession.

In the latter branch they may almost be looked upon as experimentalists, and in view of the nature of the soil of Venice, the wonder is that their structures have lasted five or six hundred years, especially when it is remembered that they did not scruple to add great weight in the way of superstructures to buildings which had been erected for centuries without strengthening the foundations.

Don't Use Blotting Pads.

Said an official at the general writing counter in a big post office: "Be careful how you use the blotting paper."

Remembering that good blotting sheets could be had for a penny, I inquired "Why?"

"We have more inquisitive than ready-going visitors," he said. "Some who have little or no business to mind take pleasure in acting overseer to others. Lots of idle folks drop in here purposely to examine the blotting pads.

"Not that the examination is profitable to the examiners in the general sense, but look there—you observe the old gentleman in the blue pilot coat at the central counter? His hobby is to busy himself with other people's concerns. Today he is quiescent; the pads are new, and offer no amusement.

"I have seen him" (in a lowered voice) "take up pad after pad, place a small hand glass over them, and read what impression the writers have left on the absorbent paper. He is a pest, but we cannot expose him.

"Sorry to say, more than one lady finds amusement in similarly treating the blotters. One in particular, lingers long in the vicinity of the writing counters. Carrying a small folding glass, she seems to delight in reading snatches of communications which the pads have mirrored on their sheets. When disturbed, she pretends to be interested in writing, or filling a telegraph form. Yes, I warn you not to use the official pads too liberally."

Curious Fishing.

The natives of Kottiar are in the habit of digging every year, in the summer, the dry banks of the Vergel river for fish, which they dig out by hundreds, just as they would potatoes. The mud lumps are broken open and the fish, perhaps eight or ten inches long, will always be found alive, and often frisky, as if just removed from its supposedly native element—the water. In the dry bed of several African rivers a similar practice is often pursued. A kind of mud fish buries itself whilst the bottom is still moist, and remains there all the summer, waking up when the rains commence again.

Boiled Water as a Beverage.

In advocating the practice of boiling water (and milk) of uncertain purity, Professor Bizzozero combats the prejudice against boiled water as a beverage. He maintains that the "taste" frequently complained of in boiled water is really caused by the kettle, and can scarcely be due to the absence of dissolved air, of which water from wells of great depth often contains very little.

$40,000,000 of Jewelry.

The estimated value of the sultan's jewels is $40,000,000. If his majesty has any hobby at all, it may be said to be the purchasing of jewels and witnessing private theatricals. No professional of note—be he actor, singer or conjuror—passes through Constantinople without an invitation from the sultan. He always pays for these performances in bank of England notes.

An Unhealthy Place.

More men have died and are buried in the Isthmus of Panama, along the line of the proposed canal, than on any equal amount of territory in the world.

The Victoria Lily of Guiana has a circular leaf from 6 feet to 12 feet in diameter. It is turned up at the edge like a tray, and can support according to its size, from 100 to 300 pounds.

RECORDS OF CRIME

THE DIFFERENT KINDS THAT FLOURISH IN SEVERAL STATES.

The Average of Some Sections Lowered by the Influx of Foreigners—According to the Records, Ohio Seems to be the Best, Michigan and Florida the Worst.

Nine out of every ten men if asked in which part of the country was the most wickedness would answer the Atlantic seaboard. Their assumption would be based on the fact that the large cities and particularly New York are situated there and almost everybody thinks New York city is the wickedest place in the United States.

The records of crime do not bear out this assumption and a comparison of the police records of Eastern and Western cities is quite favorable to New York, Philadelphia, Boston or any of the eastern cities.

The population must, of course, be taken into consideration when a comparison of States is made, just as it is when their relative illiteracy is made the subject of statisticians' reports. Thus considered, the Empire State compares most favorably with any other State in the Union. And thus judged, also, the two worst States are Michigan and Florida. Michigan's crime list is swelled, it is said, by the influx of lumbermen to the upper half of the State, while certain parts of Florida, being almost in their primitive state, may account for its condition.

The average of certain manufacturing States is lowered by the influx there of foreign workmen who bring their crimes with them. Massachusetts and Connecticut would have the reputation of having the best people in the country were it not for the Portuguese and other foreign laborers attracted to Fall River and similar places where there are big mills or manufactories of various kinds. Some of the most dreadful crimes in the annals of the law have been perpetrated in those extremely law abiding States. That is why they do not rank very high among the virtuous.

The same is true of New York city or rather of New York State, because of the city. Its "crime" record is prodigiously swelled by the rapid knife of the Italian, and the imported citizens of other nationalities.

The records show that the very best people in the United States are the men and women of Ohio. Out of every hundred thousand inhabitants of Ohio, only 54 commit serious crimes during a year. And when the police reports "best" they practically mean most honest. If you take any hundred crimes committed in this vast country, you will find that 90 of them are thefts, burglaries or robberies.

The second, third, fourth and fifth best States, that is, most honest States, are those lying adjacent to Ohio, like Indiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Kentucky. Those conspicuous in the other direction are some of the Western States, particularly California, and some of the Southern States, including two of the Gulf States.

Some people will tell you that drunkenness is the cause of all other crime. But the criminal annals show that there is no truth in this statement. In the Eastern States twice as many indictable serious offenses are committed as in the Western States. But the Western man becomes intoxicated three times to the Eastern man once.

Assaults and other crimes of violence also seem to have small relation to dishonesty and very little connection with drink. The most violent of all are the people of Tennessee, but in point of honesty they are third best; and with regard to drink they occupy sixth place among the States.

It is safe to say that almost every one has somehow formed the impression that the inhabitants of North Carolina are as shiftless as well as a wicked set of people. This, however, is one of those "general impressions" which will not stand investigation. It is a slur on the State which has furnished excellent citizens and supplies magnificent scenery. As a matter of stern fact North Carolina ranks better than fourth in the pyramid of virtue formed by the various States, and the cause of its crimes, illiteracy, keeps them down to a somewhat innocuous or petty grade.

This Frog a Weather Prophet.

Here is a frog which is said to foretell changes in the weather more accurately than the Weather Bureau.

The little reptile is kept in a high jar filled with water and a ladder.

This wise little animal is a native of Germany.

THE BAROMETRIC FROG.

The barometer frog is able to prophesy because he is sensitive to barometric pressure. When the atmosphere is clear he climbs up above the water and sums himself on the topmost round of the ladder. He quickly notices any changes, and when the barometer changes slips back again to the lower rounds of the ladder.

A Great Waste.

A lecturer on the wastefulness of American housekeepers estimates that 100,000 families could be fed with the food daily thrown away by hotels, restaurants and large private establishments in New York alone. The cause is said to be the abundance of food and the best cookery in the world. If the figures be correct, New York is a big, sad [illegible]

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THE LAWSON [illegible]

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