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"SPIRITISM" IN AMERICA.

Dates Back to the Rappings in the Home of the Fox Sisters.

In an article in Public Opinion on psychical research the author, H. Addington Bruce, takes up the historical side of this subject and discusses the genesis of spiritism. Of its introduction into the United States, Mr. Bruce says.

The scene now shifts from Europe to America, and in America to the little New York village of Hydesville through which early in the year 1848, ran a rumor that "spirits" were haunting the house of a farmer named Fox and had made their presence known by loud knockings. On the evening of the 31st of March this rumor received confirmation when Mrs. Fox carried to several neighbors the astounding information that in answer to a challenge from one of her young daughters the "spirits" had time and again given the exact number of raps requested. At word of this some 10 or 12 persons hurried to the Fox home, where the "spirits," nothing abashed by the unwonted gathering, proceeded to rap out precise details regarding the personnel, ages, etc., of families resident nearby, and even to indicate that a murder had been committed in the house some years before.

A few evenings afterward it was affirmed through the same source that the remains of the murdered man had been buried in the cellar, and subsequently bones thought to be human were actually discovered there. The incident, of course, made considerable stir, and hundreds came to hear the "rappings" which, singularly enough, developed only in the presence of the two Fox children, Margaretta and Catherine. It was not long, however, before reports of similar "rappings" came from other parts of the country, and the belief that a means of bridging the gulf between the here and the hereafter had at last been discovered grew rapidly, spreading first through the eastern states and then to all sections of the union. In a word, modern spiritualism had been born.

That learned men demonstrated how the "rappings" could be produced by rapid movements of the toe or knee joints, the Fox sisters confessed they had so produced them, and that exposures of fraudulent practices on the part of other "mediums" were frequent, served not at all to retard the progress of the new religion—for religion it speedily became—which gained converts in such numbers that by 1864 the "New England Spiritualists' Association" felt warranted in claiming that "nearly two million of people in our nation, with hundreds of thousands of persons in other lands, are already believers in spiritualism," a statement which even unfriendly observers saw no reason for considering extravagant.

Finsen Rays Makes Hair Grow.

No less notable a result than the stimulation of a vigorous growth of hair on the head of a septuagenarian, bald for 30 years, has been attained by the systematic use of the Finsen ray treatment by eminent specialists at the Polyclinic Hospital, in Philadelphia.

So remarkable has been the outcome of the treatment that the greatest interest has been aroused among scientific men familiar with the circumstances, and the additional experiments along the same line which are to be made in future clinics are certain to be followed by the closest attention both in this country and abroad.

Modern Social Demands.

One curious effect of taking ourselves so seriously is the enormously increased importance of the interesting. Society fairly bristles with the interesting. Sometimes one wonders where the uninteresting go. Modern society demands that you should be something or do something or say something, or at least pretend to. It is understood that you must be celebrated, or notorious, or well advertised, or cheeky, and even dishonest, if it is on a magnificent scale. At any rate, you must take yourself seriously and get a swelled head.—Fortnightly Review.

Logical.

Bridget—I'll hov to be l'avin' ye, ma'am, unless ye give me more wages.

Mrs. Hiram Offen—More wages? Why, you don't know how to cook and you don't even know how to wash dishes properly.

Bridget—Thot's jist it, ma'am. The work's harder fur me bekase I don't know how to do it.—Philadelphia Press.

Dietary of Nuts.

A dietary of fruits and nuts has been tested in various experiments at the University of California. These experiments have demonstrated that both fruits and nuts furnish the body with energy, while the nuts yield some fattening material also. The cost of a diet exclusively of fruits and nuts varied from 18 to 46 cents a day for each person, which will compare favorably with the cost of an ordinary mixed diet. One student gradually changed from a mixed diet of fruits and nuts without apparent loss of strength and health.

Tide of Affairs in Germany.

Gen. von Lieber of Germany has a queer theory regarding the fatherland which he explained at the recent conference of the pan-German League at Worms. The general's theory is to this effect: "Every fifty years or so there comes a tide in the affairs of Germany which taken at the flood has led on to fortune. Thus after the year 1701 came the seven years' war in 1756; after the battle of Jena in 1806 followed the successful wars of 1864 and 1866. High water mark was reached in 1870, and the ebb will be due by about the year 1920."

Discovering the North Pole.

There is a popular belief in the extreme Northwest that the north pole will be discovered by a musher, and not by any scientific polar exp[illegible] This belief is [illegible] the conviction that a gold stampede will eventually be started toward north latitude 90 degrees, and that mushers will rush in where Arctic explorers have feared to tread. So completely unknown to fame is this newcomer in the race for the pole that to the majority of people, the name suggests nothing but cereal breakfast food.

Gilbert Parker, the novelist, who finds his most congenial theme in French-Canadian life, has made his readers familiar with "Marche-t'en!" the cry with which drivers of dog teams urge forward their panting animals.

French-Canadian trappers were among the earliest white men in the far northwest, and American prospectors on the Yukon soon learned to goad their dogs on with the same cry, without, however, understanding the French which, in their mouths, was rapidly corrupted to "Muchon!" to this day an Alaska dog driver's equivalent for "Gee up!" Dog drivers generally run with the team, and therefore from "Mush-on" has come the noun musher, used all over Alaska and the Yukon territory to designate a trailsman.

The musher is generally prospector, stampeder and trailsman all rolled into one, and Alaska trails are such uncertain quantities that he has frequently to make his own precedents over newly frozen sea and trackless snow. The musher achieves most of his stampeding to new gold fields during the arctic winter, for then the rigid sea becomes a highway and mighty rivers need no bridging.—Sunset Magazine.

Ice For Heating.

The use of ice for heating purposes is one of the oddities of our modern civilization. Often it happens that a train carrying fruit from the South to the Northern market encounters a cold spell while en route. If the temperature goes below a certain point the perishable merchandise will be ruined. But it has been ascertained that such a misfortune may be prevented by covering the fruit car with a coat of ice—a thing easily accompanied by turning a hose upon it and allowing the water to freeze until the whole is enveloped in a glassy and glittering blanket.

It may, indeed, be appropriately called a blanket, inasmuch as it prevents the radiation of heat from the interior of the car. The ice being a good non-conductor, the warmth is retained and the fruit, or possibly it may be vegetables, goes on its way unspoiled even by zero weather.

Cars used for transporting oranges and other fruit from California to the East are often provided nowadays with large cylindrical "ice stoves," as they might be called, at each end, which, while useful in summer time for refrigeration, are filled with ice during a cold spell in winter. When the temperature outside is at zero or below, the ice, at thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit is relatively warm and thus the "stoves" described act as heaters.

The Salt in the Ocean.

If the ocean did not have salt it would freeze somewhat more rapidly than it does now, but there would be no very marked difference. The ocean is prevented from freezing not so much by its salt as by its size and by its commotion. On account of its size, large portions of it extend into warm climates at all seasons, and by reason of its great depth it is a vast storehouse of heat. Its currents distribute much warm water among the cold.—St. Nicholas.

Cigars at Their Best.

"Buy your cigars in quantities, put them in a cedar box, lay the box away in your cellar, and at the end of three or four years they are just right for smoking," said Mr. T. L. Marston.

"A cigar, if properly kept, improves with age, and at the end of four years' storage reaches the maximum of excellence. There are some curious things, however, about even the costliest kind that every connoisseur recognizes. In certain localities the best brand of Havanas acquire a bitter taste after being laid away for a few days. I don't know whether it is atmospheric influence or what the cause may be, but certain it is that some climates are ruinous to their flavor.

"Any smoker of the finest goods will also tell you that it is necessary at times to change from the imported to the domestic cigar, if only for a brief season. I tire of cigars costing 40 cents each wholesale, and cannot again take pleasure in them until I have indulged for a period in some genuine Connecticuts."—Washington Post.

Two of a Kind.

An Irish soldier wanted to get a furlough and trumped up a story that his wife was very sick and had written him to come home. The captain knew some of Pat's tricks, so he said to him that he had received a letter from the lady and that she told him not to let Pat come home, as he got drunk, broke up the furniture and mistreated her shamefully.

Pat saluted and started to leave the room, but on reaching the door turned and said:

"Sir, may I speak to you—not as an officer—but as mon to mon?"

"Yes, Pat; what is it?"

"Well, sor, what I'm after sayin' is this," remarked Pat, going close to the captain and lowering his voice, "that you and I are two of the most illigent liars that the Lord ever made. I'm not a married mon."

DEATH FROM PLAGUE IN INDIA.

Until Recently no Action Taken by the English Government.

In 1903 the number of deaths from plague in India was 853,000; in 1904 in was over 1,000,000, being 1,040,000. Of the 1,000,000 deaths more than 350,000 occurred in one province, and that province was the Punjab, the one from which some of our best Indian soldiers are recruited. Consider the possible significance of a fact like this upon the efficiency of our Indian army. The Punjab is not a large province, its actual population being about 20,000,000, or only two-thirds that of England, and yet the deaths in the Punjab during 1904 from plague amounted to over 250,000 in the course of twelve weeks only.

We believe that these figures, which have been published before, have never been contradicted, though they seem incredible. What would be thought, said or done in England if in the course of twelve weeks over 250,000 persons were swept off by the disease? Surely there would be something like a panic. And if this destruction threatened to be an annual one would not any inactivity on the part of the authorities in whom prevention is vested be deeply resented?

The small number of deaths from plague in Hong Kong and the Mauritius is regularly published every week in the daily papers, and presumably the information comes from official sources, but the mortality which occurs in India from the same disease, and which by its magnitude is a danger not only to India, but to the world, is never published—it is not considered wholesome reading.

Three and a half millions of people have died from the plague in India since 1896, and the proposal to send out two bacteriologists to look into the causes of the tragedy strikes us as inadequate, however capable and distinguished the gentlemen connected with the joint inquiry may be, and indeed are.—London Lancet.

YOUNG PRISONER OF STATE.

Five Year Old Chinese Girl Has Been Held Here Four Years.

The youngest prisoner in the United States is Yute Ho Ji, aged five. She has been a prisoner of Uncle Sam for more than four years, says the San Francisco Bulletin. The crime for which she is paying the penalty is the crime of being a girl baby, which in China is a crime indeed. She was born in an interior village in China, and her mother was very glad to take the $10 offered by a woman who went there from San Francisco to buy slave girls for the San Francisco Chinatown.

She was happy, this slave dealer, when she sighted San Francisco on her return journey, and she shuffled easily along the pier when she left the boat. The inspectors all knew her, for she had been back and forth many times. It was because they knew her that they questioned her about the little bundle in her arms. She told them the baby was her own, for it is a lie that comes first to a Chinaman's lips.

This was her undoing. In the court she added lie to lie, but in the end the judge knew that the baby had not been born to her. The infant could not be deported, because no amount of questioning could make the woman reveal the home of the child. On the other hand, she could not be entered, and babies under a year are too little to go to jail. At length the judge decided to turn his little prisoner over to a mission that makes a business of rescuing Chinese slave women, with the agreement of 40 cents a day for her board. In the four years she has been at the mission Yute Ho Ji has become the pet of the household, and it seems to be an instance of the punishment fitting the crime.

Car for Chinese Empress.

The Empress of China has ordered in France a handsome car in which she will travel on the Chinese railways. It is now ready for shipment and is about the length of a Pullman car. At each end there is a balcony with balustrades of hammered iron. The car is divided into six compartments, the first two being upholstered in blue satin and devoted to the suite. Then comes the Empress' room, which is the width of the carriage and is lighted by six large windows. The ceiling is decorated with paintings, and the furniture consists of a large oaken table and half a dozen wide and comfortable arm chairs. At each end of the saloon are two huge divans, which also serve as beds, and beyond is a beautifully fitted dressing room with every modern luxury. The kitchen and offices take up the rest of the car, which is fitted throughout by electricity.

Saying It Politely.

A professor in Columbia College of Law was lecturing on "Contracts" to a class which obviously did not care to listen. The young men, says Argonaut, shuffled their feet and apparently only waited for the clock to strike their deliverance.

At last the minute hand pointed to 12 and the hour was up. With a simultaneous movement they rose from their seats and started toward the door.

"One minute, please! Keep your seats. I have still a few more pearls to cast."

Women wear fine dresses to attract the men and worry other women.

GOOD BOYS COST $160 PER YEAR.

Estimate Given by an Ohio Institution for the Prevention of Crime.

The cost of a school for the development of good boys is thus stated by Eugene Wood in his article, "A School for Boys," in Everybody's:

"It costs the state of Ohio about $160 a year for each boy. A useful, capable man is worth to society, on the average, $10,000. These 11,000 boys cost the state of Ohio, then, say, $2,000,000. Say 7,000 of them were rescued. That is $70,000,000 recovered to society on the investment of $2,000,000.

"It has been figured that every criminal does about $2,000 damage a year, leaving entirely out of the estimate what it costs to maintain our plant for the detection, prevention and punishment of crime. Each man will be a criminal not less than twenty years. That's $40,000,000 damages multiplied by 7,000 boys, or $280,000,000 damages saved, not counting the cost of the anti-criminal plant. Has it paid to run this Boys' Industrial School at Lancaster?

"And even if it hadn't paid financially, isn't it worth while?"

A Gentleman in Old England.

A curious meeting was held in Lyons on Jan. 4, 1699. The royal commissioners solemnly sat in council to decide the question if lawyers and doctors could be regarded as gentlemen. It proved too hard a problem for the wise heads, and the doctors and lawyers themselves were summoned to prove their right to gentility. The matter was settled to the satisfaction of the professional parties.

In the middle ages of England heralds went through the counties to examine into the claims of landlords to be called gentlemen. There is in existence an interesting list of the disqualified, and one reads today the shame of a certain Thomas Robbins who failed to establish the title, and was writ among the ignoble. Charles Anscote, a representative of one of the oldest families, is registered as "entitled to be styled a gentleman, although worth not more than £500."

Odd Things About Gold.

Few people know the real color of gold, because it is seldom seen except when heavily alloyed, which makes it much redder than when it is pure.

The purest coins ever made were the $50 pieces which once were in common use in California. Their coinage was abandoned because the loss by abrasion was so great and because their interior could be bored out and filled with lead. They were octagonal in shape and were the most valuable coins ever minted and circulated.

All gold is not alike when refined. Australian gold is distinctly redder than that taken in California. Moreover, placer gold is more yellow than that which is taken from quartz. This is one of the mysteries of metallurgy, because the gold in placers comes from that which is in quartz. The gold in the Ural mountains is the reddest in the world.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Where Our Navy Stands.

In tonnage, fourth; in battleships, fifth; in armored cruisers, seventh, in submarines, fifth; in torpedo-boat destroyers, sixth. Rather a sorry show, but figures will lie. For example, the Japanese are seventh, inferior to Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Italy and Russia (before the cataclysm) in number of battleships, and yet the Japanese, who are also well to the bottom of the list in torpedo boats and destroyers, are able to give a very good account of themselves on the sea, and in a sea fight.

And in two years the United States will have twenty-five battleships instead of twelve, and twelve great armored cruisers instead of two.—Everybody's Magazine.

The Greatness of New York.

Some interesting facts are presented by a writer in Harper's Weekly apropos of the anouncement that the latest census gives New York state a population of 7,800,000. According to this, the Empire State contains almost twice as many inhabitants as the kingdom of Scotland or the kingdom of Ireland; more than Norway and Sweden put together, and almost as many as Belgium and the Netherlands combined. Its population is more than twice as large as was the whole of the United States in 1790, and considerably larger than was that of all the United States in 1810.

Photography by Lightning.

Is there some not yet understood photographic power in a stroke of lightning? Many people say that there is, and many scientists call the claim absurd. The following item comes from a recent English newspaper: "A young man named Frank Goodson was killed by lightning while standing under a tree at Wimbledon. When the body was being placed in the coffin at the mortuary it was observed that there were marks imprinted upon the right thigh which bore a remarkable resemblance to leaves. Goodson was, of course, fully clothed at the time he was struck."

Effects of Smoking on Women.

A writer has this to say about smoking by women: "Smoking develops the mustache, a fact which is well known by small boys and is at once the cause of juvenile smoking in the one sex and the alarming development of mustaches in the other. Moreover, smoking produces, at any rate in women, weak-rimmed eyelids, for which reason in a mixed assemblage of women it is easy to pick out the smokers by the ugly tinge of the eyelid edges."

The Japanese government furnishes a large number of her soldiers with eye glasses, on account of defective vision.

CANTEEN AND ANTI-CANTEEN.

Officers Say Canteen of Beer and Light Wines Lessen Desertions.

Brig.-Gen. Jesse M. Lee of the department of Texas, in his annual report to the war department, declares that after an exhaustive inquiry into conditions and correspondence and interviews with officers and men of ten posts under his command regarding the army canteen, he finds:

That 80 per cent of the soldiers drink stimulants, the majority drinking moderately of beer and light wines when they get these beverages; that a well regulated canteen where beer and light wines may be sold conserves discipline, controls and decreases drunkennes and disorders, lessens absenteeism and to that extent tends to reduce desertions; that the only tendency the anti-canteen law has on those who drink strong intoxicants under any and all conditions is to increase the number; that the anti-canteen law either adds to the number of saloons contiguous to garrisons or in their sale and profits, and that it encourages the "treating evil."

Shocks from False Teeth.

"False teeth have been known to generate electricity in the mouth and shock their wearer painfully," said a physician. "Only last week a gentleman came to me and said he feared he was getting a cancer on his tongue. 'Such severe shooting pains attack me,' he said, 'that often I utter loud oaths in the most unseemly places—at teas, before the minister, and so on. It is like knife thrusts. Do you think I am going to lose my tongue?'

"I found that two different metals had been used in fixing the poor man's false teeth. These metals, combining with the saliva, had formed a small battery. Electricity generated in the battery continually, and shock after shock was administered to the tongue. I painted the metals with an insulating varnish. Thereafter the man had no more trouble."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Deceiving the Spirit.

The custom of boys wearing earrings in China is thus popularly explained by the Chinese: The boy is the greatest blessing that heaven can send. The spirits like boy babies. It is natural that they should; everybody likes them. Very often, if the boy babies are not watched closely, the spirits who are constantly around grab up the unwatched boy babe and carry him off to their home. Girl babies are not such blessings, and the spirits care nothing for them. The earring is a feminine ornament, and the spirits know that; so the Chinese mothers have the ears of their boy babes pierced and put in huge earrings. When the spirits are around looking for boys they will see the earrings and be fooled into thinking the boys are girls and will pass on and not trouble them.

Another Gorilla Dies.

Again a long-sought chance to see a live gorilla is lost. The big simian which came in on the Graf Waldersee recently died en route and only his stuffed image will be shown. Strange as it may seem, there has been only one genuine gorilla imported alive to this country. The fearful brute was sent to Boston, where after five days in captivity it died of pneumonia. The beast that died recently was consigned to the Bronx Zoo, where it would have been the chief of the primates had it survived. It seems strange in this connection that some interprising showman does not secure one of these extraordinary and terrifying animals and make a separate exhibition of him in the cities throughout the United States.—New York Sun.

Few Yankee Models.

It is almost impossible for children of American-born parents to get jobs as models in many studios of New York. It is a notorious fact among artists and in photographic studios doing business with advertising agents that a 3-year-old Yankee model in an hour will do more things contrary to the work in hand than a half dozen foreign children put together, and finally, aided and abetted secretly or openly by a doting parent, it will sulk and refuse absolutely to take any pose no matter how many toys are given it and promises of future rewards are made, which, if fulfilled, would swamp the pocketbooks of the makers.

Ragtime. Justice.

If a Chinaman dies while being tried for murder in his own country he is considered guilty. Then some one has to suffer for his crime, and his son, if he has one, is sent to jail for a year. If he has no son, his father or brother is flogged.

A Wilderness Library.

One of the largest libraries in Russia belongs to Genadi W. Judin. It consists of over 100,000 volumes, and the oddest thing about it is that it is not situated in a large city, but in the neighborhood of one of the most inaccessible Siberian towns, Karsjonarsk.

Queerest of Accidents.

A woman who was bicycling along an English road felt something strike her head. Reaching up she discovered that a sparrow had blundered against her hat and had impaled itself on the hatpin, which was protruding about the inches.

A Unique Ornament.

An odd little stick-pin has a common house fly for a head, duplicaetd in a remarkable manner. The gauze-like wings are of thin crystal, the feelers and hair-like legs of enameled metal wire; the eyes and slender body are very realistic.

Everybody thinks the golden rule is meant for somebody else.