

Disinfecting Transmitters.
A number of suggestions have been made from time to time with a view of disinfecting properly the transmitters of public telephones, but the proposals have usually involved a great deal of expense. An Englishman has invented an inexpensive apparatus which can be fixed to any mouthpiece. The apparatus consists of a small nickel tube resembling a cartridge, which can be half filled with a disinfectant, and which is fixed immediately above the mouthpiece. From the tube a disinfectant is drawn by means of a loop or hook. The little blind is drawn down over the mouthpiece and fastened to a button underneath it, so that the user of the telephone speaks through the blind, which springs back and disinfects itself when the subscriber has finished his conversation. The blind is made of ramie fibre which is extremely strong and becomes even stronger when soaked in water. Ordinary linen would probably wear badly. The blind is exactly 1 1/2 inches wide and does not in the least interfere with the sound.

On a Windy Day.
An absent-minded gentleman was going along the street on a very windy day, when suddenly his hat blew off. He flew along the street, and after a long chase picked up what he supposed was his hat. Another bareheaded gentleman arrived on the spot at the same moment, and holding out his hand, said "Thank you."

"What do you mean?" asked the absent-minded man.

"Thank you for capturing my hat."

"But this is not your hat."

"Excuse me, it is."

"Where's mine, then?"

"Hanging down your back."

"Then he remarked that he had secured his own by a hat-guard that morning."

Cotton Pickers.

There are machines that will pick the ripened cotton from the plant, but it can hardly be said that all things considered, there is as yet a "practical" cotton-picker. The machine is still in the experimental stage, and there are plenty of cotton raisers who are firmly of the opinion that there will never be any all-round successful cotton-picking machine but the human hand. If the cotton crop opened all at once, then the problem of machine-picking would be an easy one.

Significance of Decorations.

The decorations, the illuminations, the display of uniforms, and the fireworks serve a triple purpose when they are arranged in honor of a victor. They serve to show that victory is a real and hearty one; they give pleasure to those who take part in arranging them; and they delight high and low, great and simple, who see them.

Cheap Gas Production.

Prof. Blau of Germany has discovered a new process of developing illuminating gas that may be bought by the bottle at the rate of 15 cents a pound. A 25-pound cylinder at 15 cents a pound would give a 50-candle power light for four months and cost four hours a day. That is to say, the cost would be 1-7 cents an hour or, say, 1.25 a month, or even less.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Future for Egypt.

An Egyptian paper says that the native families pay an average tax of \$4.65 an acre, 38.5 per cent. of the crop. Foreigners and land companies hold \$55,000 acres. Through their industry and liquidation, and the redistribution of the estates formed since 1905, it is probable that large amounts of land may be uncultivated.

What, Indeed?

What is the crucial pleasure which carries sorrow and bitterness to the heart of your brother? Where is the innocence of an amusement whose source springs from vice which ought to inspire you with compassion and grief?—Jean Baptiste Macdonald.

Congratulations.

At the age of seventy-five when everybody's surprise Granworth was asked to be Chancellor for the second time by Palmerston (who would not endure Roundell Palmer) someone congratulated him with "well, Grantham, Kingfisher is right; it is better to be good than clever."

A Stimulating Diet.

Harry Gossby by mistake fed his horse a quantity of poultry food, thinking he came to be condition powder for the animal. The horse was not noticed until the horse had scratched up half the garden and showed signs of wanting to eat.

Price Money Is Old Age.

Although in his almost-seventy year, a woman who is an inmate of the Warren (Rochester, N.Y.) workhouse recently recited one of Dr. Watts' poems without a break at an entertainment given at the institution.

Not What He Was After.

"I want to make you feel that I am a man," remarked the social climber. "Don't you try to be a man?"

DODGING GERMAN LEE MAJESTY

How the Kaiser's Subjects Evade the Ever Ready Hand of Law.

Accustomed to a frank discussion of politics and politicians when the opportunity offers, an American looks with pity on the unfortunate position of the German, who must keep a close watch on his tongue when he discusses State affairs. The crime of insulting majesty, whether it be in the person of the Emperor, a sovereign of one of the numerous States, or a sovereign of the State where the individual may be sojourning, is called in German by the ponderous compound word "Majestatsbeleidigung," and makes the offender liable to confinement in a fortress for a time ranging from two months to five years.

The courts interpret it so broadly that the very intent to offend, says the Philadelphia Record, either in public or private furnishes ground for prosecution. Curiously, failure to rise in response to a toast to the Emperor comes under this provision and the law may deprive the guilty person of any public office he may be holding. Scarcely a week passes without the notice in the press of four or five trials of this character, and yet no other section of the Criminal Code is so frequently broken. Even with loyal Germans a good joke on the Emperor seems the more enjoyable because forbidden. The following seems hardly a fearful insult to majesty, since nothing more personal than the Kaiser's propensity for travel is treated, and yet it is always told behind closed doors.

Two men in a wandering show, much like a minstrel affair, after a dialogue in which the favorite mottoes of past Emperors were rehearsed, came to the living, and the one asked the favorite maxim of William II. "Gustia," came the reply, "pick up your trunk."

It cost the man who made the reply three months in a fortress. In that time he studied out a means of squaring himself with those who enforced the law, and when the performances were resumed—to large audiences drawn by the escape—the first questions were repeated: when the police grimly waited for the climax. However, with the mention of the present Kaiser's name, the man only smiled idiotically, scratched his head and finally said that he thought he had known the answer to the question three months before, but somehow in the meantime he had misplaced it. The audience, apparently well versed in what had been misplaced, appreciated the disclaimer of the police, who were powerless to make a case.

Far more serious than the offenses of those who merely repeat disrespectful stories about the Kaiser are the constant evasions and violations of the law in the press and periodicals of Germany, which are embittered enough to use every opportunity for a fling at him. Cartoons and remarks must be clever enough to evade the watchful eye of the State's Attorney. On the other hand, success along these lines brings an enormous circulation, and—certainly—periodicals owe their popularity to the confident and seldom disappointed belief of their readers that every issue can be depended upon to come as near as possible to insulting the Kaiser without directly doing so.

No other country, with the exception of America, is so fond of caricature and has so many skilled artists. Every thrust at royalty is hailed with delight, and the following afforded much amusement: Two gentlemen are standing before a portrait of a stocky personage in rich Dutch costume of the sixteenth century. "This," remarks one of the men "is the picture of 'Wilhelm the Silent.' 'I didn't know Wilhelm was ever silent,'" replies the other.

Another cartoon that won popular applause dealt with the Kaiser's statement that no one could be a good soldier who was not a good Christian. In the foreground of the picture could be seen his satanic majesty quizzically regarding a knot-tied to his own tail. "Ah, now I remember why I tied the knot," he is saying. "It was to remind me to go after old Fritz, since 'he who is not a good Christian is not a good Prussian soldier.'" The words of the Kaiser, quoted verbatim by one of the devil, are full of meaning when one remembers that Fritz is Frederick the Great, who was the friend of the atheist, Voltaire. The issue of the paper was confiscated and the editor imprisoned for three months.

The German press law requires every periodical to publish in each issue the name of some person as its responsible editor. At first sight this would seem to serve as a check on outspoken comment on majesty, but the comic periodicals that make a business of attacking the Emperor regularly utilize this very provision of the press law as a means of escaping punishment. For a liberal man the names of some utterly irresponsible party is secured, and when the paper is deprived of his services by an infraction of the law of lese majesty, a substitute is secured, and the paper goes on.

England's Water Supply.

Birmingham, England is having trouble with its new water supply. The water is "soft." The city's health board has warned hardware dealers and manufacturers that galvanizing kettles and utensils are dangerous, as the zinc coating is quickly dissolved by the water. Birmingham plumbers say that their business has increased immensely since the new water arrived. It seems to have no great effect on brass taps, but lead pipes and cast-iron are eaten away much faster than before. Mind as the winter has been, it already shows a record for frost.

QUEER WEDDING EFFORT.

Mock Attention Paid by Bride's Party to Bridegroom's Relatives.

There is a curious custom still prevalent in the Bellary district of India in connection with the wedding ceremonies among certain Brahmin families.

Just prior to the close of the feast, a hideous effigy of a male figure, fantastically robed in rags, supposed to represent the bridegroom's father, is carried along the streets in procession, under the shade of a sieve adorned with tassels of onions and margosa leaves.

Every few yards during the procession the feet of the effigy have to be reverently washed and its forehead decorated with a caste mark by its living spouse, the bridegroom's mother. The bridegroom's other female relatives have several mock attentions paid to them by the women of the bride's party.

As to Potatoes.

Our pomme is about as worthless as our pomme de terre. Match the American apple against the American potato and you will have a stand-off. Germany is the largest producer of potatoes in the world. If anybody should ask you "She has grown as many as 48,000,000 tons in a year, and some of them were actually fit to eat. When will America learn to grow potatoes and to preserve them? Our breed has as many diseases as a mango dog. Too many family marriages; too much wedded bliss among cousins."

A Kansas Girl's Advice.

A Lincoln county girl writes this advice to the Kansas City Star: "Why do young men do so much loafing? Go to work. Push ahead! I am but a young girl, but I clothe myself and have money in the bank. I lay up more money every year than any young man within three miles of my home. When they get a dollar they go to a dance and go home a dollar out. I advise all girls to cut clear of loafing boys. Stand by the boy who works, and never put your arm through the handle of a jug."

Hanging Scaffolds.

With the modern skyscraping office building has come a new kind of building scaffold. Instead of constructing the scaffold from below, which is impossible in the case of buildings ranging from 10 to 50 stories high, platforms are suspended from the steel girders above. On these swinging scaffolds the bricklayers work and the scaffold is raised as the work progresses.—System.

School of Waiters.

It is often a matter of wonder why foreign waiters are preferred to English ones, even in English hotels. The foreigner is a far better waiter. His aim is not always to remain a waiter, but to rise in the hotel business to a higher position. In Lausanne there is a school for waiters. They are taught there foreign languages, and not only to wait well, but everything else connected with the working of a hotel.

Where Impoliteness Reigns.

New York men have just earned the reputation of being less polite in their treatment of women in public conveyances than are the men of other cities. Figures obtained from other cities show an average of thirteen per cent. of men seated while women are standing, and New York city shows about seventy per cent.

Growth of City of Baltimore.

In 1790 the population of the city of Baltimore was only 15,503; it was in 50 years or in 1840, before Baltimore had climbed up into the 100,000 class; she could first count half a million in 1900; and to-day the official records disclose a population of 680,810.

Live Long in Africa.

In the course of a report to the British colonial office a resident of Borgu province, Nigeria, mentions that the chief, Kokafu, is said to have reached the age of 205, while his son did not die until he was 157. The latter visited Sokoto not many years ago.

New Zealand's Coal Supply.

It is estimated that New Zealand has an available coal supply of 1,200,000,000 tons, of which not more than 20,000,000 tons have been touched. This was the first of the British colonies to try the experiment of state ownership of colliery property.

Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Egyptian hieroglyphic inscriptions consist of figures of objects, animate and inanimate; men and animals, and parts of them; plants, the heavenly bodies, and an immense number of different weapons, tools and articles of miscellaneous character.

A Monty Bit of Truth.

When a man in New York or elsewhere, loudly boasts that he is a "southern gentleman" he is a poor, cheap fraud. A gentleman from anywhere, is a gentleman anywhere, and he does not need to proclaim the fact.

Chicago Wholesale Trade.

The first wholesale store was opened in Chicago in 1844, but in 1900 the wholesale trade of the city was approximately valued at \$1,000,000,000.

AS TO MOSQUITOES.

One Authority Advises Feeding Them to the Millions.

Some interesting experiments (writes an English correspondent) are being conducted in several of the British Colonial possessions in the West Indies, for the purpose of ascertaining how far the immunity enjoyed by Barbados from the visitations of the malarial mosquito is due to the presence in the local waters of a tiny fish known as "millions." As far back as 1888, specimens of the Trinidad variety of this little fish were determined by the authorities at South Kensington, its habits being similar in every respect to the Barbados species. Its voracity is out of all proportion to its size, and as its food consists to a large extent of the larvae of the mosquito, it cannot be doubted that its operations constitute a very potent factor in rendering the area in which it lives free from malarial fever. Places which have long been known to be the recognized breeding haunts of mosquitoes have become quite harmless after the introduction of these fish. It is believed that a far more effectual method of eradicating the mosquito is to be found in inducing them to lay their eggs in a receptacle to which the "millions" have been previously introduced, then to rely solely on kerosene or petroleum, although the last-named would seem to be peculiarly suitable for dealing with the stagnant water which collects in the gutters of large buildings and which is a favorite haunt of the malarial mosquito.

A Fireless House.

To demonstrate his faith in the practicability of electricity for all domestic purposes, an official of an Illinois electrical company has recently built a house at Carrollton, Ill., without a chimney or any other means of making use of fire. The house is heated by steam and the cooking done by electricity, both supplied by the neat, light and power company, with which the gentleman is connected. This construction marks the beginning of an effort to obtain customers for current to be used in the kitchen, and a special rate has been fixed for that kind of service.

The Water Hyacinth.

An interesting novelty for the corner of the garden may be found in the water hyacinth, which can now be bought from the florist for a few cents. This requires a little pond or a tub of water, upon the surface of which the curiously expanded leaves will float, sending down their long roots into the water. A single plant multiplies rapidly, and before the end of the season will be likely to send up many of the spikes of violet blue flowers.

English Urbanity.

We sincerely hope that this is the last time we shall see American amateur athletes in this country, and we can get on very well without a great many other Americans who are not athletes. Of course it would be absurd not to admit that among Americans there are some good sportsmen and agreeable people, but they are in such a small minority that it is almost impossible to trace them.

Not a Matter of Creed.

A man addicted to walking in his sleep went to bed all right, but when he awoke he found himself on the street in the grasp of a policeman. "Hold on," he cried, "you mustn't arrest me. I'm a somnambulist." To which the policeman replied: "I don't care what your religion is—yer can't walk the street in yer night-shirt."

Art of the Superior Smile.

The superior smile is a useful accomplishment for any young man. It is much in vogue at the universities, where it may be studied at its best on young Don Many men who learn nothing else at the universities, learn this art, and find it uncommonly useful in after life. It is an excellent cover for a naked mind, and should be sought after by parliamentary candidates.

An Error of the Times.

Among the educated classes the tendency of the day is to make far too much of the children. One of the most objectionable sights is to see well-trained, well-mannered little men and women of the world who are treated by their elders as if they were not only equals but superiors.

Shears for Carving Fowl.

A pair of shears has been devised especially for those who find the talent of carving hard to acquire. The upper blade is a carving knife and the dented lower blade forms a clip. The shears are easy to handle and permit one to attack any part of the fowl.

Man's Dull Attire.

Braiders are constantly becoming duller and more morose in the matter of their clothes. There carelessness in this respect seems sometimes to amount to affectation.

A Garden of Hyacinths.

The Sultan of Turkey has a whole garden exclusively devoted to hyacinths of different kinds.

Catholic News From Many Places.

Rev. Thomas J. Garland, secretary of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, who returned last week from Europe, had the good fortune during a brief sojourn in Rome to be received in audience by Pope Pius X. Mrs. Garland, who accompanied her husband, also shook hands with His Holiness. In a published interview Rev. Mr. Garland speaks of the Holy Father's "great gentleness and simplicity." "Pius X," he says, "impressed me as a good, spiritual, fatherly man."

JOSEPH H. OBERLIES

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