

SATURN'S SALTY RINGS.

Theory set up That the Great Bands Are Composed of Chloride of Sodium.

All astronomers and students of the stars await with eagerness their annual view of Saturn in the east, when nearest the earth. They hope that somehow his mysteries will be partly revealed through some gigantic chance in the filmy rings that render him the most wonderful object in the whole heavens, says the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

It is quite apparent that the rings are of some mineral substance and without atmosphere. The mathematicians have shown in their own satisfaction that the rings must be of finely divided material or they would go to pieces from tidal stresses. When the rings present only an edge to the observer the edge seems to be a straight line with a few knots on one side of the planet. These knots can be seen with a three-inch telescope when the seeing is good.

The sodium or salt line in the spectrum of the sun is a strong double line near the red end. We are unable to get the spectrum of Saturn's rings the light from them being reflected sunlight. After a study of the possibilities and probabilities the Democrat and Chronicle observer now sets forth the tentative proposition that the rings of Saturn are composed of common salt, and that our earth was at one time a ringed planet, the ring of salt going to form the moon and the rest of the earth's surface and in the sea forming our vast salt beds at particular periods in geological history.

There has long been speculation about the character of the white matter which the moon exhibits. There are gray plains, but where the surface is broken the matter is intensely white, and apparently unchanging. There is no vegetation on the moon, so far as good optical instruments show, although Prof. Pickering thinks there may be some low forms on one crater floor. But no other observer since the telescope was invented has seen anything but gleaming craters and great crater walls. Salt renders vegetation impossible.

These propositions cannot be readily substantiated, but there is much to be said in their favor. They fit the observed conditions well.

ROAD TO STAGE EASY.

Amateur Actors Are Offered More Opportunities Than Ever Before.

It has been said that about one-half the population of every city is stage struck. Whether this calculation is correct or the figures are an exaggeration it will be good news to those thousands who would like to shine on the stage to know that never before was it so easy to become an actor or an actress as it is today, says the Chicago Tribune.

Chicago offers a particularly attractive gateway to stardom. A few years ago there were only two dramatic agencies there. Now there are more than 20. The largest firm in the theatrical field maintains a school in which the stage-struck are taught stage deportment, singing and dancing, free of charge. The only requisite for admission is that the applicant upon entering must sign a contract giving his or her services to the firm that owns the school. The contract is for a term of three years, and the salary varies with the ability that the pupil has shown in the school. This school is in New York. In Chicago there are conservatories and colleges in which acting is taught, and from which the pupils step to the stage.

The theatrical agencies give the stage most of its neophytes. Managers are constantly on the lookout for new vaudeville acts and for actors and actresses, who, although they may have had little or no experience have the right temperament, and are willing to learn.

IMPOLITENESS OF MEN.

Lack of Home Training is Often Responsible for Rudeness in Public.

For the prevalence of smoking in public places women have only themselves to blame, says Mrs. Russell Sage, in an interview. They are willing to drive and walk with men while they smoke, they even permit men to smoke while dining with them at public restaurants, and at length men feel dreadfully abused if they are required to desist from smoking for an hour or so. A man can drink without interfering with the comfort of others, but the smoker makes his presence felt all over the room.

"Do you think men were once more considerate and courteous?" "I know they were. Such a state of affairs was unknown among people with any claim whatever to refinement. The American woman must come to the rescue—and she will. The American woman is the purest, highest, finest product of civilization thus far, but I do think she is making a serious mistake in encouraging the ubiquitous smoker."

"What led her into that error?" "I think she grasped the fact that men and women spend their lives too far apart and they should be comrades. In that she is right, but she has not realized that they must be comrades on the highest level attainable and that she can bring men up only by maintaining a very high standard herself. So long as she tolerates and condones rudeness and inconsideration, men will be rude and inconsiderate. As soon as she insists upon courtesy they will be courteous."

"Do you think home training, or, rather, the lack of it, is responsible for modern impoliteness?" "I do, indeed. Many people leave their children almost entirely to servants and consequently the little ones imitate their manners and culture from the domestics. Many of our young men and women who have attended school and college, who have attained an enviable amount of brain culture, are almost destitute of courtesy. Fix well thy center, then draw thy circle round, has been a pet motto of mine for many years. Unless we have a definite center the circle with exceeding care, that her circle is sure to be faulty. The American woman must fix her center with exceeding care, that her circle may include all noble tendencies and exclude all base ones, in the citizens of America."

MODISH FANCIES.

Pretty Bits of Flattery That Enter Into the Composition of the Season's Costumes.

A supple satin in marine blue, black and brown, with large panose spots, is favored for matrons, says Brooklyn Eagle.

It is predicted that white velvet will have considerable vogue during the coming winter for bridal gowns.

All the season's skirts are round, define the figure at the top and are extravagantly full at the base.

Winter millinery inclines to the distinctive modes, black velvet hats with long plumes being accorded the premier position.

Ivory shirt waist sets are new. The colors are black and white and the designs are unique and handsome.

To keep delicately tinted tea or ball gowns clean around the edges, put three graduated rubbers under the hem.

If the big, black picture hat is desirably softening the extreme edge of the brim by binding it with an inch thick of tulle ruffling.

Favorite hair ornaments are wreaths of convolvulus and leaves in black and silver, a Louis XVI bow, or large butterfly.

For those who like a rich material for reception gowns satin tulle (mole skin) is put forward as a demerit.

For evening wraps the new zibeline and plush cloths in white have the preference, although silver gray is a much admired tint.

The fancy for white and black spots has spread to feather box, an example being a white one, on which were large spots both in black chenille and feathers.

The newest furs show a happy mixture of two and three kinds, as, for instance, a silver fox pereline, with an ermine crossover scarf finished with two black ribbon velvet rosettes from which depend sable tails.

New Style Paints. Potato paint is a novelty which is said to adhere to wood and plaster and to be very cheap. To make it, boil one pound of peeled potatoes, mash, dilute with water and pass through a sieve, then add two pounds of Spanish white in four pounds of water. Different colors can be had by the use of the ordinary mineral powders.

IS RANKED TOO LOW.

The Naval Engineer Should Take Higher Standing.

Technical Ability and Training Undoubtedly Coming to Be Recognized and Justice Is Not Far Off.

From Drake down the history of the organization of the English and American navies has been one of increasing recognition of technical ability and training. The cause is plain, says the Philadelphia Record. Every advance in naval warfare has added to the complexity of the plant, afloat and ashore, and as the plant grew complex the technical skill of the men running it grew, and with it their professional recognition in naval rank.

It was possible, as Drake said, to caulk his vessels at any favorable spot and repair them, it was literally true, that given enough help on board, even a century ago any man-of-war could receive almost any repair demanded where a friendly sandbank, pitch pine trees and lumber were accessible. More than once resourceful commanders in the eighteenth century thus kept cruising frigates in repair.

Even 30 years ago when the navy yard in this city was sold and the transfer made to League Island, there was nothing after a hundred years of occupation which could not be repaired in three or four months by an ordinary contractor. In a generation the navy yard has become a vast machine-shop, whose plan, construction and superintendence call for the first engineering skill and the most rigorous engineering training. The change is recent. If Drake himself had visited any but two or, at most, three navy yards when the oldest of the present corps of civil engineers in the navy entered the service, he would have found nothing in any of our navy yards anywhere. The vessels and guns were bigger than his, but he would have known for what purpose every appliance was intended.

In the lifetime of the present members of the civil engineer corps of the navy the navy yard has been revolutionized. The next naval war will be a war of dockyards as well as of vessels. Nelson's vessels were at sea for months repairing where they were.

The naval war of the future will depend upon the rapidly with which battleships and cruisers are equipped, repaired and refitted. A day's delay in repairs will decide the presence or absence of a battleship. The next contest will be one of naval bases.

This change, worked in a generation, remains unrecognized in the rank of the corps of civil engineers. Their pay is regulated by statute. Their rank has been wisely left to the discretion of the secretary, who recommends, and the president, who orders the rank required by the condition of their service. It remains to-day when the corps by recent law has 40 members, just where it was when it had only ten. It is to-day less than that of any other staff corps. One-quarter of the professors, one-fifth plus of the contractors, and one-sixth of the chaplains have the rank of captain, but only one-sixteenth of the civil engineer corps.

This is manifestly disproportionate. We are rebuilding our dockyards. This corps is spending \$3,000,000 at New York, \$3,000,000 at Boston, \$3,000,000 at Portsmouth, \$4,750,000 here, \$1,750,000 at Mare Island and proportional sums elsewhere. Work like this demands rank adequate to these expenditures because on rank depends in the navy atmosphere, respect, weight and efficiency. It is had policy to keep the rank of the corps so low that young men entering know that they will pass their fifth year before becoming even lieutenants. It is an injustice to deprive able men in the service of rank equal to that held by men doing like work. Fortunately, whose great head is awake to the needs of the navy and to a president who knows its history.

The argument for increased rank for the civil engineer corps needs only to be summed to convince.

Great Baronial Dining Hall. Raby castle, the seat of Lord Barnard, is a famous old structure. On the ground floor is a mighty hall into which one might drive a coach. Above it runs a dining chamber, 90 feet in length and 36 in breadth. It remains to-day as it stood in the days when the barons, for whose entertainment it was fashioned, were almost the paramount power in the land. Seven hundred of the mightiest and noblest in the kingdom dined simultaneously in this hall, when the warlike Neville, who established at Raby castle, the banqueting chamber is good for as many to-day, and there is accommodation enough for the cooking. The kitchen is a square of 20 feet with an oven so large that at one time it was converted into a wine cellar, the sides being divided into ten parts, each side holding a hothead of wine in bottles.

Most Popular of Swiss Books. The most popular author in Switzerland and at present is not a novelist, but a professor, Karl Hill, of the University of Bern, and his most popular book is an ethical treatise entitled "Gluck," of which more than 100,000 copies have been printed in a short time. Its theme is happiness, unlike Schopenhauer, he believes that happiness is really attainable, although even the fortunate Goethe declared, when he was 75, that he had in all his life hardly had four weeks of real enjoyment. The secret of happiness, according to Prof. Hill, lies in steady work of any kind. If everybody did his share of work the social problem would, he thinks, be solved.

OPENING CANNED FRUIT.

A Few Suggestions for the Benefit of the Uninitiated in Household Mysteries.

Canned fruit is best opened a short time before needed, that it may be well aerated; and if it has been canned without sugar, it should have the necessary quantity added, so that it may be well dissolved before using, advises Good Health.

Fruit or vegetables canned in tin cans should be removed from the cans as soon as opened. If not, the action of the air sometimes causes the acid of the fruit or vegetables to act upon the tin, and form a poisonous compound.

Fruit purchased in tin cans should be selected with the utmost care, since unscrupulous dealers sometimes use cans which render the fruit wholly unfit for food.

The following rules, which we quote from a popular scientific journal, should be carefully observed in selecting canned fruit:

"Reject every can that does not have the name of the manufacturer or firm upon it, as well as the name of the company and the town where manufactured. All standards have this. When the wholesale dealer is ashamed to have his name on the goods, be shy of him."

"Reject every article of canned goods which does not show the line of resin around the edge of the solder of the cap, the same as is seen on the seam at the side of the can."

"Press up the bottom of the can; if decomposition is beginning, the tin will rattle the same as the bottom of your sewing machine oil can does. If the goods are sound, it will be solid, and there will be no rattle to the tin."

"Reject every can that shows any rust around the cap, on the inside of the head of the can. Old and battered cans should be rejected; as if they have been used several times, the contents are liable to contain small amounts of tin or lead."

HE WAS FASTIDIOUS.

And the Waiter Was Oblivious and Anxious to Have Everything Right.

"I was much amused the other day," said the man with the raised eyebrow, in the New York Times, by a conversation that took place in a certain little cafe down town between a fastidious patron and the waiter assigned to the task of serving him.

"As I was sitting near the fastidious patron, I could not fail to overhear his orders, the exactitude of which were most edifying. I saw that the waiter had, as I had, too, immediately sized up the man. He had a nasty, irritating little cough, and he sipped ice water while giving his order. The conversation ran about this way:

"Bring me a pot of coffee," said the finicky customer, a pot, mind you, not a cup of coffee, but a pot of it! And it must be hot—hot and strong, don't forget that. Also tenderloin steak—rare—please remember that, waiter! And don't have any fat on it! I can't bear the sight of fat in the morning!"

"Very well, sir," said the waiter, politely, "so far."

"And bring me some dry toast—hot, remember—hot toast, and have it made outside and not soggy within! I hate soggy toast. Please bear that in mind!"

"Very good, sir," replied the waiter, "not soggy within."

"Also some sliced tomatoes," continued the man, "and take the seed from them and drain them. I want my tomatoes dry, understand, dry—not wet! Don't forget!"

"Yes, sir," responded the waiter, "tomatoes must be dry."

"And now let's see, let's see. Oh, yes. Bring me some fried eggs. Be sure that they are perfectly fresh—perfectly fresh. And I desire them fried on one side only. You won't forget that?"

"Oh, no, sir," ejaculated the waiter, "I'll not forget. And which side, sir?"

TO HOLD YOUR FRIENDS.

Live, Cheerful, Optimistic Qualities Are Needed to Bind Them to You.

Those who would make friends must cultivate the qualities which are admired and which attract, says Success. If you are mean, stingy and selfish nobody will admire you. You must cultivate generosity and large heartedness; you must be magnanimous and tolerant; you must have positive qualities; for a negative, shrinking, apologetic, round-about man is despised. You must cultivate courage and boldness, for a coward has few friends. You must believe in yourself. If you do not others will not believe in you. You must look upward, and be hopeful, cheery and optimistic. No one will be attracted to a gloomy pessimist.

The moment a man feels that you have a real live interest in his welfare, and that you do not ask about his business, profession, hook or article merely out of courtesy, you will get his attention and will interest him. You will tie him to you just in proportion to the intensity and usefulness of your interest in him. But if you are selfish and think of nothing but your own advancement, if you are wondering how you can use everybody to help you along, if you look upon every man or woman you are introduced to as so much more possible success capital; if you measure people by the amount of business they can send you, or the number of new clients, patients or readers of your book they can secure for you, they will look upon you in the same way.

Unlucky People. "Some people," said Uncle Eben, "is kind of unlucky in getting de kind of friends dat is always wantin' favors instead of de kin' dat is always tryin' to do favors."—Washington Star.

SOCIALISM IN JAPAN.

Why Its Ideals Are Obnoxious to Believers in Ancient Doctrines of the Nation.

The vigorous manner in which the police authorities recently prevented the holding of a gigantic labor meeting organized by the Niroku Shimpo has given rise to a considerable amount of journalistic criticism, says the Japan Times of Tokio. Why the police took this apparently high-handed measure we do not know for certain, as no official explanation has been given. It is, however, suggested in more than one quarter that the police interfered with the Niroku's project because they had reason to suspect the promoters of the meeting of socialist aims. This suggestion has an air of probability in view of the preponderance of avowed socialists among those who were to speak at a lecture meeting which the disappointed projectors of the labor meeting proposed to hold afterward and which was also suppressed by the police. If this explanation be trustworthy, we should think that the police were extremely ill-advised in interfering with the carrying out of the Niroku's labor gathering and lecture meeting. If it was the socialistic bugbear that frightened the police into the summary procedure in question, we are inclined to believe that their excited fancy conjured up a danger which had no substantial existence. Socialistic doctrines have, it is true, found a lodgment in a section of the educated class, and their votaries appear to be increasing in number and importance.

These doctrines occasionally find expression in the columns of the Rodo Sekai, the Niroku, the Yozoku, and a few other organs, as well as from the popular platform. With all this apparent practical vitality, we may safely state that socialism is in this country still in the state of academic discussion and that the day when it will assume practical significance is as yet, if such a day is ever to come, in the far-distant future. So far as the mass of the people are concerned they show as yet no sign of fundamental discontent with the present social order. This is so not because they are less intelligent than people of the same class in the occident, but because the conditions of life among us are such that there is little cause for dissatisfaction.

Society here has for centuries been constructed on principles fundamentally different from those obtaining in the west. Our social organization is more conservative in its character than theirs, and we are more forbearing with and helpful to each other than the European peoples. It is true that since the introduction of occidental civilization great changes are taking place in our conditions of life, but amid all these changes the fundamental characteristic of our social organization still remains intact and is not likely to be fully effaced, although it will probably be modified more or less owing to the new influences at work. Under these circumstances it seems to us that socialistic doctrines may spread among us and may possibly benefit us in various ways, but are not likely to lead to popular attractions of a character inimical to the public order and tranquility. If anything tends to promote the growth of such dangerous ideas it may possibly be the case of unnecessary official interference like that under consideration.

Bedonin Rarely Drink. It is not unusual to hear a bedonin upon reaching a camp where water is offered him refuse it with the remark: "I drank only yesterday." On the bedonin's long marches across dry countries the size of the water skins is nicely calculated to just outlast the journey, and they rarely allow themselves to drink, as this would be sure to make their next water fast all the harder. They are accustomed from infancy to regard water as a precious commodity and use it with greatest economy. They know every hollow and nook in the mountains where water may be found. Their camels and goats, which they take with them on their marches to supply them with milk and meat, live principally on the scanty herbage and foliage of the thorny mimosa. Neither men nor animals drink more than once in 48 hours. No wonder they can subsist where invaders quickly perish.

Political Preliminaries. Great Man: Have you begun your preliminary campaign work yet? Private Secretary: I have ordered from one of the members of the American Press Humorists a complete set of anecdotes of you, together with eight personal reminiscences guaranteed to be absolutely original, and to have been used in competition with no other public man. As soon as we get these distributed among the newspapers, you may crack your whip and away we'll go.—Baltimore American.

She Acted the Part. An ingenious little fraud has been carried out this summer at the expense of some amateur photographers. At a certain place much frequented by camera-carriers, a genuine, old-fashioned milkmaid, wooden pail and all, was "discovered" and numbers of pictures were taken. It was subsequently learned that she was really a laborer's daughter who dressing and acting the part had hit upon this expedient for earning money at sixpence or a shilling a "sitting."

Reparier. He—You haven't a mind above a new hat. She—And you haven't any mind under yours.—Boston Globe.

EATING IN SOLITUDE.

Productive of Dyspepsia in Those Who Live Alone.

Companionship Conducive to Good Digestion, More Especially in Men—Many Victims in City Life.

The man or woman who lives alone eats alone—is pretty sure to be a dyspeptic. This is not a new statement exactly, but it is given renewed interest by the fact that the London Lancet has been taking a scientific look at the question and discussing it learnedly. A writer in that medical journal says:

At a time like the present when the marrying age of the average man of the middle classes is being more and more postponed, the physical ill of his childhood come increasingly under the notice of the medical man. It is not good for man or woman to live alone. Indeed, it has been well said that for solitude to be successful a man must be either angel or devil. This refers, perhaps, mainly to the moral aspects of isolation and with these we have now no concern. There are certain physical ills, however, which are not the least among the disadvantages of loneliness. Of these there is many a clerk in London; many a young barrister, rising, perhaps, but not yet far enough risen; many a business man or journalist who will say that one of the most trying features of his unmarried life is to have to eat alone. And a premature dyspepsia is the only thing ever takes him to his medical man.

There are some few happily disposed individuals who can dine alone and not eat too fast nor too much nor too little. With the majority it is different. The average man puts his novel or his newspaper before him and thinks that he will lengthen out the meal with due deliberation by reading a little and eat more between the courses. He will just employ his mind enough to help and too little to interfere with digestion. In fact, he provides that mental accompaniment which with happier people conversation gives to a meal.

It is in reality he becomes engrossed in what he is reading till suddenly finding his chop cold, he demolishes it in a few mouthfuls, or else he finds that he is hungry and, paying no attention to the book, which he flings aside, he rushes through his food as fast as possible, to plunge into his armchair and literature afterward. In either case the lonely man must digest at a disadvantage.

For due and easy nutrition food should be slowly taken and the mind should not be intensely exercised during the process. Every one knows that violent bodily exercise is bad just after a meal and mental exertion equally so. Wise people do not even argue during or just after dinner, and observation of after-luncheon speeches will convince anyone that most speakers never venture themselves nor excite in their hearers any severe intellectual effort.

In fact, the experience of countless generations from the red Indian of the woods to the white-shirted diner of a modern party, has perpetuated the lesson that a man should not eat alone, nor think much of his time, but should talk or be talked to while he feeds. Most people do not think much when they talk and talking is a natural accompaniment of eating and drinking.

How does it fare with the many solitary women of to-day? No better, we know than with the men, but differently. Alone, or not, a man may generally be trusted at any rate to take food enough. (We suppose, of course, that he can get it.) With a woman it is different. "She is more emotional, more imaginative, and less inclined to realize the gross necessities of existence. Therefore the woman is doomed to dine alone as often as not does not dine at all. She gets dyspepsia because her digestion has not sufficient practice; a man gets it because his functions practice it too often in the wrong way."

Men and women are gregarious animals. Physically and intellectually they improve with companionship. Certainly it is not good to eat and to drink alone. It is a sad fact of our big cities that they hold hundreds of men and women who in the day are too busy and at night too lonely to feed with profit, much less with any pleasure.

Following Nature's Plan. One cannot possibly be too careful in the choice of flower vases for the effect of even the loveliest blossoms will be spoiled entirely if the colors of the jars or vases clash with those of the flowers, or even if they outride them. Nature gives green leaves to all her flowers, no matter what their own color may be, and one cannot do better than follow her footsteps in this respect, and choose a quiet and indefinite shade of green for most flower vases, whether they be of glass or china.

Heads at the Bottom. Uncle Eben says: I may be wrong about it, but it has allus seemed to me de best way was to work from de roots of de tree upward. I hev seen men begin at de top, but in most cases a limb save away an' dey sum down wid a scythe dat laid 'em up for a year or so.—Detroit Free Press.

Working of Both. "Dr. Sharp is quite wealthy, isn't he? Did he make all his money from his practice?" "Not all of it. He's the principal owner of a very large oil well up the state, and—"

"And he makes money from the sick and the well, too."—Philadelphia Press.