

KAISERIN NO HOUSEWIFE

Dinners Ordered by the Emperor, But the Empress Supervises the Dressmaking.

It is a popular custom to represent the German empress as being above all a good "housewife" and one interested in little else than household management.

This tradition, says the New York Tribune, is viewed with a certain amusement in aristocratic Berlin circles. The fact is that the empress has no little to do with the housekeeping of the palace at Potsdam that she delegates to the emperor the daily task of receiving the official whose duty it is to supervise the management of the royal household.

It was the consort of the late Emperor Frederick, born princess royal of England, who first took personal charge of the Prussian royal establishment. The greatest extravagance and waste prevailed before she and her practical husband took the matter in hand and effected sweeping reforms.

A BUNCO POST OFFICE

How Arcadia, a New York Town, Found Its Way Into the Post Office Guide Book.

After an existence of nearly 60 years a little post office in New York state that had its origin in a sort of political bunco game has ceased to be, says the Buffalo Courier, September 15 Arcadia post office, which was located in Newark, despite the fact that Newark also had its own village post office, was officially closed by the government and Postmaster John Dillenbeck turned over the property to Postmaster Richard P. Groat, of the Newark office.

Away back in 1840, so tradition runs, Roderick Price, who wanted to see Arcadia grow to be a great town, made a visit to Washington with L. L. Rose, another Arcadia merchant, and labored hard to get a post office established at Arcadia. In their petition they seemed to state that Arcadia was distant three or four miles from Newark, but over the figure "3" in fine lettering, was the figure "4" so that the petition really stated that Arcadia was "3 or 4 miles" distant from Newark. Three-quarters of a mile is the actual distance.

The post office officials failed to detect the little figure, and Arcadia secured her post office. Ever since then mail has come daily to the little post office for dispatch to the towns roundabout, Newark post office receiving the village mail. On the maps Arcadia appears as a separate village, but as a matter of fact it has been a part of Newark nearly 50 years.

A DISAPPOINTED REPORTER

Why One Call on Miss Grace Dodge Was All That She Cared to Make.

A woman newspaper reporter, who is now a well-known author, once called upon Miss Grace Dodge, the millionaire organizer and head of the New York Working Girls' clubs, who is also the author of "A Bundle of Letters to Busy Girls," says the Philadelphia Post. The servant looked sympathetically at the reporter, invited her into the house, took away her wet rubbers and shoes and brought dry ones, an act which filled the visitor's heart with joy. Then she brought a cup of tea and some biscuits.

After a long wait, Miss Dodge came in. "Are you a reporter?" she asked the newsgatherer. "Yes? I am very sorry you should have come up here this rainy day to see me. You know, I never talk about my plans for publication, but we can have just as nice a time talking about books and pictures. Won't you have another cup of tea? Must you be going? I am very sorry. Wait a minute and have the coachman drive you to your office or your home. Come up some day when we can have more time, and I'll tell you all about the Working Girls' clubs, but of course you won't print any of it."

The reporter rode home, but she didn't call again—at least, not on business.

Bacteria as Engineers

Improbable as it seems, says the London Lancet, it appears to be a fact that bacteria are able to cause the breaking down of stone walls. Recent investigations have shown that nitrifying bacteria swarm in the mud formed by the disintegration of cement in reservoirs, and it is believed that the decay of cement results from the action of nitrous acid produced by the bacteria. Yet these same microscopic engineers, whose myriads undermine solid walls of masonry, are nevertheless of immense use to man because they are chief agents in the purification of water.

A Puzzle in Trade

A mother gave to each of her two sons 30 apples to sell. Johnny sold his at two for a cent and brought mother home 15 cents. George disposed of his lot at three for a cent, returning ten cents. Their combined sales amounted to 25 cents. On the following day mother went out with 60 apples and sold them at the rate of five for two cents, receiving 24 cents for the lot. Where is the missing one cent?

HE COULDN'T SHAVE

And Yet the Barber Was a Man of Rare Attainments in Scientific Learning.

A famous archeologist went to his club recently, his countenance disfigured at several points by sticking-plaster, says the Homiletic Review. There was a general inquiry among his friends as to what was the matter. "Razor," said the professor, briefly. "Good gracious! Where were you shaved?" asked one of the younger members, sympathetically. "It's a strange thing," said the man of learning. "I was shaved this morning by a man who really is, I suppose, a little above the ordinary barber. I know of my own knowledge that he took a double first-class at Oxford, that he studied at Heidelberg afterward and spent several years in other foreign educational centers. I know also of my own knowledge that he has contributed scientific articles to our best magazines and has numbered among his intimate friends men of the highest social and scientific standing. And yet," said the servant, "he can't shave a man decently."

"What is he a barber for," exclaimed the younger man, "with all those accomplishments?"

"Oh, he isn't a barber," said the bookworm, yawning. "You see I shaved myself to-day." There are a great many men who get into the wrong pigeonhole. It is important that a man's individuality should be studied in the selection of a trade or a profession. A great deal of the world's sorrow would be prevented if that were done.

HE WAS A GAME HORSE

A Runner That Galloped Home a Winner with a "Twitche" on His Nose.

"I've seen many a thing on race tracks, but I think the greatest race I ever saw was at New Orleans a few years ago," remarked a track follower the other day.

"It was several years ago at New Orleans, and one of the best horses to bet on was Duke of Milpitas, owned by Alderman Casey, of Chicago. But he was a rogue, and whenever he took it into his head to run no one could beat him, but if he snickered nothing could budge him. On this particular day he was a warm favorite, as the distance was seven-eighths, as the going heavy and all conditions just to the liking of the Duke. He went to the post all right, but he was soon out of sorts and no amount of lashing could make him budge. Finally a 'twitche' was sent for and the assistant starter soon had the Duke toeing the mark. Finally he showed inclinations to run, and down went the flag, with the Duke off in front. The 'twitche' had caught on his nose in some manner and the stick kept hitting him on the legs and chest. Despite this—or, perhaps, on account of it—the Duke ran faster than he ever did before. He won all the way, with the 'twitche' hanging to his nose. Alderman Casey won a small fortune on his horse, and has the same old 'twitche' hanging in his private office to this day."

WORK OF A JEALOUS DOCTOR

The Inhuman Way in Which a Prominent Philadelphia Man Was Made Blind.

Henry Askin, once a wealthy and prominent man in Philadelphia, but now totally blind and an inmate of the Masonic home, tells a remarkable story of the fearful result of one physician's jealousy of another, says the New York Mail and Express. Mr. Askin declines to give the name of the doctor in question.

He says that in 1875 his eyes began to trouble him, and the efforts of his physician, who was also his friend at that time, seemed to be unavailing. Growing alarmed, Mr. Askin called in another doctor, whose treatment was effective. The first physician continued to visit him, but did not prescribe for him. Suddenly Mr. Askin's eyesight began to fail, and the second physician was powerless to help him, being finally compelled to admit that his patient was incurably blind.

FED BY POSTAGE STAMPS

Origin of a Curious Popular Delusion in Europe Concerning Old Stamps.

Most people entertain the curious delusion that a million old postage stamps will get an orphan into some charitable home. How the idea originated no one knows, but there is no truth in it. It is quite true, however, that the orphan home at Le Locle, Switzerland, is partly maintained by old postage stamps.

The reader may ask: How is this done? In this way: This orphanage, being in the center of Europe, receives old postage stamps from all the countries of Europe and other parts of the world. In this institution are 86 orphan girls, and these old postage stamps are judiciously mixed by them and placed into parcels for sale to stamp collectors. In this way the orphanage makes about £120 a year, which goes to the support of the poor children.

Every year three London publications make a collection of old postage stamps for this charity, and this year the papers are offering over \$1,500 in prizes for the biggest collections of old stamps. The stamps may be either English or foreign.

A SINGULAR WILL

The Testatrix Makes Some Queer Provisions for the Disposition of Her Body.

The will of the late Mrs. Pauline Less, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, is an interesting document. The command given in the opening paragraph relative to the disposition of the body of the testatrix after death is as follows:

"Immediately upon my death notice thereof shall be given to the president of Miriam lodge and Adolph Resenrater. The latter shall perform the funeral services and be paid \$15 therefor, and he shall also telegraph information of my death to Jerusalem and also allow only such persons who do not touch fire on Saturdays to stay and watch over my remains. The latter are to be paid a reasonable compensation therefor out of my estate. The sand which I got from Jerusalem and is now in my trunk shall be laid on my face. My coffin shall be of rough lumber and my clothing shall be divided by my executor among poor and needy persons."

The testatrix directs that a suitable grave be purchased for her and that a monument, the maximum cost of which shall be \$100, be erected over her head. She gives to the president of the Hebrew school at Eleventh and Carr streets \$200, in consideration of which Kodesch (a Hebrew prayer) shall be offered three times daily at his school for one year.

After these bequests are paid the testatrix gives the remainder of her property in equal shares to her five children. She names Benjamin Burenstein as her executor and requests that he be not required to give bond.

MEDAL OF HONOR

Few People Would Know the Rare Decoration of Congress If They Saw It.

The medal of honor granted by congress for some conspicuous act of gallantry is so rare that hundreds of officers have never seen it, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

The bow knot worn in the button-hole in lieu of the medal goes unrecognized, except by the very few. The medal is of black bronze, and is often mistaken for the grand army insignia, the latter having been patterned after it to a certain degree. It is much larger than the latter, and on the reverse side is engraved the name, rank, date and the battle in which the service was rendered, and the specific act of heroism for which it was given. The medal is only worn on state occasions, but the bow knot is always worn. It is a small affair, with its specific ribbon. It is of silk, white stripe in center, bordered by two blue stripes, which are bordered by two red stripes. It is an inch in length and three-eighths of an inch wide. The little emblem shows that the wearer has received from this government the highest honor that can be conferred upon man. The secretary of war recently issued an order, after a conference with the executive committee of the Medal of Honor Legion, that hereafter on all official occasions, receptions, banquets, etc., the congressional medal of honor will be worn resting on the breast and suspended by the broad official ribbon of the order around the neck.

FINDS GREAT VEIN OF MICA

Dr. W. E. Nichols, of Indiana, Makes Important Discovery in British Columbia.

Dr. W. E. Nichols, of Huntington, Ind., is back from British Columbia, where at the head waters of the Peace river, he discovered a great vein of mica. Dr. Nichols in 1897 penetrated 1,700 miles into the unexplored north. He cured the Indians with his medicines, and they in gratitude told him of gold deposits. He made his way across mountains, and on the slope of one ran across this great vein of mica. The next year he went in again with a partner, C. W. Norris, of Chicago, and staked off claims. He and Norris have brought with them five tons of mica, valued at over \$300,000. They claim they can produce cubes of mica four feet square. Heretofore the largest sheets have been measured in inches.

The doctor will claim the prize of \$25,000 offered by the British government for a piece of mica four feet square. He says his sheets can be used for glass in locomotives and on battle ships. The vibrations of the gun firing always shatters glass, and the natives of the world will want his mica sheets.

Physical Life of One Planet

The Revue Scientifique contains an interesting paper by Prof. Klossovsky, entitled "La Vie Physique de Notre Planete Devant les Lumieres de la Science Contemporaine," in which the author regards the earth as a living organism whose functions are all closely connected according to certain laws. Even the variations of terrestrial magnetism are connected with a system of currents which traverse the earth's atmosphere and are correlated with its cyclonic activity. He considers also that the magnetic and electrical fields have an influence on the progress of phenomena at the surface of the earth. The professor's idea of the earth as an organism is, however, not new. It originated many years ago with Guyot.

Mushroom and Snake Venom

A French scientist has found that some kinds of mushroom afford a vaccine against the venom of snakes. The juice of the mushroom renders a person immune against the poison for a month or two.

Not What He Meant

A rural editor thus writes of a society wedding: "The groom's present to the bride was a handsome diamond brooch, besides many other beautiful things in cut glass."

FOR A NEW CRUSADE

Rev. Dr. Parkhurst to Make War on Immoral Drama.

Believes That the Stage is Worth the Attention of the Pulpit and Will Make It a Matter of Study.

Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst is about to start another crusade. This time it will be against immoral plays on the New York stage. "I am satisfied in my mind," said Dr. Parkhurst, "that this is a question well worth the attention of the pulpit, just at this time. I have fully determined to inquire minutely into it in the near future. There is much I want to learn. I intend to take the whole theater question up as soon as I can put myself in position to speak knowingly about conditions that are said to exist."

He has not said whether "Sapho" is the particular play that caused him to turn his attention to the stage and its influence, moral or immoral, upon society. It is a fact, however, that "Sapho" is awakening uncommon interest among clergymen.

Dr. George T. Houghton, rector of the Church of the Transfiguration, or "The Little Church Around the Corner," is not satisfied in his mind that "Sapho's" influence from the stage is altogether bad, and in expressing his opinion makes pointed reference to Dr. Parkhurst's tours to dance halls.

"The question as to the moral or immoral influence of a play like 'Sapho,'" said Dr. Houghton, "is one which I don't believe I am well qualified to answer, for I am rather what many would call radical on this subject."

"It seems to me that if one goes the rounds of the uncluttered dance halls to expose vice, one might on the same principle go to the morally uncluttered plays for the same purpose. If that one way of culture in morals is for the betterment of mankind the 'Sapho' way may be also."

"I am not taking sides in a debate. I am merely telling you how these matters appear to my mind. I have never had the desire to satisfy my mind about this by the most remote personal experience."

OSTRACISE THE SCHOOLMARM

American Teachers Tabooed in Porto Rico on Account of an Alleged Violent Kiss.

A special dispatch to the New York World from Washington says: "American school-teachers of the female sex, in the city of Ponce in particular, and of the whole island of Porto Rico in general, are no longer asked to certain social festivities on the island to which they had been welcome. This ostracism is due to an incident on the balcony at the Spanish club, in which a pretty school-teacher and a young lieutenant were the principals. The lieutenant, it is said, kissed the teacher. The principals deny this."

The whole coterie of American school-teachers has been tabooed because of the incident. The society leaders in the native Spanish colonies will not permit their daughters to accept invitations where the teachers are received.

"The alleged incident occurred at a bazaar which both the American and Porto Rican women arranged. It was said the occupation took place on a balcony overlooking a dark courtyard, to which the young lieutenant and the pretty school-teacher had gone after a dance. The school board investigated the report and was satisfied the charge was groundless. But the natives believe it still, and refuse to invite American school-teachers to social functions as they formerly did."

PAPER MONEY

Varying Designs Provided for New Bills Soon to be Issued by the United States Government.

Secretary Sage has instituted a reform in the printing of the new silver certificates, gold certificates and treasury notes about to be issued. The one-dollar certificates will all bear a spread eagle in the middle, whether they are silver or gold certificates or treasury notes. The difference is in the seal and numbering, the silver certificate bearing them printed in blue, while the gold certificates will doubtless have the number and seal in yellow, while that of the treasury may be red.

The two-dollar bills will all have the portrait of Washington in the center, while the five-dollar note will have an Indian. This idea is considered of great value by the secret service men, as foreigners and the illiterate of our own country will much more easily distinguish the pictures denoting the denomination than where there is a confusion in the appearance of bills.

Secretary Sage is taking lessons from the South American republic, where this system is to be introduced exists, and the great confusion of having a half dozen portraits on as many different bills exists. The one dollar bills have already been issued, and the others will follow immediately.

Rapid Development in Italy

Italy is developing as an electrical and manufacturing country. Its immense water powers are the moving influences. Through the harnessing of its numerous streams which rush down the Alps it can secure enormous power at mere nominal cost. The Italian naval authorities have just placed contracts for 27,000 tons of steel wire ship material.

Missouri Zinc

Twenty-two million dollars were invested in Missouri zinc mines during 1899.

COMPLETES SURVEY

Recent Trip of the Dolphin to the Mouth of Orinoco River Was Full of Danger and Adventure.

According to the report which has been filed at the navy department by Capt. Southerland, of the Dolphin, his recent survey of the mouth of the Orinoco river was attended by many hardships and dangers. Many times during the work, which was exceedingly hazardous, the lives of officers and crew were in imminent risk. Two officers and six or seven men would be detailed to make soundings from small launches, and much of the time that this work was being carried on high winds and seas prevailed.

The small boats came near being swamped, and everyone was thoroughly fatigued. Two officers were sent to the hospital, the commanding officer injured his hand by falling down a ladder at the ship's side, and the men were completely exhausted at the end of each day's work. The Dolphin accomplished in a few weeks what is usually considered a season's work by the coast survey people, the naval officers say.

The surveyors found a huge bar at the mouth of the river, which will block navigation during much of the year. For more than five months the depth of water over this bar is not above 16 feet, and during the remainder of the year the depth is not more than ten or twelve feet.

The Dolphin, which is not a heavy draft ship, found great difficulty in passing over this section, and the ship was for more than two hours on one occasion in grave danger of instant and complete destruction. The commanding officer says he would not have been surprised to have met with disaster, but nothing serious occurred.

The ship is now at the Washington navy yard, where it is fitting out for service again. It has not been decided when it will be ordered out, but it is proposed to keep it in good order.

QUITE A CONTRAST

Reports from Manila Show a Remarkable Difference of Custom in Army and Navy Officers.

The reports from Manila show a remarkable difference of custom between the army and navy officers in the Philippines. When the death of Vice President Hobart was announced it was ordered that all naval officers wear crepe on the armband official occasions for the usual period. No such mark of respect appears to have been shown by the army officers.

This difference in the manifestation of official respect for the dead is described as exciting a good deal of comment in the Philippines. For some time it has been remarked by observers that there is a great lack of uniformity between the army, navy and marine corps. Officers of one service secure privileges of law or regulation which are not enjoyed by another branch, and where the services are serving jointly, the officers of one associating and working with the officers of another, the differences are noticed and lead to much discontent.

So far as the laws go there is much inconsistency, especially in regard to enlisted men. The effect of the recent law has been to place naval officers on something like the same footing as army officers, but even this adjustment is not complete by any means.

FOR AN ACCURATE CENSUS

Gen. Merriam Prepares Plans for Enumeration of Absentees from Large Cities.

Gen. Merriam, director of the census, is preparing special plans for the enumeration of large cities and expects to be able to secure returns not only of the people in the city, but those who are absent for their summer vacations in the months when the enumeration is made. He will appoint special agents to have charge of districts in such cities as New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia. Elaborate maps have been prepared showing every house in every street in these cities and the enumerators by following these maps can ascertain the number of occupants of each house and report to the special agent the houses which are vacant and those whose occupants are out of the city. After these reports have been turned in, the special agents are instructed to conduct a personal investigation with regard to vacant houses, so as to ascertain whether they are permanently vacant or whether the people who occupy them are absent for a time. In this way Director Merriam hopes to secure a correct enumeration of these cities and escape the criticism of the last census.

Shipbuilding in Germany

Hamburg is rapidly becoming the largest port in the world. Within one period of five years she doubled her fleet of steamers. A German liner, the Friedrich der Grosse, holds the Atlantic record for speed. Most remarkable of all is the progress of German shipbuilding. In the world's returns of 1899, which have just been published, the Vulcan shipbuilding yard of Stettin takes third place in tonnage, with an output of 65,862 tons.

An East Indian Bridge

At Dahram-Ghat, in India, there is being finished a bridge which, on account of the character of the river bed, is quite an engineering feat. The bridge is 3,697 feet long, and has seven spans 200 feet high, each weighing 551,150 pounds.

Fearful Mortality

Among the Mohammedans of Calcutta the infant mortality reaches the enormous figure of 624.5 per 1,000 births.

SHARP NATIVE TRICK

Filipino Belligerents Make Powder of Matches.

Import Immense Quantities of Japanese Matches—Practically Smokeless Explosive of High Power—is in This Way Obtained.

An ingenious way of getting a smokeless powder out of the heads of Japanese matches has been disclosed in the Philippines. A report received at the war department from Panay, Visayan islands, says: "The rubber bands which are now devastating are badly armed and are unartful cowards, but cruel, and take no prisoners. An illustration was given a short time ago in the fate of three soldiers, who, having made themselves stupidly drunk on tuba, the distilled sap of the cocoanut trees, were left behind by the command. Their throats were promptly cut by 600 men."

"A patrol party of ten or twelve men sent after the stragglers, we learned afterwards from native sources, ran into an ambush of some 200 insurgents, who did not even dare to attack, for they would be hurt. Eight or ten Americans can go anywhere, but a man alone is in great danger of being shot from ambush or from any house or tree along the roadside."

"The natives of the Visayas have no party guns, but a greater need of ammunition. A curious trick has been discovered which shows their resourcefulness. For a long time we heard of quantities of Japanese matches coming into Iloilo, and nobody could guess why so many millions should be imported. Finally it was suggested the heads of these matches made a good explosive."

"Experiments were made here, and we found by rubbing the compound from the stick a practically smokeless explosive was obtained, of higher power than black powder, giving a velocity so great the lead bullet stripped, but even entering sideways, penetrated about five inches further into sand than was the case with black powder, the bullet entering point on."

"As the rascally insurgents slip out of what little uniform they wear, hide their guns and boots and come in dressed in the usual white shirt and trousers as amiable, smiling and friendly, they could readily obtain all the matches they required for the next attack. The cost is small, and no more identification is possible than of an individual mosquito."

WANT TO EXPERIMENT

Lighthouse Board Anxious to Test Practicability of Wireless Telegraphy for Lighthouse Use.

The lighthouse board is anxious to conduct some experiments with wireless telegraphy. Members of the board watched with interest the developments of the use of the wireless telegraph in Europe and the experiments made in this country with it. The project is to establish either wireless telegraphy or telephony, or both, between certain light vessels and certain lighthouses as may be found most desirable.

The experts have estimated that \$25,000 may be judiciously expended during the coming year. The lighthouse board has maintained wireless telephonic communication with a cable at the bottom of the ocean and a light vessel, and thence with a shore station, but this work was abandoned for lack of funds for its maintenance.

The board will expend a large amount of money also in the maintenance of the lights in the Porto Rican lighthouse establishment. It is planned to expend \$575,000 during the next fiscal year, this being an increase of \$50,000 over the amount which is being laid out for this year. It will require \$25,000 to maintain lights in the Hawaiian establishment. This has proven an important branch of the work, and it will be necessary to allot nearly \$100,000 annually for keeping up these aids to navigation in our newly acquired possessions.

AMERICAN SKILL TRIUMPHS

The Engineering World of Europe Is Astounded by Work of a Chicagoan.

The engineering world of Europe has not recovered from the surprise over the remarkable performance at Antwerp of a big dredge-boat constructed in Belgium for the Russian government on plans prepared by an American engineer, Mr. Bates, of Chicago. Under the contract the boat was to have a capacity of 1,000 cubic yards of dredging per hour. She recorded a capacity of 1,200 yards on trial. So great was the interest in the trial that most of the foreign ambassadors were present. The Belgian cabinet, commissions from Australia, India, Germany, France, the Argentine Republic and hundreds of engineers from all parts of Europe. Trains were run at reduced rates to accommodate the people eager to see the American dredge, and for six weeks boats were kept running at Antwerp to carry visitors to the point of operations. The immediate effect has been to cause orders to be placed for similar dredges for India, Australia and Russia. The facts are reported to the state department by Consul General Holloway at St. Petersburg.

Windmills in the Holy Land

American windmills are being introduced in Syria and Palestine for irrigation purposes.

Not Debatable Ground

The New York World's definition of kopke: Any place occupied by the other fellow for keeps.