

TO EXHIBIT "VISIBLES."

Stories of the Olden Times Which Contain Mineral and Vegetable Specimens.

"Lullabies" and "nature-study" are pedagogic phrases which have a very modern sound. Yet in 1661, in the prospectus of the "New School lately erected for Gentlewomen at Tottenham High Cross," Mrs. Barbara Makin offered something of the sort as an inducement to noble and genteel patronesses to send their daughters to her establishment. She also offered courses in certain important branches of domestic economy, says Youth's Companion.

"Such Pupils as so desire may learn preserving, Pasting and cooking," the advertisement ran, and then went on to declare that "Repositories for Visible shall also be prepared by which, from beholding the things, gentlewomen may learn the Names, Natures, Values and use of Herbs, Shrubs, Trees, Mineral pieces, Metals and Stones."

RICE THROWN AT BRIDES.

The Time-Honored Custom Is Kept Up Despite Attempts to Relegate It.

The rice storm still rages legally about the shoulders of the newly married in spite of the fact that rigorous efforts have been made to suppress it, says the Chicago Tribune. Statisticians have counted up the thousands of bushels yearly wasted in the ceremony, and have urged that all this nutritious grain should be put into the mouths of the poor rather than down the backs of the opulent. Physicians speak of the eyes that have been injured or made permanently blind by the flying particles. Half the people present severely resent the stinging hail, and the departing couple are compelled to amuse the public at large for the next few days by shedding rice with every movement.

Wanted to Use It.

Not long ago a woman who was found at auction and Mrs. Wilson attended the sale. When she returned her face was radiant with joy.

Poor Chance for Girls.

Only one-fifth of the boys of India go to school, and only one-fifth of the girls.

DANGERS OF SHAM BATTLES

Afford Opportunities for Settlement of Grudges in South American Republics.

"These sham battle affairs became a lot unpopular in the Central and South American countries a number of years ago, although there was a time when the Latin-American armies went in strong for sham battles," said an American consul stationed at a South American metropolis, who is in the states for his vacation. It was at the recent Manassas maneuvers, when the rattle of the blank cartridge was at its height, says the Washington Star.

"The Central and South American soldiers and officers learned to hate the sham battle and to fear it, too. You see, it was so easy for Jose, who had a grudge against Ramon, to make a 'mistake' and slip a ball cartridge instead of a blank into his gun! They still have the sham battle in a few, a very few, of the southern republics, but the soldiers will do a whole lot of things to get on the hospital report just before a sham battle, especially those who have good reason to suppose that if they go into the sham battle they haven't got much chance to get out alive. The mere announcement of a sham battle starts an epidemic of scientific malpractice in some of those garrisons. In some of the outfits where they can't make the sick report, the poor devils simply desert by squads, platoons, battalions."

"Oh, yes, after the blanks are served out before a sham battle, the cartridge boxes of the soldiers are carefully inspected. The officers used to do this in a pretty perfunctory manner, but they don't any more. When the disliked officers began to be the victims of the mistakes of the men with the guns, they became exceedingly careful in their inspection of the men's ammunition. They not only peered into the cartridge boxes and belts of the men, but they felt around in the clothing of each man to spring any thoughtlessly hidden ball cartridges."

"When the officers first began to do this they made a lot of hauls, and the fellows with the secreted bullets were inconspicuously stood up before the walls with the bandages over their eyes and made into human steves. Then the former men in the ranks learned wisdom. They no longer tried to hide the ball cartridges in their clothing, but saited them away and covered them up with the dirt of the field on which the sham encounter was hooked to take place. They made veritable lead mines of those fields, and each man remembered just where he had planted his little lead cake."

"Then, in the middle of the action, all they had to do was to give the ground a little kick where they had made their plants, stoop and pick up the ball cartridges, and then calmly push their hooded friends or the hated officers over the rim of the next world."

"The officers learned about this, too, and they met the plan by changing the location of the sham battle at the last moment. I have seen them do this frequently in South America. It is really pathetic to observe the expressions of acute chagrin on the countenances of the little barefooted soldiers when, after they have cached their bullets all so handily in the field announced as the scene of the sham battle, the word runs around that another spot for the mock encounter has been chosen. Under such circumstances they look as if a mean and underhand trick had been played upon them."

"But, in spite of all precautions, there are nearly always a few hopelessly punctured ones left on the field of a sham battle down yonder in the warm Americas. It is very unwise, for example, for a soldier in one of those armies to win his comrades' money too frequently. It makes his comrades so angry, so very angry."

"When I was stationed, a few years ago, at the capital of one of the Central American republics, where they had revolutions every little while, whether they needed them or not, one of these incidents happened. A recruit serving in one of the government regiments skinned his whole outfit at Monte One day. There was no apparent suspicion that he hadn't been on the square with his game, but he was regarded as a whole lot too Monte wise for a rookie."

"And, being a recruit, he didn't know enough to understand that after having gotten away with the big clean-up of his comrades' silver it was time for him to duck. So being foolish, he stayed along with his outfit."

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

MANY KILLED OR INJURED BY CARS DURING PAST YEAR.

Total Number Placed at 55,130, an Alarming Increase Over Last Year's Collisions and Derailments.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, according to report recently issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission, 3,787 persons were killed and 51,343 were injured on railroads in the United States. The total of 55,130 casualties is a large increase over the casualties of last year. The total number of collisions and derailments in the period covered by the report was 11,231, involving damage of \$1,849,977 to cars, engines and roadway. This is an increase of 648 collisions and derailments.

The casualties were an increase of 233 killed and of 3,438 injured over the preceding year. Four hundred and twenty of those killed were passengers and 3,667 railroad employees, and of those injured 2,077 were passengers and 43,290 railroad employees. Included in these figures are the statistics for the last three months of the year, which show a total of 677 killed and 11,418 injured, a decrease from the preceding quarter.

These figures do not include casualties at highway crossings, to trespassers or persons walking along the track, in shops remote from the railroad, or to employees not actually on duty, nor trifling accidents to employees, which did not prevent them from performing their accustomed service for more than three days. In the aggregate during the ten days immediately following the accidents.

The report says: "As the accident bulletins are issued to furnish the public with facts, this exhibit of the dangers of railroad travel—an exhibit which the most conservative must agree should be termed alarming—will not be made the subject of comment in this place, but it will be proper to observe that each succeeding bulletin adds materially to the mass of evidence going to enforce the observations and recommendations which were made in the last annual report of the commission."

HORN BLOWING LATEST FAD

British "Beauty" Doctors Prescribe It for Development of Woman's Chest.

The latest British fad in beauty culture is the blowing of the French horn. A London medical man seen by a representative could not deny that the French horn might have an improving effect on the feminine form. The blowing of musical instruments, he said, was a wonderful developer to the chest. It was not that the chest itself was really enlarged; it only had a greater capacity of inflation. What really happened was that the muscles around the chest were developed and the bust was thus improved.

HAD MARVELOUS DIGESTION

English Woman Who Swallowed Dominoes, Stones, Iron Screws and Other Solids Passed Away.

A British celebrity, and a wonderful woman in more ways than one, has passed away at Bristol, England—Mrs. Williams, an old news seller. She was gifted with a marvelous memory, and still more marvelous digestion. Chapters of Scripture and all Watts' and Wesley's hymns she knew by heart. So great had the fascination for swallowing solids become with her that on one occasion she seized a box of dominoes and swallowed no fewer than 28 intact. Upon a later occasion she swallowed one and one-half pounds of large gravel stones, and again, in 1870, 12 large iron screws, but she completely recovered.

Strange Race of Cannibals.

The Tibetans tell most extravagant tales of the Abar's country. They say the inhabitants are cannibals on occasions, but that they live generally on grass, which they munch on all four legs. The men, the Tibetans insist, have horns growing behind their ears. They wear no clothes, and carry no offensive weapons. When fighting among themselves they rend each other with their teeth and nails. They are afraid of strangers. The Tibetans would long ago have possessed themselves of the Abar's country, but the lamas forbid them to enter regions "habited by devils."

The Conscientious Murderer. It was fine sense of the considerations that led the Rhode Island murderer accused of killing a woman with an ax to plead "not guilty with the ax," and afterward to confess that he had done the deed with a club. Though he had committed murder he could not stoop to the telling of a lie.

Birth and Death Rate Lower. Fewer persons died and a less number were born throughout England and Wales last year than in 1903, while in London itself both births and deaths were the fewest recorded for many years.

SAILS OVER THE JUNGFRAU

Swiss Aeronaut Spellerin Rises 20,000 Feet in the Air and Then Glides Past Summit.

Capt. Spellerin, the Swiss aeronaut, is so intensely gratified at the success of his balloon trip over the Alps that he is already planning a second flight. The captain has made more than 500 ascensions, but none, he declares, has so delighted him as that made on September 20, when he looked down on the white peak of the Jungfrau. The balloon used was the Stella, and the place selected for its inflation was the station of the Elger glacier, on the Jungfrau railway, which is situated at an elevation of over 2,000 meters. There a specially constructed departure platform was built, under which the gas was generated, the question of the amount of gas and ballast having to be very carefully decided owing to the elevation from which the start was made.

The inflation began at seven in the morning, the weather being clear and cold. At one o'clock in the afternoon the 1,600 cubic meters of gas had been introduced, the ballast bags to the netting were unhooked and the Stella soared upward. Soon the balloon disappeared in a cloud emerging from this, the airship was seen passing successfully over the Jungfrau, the Bluenlis peaks and the Wildstrubel, when it was once more enveloped in a thick cloud. A strong contrary wind springing up, the balloon was driven back in the direction of the canton of Berne, and made a safe but rapid descent, alighting near Adelboden, 30 kilometers east of the point of departure.

Capt. Spellerin took with him a large camera by which he took a magnificent collection of aerial photographs of the Alpine summits. The maximum height reached was 20,000 feet, the height of the Jungfrau being 15,671 feet above sea level.

CARS WILL BE FIREPROOF.

Noncombustible Coaches to Be Used in New York's New Steel Subway.

New York's subway will boast the first steel fireproof passenger cars ever built. They are no heavier than wood-car and consist of a light superstructure similar to that of a gondola car with plate side girders carrying the load. From the floor the load is carried to the side by means of cross bearers and diagonal trusses, and incidentally these braces support the side girders laterally, in which direction they are weakest. It was necessary to use fittings which would deaden the sound and resist heat transmission, and it was expedient to have metallic interior finish for its moral effect on the passengers. Hence, aluminum was chosen for lightness and permanence of finish. The flooring, which was a particularly difficult problem, begins with a galvanized corrugated sheet-iron in which dips are provided to hold the monolith fireproof floor. This flooring is covered with ash strips for a wearing surface. The platforms are steel plate covered with a rubber matting, cemented. The outside roof is of composite board covered with canvas, painted and fitted with copper flashing at the eaves. Pressed steel and angles are used for the transverse seats and the supports of the longitudinal seats are brackets from the sides of the car and heater panels. The seats themselves are rattan on frames of pressed steel. Each car has 26 ten-candlepower incandescent lamps on each side and six in the center, with the reflection of the frosted surface of the aluminum headlining the lighting is exceedingly effective.

SOCIETY GETS RARE WORKS

Custodian of Historical Organization of Chicago Obtains Valuable Books and Maps.

Miss Caroline N. McElwaine, custodian and librarian of the Chicago Historical society, has obtained some very rare books and maps from the collection of the late Hiram W. Beckwith, touching the early history of Illinois and the Mississippi valley. Among them are "A Sketch of the Life of Dr. John Mason Peck," by John Reynolds, published at Belleville in 1858; a history of the war of 1812, by Samuel R. Brown, in which mention is made of the Port Dearborn massacre, published in 1815; a copy of the third edition of the "Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years 1780, '81 and '82," by J. Carver; "A Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States, including British Possessions in Florida," by John McTear, published in 1812; "The Emigrant's Directory to the Western States of North America," by William Amphlett, published in London in 1819, in which he predicted the future greatness of St. Louis, and a map of "Amerique Septentrionale," by N. Bellin, published in Paris in 1755, in which the location of Chicago is designated as "F. Chicago."

This map is regarded as exceedingly valuable, as it establishes the fact that a fort was located on the site of Chicago antedating Fort Dearborn.

Says Sun Spots Reduce Heat.

M. Nordmann the French astronomer, has come to the conclusion that, contrary to the received opinion, the spots on the sun are neither an indication nor a cause of extreme heat. On the contrary, he says, the effect of the sun spots is to lower the temperature, and this is proved by the fact that a spot emits only a little more than half the heat given out by the adjacent photosphere. Therefore, he argues, the greater the number of spots in the sun the greater their cooling influence.

TALES ABOUT MANUSCRIPTS

Stories and Poems of Famous Authors That Narrowly Escaped Destruction.

Many a priceless manuscript has been lost to the public and later found in some improbable place where its value was unguessed. The original Magna Charta was found by Sir Robert Cotton in his tailor's shop. The man was in the act of cutting the document into measures when Sir Robert's attention was attracted to some strange looking seals which were hanging from it. Though he had no idea what the parchment was he purchased it for a few pence. To-day it lies in the British museum in a glass case and could not be bought at any price, says a London paper.

Half a century ago Tennyson's masterpiece, "In Memoriam" was rescued just in time from a cupboard where the poet kept his bachelor supply of pickles and preserves. When Tennyson quitted his lodgings in Hampstead road he accidentally left a book of manuscripts in which was his great poem. He reported the loss to Coventry Patmore, who went in search of the book. The landlady was in the act of covering her jam pots with leaves from the book, thinking that the book left behind was of no value.

Montaigne's famous journal of his Italian travels was found, smoldered in dust, in a worm-eaten coffer in his chateau, where it had lain for nearly two centuries, and Dr. Dee's curious manuscripts were found in the secret drawer of a chest which had passed through many hands, and strange vicissitudes before it gave up its secret. For two long centuries not a trace could be found of Milton's Commonwealth book till it was discovered 30 years ago and published to the world. A work of Quintilian was unearthed from a heap of rubbish in a tower in the monastery of St. Gall; a pair of valuable Greek manuscripts was found by Barbosa, bishop of Lignano, wrapped around a fish which his servant had brought from the market, and a valuable secret history by Sir George Mackenzie was among a heap of waste paper which a grocer was using to wrap tea and currants in.

New Testament was about to be burned in company with many another old manuscript by the monks of a Serbian monastery when Tielekoff interfered in time to save it. It is now one of the chief treasures of St. Petersburg. Carlyle was less fortunate when John Stuart Mill's maid hid her first work of the first manuscript of the "French Revolution," which he had lent Mill to read—all that was saved being three or four pages. The rest, which represented the fruits of five months' expensive and painful toil, had served to boil the kettle to make Mill's tea.

Perhaps Shakespeare's manuscripts have suffered a similar fate for of all he produced not one exists. It is possible that they perished in the Globe theater when that building was burned in 1613. One of the most recent of the recoveries of lost manuscripts is the discovery at Leinster of Warner's literature to "Rise Britannia," a work of which 31 instruments, several of which are now obsolete and covering some 42 pages.

NO HARVEST FESTIVALS.

There Are No Longer Any Celebrations of the Season in This Country.

A result of the complexity of modern business conditions is the disappearance of the old-fashioned harvest festival, the festival of the incubating, or the Feast of Tabernacles, is familiar to readers of the Old Testament. In England the Harvest Home, with its songs and frolics was widely celebrated. There was also the kern, or kern-supper, to signalize the same feelings of happiness and good fellowship. That in this country the gathering of the crops is no longer celebrated with such enthusiasm as in older times does not indicate indifference to good harvests. Not only the farmers directly concerned in the crops but the great business centers of the world feel a certain anxiety until the broad acres have been swept. The markets of the exchange scan the news from the cotton and corn fields as the mariner studies the barometer. Distant capitalists feel a sense of relief when American harvesting machines have safely completed their annual task. Thanksgiving day is to a certain extent a harvest-home festival, but so many other associations have grown up around the holiday that its distinctive character as such is lost.

Post Mortem.

Manager of great expedition—What alarms me is our mortality list. Assistant—Mortality list? Why, it's next to nothing at all! "I know better than that. More than one-third of the people that come through the turnstiles are deadheads."—Chicago Tribune.

Telephones Per Capita.

In London, according to the latest statistics, there is only one telephone for every 40 families. In New York there is one for 12. In Boston one for six, in San Francisco one for four.

BIG JOBS DONE IN HASTE.

Feats in Building, Machine Work and Publishing That Seem Almost Impossible.

In Austria a few years ago a complete hospital was built and ready to receive patients within an hour, a feat which seems almost impossible even when we know that all the component parts of the building were at hand. It was in Austria, too, says an eastern exchange, that the seemingly miraculous task of converting trees into newspapers within two and a half hours was accomplished. At 7:35 o'clock in the morning three trees were cut down at Elsenthal. At 9:34 the trees had been stripped of bark, cut up and converted into pulp, made into paper and passed from the factory to the press, from which printed newspapers were issued at ten o'clock.

There are also some novel and astonishing feats in the production of books. Some years ago a publishing house in the west received an order to produce 2,000 copies of a work of 375 pages, bound in cloth, in three days. The work began on Monday and on Wednesday afternoon the 2,000 volumes were handed over, while before Saturday no fewer than 10,000 had been turned out.

New York claims a publishing performance even more astonishing than this. An advance copy of one of Zola's works had been secured in Paris by the agent of the American firm, who posted it to New York. On its arrival it was translated into English put into type, printed and bound and was actually on sale within 24 hours. Not long ago an English book factory turned out a pair of men's shoes in 20 minutes. The shoes included, among other parts, two sewed pieces, two inner soles, two stiffeners, two pieces of steel to give a spring to the instep, two rands, two sole linings, 20 heel pieces, 20 upper pieces, 30 tacks, 12 nails in the heels and 20 buttons.

Remarkable feats of swift work are accomplished by those who have to do with moving railroad bridges and building railroads and locomotives in England. The new bridge for the Great Northern railway at Ely, Cam-

bridge was substituted for the old one in the short space of four hours. The work started at three o'clock in the afternoon, when powerful cranes were set to work to remove the ten-ton girders of the old bridge. The new steel bridge, weighing more than 2,000 tons, which was resting near at hand on six small carriages, was hauled into position by steel cables. It was rapidly made secure, the rails were connected and within four hours trains were running over it. A feat still more surprising was that of substituting a new bridge for the old one near Hatfield. Within 32 minutes the old structure with its four lines of rails, had disappeared and in its place was a new iron girder bridge carrying six lines of rails all ready for traffic.

A complete locomotive engine was put together for the Great Eastern railway at the Stratford works in ten hours. The work began early in the morning, the engine being photographed at the different stages of construction, and the same evening it was actually at work pulling a train.

PRESSURE AS PRESERVATIVE

Machine for Crushing Life Out of Bacteria That Exist in Milk.

Many ways of killing the bacteria in milk have been suggested. A recent and ingenious way is to crush the bacteria to death by pressure as a man crushes an insect under the pressure of his foot, reports a scientific paper. "A bacteria-crushing machine," said a chemist, "has been built and tried with partial success. This machine is capable of putting forth a hydrostatic pressure of 4500 pounds to the square inch. Milk has been squeezed under it till the bacteria have died for aery." "Seriously milk has received at the hands of this machine a pressure of 30 tons. The effect of a pressure so enormous was to make the milk keep longer—it kept for five, six and seven days. This showed that some of its bacteria, the fermenting bacteria at least, had been killed. But though the milk remained sweet, it began to emit finally a strange new odor, and it had a strange new taste. This showed that other bacteria in it had not been harmed."

Street Bands Outdone.

The German bands may disappear from the streets, but a successor to them is in training. "Cries of 'Heart' heart!" recently attracted the attention of the dwellers in a New York apartment house. A man with a megaphone at his mouth and a covered table at his side was soon discovered by tenants who crowded the windows and fire escapes. When the audience seemed large enough the man in covered the table, on which was a photograph. A succession of songs soon filled the crowd, and the thrifty inventor of a new amusement gathered the coin tossed down to him, and departed for fresh fields.—Youth's Companion.

Emperor in Hard Luck.

It is said that the emperor of Austria has had more hard luck during his 56 years reign than any other monarch. He has lost every battle he has fought, his wife was assassinated and his oldest son committed suicide.