

LIMIT IN LIFE INSURANCE.

In All the Companies of the World a Man Might Get Perhaps \$10,000,000.

Several papers have published a paragraph to the effect that the price of Wales is insured for about \$10,000,000, a portion of the insurance being for the benefit of creditors, and a much larger portion in favor of persons neither related to him nor having any interest whatever in his living.

"Up to about 125 years ago the practice of taking out insurance on the lives of kings, queens and others in authority, where there was no possible insurance interest, obtained to a great extent," said the professor when his attention was called to the paragraph.

The amount of life insurance carried by the prince of Wales has never been made public, and is probably known to only a few people. It is evident, however, that the total is not one-tenth of the sum named in the paragraph referred to.

According to an eastern insurance journal "the amount of life insurance which can be secured upon a single life among the United States companies foots up \$2,600,000."

Some of the companies insure for more than the amounts credited to them, but in every case the company reinsures a portion of the risk. The figures in the table represent the limits without such reinsurance.

THE ELECTRIC CAT.

A New Instrument of Correction in Use in the Prisons of France and Her Colonies.

Some of the French newspapers have been telling about the new method of whipping men which has just been introduced experimentally into some of the penitentiaries and colonies of France.

The method of this new whipping machine is very simple and business-like. The culprit who has been sentenced to undergo the lash is tied to a post in the usual manner.

The infant prodigy at four may be a fool at 40.—Chicago Daily News.

TO JUDGE LITERATURE.

Writer Gives a Wonderful Discovery to the World—The Intellectual Atmosphere.

At various times attempts have been made to develop scientific methods for the consideration of literature, but, though ingenious schemes have been boldly advanced and audaciously defended, they have invariably come to naught, for the simple reason that they were not based on fundamental truths.

Having discovered the characteristic trend of his wave of influence and the average intensity of his intellectual pressure, a writer can offer his works to an appreciative public without fear of failure.

Impulses of humor travel from the east to the west.

Impulses of wisdom travel from the south to the north.

Only waves that are direct in their motion develop permanence. Cyclonic waves are short lived and a second is never generated from the same source.

OYSTER EATING.

Seventeen Dozen Is the Capacity of a Certain New Orleans Citizen.

A young man sitting on a stool in an oyster bar one night had just finished his fourth dozen. He drew a gratified sigh and looked at the barricade of empty shells with a mixture of pride and apprehension.

Impolite Interruption. Tramp—Lady, I'm hungry an' I'm lookin' fer a chance to work.—Lady—Very well. There's the woodpile.

Something Didn't Happen. Neighbors—What happened between you and Spriggins? You were on friendly terms a year ago.

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TATTOOING OUT OF FAVOR.

The Bertillon System of Identification the Cause of It—Becoming Unpopular.

Warden C. C. McClaughrey, of the Wisconsin state prison, says that the Bertillon system of measurements is away ahead of the achievements of Sherlock Holmes in the detection of crime.

The Bertillon system was first introduced in this country by Maj. McClaughrey, father of the warden of the Wisconsin prison. Maj. McClaughrey was then warden of the Illinois state prison, at Joliet.

Since the introduction of the Bertillon system there has been a waning of the tattoo fad. There was a time when a tattoo mark was regarded as indispensable by men who made law-breaking their business.

"There is one peculiar thing about tattoo marks," said a member of the state board of control recently. "Some time ago, when the board was hearing prisoners at Waupun, I took occasion to ask every man who came before us if he had any tattoo marks upon his body."

PROTEST AGAINST TITLES.

Present British System Contrasted with Simplicity of the Ancients.

The following letter deserves all the publicity it can give it. "Do you not think that the time has arrived when the practice of adding meaningless prefixes to otherwise respectable names should go the way of many other useless and obsolete customs?"

These interrogatories might be considerably extended. Why should humble John Jones be addressed as "mister"—a corruption of the imposing Latin "magister?" Why should plain Tom Smith set so much store by the suffix "esquire"—a rank which has had no practical meaning since the day of chivalry?

Changes of Climate.

Prof. Arrhenius, who has recently investigated the causes of secular variations in the temperature at the earth's surface, thinks that they are more probably due to changes in the amount of carbonic acid in the atmosphere than to variations in the heat of the sun.

THE WELLS OF MOSES.

An Oasis Where the Children of Israel Are Said to Have Encamped.

Upon the different occasions that the bubonic plague has visited Europe, it has been generally admitted that the route traversed has been by way of the Red sea and the Arabian desert, being carried to the latter country by pilgrims from India to the tomb of the Prophet Mecca, and brought thence to Egypt by returning pilgrims from the same holy city.

Considerable interest, therefore, may center round that oasis in the peninsula of Mount Sinai, called Ain Moosa, or Moses' Wells, where a recent cablegram announces the fact that a rigid quarantine has been established, as the chief outpost of defense against the dreaded plague.

The reason for electing this particular spot as a quarantine barrier is that it lies directly on the overland route to Mecca, and that it is there the yearly caravan bearing the khedive's presents to the tomb of Mohammed halts before starting on its long and perilous journey across the desert.

The oasis is so called from a tradition that it was on that spot the children of Israel first encamped after the passage of the Red sea. It lies southeast of Suez, some miles inland upon the further side of the gulf of that name.

Situated in the midst of an arid plain, glistening in the bright sunshine with incrustated salt and alkali, the oasis of Moses' Wells is composed of but a small group of date palms and mimosa bushes, sheltering a few huts, where dwell those responsible for keeping the brackish springs free from drifting sand.

Far away to the southward can be discerned a range of rugged hills, from out of which rises the peak of Mount Sinai, visible at early dawn and late sunset.

No more romantic vision can be conjured up than the richly caparisoned camels, their silvery bells tinkling in the clear atmosphere, bearing the khedive's presents of costly rugs, perfumes and spices; the fierce, swarthy countenances of the Arabs, their persons enveloped in the flowing burnous, and carrying those long-barreled, match-lock guns, with curiously inlaid handles, the prize of the collector of antique armor.

It is with the return of this caravan at Moses' Wells that western medical science proposes to deal in order, if possible, to check the advance of the terrible plague from the hotbed of pestilence, the holy city of Mecca.—Michael Gifford White, in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

BUSINESS GIRLS.

Not Those Engaged in the World of Business But in the World of Home.

I do not mean a girl who has gone into some trade or profession, for the most domestic "home bird" of my girl readers may be one. Indeed, if she helps to carry out her daily duties successfully she must do her utmost to become a "business girl" in my sense of the word.

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FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Japan has decided to open up 21 new ports to foreign commerce.

In West Australia the disproportion of the sexes is so very great that there are only 54,000 females in a population of 168,000.

Mount Kenya, in British East Africa, has at last been climbed. Mr. Mackinder, of Oxford university, is the first man to reach the top, which is 18,000 feet above sea level.

Melbourne, Australia, recently experienced the first fall of snow in its history. It came late in the Australian winter, and was heavy enough for the children to make snowballs.

In a recent report to his government the French consul at Manila declares that the Filipinos did not make the least progress in their agricultural methods during the three centuries of Spanish rule.

A \$200,000 hotel is being erected on the Collo del Gigante in the Alps of Savoy by the Italian Alpine club. It will be the highest hotel in Europe. An electric reflector will be put up that will send light over a radius of 60 miles.

Proposals are being entertained by the French military authorities for a new weapon called the pistol-saber. It is an ordinary saber provided with a small firearm lodged in the hilt. On encountering a resistance surface the blade retracts and discharges the pistol, a recoil of about one-tenth of an inch being all that is necessary.

MUST STARVE TO LIVE.

The Only Safe and Sure Policy to Be Pursued by the Cautious Man.

Medical science has taken up the food question so closely during recent years and gone to such trouble and expense to find out every deleterious quality in articles of everyday consumption that the man who studies hygiene attentively can only eat—if he believes all he reads—at the great risk of contracting disease or poisoning himself.

Bread is not to be thought of as an article of diet. It is a treacherous compound, consisting largely of alum and potash, and, concocted in some insanitary cellar, it is teeming with microbes and totally unfit for food.

No careful man will touch beef owing to the number of tubercular carcasses which are constantly being placed upon the market. Mutton and lamb are also to be tabooed on similar grounds, and no one would think of touching pork for fear the late lamented piggy might have died of swine fever.

The vegetarian chorlites in his joy, and points out that none of these things, except bread, affects his style of dining. But his triumph is short-lived. Root vegetables are to be dreaded because of wire-worm, tomatoes induce cancer, cabbages may become poisonous by the application of improper fertilizers, and therefore are best left alone, while, in addition to the disease microbe which devotes its attention to the potato, there is always the risk of damage to the digestive organs.

Butter and milk are poisoned with boric acid and other noxious preservatives, to say nothing of the artificial coloring matter which is frequently added. Eggs are dangerous, because so many of them are packed in lime to keep them good, and recently, too, a French bacillus has found his way in through the shell. In addition to other drawbacks, cheese helps to ruin digestion.

Raw fruit helps along cholera to a great extent. It also contains prussic acid round the skin, pips and stone. When cooked it induces dysentery.

Of tinned and bottled stuffs little need be said, except that the soldier of the tins makes for lead poisoning, and bottled meats have recently been shown to be simply a mass of spiced rotten fish and garbage.

Fish, although possessing highly nutritious qualities, should be avoided, owing to the large quantity which is sold in an unfit state for human consumption, and the difficulty of obtaining it really fresh.

With beverages the same difficulties present themselves to the careful feeder. Beer, wines or spirits are not to be thought of. They affect the brain and eyes, and act injuriously upon the coating of the stomach. Tea and coffee may set up insanity, but at the least they are sure to induce dyspepsia. Water is full of disease germs, and, if distilled, becomes dangerous by reason of its lack of mineral matter in solution.

Poultry, if fresh, appears to be the most wholesome sort of dish, as there is only a vague, undecided sort of microbe to be feared. Therefore, duck and green peas appear to be the dish to make a stand upon; but let the pea be fresh, as the tinned sort are poisonous, owing to a solution of sulphate of copper being employed to give them a fresh, bright color.—London Mail.

Australian Railroad Fares.

The railroads of Australia have never discovered that it is possible to take up tickets on the train, hence the passengers are locked in the cars to prevent any of them from stealing a ride, and when they arrive at their station are hustled out through a turnstile and held up for tickets.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Faint Praise.

Mac—I understand Bessie has offered to sing at the charity concert. Ethel—I should call that more of a threat than an offer.—N. Y. Journal.

THE BATTLE CHARIOT.

A Vehicle That is a Grim Reminder of the Combats of the Heroic Period.

The chariot was used in antiquity for the battle, the chase, in public processions and in games. It had two wheels and was drawn by two horses, and when one or two horses were added they were attached to each side of the main pair by a side trace, fastened to the front of the chariot. These chariots have only come down to us in fragments, with the exception of the one in the Archaeological museum of Florence, which is a unique example of a war chariot, the so-called "Bigli di Fraschino," found by Rosselino in a tomb at Thebes. It is certainly as old as the fourteenth century, B. C. It is probably a trophy obtained in the north of an entire absence of metal in the construction. Immediately on the axle, without springs of any kind, rests the basket or body of the chariot, which consisted of a floor to stand on, and a semi-circular guard around the front and about half the height of the driver. It is entirely open at the back, so that the combatants might leap to the ground and up again as became necessary by the exigencies of action. There was no seat, and generally in war chariots there was only room for the combatant and his charioteer to stand in. The pole, as in the present instance, was usually attached to the middle of the axle, although to outward appearances it looked as though it sprang from the front of the basket. At the end of the pole was the yoke, which looked like a ram's horns. Depending from this by thongs was a Y-shaped piece, which preferably took the place of the modern horse collar. Probably, broad bands were also fitted around the chest of the animals. Besides the harness of each horse there were a bridle and a pair of reins somewhat in the same style as in use at the present day. These were made of leather and were ornamented with studs of ivory and metal. The reins were passed through rings attached to the collar, and were long enough to be tied around the waist of the charioteer in case of his having to defend himself. The wheels and body were usually of wood, strengthened in places with bronze or iron. The wheels had from four to eight spokes and the tires were of bronze or iron (in the present instance ash was used), and the pins which secured the felloes were of fossil bone. This description applied to the chariots of almost any of the nations of antiquity, the difference consisting chiefly in the mountings. Thus the chariots of the Egyptians and Assyrians, with whom the bow was the principal arm of attack, were richly mounted with quivers full of arrows, while those of the Greeks, who waged mere decorative wars, except as regards mere decorations. The Persians and the ancient Britons used a class of chariots having the wheels mounted with sharp, sickle-shaped blades, which cut to pieces whatever came in their way. This was probably the intention of the Persians.

The use of the battle chariot really belongs to the heroic period. The warrior standing by the side of his charioteer was driven in front of the line to invite hostile warriors to single combat. After the strategic skill of a commander superseded the demands on his personal valor, the chariot was transferred from the battlefield to the hippodrome, where alone its original form was preserved. The description of the Homeric battle chariot therefore to a great extent also applies to the historic chariot of the race course. The small diameter of the chariot wheel may be explained from the desire of preventing the impediments in the battlefield, such as debris or dead bodies. The rim was usually formed of four felloes in which the four spokes were let. The upper rail, which was of either wood or metal, varied greatly in form, and was intended to be grasped by the warrior on jumping onto the chariot, while the front part served for fastening the reins and the traces of the "wheel horses." In the Roman triumphal chariot a covering of leather served to ward off missiles, and later on the sides were composed of strong boards. Unfortunately we know very little of the vehicles of everyday use. They nearly all seemed to be a variety of what we now term the "gig."—Scientific American.

Wedding Dress 400 Years Old. A most interesting exhibition of ancient curios and objects of art was lately held in the Cape. The collection was lent by descendants of the Huguenots and others in the Paarl and Wellington districts, two of the best known Dutch centers of the colony. The number of exhibits is described by the Antiquary as surprisingly large, while the good state of preservation of most of the articles was proof of the affectionate remembrance in which the first comers to the land are still held. The following items are reported to have been among those shown: A wedding dress of the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, 400 years old; a handkerchief with a map of Spain on it, brought from France by the ancestor of the Hugo family in 1688, and a picture of Christ, 300 years old, painted on the back of a glass.—Newcastle (Eng.) Chronicle.

A Bachelor's Romance. "I came pretty near getting engaged once."

"Why didn't you?"

"The day I made up my mind to propose to the girl a man came along and asked me to go fishing."—Chicago Record.

Of Course. The Bachelor—Well, do you find married life one grand, sweet song, as you expected?

The Benedict—Yes, but it's a solo instead of a duet.—N. Y. Journal.