

CHINESE SKILL WITH AXES.

Experts of Cethay Will Compare With Occidentals.

Naturally pre-eminent among the skilled craftsmen of China the carpenter still maintains the leadership.

In judging the performance of the native workmen it is almost impossible to avoid the popular bias that attributes to their own methods and tools a superiority of the western product.

This is particularly true of Chinese carpenters. While most of their commonest tools differ in some radical way from our own, it is never safe to assume the superiority of the western product.

INVENTOR OF BASKET BALL.

W. M. C. A. Director in Springfield, Mass., Gets the Credit.

Training young men to become powerful influences in the lives of others is the work of another institution in Springfield, Mass., the Y. M. C. A. International training school.

The school is situated on a pretty little lake, with generous athletic fields in connection with it, for emphasis is placed on physical training in this institution.

"Roses. Do the best you can for \$3."—Harper's Weekly.

Ready to Gratify Her Wish.—Rev. L. E. Hawk, of Sebring, O., who is the prohibition candidate for congress, preaches very powerful and graceful sermons.

In a recent sermon Mr. Hawk said that the average woman had a higher sense of beauty than the average man, and he clinched with an anecdote this statement:

"An American girl," he said, "visited some English relatives in Devonshire, and one moonlit evening as she was walking with a young man, her cousin, down a lovely lane a nightingale from the thicket began its passionate song."

"So clear was the moonlight that the brown bird was quite visible perched on a branch, with head thrown back and pulsating breast."

"The young girl listened, enraptured. Then she cried: 'A nightingale! Oh, I have so long wished to have one!'"

"Cousin," said the young man, "whipping a pistol from his pocket, 'in two seconds the bird shall be yours!'"

Hall Mark and Its Meaning.—In England "hall mark" is an official stamp put upon articles made of gold and silver as an evidence of genuineness; so-called from Goldsmiths' company, by whom the stamping is legally regulated.

Buttons and Women's Clothes.—"Why does a woman button her garments on the left side?" The question is being discussed in the Tallor and Cutter by several correspondents, one of whom advances this theory:

"For ladies to have the buttonholes in the right side of their garments has its origin in the times when it was necessary for a lady when going out at night to have a gentleman escort, who supported her upon his left arm, leaving his right or sword arm at liberty. Thus the lady's left hand would be free to fasten or unfasten her cloak at her own pleasure and without inconvenience."

Great Postal Card Boom.—Now that every country town has its local souvenir postal card, the demand on the government for one cent stamps is enormous. Some of the local postmasters had prepared themselves for the summer visitors, but an instance is recorded where the purchase of 1,400 souvenir postal cards by visitors at a summer resort in New Hampshire cleaned the local office out of one cent stamps, and some of the postals had to wait until a new supply could be secured.

WOULD HAVE HYGIENIC LIMIT.

Medical Journal's Proposition as to Modern Inventions.

Until motor vehicles have wings, we have heard it said, they will always be an eyesore, an earsore and a nose-sore. While not prepared to accept that view, at any rate, as a condition of things likely to last, we must admit that the accessories of modern life in general are placing greater and greater strain on the faculties of the individual.

Still, after all, the human machine is wonderful in its power of adapting itself to a new environment, and just as few now look upon the railway, as was formerly the case, as a really offensive invention, so in time to come the present distresses inflicted upon us by modern ingenuity will gradually disappear, partly by the process of adaptation and partly by improvements resulting in mitigation of the kind of evils referred to.

One thing at least may be said, and that is on no account should a modern invention be tolerated, however convenient it may be in one direction, unless it satisfies hygienic requirements.—London Lancet.

NEAR THE BREAKING POINT.

Rupture of an Engagement Due to Error Barely Averted.

The engagement between a wealthy Baltimore belle and an impecunious clubman of that city was at one time last winter perilously near the "breaking off" point, and all by reason of the unfortunate mistake of a florist's assistant of whom the young man had ordered flowers for his beloved.

It appears that the young fellow had hastily dispatched to the florist's establishment two cards, one bearing an order for roses to be sent to the young lady's address and the other intended to be attached to the flowers.

What was the astonishment and indignation of the beloved one when on taking the roses from their box she found affixed the card bearing the legend:

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Motor Eye a New Disease.—The motor eye is the latest development that the medical profession has to deal with. It appears that continually rushing through the country on a motor car causes the eye to take a too rapid impression of the things it encounters and that this affects the mechanism of the eye. Nature did not prepare us for the conditions of modern times, and while it is adapting itself to them many unforeseen circumstances occur.

SUPERIORITY OF THE MULE.

Lowly Animal Has Much More Instinct Than the Horse.

The mule is less nervous than the horse and therefore loses less energy in useless fretting. In fact, one of the chief characteristics of the mule is his ability to take care of himself under all circumstances, says Farming.

Much of the apparent shirking which is charged against the mule is an in-born tendency to husband his strength and make every effort count. The result of this instinctive care on the part of the mule is that he is able to turn out more work than would be possible for a horse of the same weight under the same conditions.

The mule instinctively avoids holes, sharp obstacles, barbed wire fences and various other forms of danger which are not so successfully avoided by horses. It is a matter of common observation that in instances where mules run away they seldom injure themselves to any serious extent. In mining, mules are quite superior to horses for the reason that they seem to understand the requirements and dangers of the work more clearly than horses.

MEANS MONEY FOR SOMEBODY. Mrs. Blinxy's One Objection to Link Sleeve Buttons and the Moral.

"Mrs. Blinxy tells me," said Mr. Blinxy, "that she wishes they'd wear the old style of sleeve buttons, not links.

"The old style buttons, going through the button holes in such a manner as to make the ends of the cuff lap, made the cuff round when worn and so made it present a uniform wearing surface; whereas link buttons, tending as they do to flatten the cuff, tend to break the cuff at the bend in the back, made sharper as it is by the flattening of the cuff, while sticking out there as it does and so brought in chafing contrast with the inner side of the coat sleeve the cuff wears out sooner than a uniformly rounded cuff would do."

"That's what troubles Mrs. Blinxy. She doesn't object to the link button as such, but because it makes it cost us more for shirts, I tell her not to worry; we can't expect to have everything come our way. The link button may be bad for us, but anyway it's good for the jeweler and the shirt-maker."

HAD THE YOUNGSTER SCARED. Boy May Have Doubted, But He Took No Chances.

Shrill whistling by a boy on a lake-bound car was stopped last night by a remark addressed to the conductor after other means to check the "warbler" failed. The boy's whistling greatly annoyed all the passengers.

The conductor said to a passenger in so low a tone that the whistler could not hear him: "Isn't it a pity that there is no rule to stop a nuisance of that kind?"

"Watch me fix him," said the passenger, and then he remarked aloud: "I'd have just as big a mustache as yours if it hadn't been for the fact that I was continually whistling when I was a boy. But I didn't know at the time that whistling prevented hair growing on the upper lip."

"That boy was about 17 years old and he had just a suspicion of fuzz on his upper lip. He stopped whistling."—Worcester Post.

Darkest Pittsburg. In three small adjoining towns not far from Pittsburg visitors have often noticed remarkable irregularity in the numbers of the houses. On one dwelling would be seen No. 12, on the next No. 210, on the next No. 417, on the next No. 110, and so on. The cause of this confusion was brought to light the other day when a woman from one of the little towns made a purchase in a city store and requested that the goods be delivered at her home naming the street in which she resided.

"What is the number of your home?" asked the clerk who had made the sale.

"We have no number just now," said the purchaser. "We moved on April 1 and forgot to bring our number with us."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

For Bald Pates Only. A baldheaded physician, as he brushed a few flies from the white and polished dome of his skull, said:

"I used to be dreadfully subject to colds even in the summer. I had to wear a black skull-cap all the time. The minute I took it off I began to sneeze and wheeze."

"But now for a year I have not worn a skull-cap, and I have not once had a cold. Why, I could go and stand bareheaded in a snowstorm without any ill effect."

"My immunity to colds comes from this: Every morning I put my head under the cold water spigot, and let the cold water run for a minute on my bald crown. This is a refreshing thing, and since I began to do it I have never had a cold."

Beasts Live Out Their Days. One of the Smithsonian scientists calls attention to the fact that the duration of the lives of the lower animals differs from that of men's lives in being far more uniform.

While human beings die at all ages between infancy and senility, among the lower animals, on the contrary, all individuals of the same species live to very nearly the same age, unless killed by violence.

WHY THE PASTOR RAN.

Wise Action That Greatly Astonished Congregation.

One of the traditional stories of the town of Fairchild, Conn., recounts a wild dash from the pulpit made by a worthy and beloved pastor of the Episcopal flock, Dr. Labarre.

It was on a Sunday more than a hundred years ago. The service had been read. The prayers said, the hymns sung and the pastor began his sermon. As he proceeded his gestures became more energetic. He brought his right hand down with great force, then he turned pale, cleared the pulpit stairs at a bound, dashed out the church door and ran toward the pond a short distance away.

The congregation followed in bewildered pursuit, and saw their venerable pastor with flying robe rush into the water until it came to his neck. Then turning round he faced his astonished audience and said:

"Dear beloved brethren, I am not crazy, as no doubt many of you think; but yesterday at the drug store I bought a bottle of nitric acid and carelessly left it in my pocket today."

"My last gesture broke the bottle. I knew the suffering the acid would cause when it penetrated my clothing, and rushed for the water to save myself pain."

He drew several pieces of glass from his pocket in witness of the tale. Then he dismissed the company and hurried home.—Youth's Companion.

DOG JEALOUS OF A GANDER. Goes to Extreme Lengths to Show His Animosity.

Martin Hannan, of Joy street, Orange, has a dog which has developed the supposedly human trait of jealousy to such a degree that he will eat grass to spite his enemy, says the New York Press.

The dog, a big, 50-pound brindled bull terrier, is ordinarily chained in the back yard. Close beside him a peaceful old gander is penned in with wire fencing. The gander is the last of a flock, and has survived as a pet.

The dog is so inordinately jealous of the gander that if anyone comes and talks to it he will bark angrily. If the visitor adds to the insult by giving the poor old bird something to eat, the terrier will leap the fence like lightning, snatch the food and gobble it down. To such incredible lengths will his jealousy have taken in this respect that the neighbors have tested it by throwing grass to the gander. The dog will seize the grass and actually swallow it in his anxiety to keep it from the gander. The gander gives one lamentable squawk as he sees the dog leap the fence, and then retreats shudderingly to a corner.

Bird Criminals. A subject which has exercised me this summer has been as to what bird it is with a bill seemingly smaller than a jay's which plunders other's nests, breaking and sucking the eggs, says a writer in Country Life.

In one small piece of hedge I found one blackbird's and two thrushes' nests all treated in the same way, the three having among them the wreckage of eleven eggs all similarly pierced and emptied. The mixed thrush has been suspected of the offense and in this case I should suppose it to be the mixed thrush if it were not that of a pair of butcher birds nested in the same hedge.

It is perhaps unjust to suspect the butcher bird on so flimsy evidence as this mere proximity to the scene of the crime and it may be questioned if the shriek would dare to rifle the nest of either a blackbird or a thrush. A suggestion which I throw out only as a possibility is that the culprit is no burglar but rather more than less than one of the parent birds themselves.

"Drowned Rivers." In nearly every case these natural bottles are what the geographer calls "drowned rivers." That is to say, the coastal lands in the vicinity have subsided, allowing the sea to flow in and convert what was a lowland valley into a partly inclosed marine area.

Divers have gone to the bottom of New York bay and have found there the ancient bed of the Hudson river, as that stream flowed before the mouthward part of its valley subsided into the sea.

The old bed reaches through the floor narrows and well out into the sea of the Atlantic. Of course, as the water entered the sinking valley, any hills rising thereabout would become islands, in the new order of things. And there we find them to this day, in almost any of these inclosed inlets.—St. Nicholas.

Perforated Sails. Although the assertion recently made by an Italian sea captain that the power of sails was increased by their being perforated was ridiculed, it has just been proved that he was right.

His theory was that the force of the wind cannot fairly take effect on an inflated sail because of the cushion of immovable air that fills up the hollows. To prevent the creation and presence of that cushion, he pierced his sails with many holes, through which the wind blew, the balance of the air pressure striking against the canvas and exercising its full effect.

Several experiments have been made on these lines, and the results are declared to have been eminently satisfactory.

DOOM OF THE FARM HORSE.

Agricultural Motor Car May Supersede Dobbins in the Fields.

Good-by to Dobbins, the faithful and sturdy old farm horse. No longer will the plowman homeward plod his weary way. Instead he will simply turn on the second speed of his agricultural motor car and go dashing up the lane to the farmhouse at the rate of 20 miles an hour.

In the early months of 1902 what proved to be the first successful gasoline agricultural motor appeared, consisting at nearly all of the great agricultural competitions of the season in England and carrying off the gold medals from the horse in every contest.

Plowing proved to be the first phase of farm labor to which the agricultural motor was introduced and at which it made its initial reputation, says a writer in the Technical World. Steam engines had proven too heavy for the soft land being plowed and here the agriculturalist expected to mire the insignificant combustion motor, but he signally failed. For a plowing test among horses, steam power and the gasoline motor two and three-quarter acres of very heavy clay soil were selected. It was a condition that the furrows were to be nine inches wide and six inches deep. In doing the work nine horses, three to a plow, with three drivers and three boys, did the work at a total cost of \$8.25, or at the rate of \$3.64 an acre.

By steam power the total cost of plowing the same area amounted to \$9.80, or at \$4.90 an acre, and with the gasoline motor the cost totaled \$4.44, or at \$1.97 an acre. For plowing purposes a three-furrowed plow is invariably used except in heavy clay soils where a couple of furrows prove sufficient.

OBJECT OF MUSICIAN'S CARE. Lowell Had No Idea He Was Thinking of His Collar.

The late Charles Hodson, chief clerk of the American embassy in London, served under eight American ministers—under Lowell, Welsh, Bayard, Hays, and so on down.

"Mr. Hodson," said a New York importer, "became an intimate friend of Lowell's during the latter's incumbency. He had all Lowell's books with autograph inscriptions and he would narrate many stories of Lowell's quick wit."

"At a dinner I once heard him say that Lowell was traveling on a Mediterranean steamer when a shabby old musician took out a fiddle in the evening after dinner and prepared to make a few peonies by playing a tune or two."

"A little American girl stood beside Mr. Lowell, watching the musician, she said."

"Why does he put a handkerchief under his chin like that when he plays? Is he afraid of soiling his collar?"

"No, my dear," said Mr. Lowell. "He is afraid of soiling his violin!"

Big Tows on Mississippi. The towboats on the Mississippi river know how to tow. The Sprague went up from Memphis the other day with 62 pieces in its tow—the largest ever taken up the river by a single boat in one trip, says the Baltimore Sun.

The boat had in tow 40 coal boats, 12 barges and four fuel barges, making the tow—totaling 62 barges—the largest ever towed by a single towboat before.

It took the boat over an hour to pass Memphis, but while it paddled along slowly its movement was sure, and the same slow rate of speed was maintained from the time the boat was sighted below the bridge until it was lost to view around the Mound City bend.

Chartreuse. Chartreuse is named after the original Carthusian monastery founded in the eleventh century in a wild, romantic valley forming a portion of the French department of Isere. This liqueur has a large sale, both the green and yellow being popular. It is distilled from various herbs which are supposed to possess peculiar stimulating and aromatic properties. Its reputation has been maintained by the monks despite the enormous difficulties which they have encountered from time to time. The order is supposed to have been considerably enriched by the revenue from this country. The monastery which contains the distillery has long been a famous resort for visitors.

Leprosy on the Increase. Leprosy is increasing in both North and South America. Colombia, where there were only 400 lepers 40 years ago, is said to have 40,000 now, and many find their way into the United States. Such a medical authority as Dr. Ashmead, who was formerly chief medical adviser to the government of Japan, says the increase is alarming. When leprosy is brought into a new country it takes 50 years for the seeds to take root, and it becomes epidemic after some 200 years. It has been shown that mosquitoes are active in transferring the bacilli of leprosy.

Shade of Isaack! A stand at a distillery at Frankfort, Ky., broke down the other day, and 16,000 gallons of whisky were lost. It ran into Benson creek. Farmers living on the banks of the stream later saw hundreds of fish, either floating lazily or else leaping playfully on the surface and altogether unafraid of the presence of the men. The farmers caught them by the bushel, and it was not until the news of the break at the distillery became known that the mystery was solved. The fish had become intoxicated.—N. Y. Tribune.

RICH MAN'S TALE OF WOE.

Complaints of Overcharges While Driving an Auto.

"An interesting experiment," said the young millionaire, as he dismounted, warm and dusty, from his bicycle. "An experiment that adds another to the long tale of injustices suffered by the rich."

"I motored last year all through this lively country. I had my 80-horse-power machine, a chauffeur and two friends. The expense was outrageous. This year I have just finished covering the same ground on a humble bike. I have stopped at the same hotels, I have eaten the same food, I have slept in the same rooms. 'But the difference is in the price!'"

"For a room while I was motoring the average charge at the 50 hotels we visited was \$2. Finding it was 75 cents. For breakfast motoring the charge was \$1. Finding it was 35 cents. For lunch motoring, \$1; biking, 50 cents. For dinner motoring, \$1.50; biking, 75 cents."

"In other words, an ordinary individual, a bicyclist, can travel about here and live at the hotels at a weekly cost of \$15. But an automobilist can't live at them at a lower cost than \$37. He pays two and a half times as much for the same accommodation. 'To be rich,' the millionaire bitterly ended, 'is to be done!'"

DETECTIVE AN EASY MARK. Taken In by One of the Oldest Tricks Known to Thieves.

Judge Landis of the United States district court, told at a dinner in Chicago a good story about a New York detective.

"This detective," he said, "came to Chicago to trace out a crime that the Chicago police had had trouble with. He thought he would succeed easily, but as a matter of fact he failed, though his failure has nothing to do with my story."

"My story concerns the boarding house that the detective put up at. As he came toward the boarding house one evening worn out with a hard and fruitless day's work hunting clues he saw a man emerge from the place cautiously with a great bundle of coats, overcoats and trousers on his back."

"This man was a thief, though the detective did not know it. Still, he suspected something and he said: 'What have you there?'"

"'Clothes to be pressed, sir,' said the thief. 'I'm from the tailor's on the next block.'"

"'Ah, I see,' said the detective. 'Take my overcoat, too.'"

"'Certainly, sir,' said the accommodating thief, and he took it and hurried off."

Always Open. There are always two good vacancies which either a man or a woman is fitted to fill. One is the post of advertiser. The other is the post of coffee-maker.

The speaker, an employment agent, went on hurriedly:

"If I had sons or daughters they should all be apprenticed to hairdressors or to coffee-making. He is the man who can undulate the hair in the Marcel wave, he or she who can make clear and rich and aromatic coffee may always be sure of a good post of a high salary."

The house that will last five years costs \$25 a week. The coffee-maker who can turn out coffee that is black, rich, clear and shimmering on the surface with an aromatic oil, should never be content with less than \$20.

Old Home of Indians. There is a cliff known as the home of the cliff dwellers on the banks of the Smoky Hill river, near Kanopolis, Kan. It is a rising of about 60 to 100 feet sheer from the bottom lands of the river and about 100 feet back from the stream. The situation is said to have been the rendezvous of an old tribe of Indians, which is proved by the Indian characters on the rocks. They are still clear out despite years of storm and wind. At the base of the cliff are the limestone caves washed out by the waters of long ago. These caves are used for various purposes, but the most interesting use made of them is that one used for the district school. The schoolroom is 12x24 feet, with a high ceiling. The teacher's desk is in one corner and the students' desks are set in order on the hard dirt floor.—Chicago Chronicle.

Different Circulating Mediums. Among the earlier Chinese coins was one of porcelain about three-quarters of an inch in diameter and a quarter of an inch thick, bearing the legend "Eternal Prosperity." A very curious knife money was at one time used in the state of Tai. It was of copper shaped like a bill hook, about seven inches long and fitted at the end with a ring. During periods of metal scarcity in China iron, lead, tin, baked earth, grain, silk and shells have been used as a circulating medium.

Brought Back from Death. Capt. Knowles, superintendent of the life-saving service at Providence, R. I., kept his men working, uninterrupted, for one hour and forty-five minutes in the effort to restore to life a man who had been under water nearly half an hour before the body was rescued and taken ashore, his boat having capsized. The efforts were successful, though the unfortunate's limbs were stiff, teeth were clenched and body cold and purple as a plum, showing that there was no surface of local circulation.