

NO PLACE FOR AGED MAN

Uncle Ranny Ramsey, Who is Palsied, Must Be Kept Away From All Auctions.

"In the morning of our existence," philosophically remarked the erratic thinker, "when life stretches away and away ahead of us, and we scamper on supple, care-free legs through flowery dells, and all that, how little we reck that the first thing we know we will be in the midst of golden noon when the shadows fall neither to the right nor to the left. And at noon, with weary, stiffened limbs and defective hearing, we'll set out to promenade on the railroad track three minutes before train time. Then, let us be considerate of the aged and not let them know how much smarter we are than they were at our age, and—but you have no idea how much engineering it takes on my part to keep my old Uncle Ranny Ramsey from attending every blamed auction he hears of, since his palsied got so bad. You see, he sits there and bobs his poor old head down to him sharp auctioneers knock down to him everything they can't sell to anybody else, claiming he bid on it. And it kind of flatters the old man to think he is back in the hooraw of business life again, and so they make it stick."

WATER PORTERS OF QUITO

They Carry Big Earthen Jars on Their Backs and Bowing, Create a Cataract.

Around a fountain in one of the principal squares of Quito assemble every morning the city's aguadores. These water porters differ from the less energetic ones of some South American cities in carrying their jars upon their backs instead of on the backs of mules. Their earthen jars are deep, have a wide mouth, and hold about 40 liters.

The porter carries it on his shoulder fastened with leather straps. He never detaches himself from his jar either to fill it or to transfer its contents to that of his customer.

He turns his back to the fountain so that the jar comes under one of the jets of water, listens to the sound of the water in the jar, and his ear is so well trained that he always walks away at the exact moment when it is filled to the brim.

Arriving at the house of a customer, he goes to the household jar, makes a deep bow, and disappears behind a torrent of water. Foreigners can never receive, without laughing, the visit of their aguador, the respectful little man who bows to one behind a cataract of water.

Resourceful.

In the club they were comparing the resourcefulness of their wives in difficult social situations. The man who lives in a Harlem flat had been a good listener, but he finally found an opening.

"Yes," said he, "my wife isn't had at that sort of thing. We were having some people to luncheon one Sunday last spring, and just at an hour when all the delicatessens were closed she discovered that she needed some mustard and didn't have a grain of it in the kitchen. And she isn't the sort that will borrow from people next door that she doesn't know. It was a bad fix, all right. But she got mustard enough."

"Went to the delicatessen man's house and roused him out, I suppose?" suggested a member from the Bronx.

"Not much. Just went to the medicine closet, got down a box of ready-made mustard plasters, put 'em to soak, and squeezed enough of the hot stuff off."

"Good night," said the man from the Bronx.—New York Globe.

Bonaparte as Schoolboy.

The following is a copy of the certificate given to the great Napoleon on leaving school. It was handed to him for presentation to the king of France by the inspector of the College of Brienne:

"M. de Bonaparte (Napoleon), born the 15th of August, 1769. Height, four feet ten inches ten lines (five feet six and one-half inches); has finished his fourth degree.

"Of good constitution, excellent health, a character docile, frank and graceful and strictly regular in conduct; has always distinguished himself by his application to mathematics; he is tolerably conversant with history and geography; rather deficient in polite accomplishments as well as Latin, having only finished his fourth course. Would make an excellent marine.

"Deserves to pass to the school at Paris."

Astrology.

It would be futile to attempt to determine the time and place of the origin of astrology. It is as ancient as history itself. When we first hear of human society we find along with it the "excellent fondness of the world," as Shakespeare called astrology. Astrology was cultivated by the Chaldeans, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and all other ancient peoples. So strong was the art, or science, that it refused to go down in the general smash-up at the close of the old Roman rule, but held on and was powerful all through the middle ages. It was only with the advent of modern science and enlightenment as to nature's laws that the old science of the stars and fates declined.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE

Odd Superstitions That Are Prevalent Among the Inhabitants of European Countries.

In Spain the wedding is spoiled if one of the guests appears entirely in black or if the bride looks into a mirror after orange blossoms and veil are fastened in her headdress.

When a person's hair ends split it is taken by the superstitious for a sign that she is either a witch or has been bewitched. A blond hair splits more readily than dark hair, all witches, sprites and sorceresses have blond or red hair, according to popular belief. Likewise, according to the standard of art.

On the marriage eve there is often much good natured rivalry between the groom and the bride in the Slav countries as to who shall blow out the candle for the person who does will be "first to die." It is impossible to trace the origin of this superstition, yet it prevails in aristocratic society as well as in the peasant's hut, even as like this, that "to insure the life and health of the children" the woman must occupy the right side of the bed. In addition, she must not smoke before her forty-fifth year.

There is a superstition in this country and many others against burning a broom. The bud of birch broom is used in southern Germany as a preventive against erysipelas. These buds, a piece of yellow wax and some other articles, are enclosed in a pink silk bag, secured with red silk and worn on the back of the neck. The person must change his shirt every Friday.

ANCIENT STONE SUN DIAL

It Was Built into a Church Buttress, Probably in the Thirteenth Century.

The stone sun dial, probably of the thirteenth century, which has just been placed in the south wall of the chancel of West Clandon church, is likely to be of considerable interest to antiquaries. The dial, which has unfortunately lost its gnomon, was till recently built into the western side of a buttress, having apparently been regarded as a piece of stone of no value.

The stone on which the dial is cut is of chalk and the dial is about a foot across. The engraving of the lines on the face is deep and sharp, the stone being in a good state of preservation, and the hole in which the gnomon had been fixed is wide and deep. At each of those positions on the face of the dial which in a clock would be called the quarters four dots are engraved, but these dots are arranged in different positions. Sun dials such as that at West Clandon are not at all rare and at one time they were probably placed on every church.

Indeed, at Saltwood, in Kent, there are three close together, but particular interest attaches to the specimen at West Clandon from the fact that it is much nearer perfect than is generally the case.—The Guardian.

Cave of Bones.

An extraordinary "bone cave" may be seen in the island of Tenerife. It is situated near the summit of a lofty sea cliff near Orotava, close to the small plain of Le Paz, where peace was finally made between the conquering Spaniards and the Guanches, the original inhabitants of the island.

Here the Guanches made their last stand, and the cave formed a shelter for the small remnant left of the tribesmen after the Spanish had finished with them. In former times the place had evidently been a burial ground of the Guanches, and when first discovered mummies were found in it; now, however, only a large pile of bones remains. Access is obtained by descending a rope through a hole dug in the roof, but the original occupants must have had a difficult and dangerous scramble down the face of the almost perpendicular cliff to the natural entrance.

Satisfied.

In a mill in the north of England an old Irishman and his mate were set on to replace a floor in a little shop which was used for a by-product of the business. They had just finished the job, and it was getting dark, when the old man bethought himself that a floor ought to be level.

Off he rushed to borrow a spirit-level and soon returned, flushed and excited, to see how his floor stood the test.

He placed the level on the floor, and peered at it, but could not see the bubble as it was too dark in the shop. So, picking the level gently up by both ends he carefully carried it to the door and exclaimed joyfully to his mate, "Fair in the middle, lad; the floor's as level as a die."—Weekly Telegraph.

One That He Forgot.

Two black-faced minstrels were giving an entertainment on the sands of a certain seaside holiday resort recently. While one of them was telling funny stories about the humors of boarding house landladies, the other went among the crowd making a collection. He at length went up to a stern looking woman, who promptly snatched the tambourine from his hand and poured the contents into her lap. As she returned the empty tambourine to the astonished minstrel she exclaimed: "Tell your friends who knows so much about landladies that I'm the one he forgot to pay the last time he was here!"—Weekly Telegraph.

WHALE DYING OUT

Fear the Extinction of Species Through Reckless Waste.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Issues Report Warning Against the Consequences of Excessive Hunting in Northern Waters.

Washington.—Danger of the total extinction of the whale through "over-fishing" is dealt with in the thirteenth annual report on fisheries, issued by the board of agriculture and fisheries.

It is unquestionable, says the report, that in the case of a slow-growing and slow-producing animal like the whale, although, owing to its wide range, it will probably never be absolutely exterminated, excessive hunting speedily results in a very marked depletion of the stock.

The practical extinction of the Basque and Greenland whale fisheries has abundantly proved this. It must be remembered, too, that this result was brought about by means of the open and hand harpoon—methods which are now obsolete.

The Greenland whale was a comparatively sluggish and timid animal, whose capture by the method referred to presented little difficulty, whereas the porpoises and other species were not only too swift, but too dangerous to be attacked in the same manner as the "right" whale.

With the introduction, however, of the harpoon with explosive shell, discharged from a cannon mounted in the bows of a steamer, the conditions were entirely changed, and the species formerly immune from attack could now be hunted with impunity.

The result of this revolution in the conditions under which the fishing would be prosecuted is seen in the enormous dimensions which the industry has attained at the present day.

It is estimated that in 1911 between 18,000 and 20,000 whales were captured in the southern hemisphere alone (South Georgia, South Shetland, South America, South Africa), to which has to be added the catch in North America, Japan, Faroe, Iceland, Spitzbergen and Greenland, and these figures will probably be greatly exceeded in 1912, as numerous new companies have been formed to exploit Alaskan, Australasian and Sandwich island waters.

This wholesale destruction must inevitably tell its tale within a few years, and, as a matter of fact, in Newfoundland and Iceland fears are already entertained that the fishing is on the decline.

It would not, therefore, be a matter for surprise if, within a few years, it may be found necessary to establish something in the nature of international control, and the precedent of the Behring seal fishery shows how vexed a question whaling may ultimately become.

SEA LION OUTBARKS DOGS

Its Endurance Wears Out All the Quadrupeds in Bench Show in California.

Sausalito, Cal.—One lone sea lion, with a strong pair of lungs and a disposition bordering on acute melancholia, nearly broke up the dog show at the Marion County Kennel club by developing a bark that was such a challenge and inspiration to the four-legged canines that they had to respond.

Starting early in the morning, the big seal, which was exhibited only as a curiosity of the deep, and not because of his vocal possibilities, howled all day, and the dogs, big and little, howled with him. Braced against the rattlings in front of their kennels they threw their souls into a chorus that would have intimidated an ordinary sal. But this one was homesick.

When nightfall came he was still at it, in good voice and going 40 howls to the minute, but he was alone in the field. The poodle and the terriers, and even the long-winded hounds, had barked themselves to a whisper.

WAITER SUES FOR SLANDER

Demands \$20,000 From a Wealthy Man, Who, He Claims, Falsely Accused Him of Theft.

New York.—S. J. A. McOnie, a wealthy Scotchman and a relative of the prime minister of England, now in this country on a business trip, has been served with papers in a \$20,000 slander suit, brought by a waiter at his hotel. The waiter alleged that McOnie one day showed him a collection of valuable jewelry and personal articles, and subsequently accused him before the hotel management of stealing a gold cigarette case worth \$1,500. It is alleged that McOnie admitted later that he had merely misplaced it.

"Headache" Pay Stopped.

Washington.—The new provision in the army appropriation bill providing that no officer or enlisted man shall receive pay for absence from duty caused by disease resulting from his own intemperate use of drugs or alcoholic liquors, or other misconduct, is now in effect.

Called Her "Too Fat."

New York.—Because her husband persisted in calling her "too fat" Mrs. Lee Marcousson in suing him for divorce.

CAN'T BUY MARITAL BLISS

Felicity is Not to Be Measured by Money or Bulk Like Commercial Products.

Salem, Ore.—Declaring that "conjugal bliss is not to be estimated at a price of so much per ton, or yard, or acre," the supreme court, in an opinion by Justice Burnet, has affirmed the lower court of Multnomah county in the case of Lizzie C. Davidson, appellant, against John H. Davidson, respondent.

Mrs. Davidson brought suit to set aside deeds to property in Portland amounting to \$33,050. She alleged that she, as a milliner, and he, as a policeman, started on their wedding journey together, deciding not to keep house, but each to assist in promoting the financial welfare of the family. She alleges he was peevish, irritable, and that married life was not harmonious. To promote harmony, she devoted to him property valued at more than \$23,000, and that it was done with the sole hope that the husband would discontinue his "mental cruelty," as she alleged his actions constituted.

The court holds that conjugal happiness "cannot be made a subject of barter between the two spouses, and that as far as that is concerned, if she, of her own free will and accord, although with the hope of inducing a different course of conduct toward her on the part of the defendant, freely gave him her property it must stand as the court finds it. We cannot relieve her of the consequences of her own deliberate acts and deeds."

NEW STEEL DEFIES YEGGMEN

German Chemists Discover Alloy That Cannot Be Drilled, Blasted or Cut.

New York.—The day of the scientific forger is about over. A kind of steel that cannot be drilled, exploded or cut by the oxy-hydrogen flame has been discovered by German chemists.

Prof. Carl Duisberg, one of the chief foreign delegates to the International Chemists' congress here, brought news of the discovery. He says it is a question of only a short time before the yeggmans will have to turn to new fields.

Dr. Duisberg brought with him two specimens of steel. One was of the ordinary kind and had been cut in 5 1/2 minutes by the oxy-hydrogen flame and in six minutes by the oxy-acetylene flame.

The second specimen was of the new alloy, which had withstood the heat of both the oxy-hydrogen and oxy-acetylene flames for 1 1/2 hours.

M'GEE HAD HEAVY BRAIN

Organ of Noted Washington Scientist Weighed 49 1/2 Ounces—Above Normal.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The brain of Dr. W. J. McGee, Washington scientist, who died, was weighed by Dr. E. A. Spitzka of Jefferson Medical college, to whom it had been bequeathed. The organ weighed 49 1/2 ounces, which is above the normal weight. Dr. Spitzka removed the brain at midnight and placed it in a vault upon a shelf with that of Dr. John H. Muser, Perrier Frasier, a criminal's and a monkey.

Dr. Spitzka deferred complete examination of the brain until September 20, when he will return from a vacation.

Before he departed he declared that the refusal of the family of Dr. Horace Howard Furness, the Shakespearean scholar, to surrender the latter's brain to him had been a big disappointment to him and to scientists generally.

SINGS GIRL TO FREEDOM

Jury Quickly Acquits Woman Whose Lawyer Sings Song Which Gave Offense.

Ossining, N. Y.—Stuart Baker, an Ossining lawyer, sang Miss Grace Williams, a Newcastile schoolgirl, five when she was arraigned before Police Judge William J. Chodasayne at Millwood, charged with disorderly conduct.

Miss Williams was arraigned on a charge by "Squire" Bradley, who testified that she passed his house over night singing "Everybody's Doing It." He also said she danced what he heard was the "Turkey Trot."

Mr. Baker insisted on a jury trial. Six men were called, and after Baker had sang the first verse and chorus of the song they promptly acquitted Miss Williams.

EXPLORERS LOST SUPPLIES

Government Engineers May Have to Abandon Survey of the Bering River Coal Fields.

Cordova, Alaska.—Telegraphic advice received from Ketchikan state that the large load of supplies for the five government engineers sent north to explore the Bering river coal fields has broken loose from the tug and is being driven to sea by a gale. If the supplies are lost the expedition will have to be abandoned for this year.

General Frescoes Found.

Pisa.—Some deteriorated frescoes by Benozzo Gozzoli, the Italian painter of the fifteenth century, have been discovered in an oratory on the highway leading to the Castle Fiorentino. The preservation of the frescoes is possible.

MAKE CHEAP LOANS

German Co-Operative Credit System for Workers and Farmers.

United States Ambassador Reports on System of Banks Which Serves the Artisan, the Workman, and the Small Business Man.

Washington.—The German artisan, as well as the German farmer, has provided himself with financial machinery to assist him in the conduct of his business. As with the farmer, co-operation is the basis of his banking scheme—cheap credit and quick credit is obtained for him by offering a collective guaranty. What he could not secure alone he finds readily obtainable when he combines his limited resources with those of his fellow-workmen.

The system of banks which serves the artisan, the workman, and the small business man of the towns of Germany is known as the Schulze-Dehtsch system. As the membership of these banks includes a high percentage of agriculturists and their operations have an important bearing upon the question of financing the farmers, Ambassador Leshman has included this system in the investigation which he is making in connection with President Taft's effort to establish co-operative credit in this country for the benefit of the American farmer.

As the social structure of the town is more complex than that of the farming community, so the structure of the Schulze-Dehtsch or urban co-operative banks is more complex than that of the rural banks of the Raiffeisen type. Their membership includes men from many walks of life and of varying degrees of financial standing. It has been found necessary, therefore, to supply these banks with a larger foundation capital than is the case with the farmers' banks of the Raiffeisen type.

The collective guaranty offered by the farmers is, indirectly, a land guaranty. The guaranty of town residents is not so well defined. Therefore, the members of the urban banks are required to subscribe a comparatively large amount for capital stock, and the banks operate upon this cash basis more in the manner of other banks than is the case with the Raiffeisen banks, which operate almost entirely upon the guaranties given by the members and with only a practically nominal capital.

Also the urban banks do more of a general banking business. Their larger cash capital makes this possible for them. They do not depend for their funds upon central co-operative banks, but receive loans from outside banks. They maintain and seek to pay dividends upon their capital stock. This dividend runs generally from 5 to 7 per cent, but a few of the Schulze-Dehtsch banks of Germany pay as high as 10 per cent, and a dividend of 25 per cent is not unknown.

The primary object of the urban banks is to furnish their members with cheap, quick money. They lend in two forms—loans on current account and loans for fixed periods. Loans on current account comprise something over 40 per cent of the banks' business. Loans for fixed periods are made on pledge or by discounting bills of exchange. Also loans on mortgage form about 10 per cent of their total loans. A small number of loans are granted without guaranty of any sort.

Capital shares in the Schulze-Dehtsch banks average a little over \$50. The liability of a shareholder is generally limited. The rate of interest paid for their money by these banks averages about 3 1/2 per cent of the total working capital, while the gross profits average about 5 1/2 per cent of the working capital. Deducting from this margin the cost of operating the banks and other expenses there is still left a net profit for distribution averaging about 8 1/2 per cent of the share capital. A portion of this net profit is carried over as reserve and the remainder distributed as dividends.

Surplus funds not needed by the banks in making loans to members are deposited with outside banks or are invested in first-class securities. The urban banks in three provinces in Germany have organized central banks, but for the most part the banks are able to obtain money satisfactorily from outside banks, and the three provincial central banks are not of much importance. The urban banks do, however, maintain current accounts with the Dresden Bank, a private bank, in order to facilitate the movement of their funds and to equalize their debts and credits.

"MOVIES" RUINING SALOONS.

Moving picture shows have practically ruined the saloon business of the national capital, according to investigations of the excise board. Although the new license year began November, only 175 applications have been made for renewal of retail licenses. Last year \$13 retail liquor licenses were taken out and unless business picks up during the next few days the board anticipates only one third of the regular saloon business will be in force during the coming year.

NEW RULING IN NAVY.

All young officers in the navy will hereafter serve at least one year on gunboat duty, according to a new plan of detailing announced at the navy department.

The navy department regards gunboat duty as highly important, because the gunboat officers are thrown on their own resources to larger extent than on the battleships and more, quickly learn self-reliance and confidence in their own abilities.

In the future the period of duty for all gunboat officers, except the commander, will be one year. At the end of this period they will be ordered to the battleships and armored cruisers. With this new system a greater number of officers will have the advantage of gunboat training than is now the case. The officers will have, while on gunboat duty, larger individual responsibilities and range duties. It is expected the new plan of one year details will make gunboat duty more popular, as such assignments will not hereafter mean long separation from the fleet.

A number of ensigns of the class of 1911 are now being detailed to the gunboats. This gives them a distinct advantage over their classmates not so detailed, as these ensigns immediately become watch and division officers with quarters in the wardroom. For this reason, only those who have proved special efficiency at sea in the last year are being chosen. At the end of the year they will return to the battleships.

It is expected that the same policy, somewhat modified, will also be applied to the destroyers. In this service, however, young officers will be allowed to remain two years if they choose.

GRADUATES SHUN MINISTRY.

A remarkable decrease in the number of Protestant ministers graduated from the universities of the country is shown in a current report of the United States bureau of education.

"It is plain," says the report, "that educated men no longer seek the cloth as they did when the nation was younger. It may mean much or little that the percentage of ministers among the graduates of typical colleges has declined from a proportion of 60 to 70 per cent to less than 10 per cent."

An examination of the figures collected at the close of the nineteenth century from 37 representative colleges discloses the fact that the ministry takes between five and six per cent of the university graduates, which marks the lowest point for that profession during the two and one-half centuries of American college history.

Between the years 1896 and 1900 only 865 divinity students were graduated from 37 representative colleges and universities, or 5.9 per cent of the total number graduated, which was over 14,478.

WON'T PAY WARDEN \$2.

The Atlanta prison cow, whose indiscretions caused a two hours' debate in congress several months ago, and changed the wording of a \$450,000 appropriation bill, stirred Comptroller of the Treasury Tracewell the other day to write a long legal opinion as to her conduct.

The cow wandered out of her pasture and ate up all the neighboring farmers' turkeys. She was impounded and Warden Moyer paid two dollars out of his own pocket to get her free. He could not collect from the government because the auditors here disallowed the claim.

Congress failed to remedy the situation, so that Moyer could get his money back, and the comptroller the other day added another chapter by handing down a decision that the expenditure was an illegal one that the government could not repay. The warden will make another appeal to congress for his two dollars.

TEA ROOM IN U. S. TREASURY.

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh has officially recognized tea as one of the rights of women by opening a "tea room" in the treasury department, where 100 individual pots of tea keep up a merry song during the lunch hour. The new tea room is the only one under Uncle Sam's protection. Some time ago indiscriminate tea making throughout the building caused Secretary MacVeagh to issue an "anti-tea" rule. The women raised a protest and the special tea room was the result.

To Ostrich Rosters.

Harry M. Lamon, in charge of the poultry division of the bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture, recommends the Ostrich hatch. He thinks that if his advice is followed, the cost of eggs and consequently the high cost of living, will be considerably reduced.

Mr. Lamon has found, after many experiments, that infertile eggs are best for food, and will keep longer than fertile ones. By confining, killing or selling all male birds after the breeding season, Mr. Lamon says the farmers of this country will prevent an annual loss of \$15,000,000 in eggs. The statement made by Mr. Lamon is showing news to the poultry keepers of Washington, whose roosters are under ban of the health office.

There's a Reason.

"Why do you wish to divorce her, because she doesn't cook like your mother used to?" "No, because she does."