

COMMONS AND CONGRESS.

Their Respective Divisions into Trade and Professions—Lawyers Popular in This Country.

A comparison of the professions and callings of the United States representatives with those of our own members of parliament shows that our parliament is far more representative of the various interests of the country than is the American congress.

There are 33 English journalists M. P.'s, equal to five per cent. of the house, while there are only 14 American press congressmen—equal to three per cent. of congress.

THE DRUM-HEAD BUSINESS.

A Huge Long Island Industry Which Prospers in Time of War.

Few people know that more than half the banjo and drum heads sold in the United States are made on Long Island. Near the railroad station at Cold Spring is a little red building surrounded by frames, in which skins are stretched for drying, while near by is an artificial pond, with wooden sides and bottom, filled with a chemical mixture.

New York markets furnish the salted raw skins from which the drum-heads are made. The hair is removed from the skins by a chemical bath in the artificial pond, and the skins are then stretched on the racks and dried.

Kangaroo skins make the costliest drumheads. When dressed, they are showy, but beyond their appearance and name they are of no greater value than heads made from calfskin.

Quaint Customs in Shetland.

The only part of the United Kingdom in which the old style of reckoning time is adhered to is the archipelago of Shetland, and there Sunday, January 13, was New Year's day. But Sunday being with the natives a strict dies non for business or for pleasure, the next day witnessed the high jinks incident to the occasion.

Beginning at the Top.

Many a successful man begins at the top of the ladder and goes down when he has business in the cellar.—Chicago Daily News.

WOMEN WHO WORRY.

And Something About the Things Over Which They Have Been Known to fret.

There's a woman who never gets the eight hours sleep to which she is entitled because she has so much difficulty in turning out the gas to her satisfaction. She turns it out just as other people do, of course; but there lurks in her mind such a dread of asphyxiation that she is not content with this process.

After she has turned and turned until she has assured herself that she can turn the screw no further, she provides herself with half a dozen matches. These she lights solemnly one by one and holds over the burner to prove that there is no leak.

As often as she awakens during the night, however, she gets up and applies a match to the burner to convince herself that by no chance has it been turned during her sleep, but nevertheless she awakens in the morning with a start and invariably surprised to find that she's alive after the perils to which she has been exposed during the night.

There's another woman known to the writer who gathers gray hairs through her fear of cats, says the Baltimore News.

There's a third woman known to the writer who is a miser, and she is miserly in her possession, from a powder box to a receptacle for hats, in fear and trembling lest a feline creature jump from it at her.

If the feline creature, she avers, were to be a tiger she wouldn't mind it so much, but she just couldn't stand a kitten.

Burglars rob other women of their peace of mind; still others are consumed with anxiety for fear their husbands will fail in business, or there'll be a run on the bank in which their money is invested, or that their children will fall ill and die, or their revolver that lies unloaded in the top drawer of the secretary will suddenly load, aim and fire itself and exterminate the family.

It is a prerogative of the gentler sex to have these visions of disasters for companions. Anon a woman arises who has turned philosopher and who refuses to cross a bridge before she comes to it, but sometimes even she has her moments of fear, and these are caused by the fear—you would never guess it—that her immunity from anticipations of evil will lead to her being called masculine by her own sex.

GREAT CENTER OF TRADE.

Buenos Ayres, Argentine, Is the Chicago of the South American Continent.

The greatest city on the South American continent is Buenos Ayres. The population is believed to exceed 800,000. It was officially estimated to be over 795,000 at the close of 1899 and the increase is calculated to be close to 30,000 a year, says the Chicago Chronicle.

Size is not the only notable form of development. The revenue of the city is about \$8,000,000 a year in gold. Its streets and parks are lighted by more than 13,000 gas jets, over 8,000 lamps and about 1,250 arc lights, the latter of 1,000 to 2,000-candle power apiece.

It is one of the most cosmopolitan of all the earth's centers. Besides the underlying and still dominant Spanish element which used to have the Argentine in exclusive possession, there is a large Italian population, fast increasing, and the Germans, English, French, Irish, Welsh, Portuguese, Chilians, Poles, Russians, Swiss and other nationalities are well represented in the Argentine Republic, and, to some extent, in its capital.

The library. "Yes, this is Daniel's library. You know a man like him must have a place where he can get alone and think and cultivate himself. How much do you suppose it cost to fix up this room? Nine thousand dollars! I could show the bills if had time. But, after all, it's worth it. We mustn't forget that we owe something to art and literature. Just look at all the books Daniel has gathered. I sometimes wonder how he ever done it, him being such a busy man—and every one of them just exactly as good as it was the day it came out of the store, too!"—Chicago Times-Herald.

SOUTH SEA MEDICINE MEN.

They Are Alike Capable of Both Causing and Curing Disease.

Among the South Sea islanders no man falls sick or dies from natural causes. They would argue, if they were called upon to analyze their belief, that health is the natural condition and that every departure from it must be caused by supernatural agency, and since disease is an evil, you must look for its agent among those who wish you evil.

Every skilled craft tends to specialization, says the Medical Record. A few successes in causing illness by spells gave a man a reputation as an expert. The unsuccessful found him ready to remove their enemies for a consideration, he took to the business as a profession, handing his secret down to his son, and his son's son, until the trade became hereditary.

In Fiji leprosy was a special branch of the black art. No common wizard has the hardihood to pretend that he can compass it by the ordinary means of burying a lock of the victim's hair in a bamboo with incantations, and this is well, for even the most cunning healers admit that leprosy is incurable. The power of infecting with leprosy is hereditary in certain families alone. Their deified ancestors have become, as it were, leper gods, whose priests are the oldest living representatives of their stock.

WAS NEW AT THE SPORT.

How a Novice at Deer Hunting Killed Three Bucks on Successive Days.

"Well, boys, let's each of us travel by himself to-day and see if we want a better luck." There were four of us sitting at the breakfast table; three old hunters and one who was new at the business; no meat in camp, poor hunting, but a determination and firm belief that we would obtain our hearts' desire in time. Of course, the new man was assigned the least likely old woods road, easy to follow, one that he couldn't get out of, one that no deer was ever seen in, says the Maine Sportsman.

The next day we asked him: "Whither away?" "Oh, that old woods road is good enough for me," he said, "for I can't get lost in it, you know; you know I am no woodsman." At night we three old hunters came in, only to find our friend taking his smoke and cleaning his rifle. Yes, he had taken his lunch on that same old log, and while eating he caught sight of a fine old buck and killed him, not five rods from the place where he had dropped the first one.

The law only allows me one more, I believe, so to-morrow I'll take the same old beat, if it's all the same to you fellows," and, sure enough, he took that same old road and severely wounded a large buck as he was crossing it. Being unused to the woods, he would not follow the trail, but got two of us, and after going a short distance we found the deer lying down, badly wounded.

This was the greatest piece of luck that I ever heard of, as each and every one of these three deer (it was in the day when three deer were allowed to a man), was a large, fat, handsome buck, with fine head, and the best part of it all was that the new man wore his honors easily and gracefully.

To Escape Conspiration in France.

The magistrates of Moissac are engaged in investigating cases of voluntary mutilation practiced by a band of quacks and sharpers in the district of Quercy on young conscripts. By means of a bandage these quacks produced anchylosis of the toes, causing infirmities that necessitated the discharge of the young men, or at any rate their transfer to the auxiliary services.

Unmistakable. "Hobbie—I think that fellow must be engaged to sister at last. Willie—Why? "He has suddenly stopped giving me money."—Tit-Bits.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

About 60,000 children are born in Norway annually.

A century ago \$20 had as much purchasing power in Paris as \$50 has to-day.

In 1899 the number of Prussian males who married before they had reached the age of 20 was 368.

The thatched cottages of England are gradually disappearing, says a London newspaper. This is due to the cheap price of slate, which is now generally used for roofing purposes.

Paper floors for dwelling houses are coming into use in Germany. They are formed of several thicknesses of stout paper, dampened, pasted and rolled. They have no crevices or joints to harbor dust or vermin, and are yielding to the feet.

Medical authorities declare that infectious diseases are often transferred from one person to another by means of the barber's brush. To obviate this risk a German has devised a brush made of plant fibers which is so cheap that a new one can be used for each shave.

GENEROUS WOMEN.

A Few Instances of How They Have Disposed of Other People's Property.

It is said that women are not generous, that they clutch their possessions tightly and only part with them, for value received; that they are penurious to a degree that makes their brothers gaze at them askance. How true this is a matter of opinion. The sex has found its defenders just as it has found its persecutors—sometimes written persecutors, says the Baltimore News.

There are those who declare that a feminine creature, once her sympathies are aroused will give away her last crust. There are others who go still further and say she'll give away some one else's last crust.

This latter proposition there is none to dispute, from early youth to extreme old age femininity is busy disposing of all the property of other people that comes its way.

Why, there's a child of ten known to the writer who the other day wrote out in a large, round hand her last will and testament. After disposing of all she owned, she was agast to find that she had left nothing to a beloved cousin. But this only perplexed her for a moment. Almost directly she added to the document: "And to my dear cousin Ray I leave brother Reuben's gun."

Her brother Reuben being alive and very fond of the aforementioned weapon, waxed indignant at this piece of injustice, but that didn't worry the testator a particle. She declared that she had written she had written, and was not to be erased, and the will was immediately filed away, therefore, with her father's papers.

Then there's a woman, aged 70, known to the writer, who has given away and sold in her lifetime so many of her husband's favorite coats, vests and shoes that that gentleman even now looks all his wearing apparel securely in his own closet before he dares so much as to walk across the block for a cigar.

The ladies between these extremes of ages, who have not at some time gained a reputation for generosity by giving away some other body's possessions are extremely far between. Perhaps that's the reason the rummage sale appeals so strongly to the sex. To the rummage sale may be sent all one's own articles that one has been wanting to get rid of for ages, and such of those of the other members of the household, from the cook down, as one can get one's fingers on.

There are melancholy tales told of these sales. At one held not long ago a mistaken gentleman placed his overcoat on a chair for a few moments while he helped arrange some of the decorations. When he returned it had been sold with much dispatch for a quarter of its value.

A young woman sauntering into such a sale laid the books she had in her hands down for an instant, when, presto, they went for a song—and the benefit of a charity.

Examples of this sort might be multiplied indefinitely, but whether they show that women grow enthusiastic in the pursuit of good works, to be discriminating; or whether they show, as the critics say, that women are particularly generous with other people's property, the writer dare not determine. The reader, aided possibly by personal experience, can draw his own deductions.

Queen Alexandra's Modesty.

An interesting story is being told of Queen Alexandra, which is typical of the woman. Some one at Osborne addressed her as "Your majesty," the day after Queen Victoria passed away. "There cannot be two queens," she remarked, adding that she wished to be called "her royal highness" until after the funeral of Queen Victoria.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Only a Few Wise People.

Only a few people know enough not to eat too much.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.

NICKNAMES FOR PARENTS.

Some of Childhood's Many Equivalents for the Words Father and Mother.

In our own country "papa" and "mamma" have been in familiar use for some 300 years at least. They probably reached us from Italy, where their use was of much older date, says the London Globe. Dante uses "mamma" in the "Purgatorio." Words of this kind are often in common and familiar use long before they find their way into the written language of books, so that it would not be easy to say when "papa" and "mamma" were first heard among us, but one of the earliest literary traces of their use is to be found in Lyly's "Euphues" (1579) an Italian story crammed with curious verbal absurdities, for the most part copied or imitated from the Italian fashions and affectations of the day.

Another familiar and childish variant is "daddy" or "daddy." "Daddy" or "daddy" is a pure Welsh word, and is of great antiquity. "The Lord's Prayer" begins in Welsh with the word "Ein Tad," or "Ein Dad," the first word of the phrase meaning "Our." "Daddy" with its derivatives "daddy" and "dada" has long been familiar in the mouths of English children. Like "papa" it was doubtless in use many years before literature took note of it; still it is found more than two centuries ago in a burlesque poem attacking James II. The doggerel contains both "daddy" and "dada." Dryden, too, in a translation of the twenty-seventh Idyl, of Theocritus, has the line: "But Mam and Dad are pretty names to hear."

Generous Women.

There are curious differences in the present day pronunciation of both "dada" and "papa." In the country and country town districts, for instance, of northeast Ireland children of the poorer and less educated classes all say "dada," with the accent on the second syllable. This is true, also, of some of the eastern Irish counties, Kilkenny and others, and the same pronunciation is common in South Lancashire and South Wales and in Durham. Papa, again, becomes "pappa" in Cheshire, where "mamma" is also accented on the first syllable. If we go to the United States, variations in the pronunciation of "papa" may be found in almost every state. Perhaps the commonest forms are "papa" and "momma." In Indiana, the "Hooisier" state, the most familiar is the very absurd "popsy." The maternal relative, however, is not "mopsy," though it is hard to say why this has not followed as a matter of course.

The social vicissitudes of "papa" and "mamma" among ourselves have been entirely restricted to the upper classes; but they gradually filtered down till people of a class which, 60 or 70 years ago, had probably never heard the words, or at all events, had never dreamed of using them, taught their children to say "papa" and "mamma," as being more "genteel" than father and mother, or daddy and mammy. When the change was effected, the upper classes reverted to father and mother and left their imitators to the enjoyment of the ancient baby words. George III, 140 years ago, addressed his mother as "mamma"; but royalty does not affect that mode of speech to-day.

Children of a larger growth have other equivalents for father and mother. Boys who think that they are too big to use the tender sounding names which were familiar to their infancy talk of the "pater" and the "mater." "Governor" is another colloquial variant which has little to recommend it.

Sam Weller addressed his father by that name, but Sam had quite a varied selection of epithets for his revered parent. He addresses him as "old fel' low" and "old codger," and announces him to Mr. Pickwick as the "old un." When the old gentleman, muffled in ample shawls, makes his appearance, Sam is taken by surprise. "Why, I wouldn't ha' believed it," he cries. "It's the old un." "Old one?" said Mr. Pickwick. "What old one?" "My father, sir," replied Mr. Weller. "How are you, my ancient?" With which beautiful ebullition of filial affection Mr. Weller made room on the seat beside him for the stout man, who advanced, pipe in mouth and pot in hand, to greet him.

A few shades worse than "governor" is "relieving officer"—a phrase affected by sons who look upon their fathers chiefly as the source of financial supply. There are other similar epithets in use, but they are neither attractive nor dignified. When daddy and mammy or papa and mamma are put aside as too childish, or are discarded for any other reason, there are no parental names which can for a moment compare with the simple but dignified, plain but beautiful Anglo-Saxon words, father and mother.

A Scientific Scrap-Book.

Mr. L. O. Howard, chief of the division of entomology, felt somewhat flattered at receiving one day a letter from a gentleman asking him to send a copy of his report.

Mr. Howard replied promptly, and asked to which particular report his correspondent referred. The answer came: "Am not particular which one you send. I want it for a scrap-book."—Youth's Companion.

A Sure Preventive.

Capital punishment was being hotly debated. "Now, I ask you," said one man, "does hanging prevent murder?" "Well," answered another quietly, "I fancy it does. Cases are very rare of a man committing murder after he has been hanged once or twice."—Tit-Bits.

RIDDLES OF SCIENCE.

Some That Remain Unanswered Notwithstanding the Great Discoveries of the Last Century.

For every question that science answers she asks two that are apparently unanswerable. As the limits of the known in nature are pushed farther and farther away, the sphere of the unknown beyond it expands still more rapidly, so that he who looks for the riddles of science has not far to seek, says the Literary Digest. M. Gabriel Prevost states a few of them in La Science Française. He says: "In treating of unexplained phenomena, we have no hesitation in omitting all mention of those whose authenticity is in need of proof, such as those of hypnotism or animal magnetism. \* \* \* But there are others, perfectly well established, that are nevertheless treated with magnificent disdain. This is a pity, for if we knew their laws we should be in a position to reproduce them at will for the greater profit both of science and of mankind. Everything leads us to believe that the causes of such phenomena are related to what is called the 'infinitely little'."

For instance, it was a long time before we were able to explain why two varieties of beer, made with the same chemical elements, with the same vegetable substances and under the same conditions of environment, should differ sensibly in quality according to the water used. When the water was analyzed it was discovered that when it contained sulphate of lime, this substance had a special influence on the microbial fermentation. The cause having been found, the phenomenon could be reproduced at will.

"We could fill several volumes with questions of this kind that remain to be solved. \* \* \* The learned societies ought to promulgate a list of them every year; their pride, perhaps, would suffer, but science would gain much. We shall try to indicate a few of them: "Why, by importing Russian skins into France, by treating them by the same processes and using the same substances as in that country (Russia), can we not succeed in obtaining the qualities of solidity, permanence and flexibility found in Russian leather? Is the difference between the two products due to the tanning, to the skins used, or to the temperature? When this 'infinitely little' has been discovered, we can make Russian leather as well at Limoges as in St. Petersburg."

"Why is Chinese lacquer superior to all others, when in preparing it the same materials are used in the same way as elsewhere? "Why are the qualities of steel different, according to the water used for tempering it? Is the difference due to the temperature of the water, or to the vegetable or mineral substances that are held in suspension therein? "Why should a virus, inoculated in an animal, become more active for an animal of the same species if previously inoculated in an animal of a different species? "Why are most reptiles, even non-venomous ones, refractory to a very large number of toxic substances, vegetable and animal? "Why is the horse, whose strength is greater than a man's, killed by an electric discharge that a man can bear? "Why does oxygen, which increases the activity of introrganic combinations, impede them, on the contrary, when administered to excess? "Why can white-hot iron be handled with impunity when red-hot burns? The so-called 'spheroidal state' does not explain its role in the evaporation of the skin is equally active at both temperatures. "Why do the effects of their and caffeine, which are composed of the same chemical elements, differ according to the temperament of individuals? "Why does dynamite explode in artillery caissons when the noise made by them gives the sound of upper la? "Here we stop, not because the questions have given out, but because we should never finish asking them. Conclusion: Let us verify all the facts and then direct our studies toward the 'infinitely little.'"

Use of Insects in Agriculture.

The extent to which science can be applied to everyday affairs is well illustrated on reading the reports of the various divisions of the United States department of agriculture. Of particular interest is the statement that the division of entomology is having considerable success in introducing insects and parasites. In California an insect has been introduced which fertilizes the Smyrna fig, and as a result more than six tons of these figs have been produced in one locality alone, and it is believed that they can be produced in such amounts as to cause this country to be an important competitor in this field. The entomologists have also done a valuable service to the olive groves of the same state by introducing a parasite which destroys the olive-scale that has proved a most troublesome pest. To destroy locusts a fungus disease has been introduced from Natal, which has been the means of destroying the injurious swarms of these insects, and efforts have been made to introduce from Europe parasites of the gypsy moth.—N. Y. Post.

The End Justified the Means. Mrs. Clubleigh—But, Henry, dear, in this photograph you have put one button on your coat. Mr. Clubleigh—Thank heaven, you've noticed it at last! That's why I had the photograph taken.—Smart Set.