

QUEEREST OF CLUBS.

"NOBODY'S FRIENDS" AN EX-CLUBIVE LONDON SOCIETY.

Prime Minister Balfour and Archbishop of Canterbury Among Its Members—Origin of the Name.

London.—There are many queer clubs in London, but probably the oddest is that which dined the other night at the Whitehall rooms. "Nobody's Friends" is a quaint title, a phrase hardly suggestive of exclusiveness and distinction, yet it includes among its members Arthur Balfour, prime minister; the two primates of England—the archbishop of Canterbury and the archbishop of York, half a dozen bishops, the lord chief justice and five or six lesser justices, besides various other notables. Its name does not remotely suggest its origin or purpose.

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century there flourished one William Stevens, who attained fortune as a hostler and fame as a theologian by the publication of an essay in defense of those pillars of the English church, the Thirty-nine Articles. In 1800 he issued a theological brochure signed "Ala," which is Hebrew for "nobody," and "Nobody's club" was founded to commemorate its versatile author.

Except among antiquarians, Stevens and his works have long been forgotten and undoubtedly the club would many years ago have shared the same fate but for one of its articles of incorporation, by which its members pledged themselves to dine together thrice a year. That bond of union has kept it alive for 104 years, and may continue its existence for another century or two.

Those who wish to perpetuate the memory of Robert Louis Stevenson should profit by this hint. Literary tastes change with successive generations, but good diners never lose their attractions. In these days "Nobody's club" is supposed to be chiefly composed of cementing the union between the church and the state, but nobody has ever heard of its doing anything beyond eating its three dinners a year.

SAYS WIFE SHOULD WORK.

Professor of Political Economy Thinks Women Should Also Labor Though Married.

New York.—In an address before the League of Education, Simon N. Patten, professor of political economy of the University of Pennsylvania, advocated that women should marry early, and when married they should work, in order to have economic independence.

Prof. Patten deplored the fact that so many married women are in the leisure class. He argued that if the ideal which is held by so many men in regard to the support of their wives is carried on much further it will result in a deterioration of the race and a real danger to society.

In order to carry out this plan of economic independence, Prof. Patten stated that the standard of life of the family should never fall below that created at marriage by the joint income of husband and wife, and under no conditions should the wife think of allowing the burden of her support to fall upon her husband, until the earning power of the husband has been so enlarged as to admit of such action.

"Lack of income," he concluded, "is a reason often advanced against early marriage. While I realize that this kind of a condition offers disadvantages, I believe that where both the man and woman set out in industrial development they will, at the same time, develop in character also."

WERE MARRIED ON A "DARE"

Now the Father of the Bride Has the Bond Joining Youthful Couple Annulled.

New York.—By a decree of Judge Blischoff a marriage, which was entered into February 5, 1903, between a young woman and a youth, whom she had known since childhood, simply because she would not take a dare, has been annulled.

The parties to the ceremony are Harry Woodcock and Caroline Violet Ott, daughter of Philip Ott. She had known him seven years, and he often visited her, but their parents had no idea they contemplated marriage. He is employed in Wall street and she is a stenographer downtown.

One night he invited her to dinner and afterward took her to the theater. The play they saw was a love romance, and in the course of the performance they talked about marriage. He "dared" her to be married that night. They were married and returned to the theater. Woodcock secured the girl home and then went to his own home.

The girl was only 18 years old March 26, 1903, and her husband about a year her junior. He was not permitted to see her after their secret became known, and her father brought suit to have the marriage annulled. Edward A. Maher, Jr., was appointed referee, and upon his recommendation the decree was granted.

"Sufficient Unto the Day." President Eliot wonders "if our civilization will leave anything for the archaeologist of 3,000 years hence to study." Perhaps not, remarks the Philadelphia North American, but the sociologist of to-day has his hands full.

Might Not Be Alive To-Day. The New York physician who wants to drown all idiot children is lucky that there was no such law when he was a baby.

BLONDE WOMEN WEAKER.

Their Darker Sisters Less Prone to Disease, Declares a London Physician.

London.—Some remarkable conclusions upon the disease-resisting qualities of light and dark-haired people have arrived at by Dr. F. B. Shrubshell. These conclusions are based upon the figures Dr. Shrubshell has gathered, with the object of discovering how far the population of London is influenced by city life.

In the British Medical Journal he states that his observations have included 1,378 hospital patients and visitors, as well as several thousand children.

Generally speaking, he finds that brunettes are stronger than blondes. His figures show that: "With each successive generation of city life the fair element sends an undue proportion of its members to the hospitals."

In the earlier years of child life blondes are about as numerous as brunettes, but Dr. Shrubshell shows that disease during childhood falls unduly heavily on the blondes.

Throughout life blonde people are more prone to fall victims to disease than brunettes, and this leads Dr. Shrubshell to a further conclusion: "That diminution of stature and increase of brunette traits are almost certainly progressive with increased heredity of an urban environment."

The conclusion is based upon the principle of the survival of the fittest. The unhealthy conditions of city life—long hours, hurried meals and insufficient ventilation—while stunting the growth of all, tell more severely upon blondes, with the result that there is a predominance of the brunette type.

HAS USED RAZOR ON MANY

Frederick Hensche, a Barber for 51 Years, Is Still Plying Shears and Comb at Newton, N. J.

Newton, N. J.—Frederick Hensche, of this place, has shaved 229,000 persons. He is the oldest practicing barber in the United States. He has been wielding the razor continuously for nearly 51 years. He has cut the hair from the heads of 25,000 persons.

He has removed enough hair and whiskers from ferrisites to fill a boiler a mile long and one-third of a mile thick. If all the mustaches which he has trimmed, twisted and waxed were converted into one mustache the people on the moon would begin to laugh right away.

Hensche has used up a ton of toilet soap, three hogheads of bay rum, 1,000 pounds of powder and 50,000 bottles of hair restorer, and still there are some half-headed men in this part of New Jersey.

He has worn out 500 shaving brushes, 700 razors, 200 combs and 100 pairs of scissors. If it is true, as calculated, that a barber makes an average of 250 separate movements of the hand in shaving a customer, then Hensche's hands have performed 57,250,000 distinct movements in his tonsorial operations, not including the motions necessary in hair cutting and curling machines.

Hensche is well preserved and prosperous. He began as a barber's apprentice on Abingdon square, New York, when 15 years old. He is now 66.

BIG IMMIGRATION INCREASE

Present Year's Figures Expected to Be Greatest in History of the Country.

Washington.—An immense, almost startling, increase in immigration is shown by the figures for the month of December which have been compiled by Commissioner of Immigration Sargent. The increase in the number of immigrants from both Russia and Austria-Hungary is particularly noteworthy and the increase from Russia is considered especially significant. In December, 1902, the number of immigrants arriving from Russia was 10,184; in December, 1903, 10,431, and in December, 1904, 15,992. Compared with December, 1902, last month shows an increase of 57 per cent in immigration from Russia. The immigration from Austria-Hungary in December shows an increase of 12,732 over that of December, 1902.

Commissioner Sargent points out that if the total immigration from all countries, which in December aggregated 62,762, should be maintained throughout the year, together with the natural increase to be expected in the months of March, April and May and June, the present fiscal year will show the heaviest immigration in the history of the country.

New Planet Discovered.

Prof. Wolf, of the Heidelberg (Germany) observatory, has announced the discovery of a planet of the thirteenth magnitude. Its daily motion is in right ascension 1 minute, 33 seconds; in declination 9 minutes. This planet is believed to be Perrine's satellite of Jupiter.

Blue Laws in the South.

Corinth, Miss., had the lid down strong and tight the other Sunday, enforcing the Sunday closing law, so as to include the sale of cigars, soda water, etc. The drug stores were closed, and even the bootblacks stopped work. The sale of newspapers was allowed, however.

The Lathes.

Nature as well as necessity mothered the invention of the lathe, the first of machine tools. It was built originally between two adjacent large trees near which grew a spring sapling. Lathes like it are used to-day in some of the Asiatic countries.

BLESSING THE WATERS.

When the Czar of Russia and His People Hold an Impressive Meeting.

Midwinter in St. Petersburg each year sees a unique and solemn ceremony, called "the blessing of the waters." It was in the closing act of the ceremony that the recent attempt was made to assassinate the czar. A chapel of ice, richly decorated with ornaments from the palaces and churches and dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is erected on the frozen surface of the river Neva. The river is then called the Jordan and religious services are conducted in the temple by the metropolitan or high priest of the national church, attended by the emperor and all his court. The ceremony is in memory of the baptism of Christ, and is supposed to be a safeguard against dangers from floods, as well as to benefit those who make their living on the sea.

A hole is cut in the ice in the center of the floor of the chapel. From this the people are baptized by sprinkling by the priests, and the faithful members of the Greek church go in vast crowds to get their share, while religious devotees often plunge into the ice-cold flood through the hole. If they catch cold and die, as they often do, heaven is secured for them. On the evening before the ceremony, devout churchmen make crosses on their thresholds to prevent the evil spirits that are driven from the water from taking refuge in their houses.

Both a blessing and a curse to St. Petersburg is the river Neva. Upon its banks the most magnificent palaces are erected. The numerous islands are parks or pleasure grounds of the people and are filled with resorts that are thronged during both the winter and summer months. There is only one permanent bridge, the remainder being so constructed that they can be removed when the stream freezes over, as it usually does in November, when the teams and pedestrians pass over on the ice till April. The Jockey club holds its race meetings on the ice.

When the spring thaw comes or when a strong northwesterly wind blows the water in from the sea several days in succession, there is great danger of flood, for the city is not more than four feet above the mean level of the river. When a flood is coming the inhabitants are warned by the firing of guns. Ice jams are removed by dynamite and the army is ordered out with axes. There is no way to prevent the floods that come with the winds.

SOME UNWORKED FIELDS.

Treasures Undeveloped in Various Occupations for Inventor and Workman.

In spite of the enormous inroads made on this earth's great store of wealth, diamonds, oil, gas, coal, iron and other materials, recent investigations have brought to light the interesting fact that treasure fields containing fabulous wealth still remain intact, says the London Chronicle.

Investigations have proved, for instance, that huge areas of the floor of the Pacific are strewn thick with immense deposits of nodules of pure manganese. Invent a practical method of recovering it and the individual who does so will at once become rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

The most crying need to-day is a substitute for Para rubber. It is certain to be discovered sooner or later. Celluloid and oxidized linseed oil are useful for some purposes for which rubber is used, but for cycle and automobile tires rubber is the only material with the necessary elasticity. The inventor of a substitute would soon become a multimillionaire.

Malleable glass was manufactured and used by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago. But the secret has been lost. It seems odd that no one in this age of mechanical progress has been able to discover the method of manufacturing a tough and unbreakable glass. Whoever succeeds in doing so and making the discovery economically useful will reap a great reward.

Real photography in colors is still an open field and offers boundless opportunities for the inventor. In smaller matters, too, the list of wants unsupplied is endless. Jewelers, for instance, are still quite without any safe method of fixing pearls on jewelry, such as rings, where the gems are mounted without a surrounding setting.

Colors and Animals.

Red will annoy a turkey cock as much as a bull, but a sparrow will not let it disturb its mind. But if one fits a blue rag in front of a caged sparrow's eyes he will go frantic with disgust. Sparrows and linnets, too, will refuse food offered them on a piece of blue paper and dislike the appearance of anyone wearing a blue dress. Medium light blue affects them most and blue serge they scarcely mind at all. Thrushes and blackbirds object to yellow, but will use red or blue dried grasses left about their haunts to build the outer layers of their nests. Yellow grasses they will not use.—Nature.

Strengthening the Nerves.

Self-control or nerve force is the great lesson of health, and, therefore, of life itself. To understand how to relax is to understand how to strengthen nerves. Laughter is a source of relaxation, as are also all high thoughts as those of hope, beauty, trust or love. Relaxation is found in diversion. An occasional outing or holiday is necessary.—Health Culture.

Fighting Octopus.

An octopus, measuring 11 1/2 feet from tip to tip of its tentacles, attacked a diver in Cape Town harbor recently. Knives and hatchets had to be used to cut the tentacles of the monster away from the diver.

DAINTY LOUNGING SHOES.

Bedroom Footwear for Lazy Hours When Dressing Is Not to Be Thought Of.

The daintiness and comfort of the new bedroom slippers offer great temptations to the American girl of 1905 to adopt her English sister's commendable habit of removing stiff walking boots immediately on entering the house and slipping into low, easy footwear. Delicately tinted kid slippers, with fluffy tasseled rosettes and no heels, please Miss Dainty who likes silk dressing gowns and lacy trills. She of more dignified tastes chooses high-heeled mules of embroidered satin or leather. The girl who combines beauty and wonderful cozyness, wears the Cleveland Plain Dealer, knits her own slippers from Angora wool and colored silk or enjoys solid comfort in solesse elderdown shoes lined with tufted satin. Sandals in straw or satin or the bedroom footwear favored by men, while low suede or alligator skin slippers make ideal lounging boots.

Nothing is more charming for boudoir wear than loose gowns in white and the soft white kid slippers with huge, downy tassels of creamy silk are a fascination to the most exacting fancy. These pliable kid slippers are also very fetching in the delicate shades of blue, pink and lavender, with large, fluffy rosettes in self-tone.

Mules, or sandals with high heels, make the foot look small, and are stunning for wear with teagowns and handsome loose robes. A dainty pair has the stiff black satin vamps embroidered in blue forget-me-nots and edged with tiny ruffling of blue chiffon. Another pair in stiff white satin is embroidered in gold beads. A pair of mules in subdued gray suede are edged with a band of gray fur, and the toes are embroidered in cut steel.

For softness and comfort there is no hand-made slipper which compares with the one knitted from silk and Angora wool. A devoted mother recently knitted a pair for her little dark-haired daughter, using lavender crochet silk alternating with silky, white Angora wool for the outside of the slippers. They were lined with lavender china silk and the rolling collars were tied with fluffy lavender satin bows. All the knitted slippers this winter show two-inch turnover collars of the same shade as the V-shaped piece inset in the toes, which is usually of a contrasting color to the body of the slipper. A cozy looking wrapper of tufted Japanese silk in navy blue wool with scarlet ribbon.

UNCOMFORTABLE CHAIRS.

Pieces of Furniture That Are an Abomination and an Outrage Against Temper.

Uncomfortable chairs are an outrage against taste and temper, yet they exist in many forms. There is the chair with the low back that ends just where support is most necessary, says the House Beautiful. There is the chair with the high seat that should be sold only with a footrest. There is the chair with the carved back that should be accompanied by a headrest for it displays at the top, on a line with the occupant's cranium a bunch of grapes or a rampant lion.

There are other chairs that might be mentioned, chairs with arms that are too high, or so low that they are of no earthly use; chairs that are so wide in the seat that a cushion is necessary to fill out the spare; chairs with backs that are out of line and throw the body too far forward. Cooks should be willing to eat their own dishes, and chair-makers should be compelled to sit in their own chairs—or at least to "try" them before sending them out into the world. Some of the mission pieces are built on dimensions that would doubtless afford comfort to a race of giants, but they scarcely meet the needs of ordinary mortals. As a rule the seats of the chairs are too high and those of the davenport and settees too wide and often too low. The colonial furniture makers were masters of comfort. Their chairs, with few exceptions, are perfectly proportioned and extremely comfortable. The old sofas and davenports are so constructed that pillows to brace the human back are not necessary. The wooden back is in its right place and meets every requirement. Reproductions of old pieces are not always exact in their dimensions.

Curried Cod.

Fry a one-pound slice of cod in two ounces of butter. Put another ounce of butter in a pan, when hot, fry a finely-chopped onion in it, add a tablespoonful and a half of curry powder, three tablespoonfuls of cocoanut, one teaspoonful of milk, one teaspoonful of water or stock, one teaspoonful of sugar, one saltspoonful of salt, and one tablespoonful of lemon juice. Cook slowly for 15 minutes, then add the fish, which has been divided into flakes; cook for five minutes longer and serve hot with a dish of plain boiled rice.—Philadelphia Press.

Cheese Croquettes.

Cut into small pieces one pound of American cheese. Have ready one cupful of hot cream sauce in a saucepan; add the cheese and the yolks of two beaten eggs, diluted with a little cream. Stir until well blended, and let the mixture remain on the stove for a moment until the cheese gets "steady." Season with salt, red and white pepper, and a little nutmeg. Set on the ice until cold, then form into croquettes and roll in fine bread crumbs. Fry in egg, then in crumbs again and dip in deep, hot fat until delicate brown.—Good Literature.

WINTER DISTRESS REMEDIES

Manner of Providing Against Want and Suffering in Leading German Cities.

In Cologne, as elsewhere, the winter brings with it a dearth of work and consequent distress among the workers, but there a man is enabled to insure himself against falling out of employment. In a report which Mr. D. F. Schloss has presented to the board of trade this system is fully described. The Cologne office deals with men skilled and unskilled alike, of 18 years and over, who must have resided in the town for a year. Each insurer pays a weekly premium, which now stands at 3 1/2d. (seven cents) a week for unskilled workmen, and this premium must have been paid for 34 weeks. The insurer is eligible for relief if he loses his work through no fault of his own between December and March, but if work offers, at a rate of pay not less than that which he received previously he must take it. The relief is 2s. (49 cents) a day for the first 20 week days, and 1s. (24 cents) afterwards up to eight weeks—sufficient, that is, to avert the worst consequences of unemployment, but not enough to make fraud attractive.

The number of men who insured themselves during 1904-5 was 1,624, of whom 1,106 drew the allowance for varying periods. Without a grant from the municipality and outside help the premiums paid would have been insufficient to cover the amounts granted to insurers; still, of the total relief granted to men out of work the men themselves paid 43 per cent.

Germany is the home of sociological experiments and this report contains some interesting notes on labor colonies. That in Berlin is particularly noteworthy. A man here is debited with 3s. 3d. (\$1.28) a week for board and lodging, and this sum is deducted from his wages. In some cases a "colony" has made more than a pound (\$4.86) a week.

Relief works in Germany are undertaken by towns, the labor provided is generally road making, navvies' work, street cleaning and the like, and the average wage per day is in the neighborhood of 2s. 3d. (55 cents). There are public registries, and their mission is to keep tally of the labor market, so that a vacancy and a man may never fall to come together.

ELECTRICITY AND BREAD.

Experiments in Paris to Devise an Improved Method of Making.

The power of the electric current to decompose substances in a singular way has led to an important development of electro-chemistry. In this connection experiments have recently been made in Paris, seeking an improvement in bread making.

Laboring under the mistaken impression that the whiteness of wheat bread determines its quality—that the whiter the bread the better—the Parisian public has for years been growing more and more exacting on this score, consequently the fineness of grain flour has been gradually approaching a limit. The public has, as a consequence, received a less nutritive food, it being a known fact that the core of the wheat grain, which is the chief constituent of bread, while producing the whitest flour, at the same time contains the smallest amount of albumen and is thus least nutritious.

There has recently been raised the hope of obtaining a whiter bread by aid of electricity, for which purpose the flour was brought in contact with electrified air, whose ozone possesses efficacious bleaching properties. A report to the Academy of Sciences at Paris on the result of an experiment with flour treated in both the ordinary way and by electricity, under similar conditions, explains that the flour subjected to electric influence was much whiter in color, but that its taste and odor were far inferior to those of flour treated by the ordinary method. The amount of phosphorus was the same in both, but the quantities of fatty and acid substances varied largely. Thus, in flour treated by electricity the fatty substances proved rancid, glutinous, and of a less yellowish color, and instead of retaining their usual aromatic, yellow state, became oxidized and partly converted into white sebaceous acid, which could be dissolved in alcohol. The glutinous substances were discolored and changed.

The bread made from this flour was whiter than usual, but of inferior taste, and the experiment serves to demonstrate that electric treatment, while successfully turning flour whiter, injures it.

Decline of British Agriculture.

Several causes have been assigned for the decline of British agriculture and the depopulating of the farms. One which is potent in some localities has not been mentioned. In the fen districts of Lincolnshire roads are few. Large and productive farms are practically without them, and the producer often misses rising markets and is forced into falling ones because transport is impossible. Laborers will not accept good situations in such districts, because they are shut off from the outer world at certain times of the winter, or because their children cannot reach the schools for lack of passable ways, or for other allied reasons. This "rural remoteness" explains to some extent the decline of farm values and the drift from land to town. New and shorter roads are demanded, and the authorities seem to be awakening to their necessity.

Gramophone Post Cards.

The illustrated postcard is shortly to have a rival in the form of the "gramophone disk-card," writes the Vienna correspondent of the London Express. These disks bear a record of the voice of the sender, which is engraved on them in public penny-in-the-slot machines, into which the sender speaks his message. The disk, which is backed with glue, is then mentioned and stuck on to a post card. For the receiver manufactures gramophones are being manufactured, which will be sold at about two dollars each, so that all he will have to do will be to put the disk into the machine in order to hear the voice of his correspondent. It is stated that the disks may be rolled, or even folded, and put in a letter without injury.

MINING BLACK DIAMONDS.

Primitive Processes Employed by the Natives of Brazil in the Work.

The black diamond is an important article of commerce, not because it is destined to embellish the head of feminine grace, but because of the fact that it has been widely applied in industry, where it is almost as valuable as its white fellow. The home of the black diamond is Brazil, the classic land of the diamond, the richest beds of the mineral having been found in the province of Bahia, and on the banks and in the beds of the Sao Jose river.

The stone, which is perfectly opaque, is not beautiful, and if the magical work dreamed had never been applied to the substance there is no doubt that to this day the black diamond would be a thing unknown. However, the favor which this mineral enjoys is of recent date, for 20 years ago its properties were unknown, and the trade in the stone was practically nothing.

The constantly increasing perfection of boring instruments brought out the value of the black diamond, the use of diamond point drills now having become so general that the price of the mineral has in consequence rapidly increased. To-day the diamond has become of prime necessity in working tempered metals, sawing of marble, piercing of tunnels and galleries and in mines.

At the time of the inauguration of the laboratory of arts and trades in July, 1903, a circular saw provided with diamond points produced surprising results, cutting into thin slices the hardest materials. On the banks of the Sao Jose are found the traces of the first exploration of the mines by the natives, the Garimpeiros.

The black diamond, however, having no commercial value, did not attract these people, and they were apparently ignorant of the real character of the mineral. From the report of an engineer who explored the region in 1855 we learn that one day the diamond diggers discovered a black stone in the Sao Jose. They took the stone to one of their huts and sought to discover its nature by attempting to crack it. All their efforts were fruitless, the stone resisting the most powerful hammers, and after a time it was thrown back into the mine. The stone weighed about 100 karats, and at the present price of \$40 a karat, represents a loss of \$400,000.

The exploitation of the Brazilian diamond mines by the Garimpeiros, it is unnecessary to say, was not scientific. The cracks of the rocks are explored with the hand, the gravel being taken away in little barrels which are carried on the head. Attempts have been made to lessen the time of the work by diving for the mineral, but the violence of the stream is such during the rainy season that this plan has been but little adopted.

The only method which will produce results, and the one which will shortly be put in operation, is that of draining. Dams will be erected 300 feet apart and the centrifugal pumps will be installed for the purpose of drawing off the water. The result of the work cannot be a question of doubt, judging from the past performance of these diamond mines.

TIMBER RESOURCES FAILING

Forests of the United States Are Being Rapidly Thinned Out by Lumbermen.

Across the great lakes in Canada there lies one of the world's largest reserves of timber. In spite of the tariff imposed much of this timber is to-day coming to the United States. The forests of the Dominion are beginning to yield abundantly. More than 100,000,000 feet of pine sawlogs and square timber, during a recent season, were cut upon territory held under timber license from the crown.

Much of Canada's timber land has not yet even been explored. In the newly developed district of Alberta, which is close to the great lakes, it is estimated that there are more than 100,000,000 cords of spruce and pulp wood, while in the districts of Thunder bay and Rainy river there are nearly 200,000,000 cords more. A belt at least 3,000 miles long is believed to exist in Canada between Alaska and the Atlantic.

It has been estimated that, at the present rate of cutting, the greatest timber resources of the United States—those of the Pacific coast—will be exhausted in less than half a century. The annual cut of shingles and lumber in these regions is 4,500,000,000 feet. The standing timber in Washington, Oregon and northern California at present is twice that of the original timber lands of the northern woods. Washington produces about as many feet of shingles and other lumber as Oregon and California together. This state is noted for its shingles, there being more than 1,000 shingle mills within its borders. At Tacoma are located the largest saw-mills in the United States.

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