

PROGRESSIVE WORK OF JEWS.

Large and Influential Organizations Founded for Benevolent Purposes.

No summary of Jewish benevolence in the United States would be complete without the mention of a few of the "centers" whose large and influential organizations originating in the first feeble attempts made 40 years ago to stimulate practical benevolence...

But the gain of all the educational institutions of the Jews in the United States is easily seen to be the "Educational Alliance" whose magnificent building towers aloft at the corner of East Broadway and Jefferson street, New York.

When their Catholic majesties of Spain Ferdinand and Isabella fired by religious zeal drove out the Jews from their dominions toward the end of the fifteenth century the Sultan Bajazet II of Turkey...

MEADOW-MICE.

Interesting Information Concerning These "Small Beers" of the Fields.

We can always tell when there are meadow mice in a field by the little footpaths winding in and out among the grass roots. These paths are usually rather lower than the surrounding grass...

The best known representative of the American long-tailed mice is unquestionably the white-footed, or deer, mouse. This is one of the commonest as well as one of the most beautiful of the four-footed animals in this country.

Improving. A lady on entering the kitchen early one morning saw a plate and knife and fork the former of which had evidently contained a rabbit pie.

Mistress. Jan's what's become of the one rabbit pie that was left?
Jan. Oh, I didn't think it was wanted, so I gave it to the dog.

Local Undertakings. "Talk about the jobs," said the cheerful idiot, while trying to look serious.

FACTS ABOUT FAMOUS PIERS.

Construction and Cost of a Number Built for Pleasure Seekers in England.

It is a curious yet interesting fact that the pleasure pier, now regarded as a necessary adjunct to any seaside resort, is a distinctly English and American idea.

The purely recreation pier, as we have it to-day, came into existence by accident. It appears that in the year 1750 two great masonry piers were commenced at Ramsgate in connection with a harbor scheme.

After a life of 74 years it was condemned as unsafe. Seven weeks after it had been closed to the public it was destroyed one night in a terrible storm.

An electric tramway runs the whole length of the structure. It is without question a very paying property, and last season netted £5,000 profit, which amount to relieve the local rates to the extent of fivepence in the pound.

The next longest pier is that at Herne Bay, which at present is just over three-quarters of a mile in length. We say "at present" as it is not yet completed, and when finished will eclipse, so it is said, the Southend structure for length.

Some idea of the extent to which the piers at Blackpool are appreciated may be gathered from the fact that the Blackpool Pier company's last dividend was ten per cent, plus a bonus of two per cent.

Ascham's Nine Days Wonder. Travelling like novel writing, is but a modern form of activity, and tourists like novelists, are increasing at so fearful a rate of speed that foreign countries and library shelves bid fair to be equally overrun.

Method as Fifteen. Modern scientific method, that the number four plus eight as an important part in molecule affairs as the number 12, and for the following reason: There are four corners, four sides, four seasons, four tides for nations, four continents and four quarters of the moon.

Modern scientific method, that the number four plus eight as an important part in molecule affairs as the number 12, and for the following reason: There are four corners, four sides, four seasons, four tides for nations, four continents and four quarters of the moon.

AND WHISTLER WAS MARRIED.

How the Famous English Artist Let Another Pop the Question for Him.

Mr Labouchere, of Truth, is a darling man. He recently confessed to having acted as matchmaker between the late gifted and eccentric artist, James McNeill Whistler, and the lady who became his wife.

The two were known to be strongly attracted toward each other, and to have already talked in a vague, far-off, Elysian way of possible matrimony, but it was perfectly plain that Whistler would never do anything so practical and commonplace as definitely to propose and be accepted.

"Oh, some day," said Whistler. "That won't do," said Labouchere. "We must have a date."

"So they both agreed," he narrates, "that I should choose the day, tell them what I should like to do for the ceremony, provide a clergyman, and give the bride away. I fixed an early date, and got them the chaplain of the house of commons to perform the ceremony.

"No," she replied, "I am just going to buy my trousseau."
"Ah, a little late for that, is it not?" I asked.
"No," she answered, "for I am only going to buy a tooth brush and a new sponge."

CHINA'S ARTISTIC QUEEN.

Character Reader in Chirography Gives Characteristics of the Empress.

A writer in the North China Herald, having a great character delineator among his guests at a little dinner party asked him if he thought his character reading would extend to Chinese writing.

Cultured, with considerable force of character, decidedly go-ahead, and with concentrative ability and persistent, decidedly scheming, with great capacity for being very merciful outside her own circle.

"The Hour-Hand of Eternity." In a recent lecture at Berlin on the new views of the constitution of matter based on the phenomena of radium and other substances whose atoms appear to be flying to pieces.

Broken bits of fortune sprinkled about pantry shelves with it is said, banish old ones. Buxar is also useful, the crystal and not the powder being preferred.

CROWDING OF CITIES.

An Unmistakable and Potent Factor in the Present Growth of Crime.

The modern crowding of the population into cities is a factor of the first importance. Enthusiasts, extravagantly disparage the moral condition of cities. This excites contradiction, and in the controversy the fact is overlooked that profound changes, some beneficial and others pernicious, have been and are being silently wrought by the aggregation into cities of so large a part of the population.

A lamentable change has passed over the country with regard to the learning of trades. Most temperaments require manual labor in the earlier years of active life, and much exercise at all periods.

The struggle for success in society, finance, politics, literature, applied science and art grows more fierce as the cities grow larger, the prosperous have often "paid too dear for the whistle," those who fall are, according to temperament, despondent or desperate, and the consequence is a steady procession to the sanatorium or the prison.

ANIMALS WITH HANDS.

Four-Foot of Some Reversible Digits, But Are Really Nothing More Than Holders.

Kangaroos use their hands very readily to hold food in and to put it to their mouths. As their forelegs are so short that they have to browse in a stooping position, they seem pleased when able to secure a large bunch of cabbage or other vegetable provender and to hold it in their hands to eat.

To see many of the smaller rodents—ground squirrels, prairie dogs and marmots—hold their food, usually in both paws, is to learn a lesson in the dexterous use of hands without thumbs.

If the gross income of a country is the most trustworthy sign of its prosperity, or the contrary, even the deepest pessimism will have to admit that England is not doing so badly.

Traders in "Broken" China. One of the queer sights on the east side, particularly on Saturdays, is men who go around with push-carts labeled "broken china." There is really not a broken piece in the lot, except when the peddler's cart gets a heavy jolt from a bump, but the women of the neighborhood know the peddler's bell, and are always ready to buy his wares.

Broken bits of fortune sprinkled about pantry shelves with it is said, banish old ones. Buxar is also useful, the crystal and not the powder being preferred.

PEONAGE IN HAWAII.

The Federal Officials Are Proceeding Strongly Against the Traffic in Japanese Girls.

The federal authorities have begun a war against peonage in the Hawaiian Islands, and Judge Etate and District Attorney Breckons propose to break up the practice which is so prevalent among the Japanese residents.

Slavery has existed among both Chinese and Japanese in the islands for a long time. The women who were held in this worst kind of slavery were afraid to testify against their masters, and they were bought and sold without the slightest regard to the forms of American law.

Not only has there been a large amount of traffic in Japanese girls, but also in Chinese children, the Asiatics counting their observance of the custom prevailing in the old country for the sale of their children. This practice is also to be broken up.

In Japanese girls that the United States immigration authorities have decided to bar out girls entirely. Another restriction recently placed on the Japanese immigration was one requiring Japanese girls to be married unless they were able to show conclusively that they came to Hawaii to live only an upright life.

substantive the claim that the federal authorities have recently been adopting the practice of compelling a second marriage of the persons concerned on their arrival here. There is now upon the arrival of every oriental steamer a wholesale wedding ceremony at which often 15 and 20 couples are united in marriage at the same time.

COAST OF PORTO RICO.

Something of Interest Concerning Its Shores on the North and South.

The New York Sun in speaking of the coast of Porto Rico says, The fact is not generally known that on maps of the largest scale the northern and southern coasts of this island are not shown in quite the position in which they were formerly represented.

One other very interesting discovery has been made as a result of which the north shore of the island has been moved on the map a half mile to the south and the southern shore a half mile to the north.

Dr. Titmann, the director of the survey, in a recent address briefly explained the cause of this unusual proceeding. He said that the visible island of Porto Rico is really the summit of a mountain whose slopes extend to great depths beneath the adjacent seas.

Beauty and Light Meals. A recent writer says: There have been tales from the Frenchmen loafing in his small breakfast and reciprocal sarcasm from the Englishman, conscious of his moderate luncheon.

BIG SUGAR CROP.

The Average in Hawaii Has Been Largely Increased, But for Winter Reduced.

The Hawaiian sugar crop for the year just ended is approximately 125,000 tons. Nearly the entire crop has now been started to market and the remainder will be sent next week.

As a general rule the planters are satisfied with the result of this year's crop, although the increase in the price to 187 did not come until more than half of the sugar had been sold in the New York market.

Although last year very few of the plantations paid dividends the returns this year will be sufficient to put the majority of the sugar estates on a paying basis. Some of the plantations are paying as high as 24 per cent annually.

For the first time in nearly two years there has been activity on the local stock exchange for Honolulu has a stock exchange all its own. Until recently, however, the sales upon the exchange did not aggregate very many thousands of dollars during the year, and there were days, and often weeks, when not a sale of stock was recorded.

LOCUSTS IN PHILIPPINES.

Insects Ruin Part of the Vegetation, But Leave Some Plants Undisturbed.

At the Singapore farm and experiment station of the bureau of agriculture some curious facts were noted when the pests of locusts settled down over their crops recently. It seems that there are certain plants which the locust will not touch at all, and some valuable objection reasons were derived from the visit of the waned destroyer.

All grasslike plants, such as sugar cane, corn, rice, and even the larger bamboo, were completely stripped by the insects, so as to be worthless, while others did not lose a single leaf through the insect's ravages.

Provision Prices in Manila. Many travelers in the Philippines, as well as many who have had to live there on duty have reported that the cost of living is high, but particularly have not been set forth an advertisement in the Manila Freedom of press of provisions at the "Philippine Cold stores" affords some specific knowledge on the subject.

Church Roof Garden in Manila. A Presbyterian church in Manila is to have a roof garden. This is certainly an up-to-date idea, and religious services held in the evening under a tropical sky with an environment of palms, lights and music, ought to make churchgoing popular.