

Wichita Daily Eagle

NEW YORK'S FIREMEN.

ADMIABLE QUALITIES REQUIRED OF APPLICANTS.

Education of the Men Before They Are Appointed—Tests of Proficiency—What Constitutes a Fireman—Courage Is Very Essential—Must Bear Smoke.

"Fire! The house on fire!" When that cry is heard in a building panic ensues upon the inmates and indescribable confusion ensues. Some one runs to a fire box and sends in an alarm, which sounds in every engine house in this city.

The response on the part of the firemen and their horses is immediate. The horse without bawling, there is no interference of one man with another. Eagerness to be off and ready to work are depicted on each man's face. In ten seconds the drivers are on their seats, lines in hand, waiting the order to go. It is given, and away they start, the horses needing no urging, the men clinging with one hand to a rail of the car, wriggling into their rubber coats. Not many minutes later they are on the ground, the hose is attached to the hydrant, ladders are run up and the battle with the fire begins.

The inmates of the burning building, who a few minutes before were panic stricken, regain confidence. Our firemen, who, without hesitation, plunge into a burning building, are men who as one time in life were as liable as any one to "the panic," who suffer from the same very foolish and cowardly thing. That they are not so now is due to the training they receive and the trials to which they are subjected. Let us follow the course which an applicant for appointment to the fire department in this city must undergo before he can wear the badge, which is the emblem of "courage and fidelity."

TRIAL OF QUALIFICATION.

After being recommended by the fire commissioners for appointment the applicant is examined as to his physical qualifications. If they are up to the standard he is turned over to the civil service commission for examination as to his knowledge of the common school branches. If he passes he is sent to headquarters, where he enters the school of instruction of the life saving corps, which the drill master is Mr. Henry W. McDanna. He has had charge of the school since its organization in 1882. No one can be behind his returns; there is not political pull enough in the city to secure the appointment of a man who he rejects. It is in this school, and during the thirty days he is in training, that the applicant proves his fitness or unfitness to be enrolled in the service.

The New York fire department has a complete gymnasium, where, besides the apparatus for the development and strengthening of the muscles, are all the appliances it has to use. Through instruction is given to the applicant by Mr. McDanna, himself a veteran fireman, as to their purpose and proper handling. Familiarity with these appliances is absolutely indispensable to efficiency on the part of a fireman, whose essential characteristic must be quickness. A slow man has no chance for appointment in the department.

TRAINING PROMOTIONS.

Probationers are also taught morality in an indirect yet forcible manner. Remembering that their calling demands of them courage and honesty, the probationer who is with some company, either in the engine house or at a fire, feels that he is associating with men who are gentle in their manners, respectful and obedient to authority, ready at any instant to hold the muzzle close against a flame that threatens them with death, and who would not disgrace their uniform. If he has the true stuff in him he will soon conform with them in thought, purpose and demeanor, and on every occasion emulate them in zeal and honor.

The cultivation of good manners and other qualities that constitute a man in the eyes of an aristocratic society. For instance, the applicant learns the history of the fire at Chambers street, which took place twenty years ago, when the employees of a bank rushed into the street, leaving \$100,000 in cash on the counters. The fireman ran in, gathered the money together, threw it into the safe, and locked the safe door. When the money was taken out and counted only \$70 was missing, and the captain's eye is on the dollars, which in the excitement had probably rolled away. Hearing such a story the applicant of the right material is very likely to resolve to behave with equal honesty at every fire to which he is called.

SEVERITY OF NATURAL COURAGE.

"Men are nature and that's the way there's a fire," said Capt. McDanna to me. "Put all Barnum's wild animals in that lot over there and then drop a child among them, and in nine cases out of ten the father of that child will go in after it. But let there be an alarm of fire in the house in thought time and then that same man runs into the street and leaves his child behind. I have never seen a man suffocated at a fire with a child in his arms, but I have seen women lying dead from suffocation with a child to each arm. The man's first thought is to get into the street and then he bears the house is on fire. The woman's first thought is her children."

"The probationers are, no doubt, naturally courageous, and each one resolves to be as heroic as any man who has won the Burner medal, but when there is a fire and they go in with the firemen their true metal shows. The captain's eye is on them. If they waver he sees it, but if they resolutely hold their faces to the fire and obey orders, no matter if the smoke is thick enough to be out and if their throats are chattering loud enough to be heard above the crackling of the fire, he knows that they are of the right stuff and reports favorably upon them. If an applicant cannot stand the smoke, which, Capt. McDanna says, "fools in your throat as if some fellow were trying to force you to swallow a baseball," he is dropped from the list—Epoch.

Nix's Mate.

Nix's Mate is the name of a submerged island in Boston harbor, upon which an obelisk was raised some years ago. It is said that Nix's Mate was a sailor who was hanged for piracy upon the spot which now bears his name nearly 200 years since, notwithstanding his strong protestations of innocence. He predicted that the island would sink within the year if he was, as he claimed, unjustly murdered by the law. Within a short period many feet of water were rolling over Nix's Mate.—St. Louis Republic.

Dyspepsia and Baldness.

"Did you ever observe," said Dr. James, "that a dyspeptic person who has suffered with the disease for a year or more is, nine cases out of ten, bald? The disease has a peculiar effect upon the hair. It causes it to become weak and very dry. The least pull will bring out a hair. There is no known remedy which will prevent the hair from falling out if a man's stomach is out of order."—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

THE REWARD OF PERSISTENCY.

An Italian Peddler Gets More for His Wares Than He Bargains For. The persistency of the street fakir in pressing his wares on reluctant purchasers is well known, and in many cases defeats its own object, but in an equal number of cases, probably it succeeds. One offensive Italian peddler met with rather mixed results, however, Sunday, when most wares left some doubt in his mind as to whether he had done well on the whole or ill. He was selling small pinwheels of bright colored paper, near the main entrance to Prospect park, when a well dressed young mechanic came along with a bright, clean, handsome little boy of seven. The fond mother who accompanied them never took her eye long from her darling son, and her eyes seemed to say to all who beheld her, "He is just as good as his pretty."

The peddler "spotted" them for his prey from afar off, and moved down on them with his wares of gay little whorls whirling in the wind. Seductively he said, "Only five cents, boys, one for a little man." The little man's eyes danced with glee, but his father waved the Italian aside and said to his son: "No, no, Johnny, you don't want one today. We're going to have a ride in the boat on the lake instead."

Little Johnny was evidently on his best behavior, for he resisted the temptation to cry and allowed himself to be dragged along by his father. But he cast a longing look over his shoulder at the toys and lagged a little behind. The wily Italian could take it, and taking a particularly gaudy wheel in his hand, stepped up behind the parents and offered it to the little fellow. Johnny's face beamed with joyful anticipation, as he thought the Italian was going to give him one. He stretched out his disengaged hand to receive it, but just as his fingers seemed to clutch the butterfly could take it, the peddler withdrew it, still holding it up temptingly just beyond the little fellow's reach.

This was altogether too much for Johnny's self control, and he burst into a howl of rage and disappointment which nothing could quiet. His parents, not wishing to spoil their outing, bought him a wheel at last and turned his tears to laughter, while colorless thought that Johnny's father was altogether too soft hearted to allow himself to be forced in this manner into making a purchase from the impudent peddler.

AN EMPEROR'S VALET.

INCIDENTS OF NAPOLEON'S LIFE TOLD BY HIS SERVANT.

Little Known Peculiarities of the Great General—Valet Constant Was with France's Idol for Fifteen Years—Why He Did Not Accompany Him to Elba.

Napoleon had a Belgian valet who for fifteen years was in constant attendance upon him, and who admired him to the end of the chapter. This man wrote, or professed to write, memoirs of his master, six octavo volumes of about 300 pages each, which appeared in 1830. The work has sunk into oblivion. While not lifting a finger to dress himself, Napoleon dispensed with assistance in undressing, but he flung his garments all over the room—his watch sometimes missing the table or bed at which it was aimed and falling broken on the floor.

As to dress, he despised dandies, never wore rings and abominated accents, except eau de Cologne, with which he was often rubbed and which was his specific for bruises. When coat tails became shorter he struck the tailor and ordered him to get the tailor to shorten them by imperceptible gradations. He disliked tightly fitting clothes, found a new hat uncomfortable—though lined with silk and wadding—and stuck to an old hat as long as possible. He put on every morning a clean white waistcoat with knee breeches and trousers, were trousers; but as he habitually wiped his pen on his breeches, after three or four washings they were done with.

NAPOLEON'S FLYCATCHERS.

Constant denies, however, the common story of his keeping snipe loose in his waistcoat pocket, and that he used to get a pinch, he simply held it to his nose and then dropped all or nearly all on the floor. His snuff injured the carpet, not his waistcoat.

A pinch of snuff was not the sole kind of pinch in which Napoleon indulged. He was addicted to playfully pinching people's ears, not merely the lobe as commonly stated, but the whole ear, and sometimes both ears at once. The better the humor he was in the harder the grip. He also administered friendly slaps on the cheek, hard enough sometimes to draw marks of a blush. As to demonstrations of anger, Constant never but once saw him strike.

An underground had put on the wrong saddle, and Napoleon had no sooner mounted than the horse reared and threw him. The head groom coming up at the moment, the emperor got on his feet, and with a look of his whip, but presently being told that the groom had done so, he felt the humiliation, he sent for and scolded him, presenting him a few days afterward with 3,000 francs. He was not a graceful equestrian, and every horse he rode had to undergo a special training, that it might not resent lashes on the head and nape, or get the saddle, or being pulled up sharp while at full gallop.

HE WAS NO EPICURE.

Later he had always Arabian horses, and it is pleasant to hear that his favorite Syria, after the Marston campaign, passed the rest of his life in the hands of the Sultan. He did not care for the chase, but hunted just enough to keep up royal traditions. Constant denies that he was ever wounded by a wild boar, as asserted in the Memorial de Ste. Helene. He did not shoulder his gun well, and never fired without blackening his arms, to which, as we have seen, he was so sensitive.

HE WAS NO EPICURE.

Napoleon was no epicure. He usually drank nothing but diluted Chamberlain, and was no judge of wine. He liked plain dishes—boiled or roast chicken, mutton chops, broiled neck of mutton, haricot beans or lentils, but his manna were very refined. He would use his fingers in lieu of fork or spoon, and would dip his bread in the sauce, the dish being then passed round the guests, who had to dispense with squeamishness.

The bread had to be particularly good. He ate fast, quitted the table in twelve minutes, leaving Josephine and the company to take their time. When bedded alone he commonly took only eight or ten minutes. Indigestion was the natural consequence of his speed, and he had sometimes to stretch himself at full length on the carpet till he felt better. He was a devoted physiologist and professed to disbelieve in a subject of playful discussion with his doctors. Constant never knew him obliged to keep his bed a whole day. He was very sensitive to cold, and had fires and warm beds nearly all the year.

WHY HE WENT TO ELBA ALONE.

How was it that Constant did not accompany him to Elba? He was not with him, but his version is this: He had agreed to go, and Napoleon gave him 100,000 francs, bidding him to bury the money in his small farm near Fontainebleau, that it might serve for his family. A few days afterward Gen. Bertrand told him the emperor had found his accounts 100,000 francs short. Constant explained what had passed, but Bertrand came back with a message that the emperor had no recollection of giving him a present. Constant thereupon went to the emperor with the money, finding it after some digging and in terror lest it should have been stolen. Bertrand took the money, but Constant was so chagrined at the emperor having allowed Bertrand to think he had embezzled the sum that he sent word to the emperor that he should not accompany him. Napoleon sent a message, wishing him to go, and offering him 80,000 francs, but Constant was obstinate, though no sooner had his master asserted than he repeated starting behind. Constant added that the emperor was not offended, for on returning from Elba, looking over the map, he had seen Constant's name, he said he had done well to remain in France, and he ordered his pension to be increased. Constant was not summoned to Paris during the Hundred Days, and never saw Napoleon again.

Whether we accept this version or not it is a pitiful ending to fifteen years' constant intercourse. It seems quite possible that Napoleon, in the tumult of reflection on his fall, had forgotten the gift made to an old servant, whose comparative poverty led to constant assertions that he never accepted bribes. Constant died in obscurity in 1845.—Temple Bar.

AN OLD FASHIONED BRIDGE.

A project is on foot for spanning the Danube canal, in Vienna, with a bridge lined with shops, after the model of the famous Ponte Nuovo at Venice and the Arno bridge at Florence. The structure is to be exclusively of iron. It will be 64 meters long and 18 wide—one of the broadest in the world. The carriage way will be 12 meters wide and the interior footpath on either side 3. The inner railings will be flanked by festoons of flowers and garlands. There will be sixty-eight shops on the bridge, which will be built on the site of the Ferdinand's Bridge, the only wooden roadway that now traverses the canal.—London Telegraph.

NAGLE, THE OARSMAN.

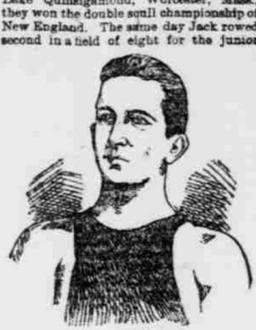
He is a Member of the Champion Double Scull Team of America. Jack Nagle, the bow man in the champion double scull team of America, is one of the most finished scullers of the day. Although he has been but a few years sculling he has ascended rapidly to the top of the ladder. He was born at Ballinacorney castle, Ireland, on July 22, 1836. He rowed his first race in 1858, when he defeated Robert Patton at Oak Point. A few weeks later, with Charlie Pilkington, he defeated Robert Patton and A. Duns in a sculling race on Oak Point. In 1859 he rowed the Metropolitan Rowing club, of Harlem, and in the fall represented the Harlem association he rowed No. 3 in the junior four-oared scull crew, which won in 5m. 25s., and an hour later with the same crew he came in ahead in the senior four-oared scull race in 5m. 17s. On Oct. 17, four days later, he won the junior single scull championship of his club, and on the same day, with George C. Johnston as mate, he won the senior double scull championship of his club in 5m. 40s.

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

POPULAR SCIENTIFIC RECREATION AND USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

A Simple but Very Interesting Illustration of the Pressure of the Atmosphere and of the Elasticity of Air—Experiments with a Syphon Inkstand.

The syphon inkstand, which prevents ink from too rapid evaporation, is selected by Ganot in his work on natural philosophy as an interesting illustration of the pressure of the atmosphere and of the elasticity of air. It consists of a glass vessel of the shape of a truncated pyramid (see cut) closed everywhere except at the bottom, where there is a tubulure, which is always open. The inkstand is partially full of ink, while there is air at the top. The level of the ink inside being higher than in the tubulure, the elastic force of the air inside is a little less than the pressure of the atmosphere on the ink in the tubulure. As the ink there is used its level sinks, and is finally lower than the point C. At this moment a bubble of air passes into the interior, and the elastic force being thereby increased, the level of the ink descends in the inside and rises in the tubulure. This goes on until the ink level is at the point C. More ink being added, which is effected by pouring it into the tubulure, care being taken to confine the inkstand in the opposite direction. The fountain in bird cages are on a similar principle.



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Soap Bath for Cleaning Jewels.

An excellent bath for cleaning watches, jewelry, etc., according to the Union Horlogers, is made with soap, ninety-two grains; ammonia liquor, 1.157 grains; water, one quart. Shake the soap and melt it in the water. Then add the ammonia. There are still a goodly number of watchmakers who prefer the good old way of cleaning a watch or a clock movement with soap and water and a good brush, and they will find the above given formula entirely to their satisfaction. Pour the bath into a receptacle containing the parts to be cleaned, but take care that they are entirely submerged, as without this precaution the parts exposed to the air would soon be covered with an oxidation which can be removed only with difficulty.

The Pieces if Well Immersed May for all that be left in the bath for a whole day without any danger whatever; steel pieces are not whatever attacked, but generally speaking from five to six minutes are amply sufficient to clean them thoroughly. The bath may be used for a long time, and is thrown away only when it is too dirty or when it has lost its force. When not in use keep it in a well stoppered bottle.

Dry the articles in sawdust, to which add a little Spanish white. A slight brushing will then bring out its pristine polish. This bath is largely preferable to the ordinary ways of cleaning with benzine, cyanide, alcohol and chalks, etc.

To reiterate, keep the bottle with the bath well corked to avoid the evaporation of the ammonia, which, should it occur, would remove from the bath its principal cleaning virtue.

A Boom to Smokers.

Many have been the attempts to devise improvements in pipes and cigar holders by which the unpleasant sensation on the tip of the tongue could be obviated and the saliva prevented from entering the mouthpiece, but as yet only indifferent success has been obtained. Mr. Arthur E. Gilbert, an English electrical engineer, claims to have solved the problem by his improvement in and re-creation of tobacco pipe and cigar and cigarette holders. This purpose is effected by providing a hollow ball with a short tubular or slotted stem attached to it, which is inserted into the usual office in the mouthpiece of the pipe or cigar or cigarette holder, so that the smoke shall pass out through the tube of slotted stem and upper slotted part of the ball, and the tongue shall rub against the ball in the mouth of the orifice.

Reaction from a Stream of Water.

An exceedingly simple and effective illustration of the reaction of a stream of water escaping from a vertical tube, the principle upon which the action of all turbine water wheels depends is shown in the cut. The only apparatus necessary is a clay tobacco pipe and a little sealing wax. Grind or scrape off the end of the stem, as shown at A, and cover it with a bit of sealing wax, as in B, so that the aperture at the end is charged into one at the side. Now suspend the pipe by a long thread attached to the bowl by another piece of wax, and fill the bowl with water. As it escapes from the opening in the side at the end of the stem, the pressure of the water on the opposite side will cause the pipe to move backward, away from the stream. After a short time the pipe will revolve quite rapidly in a more or less perfect circle. The illustration to this article originally appeared in Nature, and was recently described by Popular Science News.

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Terribility of the Liver.

If the liver is not doing its full duty in the manufacture of bile the digestive apparatus suffers greatly. A person with a torpid liver is always lean, for he is unable to digest the fat making elements of the food. One with hard, plump tissues cannot possibly have a torpid liver, for a pretty good liver is absolutely necessary to the deposit of a large amount of adipose tissue.

Another consequence of torpidity of the liver is that the food is not well absorbed after it is digested. Such persons may eat enough to be fat, but their food does them no good beyond maintaining existence.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Tripe for the Dead.

In Tyrol on All Souls' night some of the cakes must be left on the table for the souls of the departed, and they are put in a night. In Brittany, on the same night, the tablecloth must not be drawn, and a supper must be left for the souls to come and take their part.—Exchange.

Injurious Effects of Tea and Coffee.

Experience shows that the effects of tea and coffee are to impair digestion. Experiments have been made thousands of times not only in chemical laboratories, but in homes, with the same result. These things are of no nutritive value compared to the little milk and sugar taken from nature, and are positively pernicious, making thousands and thousands of dyspeptic people. Catarrh of the stomach is produced in many instances from the use of tea. The construction of the blood vessels mentioned is always followed by relaxation, and the amount of secretion poured out is too great, and if a catarrh of the stomach becomes established it is one of the most difficult diseases to cure. Physicians have long called attention to the stomach as beginning to realize that tea dyspepsia is a very common malady.—Dr. J. H. Kellogg.

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