

The World's Wonders

STRANGE THINGS FOUND IN VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE EARTH

Oldest Hotel in Germany



In Miltenberg on the Main, stands what is believed to be the oldest hostelry in Germany, the Hotel Zum Riesen. The date of its building is not known, but in 1158 the Emperor Frederick I. lodged there, and in the many years of its existence it has sheltered numerous other princes. In 1518 Martin Luther was a guest of the hotel when on his way to Heidelberg. The inn, still occupied, is a great attraction for tourists.

SAFETY SUIT FOR AIRMEN

BLOOMS ONCE IN 70 YEARS.



At the International Congress of Aerial Leagues held in Boulogne recently some interesting demonstrations were given of special devices for the protection of aviators in case of fall. Among these was a safety suit consisting of a padded head-piece and jacket six inches thick, the entire apparatus weighing only eight pounds. The inventor hurled himself head-first against a very spiky place in the stone work of the old walls of Boulogne and suffered no inconvenience from the impact.

ROOSTER HAS A LONG FAST

A remarkable instance of a fowl living twenty days without food occurred at Stamford, near Hythe, Eng. A buff Orpington cock, belonging to a resident named Franks, had been missing for three weeks, and was discovered wedged in the wooden foundation on which a haystack had been constructed. The bird was terribly emaciated, but has now recovered.

WONDERFUL ENGRAVING FEAT.

An extraordinary feat has been performed by Paul P. Wenz of Sharon, Pa., who has, on the head of an ordinary pin, engraved the alphabet four times and then added his name and the date when he completed the work, making 113 characters in all.

FAMILY'S FATAL YEAR.

The death of Fred. W. Cooper in Atlanta, Ga., some days ago, has brought to notice what appears to be a strange fatality in the Cooper family. Fred Cooper died in his twenty-ninth year, the same year at which his father and eight of his uncles, brothers and all had resulted from illness. The Cooper became uneasy as his twenty-ninth year approached the half-way mark. He seemed to have a presentiment of trouble, and said in speaking of his thirtieth birthday, which would come next January: "If I can have some live until then, I'll live to be a hundred." But it was not to be. The strange fatality which had dogged his father's family overtook him, and he contracted typhoid and died after a short illness.

KNICKERBOCKERS ON CHICKS.

One of the sights in Ex-Mayor Frank L. Brown's barnyard in Youngstown, O., is a pair of chickens which

that it takes many years to come to maturity, in some cases extending to seventy years. It flowers but once, and then dies. The zoo is fortunate in having a second example of this very rare flowering plant, for it is just four years ago since a similar occurrence took place there.

A specimen of the aloe bloomed in Victoria Park ten years ago, when it was found necessary to remove a pane of glass from the roof of the house in which it was growing, so that the stem might have space to grow upwards. The crown of blossoms in this instance towered above the roof. At Kew Gardens, about twenty-four years ago, a similar method had to be adopted when the aloe bloomed there.

The flowers when in full bloom will be a sight worth going a long way to see, not only on account of the magnificent golden blossoms, but also because of the rarity of blooming in this country.

FROGS FROM THE CLOUDS

At the conclusion of an extraordinarily violent thunderstorm the other week, Mr. Jack Ayre of Temple Bottom, near Cruwys-Morchar, in Devonshire, Eng., found a long stretch of road covered with thousands of frogs, which, it is declared, "cried like rabbits."

Mr. Ayre expresses the opinion that the frogs came down from the sky, and he is supported in this view by another resident of the district, who has experience of monsoons abroad.

This expert says that in the stillness which precedes monsoons in tropical regions all sorts of creeping things come out of their hiding places. They are often carried up into the air by whirlwinds, and when the monsoons break down they are deposited again in rainstorms, as appears to have been the case at Cruwys-Morchar.

CHILD BORN WITH ONE ARM

A child has been born at Willesden, Eng., with the left arm missing from a few inches below the shoulder. As having bearing on the occurrence it is stated that some months ago the mother was motoring when an accident occurred, the motor coming into collision with another vehicle. The motor-car driver's left arm was so badly crushed in the collision that it had to be amputated almost immediately.

SHELL-FISH KILLS SEAGULL

A singular occurrence is reported from Barnstaple, England. A seagull was observed struggling in the air near the River Taw, and then to fall to the ground. It was discovered that a bivalve had closed on the bill of the bird and gradually suffocated it.

Opening the Oyster Season



The ancient civic ceremony with which the opening of the Coyne Oyster Fishery at Colchester, England, is celebrated took place this year on board the lugger Henry VII off Brightlingsea. The deputy mayor of Colchester, the town clerk, and the town sergeant bearing the mace, were in their civic robes. The deputy mayor declared the Fisheries open, and the town clerk read a declaration, which dates from December 5, 1189, in the reign of Richard Coeur de Lion, confirming previous charters. Gin and gingerbread were handed round to the company. After the reading of the declaration, which ended with three cheers for the king and three for the mayor of Colchester, the chairman of the fishery board, and the deputy mayor cast the first dredges, and made a good haul of oysters. A luncheon then took place on Peewit Island, Colchester oysters being the chief item on the menu.

HE MADE THE DOCTORS STARE.

Extraordinary fortitude was displayed by a little Irish boy named Michael Hanlon the other week in undergoing an operation for the amputation of a finger in a Dublin hospital. While holding a horse the youth wound the cord round the middle finger of his right hand, and the animal becoming restive, jerked the cord with such violence that it severed the finger at the first joint. Before he was put under an anaesthetic the boy made the doctors stare by producing the severed

Easy.

When a woman is getting ready to celebrate her silver wedding, it is easy to stand well in her estimation. Merely tell her you think she must have been married very young.

DOINGS AT THE CAPITAL

Uncle Sam Has New Ward in Liberia



WASHINGTON.—An obscure chapter, it has long lain unread in American annals, in spite of the interest that surrounds it. But now that the United States has come to take an active hand in the government of Liberia, it is natural that the founding of that old half-American, half African-negro state should attract our interest. Founded back in 1820 as a home for the freed slaves from this country, Liberia became a republic in 1847. Today its population numbers some 60,000 Liberians along the coast, while 2,000,000 negroes run wild in the interior. No white man can acquire citizenship or own property.

By an arrangement with bankers in this country, France and Germany and with the approval of Liberia and the European powers, a loan of \$2,000,000 is to be floated by our government to the end of setting straight Liberian finances and assisting the country to establish itself upon a firmer basis. The United States will have control of the little state's financial, military and agricultural departments and will administer the republic's relations.

Soldier of Fortune May Lose Rights



of a professor in the University of Athens and returned to America in time to take up newspaper work at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. He was able to speak several languages fluently, and especially Spanish. There was a great demand for news from Cuba, and the genius of Nelken led him to make translations from Spanish and Cuban newspapers, for which he found ready market with the Washington correspondents. His success prompted him to "fake" when his news sources became exhausted. One of these "fakes" was a dispatch which he put forth all over the country, telling in most dramatic manner of the attempted assassination of General Blanco, who was then governor general of Cuba, and which caused a great deal of excitement at the time.

Not long ago the captain turned up in Constantinople and became involved in some trouble there which prompted him to demand the protection of the American flag. He presented his case at the embassy, and in endeavoring to establish the fact that he was a naturalized American citizen, some disclosures came to light regarding his papers which led the American charge to refer the matter to the state department.

The department in turn made inquiry at the district court, with the result that an order was issued requiring him to show cause within sixty days why his papers should not be canceled.

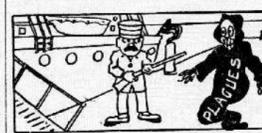
Puzzlers for the New Customs Court



Is half a duck, imported from China two years ago, still used as an exhibit in the courts, a bit of preserved meat or dressed poultry? The government insists it is the former and the Chinese importer insists that it is not.

Another nut to crack: Is an automobile a household effect? Patriotic Americans returning from motoring in Europe will be pleased to have the court say it is. Under such a decision they could take over with them a few real household goods, set up light housekeeping for a while, buy a French automobile, and then return to this country and do it all for less than the amount of duty on a high-priced automobile made in Europe.

Credit Due Foreign Health Officers



and the penalties which attach to all attempts to evade them put effective repressive weapons into the hands of these officials, so that no attempts are made to escape from compulsory compliance and securing a clean bill of health at the point of departure and ports of call. A vessel that starts from a port with no appearance of infectious diseases among her crew or passengers, and which is again subjected to rigorous examination on her arrival at any American port, stands little chance of bringing any infected passengers past the several inspectors.

As there is no way of measuring what might happen if this force were not employed, its members do not always receive the full amount of credit to which their unremitting care and attention entitle them. They stand among the most preventive forces which the country utilizes to safeguard the people and to whom the debt of the nation is greater than the public is in the habit of acknowledging.

The stringent laws of quarantine

known chapter of that perilous enterprise which attributes the martyrdom of a life in this effort to open a new world to the slaves to Rev. Samuel Bacon, an American minister of the Episcopal church.

By act of congress, on March 3, 1819, the president was empowered to create an agency in Africa for the purpose of providing an asylum for such Africans as should be liberated by our ships of war from vessels seized for violation of the law suppressing the traffic in slaves.

The government decided to send out the ship of war Cyane and the transport Elizabeth with mechanics and laborers under two agents for the purpose of breaking ground for the reception of liberated slaves. On January 8, 1820, having previously been in the service of the colonization society, Bacon received from President Monroe the commission making him the head of the proposed expedition.

Thirty-nine families, comprehending 89 families made up the company. Great difficulty was experienced in finding not only a place of settlement, but even one of debarkation. A species of African fever appeared among the members of the little band of settlers. Soon 25 of the party were brought down with it. Breaking under the labors he had assumed Bacon presently discovered symptoms of the malady in himself. The remedies administered were of no avail and he died.

Banks and others of the party survived. The founding of the colony went forward. But on the sacrifice of Bacon's life Liberia was built.

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