

ness, under any but encouraging circumstances. The annual ball of the St. Andrews Society has just been given, and a bazaar is now in progress, at which all the fashion and beauty of Hong-Kong may be seen on duty in the stalls selling sweets, and buttonhole bouquets and pincushions at exorbitant rates and giving no change, just as they would do in Kensington or St. Martin's Town Hall. A cynical German has just offered the sneering observation that "there is no beauty as yet in fashion." The heretical statement is his; not mine, and I merely submit it as a quotation, having firmly declined to attend the bazaar, and, to my great satisfaction, having arrived too late for the ball.

A BIT OF FRENCH TRICKERY.

I have just overheard an interesting conversation between a German sea captain and a California agent for some commercial house. They were discussing the methods of the French for raising revenue in their provinces. Not content with wringing it from the people upon every possible pretext, they have resorted to means that are roundly denounced by all honest people. It is well known that a very heavy fine is assessed for opium smuggling. The French are charged with hiring coolies to bring opium on board vessels clearing this and other ports and bound for those within the French concessions. The opium is packed like ordinary merchandise, and is placed, unknown to the officers of the ship, where it can be conveniently found by the customs officers when the vessel arrives. The coolie who acts as the agent receives \$10 or \$15 for his part of the enterprise, and the owners of the vessel are mulcted to the amount of \$15,000 or \$20,000. They have no choice but to pay, and nothing can be proved, the coolie goes between vanishing, unable to sell to the other side since he has rendered himself liable to imprisonment.

It is termed here "a thoroughly French performance." That the French tend to increase the good feeling between the rival powers, openly or secretly disputing for a slice of China, goes without saying, and it will have its weight, when the final measuring of strength comes, as come it must.

Reverting to the question of shipping, I found upon looking at the marine news of one of the Hong-Kong daily papers that there have been upon the Japan and China station within the past two months twenty-five Russian men-of-war, with sixteen torpedo boats, thirty-two British ships, eight German cruisers and the flagships of Rear Admiral Von Diederichs and Prince Henry of Prussia, seventeen ships of the French squadron, twenty-two United States men-of-war, with one each of the Austrian and Portuguese, and two of the Italian navy. That these ships are concentrated here for any other purpose than to be in readiness in case of a crisis no one denies, and with the present jealousy and rivalry it would require but little to precipitate an outbreak. We, of course, have legitimate business in the Philippines, and our vessels, coming and going, can give a sufficient account of themselves. The same cannot be said of the others. An open rupture between Japan and Russia is talked of everywhere, and there are few who do not think that the increasing rivalry of Japan and Russia is a factor in the world's affairs, and that the recognition as a first-class power does not need a backset. Should such a conflict occur Germany and England could hardly help but be drawn into it, and trouble once begun, no one can tell where it will end.

One is impressed with the difference in the Chinese north and south. In the north, especially in the country, they are polite, frank, good-natured and hospitable. Education has done great things for them. The young men and women, enlightened and liberalized by training in English schools, are as fine a race as we can find anywhere. They absorb western ideas wonderfully, and this without losing anything of their own native virtues, and one should come to China to realize what lofty virtues the unspoiled and more progressive people possess. Here they are moody, insolent and snarling, earning ten times as much as the northern Chinese, being provided with employment upon which they can rely, and for which they receive such compensation from the foreigner as they could never hope for from their richest and most generous fellow-countrymen. They have, apparently, for the American and European nothing but contempt and hatred. They see foreign vice in its ugliest aspect, and they have a poor opinion of any professions of superior civilization from the source.

THEY ALL SPEAK ENGLISH.

One sees everywhere scores of half-castes—mixtures of American, English, French, Portuguese and Chinese—who possess all the vices of both races, and few of the better qualities of either—as is usually the case. The half-caste Chinese is alienated from the Chinese, and is barred from European society. He cuts off his queue, wears European clothes, and is called a "half-caste" and has his teeth filled, and is condemned to a political and social limbo from which there seems to be no deliverance.

There is one thing in which they all display wonderful energy, and that is in acquiring English, which they all endeavor to learn. One of my servants, a youthful looking boy, brought up my morning cup of tea told me that he had two sons in a mission school. He said, "English and catches more money," he said, which meant that our English-speaking boy commands much higher wages than one who has not acquired the western tongue. I attended a debating society connected with one of the Protestant missions and was wonderfully impressed with the ease with which the orators spoke, having acquired not only a very correct pronunciation, but a command of the difficult English idioms which was almost miraculous. With the debate, all of which was in English, select readings were given, and it was interesting to see what sort of literature had appealed to them. One had chosen an extract from Thoreau, another from Washington Irving, while a third read one of Longfellow's poems, and read it beautifully.

Aside from the threatened dismemberment there is that internal evil which menaces China quite as gravely, and that is the opium traffic. There are apologetics for the pernicious thing, those who go so far as to say that used moderately in the malarious climate of China the effects of the drug are beneficial. But it will be found that such apologetics have either never investigated the matter or are not disinterested in their assertions. A gentleman cited the instance of his comrade as an example; the man held a responsible position in a bank and still did his work acceptably, although he was an inveterate opium smoker. But, upon being pressed, he admitted that the man had risen to the position that he occupied before he formed the habit. Men who form the habit rarely or never advance, but steadily deteriorate. The smoker begins with a moderate dose, which he steadily increases, until the amount used daily passes belief. The whole night is spent in the den, and when day comes it finds the smoker dazed, stupefied and benumbed mentally and physically—practically incapacitated. In the interior of the provinces are given over to it, young and old alike.

slaves to the pipe. They can be recognized at once from their excessive emaciation, the sunken cheek and glittering eye. In China the temptation to such debauchery is peculiarly strong; the people are frightfully poor; only half nourished, they are weak and feeble; the opium pipe is a substitute for food, and in its dreams they forget, for a time, their ever-present misery.

It is said that the vice has increased enormously within the last ten years, and there is not a missionary dispensary or hospital where patients, men and women, do not come by the score to be cured. For the poor creatures realize their danger, and many of them do fight against the vice with praiseworthy resolution.

Hong-Kong, beautiful and impressive as it is, is, in reality, a monument to the infamy of the opium traffic, against which China made a noble if ineffectual struggle, and fastening the evil upon the country is one of the blackest crimes that can be charged to the British government.

MARY H. KROUT.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Q. R. D. Richmond: The gentleman of whom you inquire is understood to be unmarried.

A. Has the book "Hoosier Schoolmaster" ever been dramatized?—B. Sharpville.

A. We think not.

Q. Please explain the origin of the term stepton.—J. W. A.

A. It is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "steopon," meaning orphaned.

Q. What is the value in our money of the Chinese tael?—O. M.

A. Tails are of varied mintage and range in value from \$7.24 to \$8.86.

Q. What title is abbreviated to G. C. B. V. C.—N. E.

A. Two titles are conveyed by these initials—Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath and the Victoria Cross.

Q. Who killed Andy Bowen, the prize fighter?—Scribe.

A. George Lavigne, the Saginaw Kid, was Bowen's opponent in the fatal fight. This was at New Orleans, Dec. 15, 1894.

Q. When the election of President devolves upon the House of Representatives, for how long may the House continue to vote for candidates in case of a failure of one candidate to get a majority?—F. S.

A. The Constitution, Article XII, of the amendments, gives them until the 4th of the following March.

Q. Is there an American association of hay-fever victims, and have they accomplished much here for any other purpose than to be in readiness in case of a crisis no one denies, and with the present jealousy and rivalry it would require but little to precipitate an outbreak. We, of course, have legitimate business in the Philippines, and our vessels, coming and going, can give a sufficient account of themselves. The same cannot be said of the others. An open rupture between Japan and Russia is talked of everywhere, and there are few who do not think that the increasing rivalry of Japan and Russia is a factor in the world's affairs, and that the recognition as a first-class power does not need a backset. Should such a conflict occur Germany and England could hardly help but be drawn into it, and trouble once begun, no one can tell where it will end.

Q. Can you tell me the name of the American officer who fought a naval engagement with an English admiral in a bay on the coast of Portugal, an account of which was published recently by one of our leading magazines?—T. J. D.

A. This was Paul Jones, and the engagement described was between the *Ranger* and the *Drake*. The effrontery of Paul Jones is the article's title.

Q. "A pint is a pound the world around." Is this statement exactly true for water?—S. C. Wabash.

A. It is only approximately true as to water. A pint of water, at a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit, weighs 7.2912 grains avoirdupois measure. A pound, avoirdupois weight, is 7,000 grains, making a difference of 291.2 grains, or a fraction more than half an ounce.

Q. Who were the Blue Lights of the war of 1812?—E. E.

A. The Federal party. Commodore Decatur, with three warboats, was chased into New London by a strong British squadron. He tried many times to get out to sea, but was prevented, he declared, by traitors who warned the British by burning blue lights on the shore. From these circumstances came the name.

Q. Where does meerschaum come from? From what is amber made, and what is the source of supply?—Con.

A. It is mined, chiefly in Morocco and Turkey. Amber is the fossil resin of an extinct species of coniferous trees. It is dug for systematically along the shores of the Baltic sea, and in small pieces is often found along the Atlantic coast, and in what are called the tertiary coals of the far West.

Q. What is the significance of Pandora's box?—P. E.

A. According to ancient mythology it was a box or jar which her husband had forbidden to open. Overcome by curiosity she opened it, and before she could close it again all the evils from which man suffers escaped, hope only being left within. By another version the box contained man's blessings, which took wings when it was opened.

Q. Is it proper, in a social game of whist, for a player to show disapproval of his hand or of a play by his facial expression?—S. H.

A. One of the rules of whist etiquette adopted by the American Whist Congress reads: "No player should in any manner whatsoever give any intimation as to the state of his hand or of the game, or of approval or disapproval of a play." This is formal whist; the rules of "social whist" are uncertain.

Q. What are the regulations as to naturalization of soldiers?—T. M.

A. Any alien of twenty-one years or over who has been honorably discharged from the army of the United States may become a citizen on his petition, without previous declaration of intention. But he must have resided in the United States one year previous to his application, and be of good moral character. Residence of one year in a particular State is not required.

Q. Please give me a short biography of Israel Zangwill.—W. S. M.

A. He was born in London, of Jewish parents, in 1864, passed his youth in Plymouth and Bristol, and was educated at the Jews' Free School, in Spitalfields. There he carried off the scholarship and medals founded to commemorate the admission of Jews into Parliament. Before he was twenty-one he graduated at London University with triple honors. In his sixteenth year he was writing for publication.

Q. Is time dated from the birth of Christ? If so, when was the custom established?—J. H. L. A.

A. The present, or Christian era, was once supposed to correspond with the date of Christ's birth, but now some scholars put his birth on April 5, four years before our era began, while others trace it to Dec. 25, four or five years earlier. The practice of

reckoning time from the supposed date of his birth did not begin with Christians until the sixth century, and did not become universal with them until 900 years later.

Q. How old does a person have to be before he can go into the Naval Academy at Annapolis? 2. Is it a common school edue sufficient; if not, what more is required? 3. What will it cost per year?—B. R. W.

A. 1. He must be between fourteen and eighteen years of age. 2. He is examined by an academic board in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, United States history, world's history, algebra through quadratic equations, and plain geometry (five books of Chauvenet's geometry or an equivalent). 3. The pay of a naval cadet is \$600 a year, beginning at the date of admission.

Q. What is meant by a condensing engine?—E.

A. One in which a partial vacuum is created in the exhaust side of the piston by condensing the steam, or other motive fluid. In the noncondensing steam engine the steam, at the pressure of the atmosphere, passes as watery vapor into the air at a temperature of about 212 degrees. In the other it is conducted to a chamber, cooled and released as warm water, to be returned to the boiler. The condensing type has the advantage of greater mean pressure in the cylinder from a given boiler pressure. That means a smaller engine for a given power.

Q. Is tobacco grown on the European continent, and if so, in what countries? What is the average annual yield? Which five countries produce the most tobacco, the United States and the West Indies excepted? 3. Where is the finest tobacco grown?—S. T.

A. Tobacco is grown in considerable quantities in Germany, France, Italy and Spain, but the several state or government monopolies take charge of it, as well as of the tobacco imported, and we do not know the amount of annual yield. Turkey produces some very fine tobaccos. 2. Venezuela and New Granada, probably. They supply 20,000 pounds for export annually, besides raising enough for a liberal home consumption. 3. Cuba.

Q. Who was Tommy Atkins, and why is the name used in referring to British soldiers? 2. Will you please tell something of the Fenian raid?—I. J. J.

A. The term arose from some tiny pocket ledgers which were at one time served out to all British soldiers. In these were to be entered various details of the soldier's life and enlistment. With each book the War Office sent a form filled in, and instead of the law's John Doe or Richard Roe, used on this form the name Tommy Atkins. The name stuck, first to the book, then to the soldier. 2. Probably you refer to the raid of 1866, in which 1,500 Fenians invaded Canada. They did some skirmishing, and the President issued a proclamation warning those taking part that they were violating neutrality. Very soon after General Meade was ordered to look after them the furry was over.

Q. W. F. Whitworth: Andrew Carnegie made a very large fortune in the iron and steel business at Pittsburgh; Claus Spreckels made a very large fortune in the sugar refining business. The latter has naturally a personal interest in opposing national expansion as it might interfere with the duty on sugars imported from there will be removed. Both men have great financial ability, but neither has any special qualifications which would make him an authority on questions of state expansion, such as the advisability of national expansion. 2. The tower belonged to a cold storage building owned by a private firm and it was arranged for the manufacture of ice. The wooden exterior of the tower was imperfectly protected from the weather, and within and fire was discovered near the top. After a number of firemen had reached the blaze flames burst out beneath them, and in descending to the roof they lost their lives.

Q. Who was Mrs. Jefferson Davis? Was she Mr. Davis's first wife? 2. Who wrote the poem containing the lines, "I would not own a slave to fan me sleep, or tremble while I wake"? 4. Who wrote, "Oh, for a lodge in some vast wilderness"? 5. What is the meaning of "The Anapus," the picture by Millet?—Mrs. E. W. C.

A. Jefferson Davis's first wife was Miss Taylor, daughter of Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterward President. She died soon after marriage. His second wife, Mrs. Varina Howell Davis, was born in Natchez, Miss. They were married Feb. 28, 1845. 2. Rhodes is one of the South African millionaires. His enterprise more than to any other man's is due the spread of British dominion in South Africa. The Jameson raid was one of his undertakings. His present scheme is a railroad to connect Cape Town and Cairo. 3. Both these quotations are from the "Task," by William Cowper. 4. The Angelus is a devotion of the Roman Catholic Church in memory of the Annunciation. In some countries a bell is tolled to indicate its hour. Millet's famous picture shows a man and woman working in a field as the sound of the bell reaches them.

Q. How was a presidential reception conducted during the administration of Washington? How were the guests received? Were the guests announced at the door or were they presented to the President individually, and by whom?—G. K. Huntington.

A. To prevent being overrun by purposeless callers at all hours, President Washington appointed the hour between 3 and 4 o'clock each Tuesday afternoon for the reception of gentlemen. He met ladies at the reception given by Mrs. Washington, who also had stated hours for the ceremony. These receptions by Mrs. Washington were conducted in connection with the government and their families, foreign ministers and their families, and persons moving in the best circles of refined society, who were expected to appear in full dress. On these occasions Washington generally stood by the side of his wife, dressed in a plain suit of brown cloth, with bright buttons, without hat or dress-sword. At his own reception he wore a suit of black velvet, black silk stockings, silver knee and shoe buckles and yellow gloves. He held in his hand a cocked hat with a black cockade. An elegant sword hung by his side. The visitors were introduced to him as they came in by his friend, Colonel Humphreys, who acted as master of ceremonies. The reception was almost as free to the promiscuous public as presidential levees now are.

Q. To My Own.

The squirrel hid in his hollow tree, And wrapped in his long tail he lay; The rabbit is snuggled as snug as can be In his hole, and the mole in his hole; The partridge is only a bunch of down In the thicket of the ground and air; They in the forest, and he in the town, Hush, my honey-boy, hush.

The field mouse curls in a velvet ball Far under the dead swam grass; In his hole by the side of the wall The mink dreams off of the base; And every chick of the ground and air Is coddled in heaven deep; So, here, in America, my dearest fair, Sleep, my honey-boy, sleep.

The North Wind raps with the whirling snow; By Jack Frost's hand are the snowflakes; And wood and field are a-bed for no, Not even the cold is out of the cold.

And here, where the mother's breast is warm, Safe from the snow and the frost and the storm, Good-night, honey-boy, good-night. —Edwin L. Sabin, in Saturday Evening Post.

Q. R. E. Springsteen & Co., popular-priced tailors, 8 North Pennsylvania street.

MEDICAL NOTES.

Prepared for the Sunday Journal by an Old Practitioner.

Speaking of diet as a method of diagnosis, Dr. Spivak says there is a deep meaning in the German saying, "Der Mensch ist was er isst," which may be freely translated, "Tell me what you eat and I'll tell you what you are." One will tell you that sauerkraut and beer predominate in his diet; don't hesitate to designate him as a Teuton. One who mentions potatoes with a sort of reverence is sure to have come from the Green Isle. One who speaks of caviar and vodka with a watering mouth may be put down as a subject of the Czar. If rice and maize are the chief articles of subsistence the differential diagnosis lies somewhere between a Chinaman and a Spaniard. If animal food is consumed in large quantities you will not be far from the mark by putting him down either as American or English. Large quantities of food are taken by workmen, butchers, cooks, beer brewers, gluttons and idlers, and the thorough examination of the stomach (first stage), hyperacidity and nervous dyspepsia. Anorexia, the complete absence of the feeling of hunger, is an expression of some disturbance, and occurs mostly in the young among the well-to-do classes, and predominates in women. There may be a pseudoanorexia, the patient fearing to take food on account of the distress it causes. Anorexia, if persistent and not amenable to treatment, should lead to a dissection of the thorough examination of the lungs, hyperacidity is a forerunner of the tubercle bacilli. The opposite of anorexia—bulimia, the absence of satiety—is, in the majority of cases, of nervous origin. One should, however, look out for round ulcer, tapeworm, diseases of the sexual organs and diseases of the brain. Abnormally large quantities of food are taken by diabetics and convalescents from exhausting diseases, and those suffering from hysteria, epilepsy, hydrocephalus and tumor of the brain consume, as a rule, astonishingly large quantities.

The average physician is fortunate if he makes anything beyond a mere living, but some surgeons who attain great reputation occasionally receive very large fees. A surgeon in San Francisco recently received \$20,000 for performing a successful operation and twenty-one days' attendance upon a miner's wife. Dr. Tifany, of Baltimore, received \$10,000 for a single operation, while Dr. Chambers, of the same city, received \$5,000 for dressing a stab wound. Dr. Parks, of Chicago, received \$10,000 for an operation, and Dr. Bernays, of St. Louis, \$5,000 for a single operation. This list, published in the Medical Sentinel, might be greatly extended, especially if \$100 fees were included. However, the whole list would be a very small percentage of the total number of practicing physicians, who the last of these receipts for all their services less than \$1,000 per year would be very large. To those who can see only the fair side of a physician's life the prospects seem alluring, but in order to be successful the physician's expenses must keep pace with his increasing success, so that the cost of instruments and apparatus, the cost of keeping a horse and carriage, the cost, perhaps, of a driver, the increased household expenses, the cost of hand, and many poor accounts on the other, the physician, as a rule, is fortunate if his accounts balance, the difference often being one of loss rather than profit.

Acting on the advice of the Council of Hygiene the Prefect of Police in Paris has decided that ice sellers must stock and sell ice of two definitely distinct kinds. These must be ticketed as ice for eating purposes and ice for industrial purposes, the former being obtained from spring or sterilized water. Attention was called to the necessity of such a law by the fact that impure ice was sold which caused various disorders of the stomach and bowels, sometimes of an epidemic nature, especially in summer. This ice was either natural cut from foul water or artificial ice made from dirty water. Many years ago expert analysts in this country proved that ice contained such poisons as typhoid fever, and that the fact that they were frozen did not materially lessen their virulence, but I believe that no laws have been passed regulating the sale or supply of ice.

A retired physician of Cholet, France, recently met with a most horrible death. The doctor, who was a confirmed drunkard and had lost his reason as a consequence, it was his custom to wander through the streets daily, so that when he failed to appear the neighbors became anxious and went to his home to see what the trouble was. This physician had seven dogs, and these dogs were found in his room literally devouring him alive. They were so fierce that no one dared to enter the room, and they were only induced to leave their prey by lures of fresh meat, by which they were enticed away from the house and shot. Upon the table beside the man's bed, were eight empty quart bottles, so that when attacked by the dogs the man was probably in an alcoholic stupor.

Dr. Goodhue, in the journal of the American Medical Association, gives an interesting sketch of the condition of medicine existing in Hawaii. Many of the natives still believe that disease is brought about by evil spirits, and there are still many native physicians, called kahuna, who practice a kind of faith cure. Epidemics formerly occurred at long intervals, but were extremely fatal, as the people were very susceptible. During an epidemic of measles there were not enough well persons to provide for those who were ill, and one-tenth of the inhabitants died.

War, so far reaching in its results, has an influence on the drug market. Quinine, for example, increases in price owing to the demand for large quantities used in the army and a consequent diminution of the home supply. Recently, London agents have written to wholesale druggists that the British government has forbidden the further export of carbolic acid, claiming that the entire supply is needed for home use in the manufacture of lyddite shells.

The immediate effect, when the news was received, was to double the price of carbolic acid in New York.

In France it would seem that a belief in witchcraft still exists. A peasant of Noirelieu, being convinced that a quack doctor named Gattineau had thrown a spell over his wife and caused her death, sent for this doctor to meet him at a certain place, and as soon as he saw him he seized him in the chest. Gattineau fled and was again wounded, the shot also breaking the arm of a woman running to his assistance. The doctor died several hours after, and the man Bacie was arrested.

Some years ago Dr. Domingos Freire startled the world by his investigation of the causation of yellow fever, and claimed that the entire supply is needed for home use in the manufacture of lyddite shells.

It is stated that the government purchased 10,000 typewriters a year, and the

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