

FURNISHES JOY FOR KIDDIES

Fountain in New York City Square Put to Eminently Practical Use in the Summer.

In New York, immediately south of the arch which divides Washington square, there is a circle of concrete walk. Inside that circle, like the watermelon riddle, there is a circle of green grass, and inside that circle of green grass there is a small circular pool of clear, sparkling water fed by a thin, geyserlike fountain. From early morning until nine o'clock at night in summer you can hardly see this pool for the ring of noisy, ecstatic children gathered about it, shutting off its view. For the kiddies of the nearby East side have discovered a very practical use for the fountain. They bathe in it.

On a hot day the little pool is full of small, sun-burned boys, who are not restrained by the lack of bathing suits. Some take the trouble to remove their coats and outer trousers and leave them on the edge, but others plunge right in regardless of dress. Their mothers, who often accompany them, do not seem to object. As one remarked the other day, "It saves the wash," but whether she referred to her son's clothes or to the boy himself was not made clear.

Occasionally a policeman registers a protest. He orders them out of the pool and disperses the crowd of admiring onlookers, but as soon as his back is sufficiently distant they are all at it again, having as much fun as ever. Stimulated by the shouts of their delighted audience, the young swimmers perform the wildest kind of acrobatic stunts.

ILL LUCK FOLLOWED BOONE

Greatest of All America's Pioneers of Civilization Never a Favorite of Fortune.

With Kentucky won, Daniel Boone found that, by one of the twists of law, the plot of ground he thought was his was not his at all. Almost like a penniless outcast he moved to Virginia, but when fresh tales came to him of land in the west of the Mississippi, then called Louisiana, his sixty-one years did not deter him from risking a fresh start, relates Boy's Life. In 1795 he established himself near the present city of St. Louis and took what he thought was a deed to land; but in 1803, when this territory passed from Spain to the United States, he found this claim worthless. But now the American people were awakened to a realization of what Boone's leadership in Kentucky had meant to the nation. Congress granted him 850 acres of land. There in the West, free from want, he passed his last days. Twenty-five years after his death his remains were brought back to Kentucky. And in the land he gave to civilization he sleeps, this man who carried the torch of civilization among a savage people and bared his chest to the shock of battle that its flames might not be extinguished.

The House of Melancholy Lords.

Some of the peers rebuked by Lord Salisbury for never appearing at Westminster may be of the opinion of Disraeli, who after three months' experience of the house of lords declared that he felt like one "dead and in the Elysian fields." The present Viscount Peel used far stronger language in a speech to his former constituents at Taunton, complaining of having been forced to go to the house of lords.

"Even a gullotined house of commons," he said, "is better than the muzzled melancholy of the house of lords. . . . It is a severe trial to one who has red blood in his veins to walk perforce across the lobby into the half-light and backwaters of the lords. . . . Any social deference paid to a peer resembles that meted out to a woman because of her weakness or the kindness extended to a man with a wooden leg by those who have the happiness not to be maimed."—Manchester Guardian.

Inventor of Corliss Engine.

George Henry Corliss, inventor of the Corliss engine, was born in Easton, N. Y., 102 years ago. His first device was a machine for sewing boots and shoes. After several other minor inventions had been completed by him, he settled in Providence, R. I., in 1844 and became head of a firm engaged in the manufacture of steam engines. Here his talent began to show full scope, and in 1848 he completed the original form of what has since become famous the world over as the Corliss engine. By the invention Corliss revolutionized the use of stationary engines throughout the world and conferred a great and lasting boon upon industry. Corliss, who became immensely wealthy, died in Providence in 1888.

Java Densely Populated.

Out of 48,000,000 people dwelling in the Malay archipelago 36,000,000 live in Java alone, making it the most densely-populated country on the globe.

The Javanese are an agricultural people, both lovers and tillers of the soil. There are but half a dozen cities in this vast population which have over 50,000 inhabitants, and the largest of all, Surabaya, has not more than 200,000. The people live in villages of from 50 to 500, with an occasional larger town, so that there are practically no congested population centers clustered at the bases of the mountains, like Naples at Vesuvius or St. Pierre at Mont Pelee.

PUT UP FIGHT FOR BROOD

Old White Hen Proved Herself Worthy of the Best Traditions of the Barnyard.

We usually think of roosters as proverbial fighters and of hens as decidedly lacking in spirit. On occasion, however, the hens can be as brave as the bravest. I once witnessed, writes a subscriber, an exhibition of courage on the part of a hen that deserves to be recorded.

She was a white topknot of eccentric disposition, which is one way of saying that she preferred to select her own nests. She chose the spare-room bed for that purpose, and had accumulated four eggs before she was discovered and ignominiously shooed out of the window. Highly indignant, she disappeared under the barn, whence she emerged several weeks later with eleven chicks.

Beyond introducing the eleven into the kitchen one day when the door had inadvertently been left open, Madam White displayed no more eccentricity than any other hen. But one day there arose a mighty uproar in the back yard. Such a cackling, squawking and peeping surely portended dire calamity. We rushed to the door just in time to see a hawk getting the surprise of his life. He had evidently swooped down for one of the chickens, and Madam White, with beak and claws and wings, was giving him a drubbing that threatened permanently to disable him.

Suddenly a dark shape swept down to the ground, there was a piercing peep, and Madam White turned to see the hawk's mate in the act of seizing one of her brood. Quick as thought, she flew to the rescue. Up into the air went the hawk, and with it went Madam White. The hawk tried its best to shake her off, but the hen hung on, fighting desperately, until the hawk was forced to drop the chicken and beat a retreat.

Madam White came to earth with a thud and a flop, gathered her flock about her, and retired to the shelter of the currant bushes, where she talked about the occurrence in gutturals for some time. Neither of the captured chickens sustained any serious injury, and the old grenadier brought the entire brood to maturity.—Youth's Companion.

FOUNTAIN PEN FRENCH IDEA

Jean Benoit Mallat Is Said to Have Been the Inventor of Handy Writing Utensil.

A fountain pen made in 1864 is still in use in Paris. It was patented that same year by Jean Benoit Mallat, an engineer, and the firm that still carries on the business founded by him asserts that this was the first fountain pen ever made.

Mallat was the inventor of the gold pen with the ruby point, perhaps the easiest writing and most durable nib ever put on the market. But it is necessarily expensive. In 1843 Mallat substituted Iridium as a point for his pens. At the same time he provided a reservoir for the ink. This was

the germ from which grew the idea of storing ink in the handle.

Mallat's fountain pen differs only slightly from our modern ones. It was self-filling, but the flow of ink was regulated by a little turn-screw on the side. This, however, was soon given up, as it became clogged.

It would be interesting to know what was the date of the earliest patent on a fountain pen in America and England.

Friction a Necessity.

Progress needs brakes as well as motors. Progress is not a matter of levels, but of hills and valleys. Brakeless progress is the uncontrolled machine on the steep downgrade. You are the master who holds the control. Make your life keen, thoughtful and considerate. You will find much in fellowship that will suggest friction, but you will also be able to turn that friction to account if you see things in the right perspective. Some folks will growl no matter what happens. Let them growl. They must have a safety valve. You do your part and you will learn where to apply the friction that makes life go.—Exchange.

First Handkerchiefs.

Handkerchiefs were in use in England as early as the time of Queen Elizabeth. At first they were used only by women and were not particularly in favor in public places. Silk handkerchiefs embroidered and fringed silk are mentioned in the chronicles of that queen's reign. In this country they were not in favor for public use. Abigail Adams in her "Familiar Letters" says that "an order has been given in this town that no person shall be seen to wipe his face with a white handkerchief in this town."—July 1775, page 87. Their usefulness, however, overcame prejudice and both sexes in time found the handkerchief to be indispensable.

Ancient Musical Instrument.

The organ is a very ancient instrument, its invention being credited to Ctesibius of Alexandria, a barber of the Egyptian city, in 250 B. C. It was not until a thousand years later, however, that they were first used in the churches of western Europe. One chronicle asserts that Pope Vitallianus installed an organ in a church in Rome in the year 658, while an ancient French work records that King Pepin erected one of the instruments in the Church of St. Cornelle at Compeign, in France, in 787.

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A Nation Rests Upon Law.

At the recent meeting of the American Bar association in Boston David Jayne Hill suggested that every true state is a personality subject to fundamental principles of law. These principles may be self-imposed or placed upon it by its relation with other states. This principle of the state founded upon law was first embodied in actual form of government by the American colonies in the last part of the eighteenth century.

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If the democratic state rests upon law, the dynastic or imperialistic state is founded upon power, and the late war was a conflict between states resting upon law and those resting upon power.

The problem, therefore, which lies before America today, says Dr. Hill, is not whether we shall live isolated from the rest of the world, or whether she shall cast her fortunes with them. Isolation is impossible under present world conditions. But the question of today is, shall the United States make a miscellaneous combination of worldwide sweep with all kinds and conditions of nations resting upon power, and make herself responsible for them, or shall the United States aid in the establishment of an accepted law which shall guide us in our dealing with other peoples? Many peoples throughout the world today still cling to the idea that national existence is purely a matter of power, and until they come to see that this is a mistake, league or no league, the world will not be at peace.

The idea of the nation founded upon

law is America's contribution to the world. Just because of this the United States has a great part to play in the protection and re-establishment of world comity. But America can render the greatest service to the peace of the world by remaining her own master, preserving her own independence, and setting an example before the world of an orderly and law-abiding people bearing good will toward every nation upon earth. To embody law and not force, as Dr. Hill maintains, is the mission of America, for true liberty can be maintained only under law.—Minneapolis Journal.

Canned Sermons.

Only the other day it was announced that the political campaign this fall would be characterized by "canned speeches," delivered into the throbbing ears of phonographic records in Washington by party orators and distributed over the country to edify audiences unreachable by stump speakers in person.

Hardly is the public reconciled to

that innovation than a more startling use of the same device is proposed. It is "canned sermons."

Let no irreverent reader remark at this point that a good many sermons already seem to have come out of cans, or worse still, that sermons in general ought to be canned. The proposal is seriously intended to meet a serious situation and deserves a respectable reception.

A Presbyterian conference at Lake Geneva, Wis., reports that 3,000 out of 10,000 pulpits are vacant. It is impossible to fill these pulpits, for the present at least. A high officer of the church therefore suggests that until pastors are found for them they shall be supplied with phonographic records of approved sermons.

And why not? People are always criticising the churches for not being progressive and businesslike. Here, surely, is progress and sound business sense. And there would probably be no lack of fitting reverence in a canned sermon service, when once the strangeness of it had worn off.—Sandsky Register.

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