

PINNING THEM DOWN.

SAW-DUST RECORD OF OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Mr. McClung's Elaborate Report to the Chamber of Commerce—A Showing of the Friends and Foes of the Mississippi River—Scrap of History worthy of Preservation.

At the chamber of commerce yesterday morning Mr. J. W. McClung, from the committee on Mississippi river, submitted the following valuable and elaborate report:

The committee on the Mississippi river held an adjourned meeting on Thursday to consider the letter of Senator McMillan referred to by the chamber. This chamber on the 23d of May last passed a resolution and ordered a committee to be appointed to investigate the commerce, and by them to the war department and come back recommended for passage in a modified form, enlarging its scope. Under these circumstances,

And owing to the late period of the session at which the bill was returned, action could not be secured at that session of congress, and the 45th congress, which terminated with the next session, expired without further action.

It will again introduce the bill in accordance with your views, and have the same referred to the committee on commerce for consideration. The importance of keeping unimpeded the navigable stream of the country, and especially the Mississippi river, cannot be over-estimated, and why do not commit myself to any particular bill, or in favor of whatever legislation may be necessary to prevent obstruction in our navigable streams?

we knew about the sawdust bill, and all we could do but, after three times writing to our representatives about it, we would certainly be unable to ascertain the present status of the bill, any of its past difficulties, dangers or conflicts, whether it is dead or only sleeping, or the feelings and position of our representatives on the whole question.

We have received no reply whatever from Senator Windom, and not a word from our immediate representative and neighbor, Mr. Washburn, and we are glad to hear that Senator McMillan, in introducing a bill which was prepared and handed to him, allowed it to fall in the forty-fifth congress, and took no action on it whatever during the forty-sixth congress.

The senator promises again to introduce the bill, but is careful to avoid saying it will have his cordial support, or any support whatever. He simply promises to have it referred to the committee on commerce. It would have been quite encouraging to his constituents to have been assured that his own bill would receive his own support, but on the contrary all hope is disappointed in this direction by the assurance of the senator that he will not commit himself to any particular bill—not even the one he introduced himself. The sawdust bill does not seem to be a favorite one with the senator, and his letter cannot be said to kindle any glow with any enthusiasm for the measure. Considering that Senator McMillan lives in Minnesota and St. Paul, and that it will require the vigorous and united championship of all Minnesota's representatives to secure an act which has much interested opposition to fight against, and that St. Paul will be expected to take the laboring part in this fight, this letter has not

THE KING TO IT

which gives any encouragement or hope of success, and while both to be harsh or unjust in criticising the action of our representatives, and willing to concede them honesty of purpose in their record on this subject, fidelity to the great interests involved in the improvement of the Mississippi river and fidelity to Minnesota, and especially to St. Paul, compels us to express our regret that our representatives have not united on this subject and that a majority of them have shown

NO EMPATHY

whatever for this important interest of their constituents, but on the contrary quite the reverse feeling. The chamber, having utterly failed to elicit any light from Senator Windom and Representative Washburn as to their "position and feelings on the whole subject," have had recourse to other sources for light, and beg leave to give the chamber such information as they have received.

Before entering upon this phase of the case, however, we herewith present a statement furnished us by Hon. M. H. Dannel, which gives a brief history of the bill in its initial stages, and shows that something more than the "lateness of the session when the bill was returned" (as stated by Senator McMillan) was the cause of its failure to pass two years ago.

MR. DANNEL'S STATEMENT.

During the forty-fourth and forty-fifth congresses, while I was a member of the committee on commerce of the house of representatives, the national board of trade held a series of meetings in Washington, by memorial to congress and the committee on commerce called the attention of congress to the obstructions made in the harbors and navigable rivers of the country by the deposit of various articles, such as the offal of the large cities in the harbors, and of sawdust, slabs, etc., in many of the rivers. Just at that time the St. Paul chamber of commerce sent in a memorial on the subject of sawdust, etc., from the mills of Minnesota. I was made a sub-committee on the subject, and made a report favorable to the bill which the national board of trade had submitted to the committee. When the report was submitted objections were especially made to it by the members of the Pacific coast. The lumber interests of Minnesota made objections to the bill, but announced a willingness to have the bill passed, if they could be allowed one year in order that they might provide the necessary means or methods for disposing of the sawdust, etc. These objections for the time caused a suspension of action on the subject. The engineers' department recommended favorable action on the bill, to which I have referred. Coming to be a member of the committee on commerce, with the expiration of the 45th congress, I had no further connection with the subject. The above covers all I can now recall.

THIS STATEMENT

is important, it supplies some missing links in the chain of light furnished by Senator McMillan, shows where the opposition came from, and shows further that there was an understanding that if one year's time was given the Minnesota mills to provide for their sawdust, they would allow the bill to pass, which understanding was violated and forgotten the next session with the silent acquiescence of our immediate representatives, as Mr. McMillan admits, when he says "the next session of

congress terminated without further action."

Seeing that this appeared to be the situation at that time the business men of St. Paul, on the 5th of February, 1881, sent Capt. Henry Pooja to Washington to see if our representatives could not be induced to carry out this understanding and pass the bill. He made his report on his return, from which the following extracts are made:

MR. CASTLE'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Castle reported to the chamber of commerce that on his arrival in Washington he found the public business so behind in congress, such a blockade of legislation existing, that it would be useless to attempt to secure the passage of the sawdust bill through both houses that session. So he directed his energies to ascertaining the position of our senators and members on the subject, and to pushing the bill forward as many stages in each house as he could during the few days remaining. The same bill was introduced in both houses and referred to the committee on commerce. Mr. C. reports that he found but two of our delegation heartily and actively supporting the bill—Messrs. Henry Poehler and Mark H. Dannel. Mr. Washburn had expressed his belief that it was a just and necessary law and said he should not antagonize it in any way, but said that so many of his home constituents had pecuniary interests adverse to it that he could not be expected to work actively for it at present. Mr. Poehler ascertained from the chairman of the sub-committee of the house committee on commerce that Senator Windom had made a special request of him that nothing be done with the bill that session. Mr. Castle sought to use Mr. Dannel's influence to counteract that of Senator Windom, but Mr. Dannel was informed that Senator McMillan, who was a member of the senate committee on commerce, and the same bill was introduced in the senate, and the sawdust bill had been referred, had all the papers, reports from the engineer department, etc., on which alone intelligent action could be based, and that no progress could be made in the house committee until those documents were returned. Senator McMillan from the first expressed his desire to do something for the bill, but said that the manufacturing interests of Pennsylvania, and the mining interests of the Pacific states were all hostile to it. Mr. Castle reports that he urged Senator McMillan to at least secure a favorable report from his committee, that the bill might be put one step forward, but the senator was very busy and gave him but very little satisfaction, but said the status of the bill was misunderstood. After several interviews Mr. Castle, at a late day in the session, wrote him a very urgent letter asking that something be done to which Senator McMillan cordially acquiesced, and the receipt of, and promised to reply to showing why nothing could be done, and what misapprehensions the St. Paul people are laboring under with regard to the matter. But no such reply has ever been received by Mr. Castle or by this chamber.

CAPT. CASTLE.

In another report on this subject, after stating the difficulties he encountered in seeking to forward this legislation, gives the following explanation of the very potent causes which were operating with such powerful influence to paralyze Representative Washburn, "so many of whose constituents had pecuniary interests adverse to (this great public interest) that he could not be expected" to rise to the level of the broad-gauged policy of advocating the public interests against such "pecuniary interests," influences which

SEEMED TO PARALYZE

our two senators also and prevent any hearty or active support of this bill on their part. "Meantime," says Capt. Castle, "by industriously talking with members of congress from other states, newspaper correspondents and others with whom I became acquainted, I learned that the numerous lobby of men from Minneapolis and other Minnesota towns who were paid \$25,000 to go to Washington in the winter of 1880 to secure the remission of the \$25,000 penalties incurred by the land trespasses, had incidentally put in some effective work against the so-called 'sawdust' bill. They had pointed out the injury it would do to gulch mining in California and to manufacturing in New England. They had represented to members from Illinois and Iowa that it was a movement to cripple the mills at Minneapolis, whereby Chicago would again have a monopoly of the lumber supply of the western prairies—and they had drawn upon their imaginations in every direction for effective requirements against the measure.

THE HON. HENRY PROHLER.

Who was a congressman at that time, in a letter to the committee confirms this statement of opposition to the bill from Minneapolis men, and while delicately refraining from expressing any "personal knowledge" of opposition to the bill on the part of any of our members, speaks of Hon. M. H. Dannel only as the member with whom he consulted in his efforts to secure its passage.

FROM ALL THESE FACTS

the chamber can form its opinion of the influences which have operated to defeat of this important measure, why it is that the navigation of the river continues to be obstructed from Ft. Snelling to Lake Pepin, and the government appropriations made almost useless, while St. Paul and Minneapolis are threatened with complete isolation from the advantages of the river by the danger that the head of navigation will be removed to the mouth of the St. Croix or to Lake Pepin. The natural result of the small streams consequent upon a settlement of a new country gives a tendency to this danger, which is greatly accelerated and aggravated by the annual deposit of such vast quantities of mill refuse, saw dust, bark, slabs and edgings, estimated to amount annually to

300,000 CORDS.

If these causes are allowed to continue, it is only a question of time when these two cities which now boast that they stand at the gateway and hold the key to a commerce continental in its proportions will be shorn of their strength, and reduced to the status of inland cities. Not only these local disasters are threatened, but all that immense area of the state lying north of Lake Pepin, must share in the isolation, its losses and damages, and the state at large suffer by a postponement of the improvement, which is to give us five feet of water to the gulf and a saving of \$4,000,000 annually in freights upon the single article of wheat and a similar saving of almost an equal amount upon other articles of export and import.

YOUR COMMITTEE

have felt it their duty to report these facts in order to preserve a connected history and record of our efforts to prevent these disasters, to contribute so much to an intelligent understanding of the dangers which still envelop us, and by the agitation of the subject, to arouse a public sentiment which will breathe a new life into this measure, and put an end to the apathy which has permitted local and private interests to weigh more with our representatives than the interests of their districts or of the state at large. And having presented the facts, we commend the moral to your intelligent consideration, without further recommendation.

The report was accepted and ordered placed on file, after which the chamber adjourned.

HINDOO ACCOUNT-BOOKS.

The Vahee Pooja with Which Pious Hindoos Begin the Business Year.

(From the Bombay Gazette.)

A correspondent writes: "Dewalee, the feast of lanterns, has often been described in your columns. I proceed to describe the interesting ceremony of Vahee Pooja, which I was invited to witness at the office of a distinguished native arm. Among the natives of India, whether they be Parsees, Mohammedans or Hindoos, for practical purposes the new year commences with that of the Hindoos. The ceremony of Vahee Pooja, as its name denotes, is worshipping of the account-book for the new year. It takes place a day before the Dewalee, and is performed not only by every merchant and trader, but even by private persons. In short, the new year among natives of India, whether for business or household affairs, commences with the new year of the Hindoos. This necessitates the closing of old accounts and opening of new ones, and for the latter purpose new books are used, but before they can be utilized they must be worshipped, and each according to his means does this. The wealthier native firms avail themselves of the opportunity to invite their friends and constituents to be present to wish them a happy and prosperous year. The firm who had invited me is one of the oldest Parsee firms in Bombay. I of course expected the pooja, or ceremony of worshipping, would be performed by the mobeds or dostoors—a sort of jasn ceremony—but I was surprised on entering the office to see the place of honor assigned to a half-starved and very dirty-looking Brahmin. On the floor of one of the rooms was spread a clean floor-cloth with huge cushions near the walls, in the center of which were placed silver trays containing pan-supples, cocoanuts, betanases, dried dates, sugar-cane, coriander seeds and silver and copper coins. In an adjoining room was placed a silver vase containing fire and round it stood one of the high priests, dostoors, of the Parsees, attended by several mobeds. When all the preparations were completed we took our seats by the well-adjusted cushions, and all who knew Guzerati were given a new account-book and a new pen, and each wrote on the second leaf of the book what seemed to be a supplication to the deity invoking his blessings (in as many names as he is known by in the Zoroastrian calendar) for the new year, which is written in full with its corresponding English and Parsee dates. When some thirty books had been so written up, the Brahmin who sat in the center amid trays containing the articles above enumerated—had them submerged in guld and the red stuff used by natives on all auspicious occasions; and thus the dostoors and his mobeds on the one hand, and the Brahmin on the other, invoked the deity's blessings. The duties of the Brahmin were not, however, confined to simply supplicating his gods to bless the undertakings for the coming year of the Parsee firm; they seemed to be of multifarious nature, for he appeared to have had to bless (by muttering something in Sanscrit) each article as he took it from the tray, and, after besmearing it with the red stuff, to place it on one of the many new account-books near him. This went on until the trays were emptied of their contents. Then in a small silver dish were mixed some coriander-seeds with sugar and given to all the guests to eat; and then, as it were by way of a final dramatic effect, the Brahmin took a small silver vessel, and in it placed some of the red stuff with two or three pieces of ignited camphor, and had it taken about the room while he stood up shouting at the top of his voice, "Brahma! Brahma!" Then were distributed money, usegays and pan-supples to all those present, and the proceedings terminated. I was informed that the books and articles would be left undisturbed on the floor as placed by the Brahmin until the new year's day.

HEADS.

In the dictionaries the head is defined as the uppermost part of the human body, and as containing the organs of hearing, seeing, tasting and smelling. And Webster remarks that it also contains the brain, "which is supposed to be the seat of the intellectual powers and of sensation." Under the latter definition the brain might be "supposed" to be the seat of life. But Balzac says: "In great crises the constitution is attacked in that part where temperament has placed, in that particular individual, the seat of life; weak people have the colic; Napoleon goes to sleep." If this theory be correct the seat of life must be in the stomach. It was Beecher who said that people often mistake a bilious attack for religion, and as religion is a sentiment it might be argued that the liver is the seat of the sentiments.

We know that the heart is the seat of the passion love, since the young man suffering from a violent attack of that tender emotion invariably feels his heart thump against his ribs when in the presence of his beloved mistress. Cowards in battle feel a sinking at the stomach and sometimes faint dead away, and the phrase, "He has no stomach for the fight," has passed into a proverb. It follows that valor resides in the stomach rather than the head, and depends more on the quality of roast beef the man has consumed than on the lofty sentiments instilled into his mind. This tends to upset the theory that the man's eyes photograph pictures on his brain, and that through his ears he receives brain impressions. It is plain that the communication between the eyes and ears and the stomach is much more intimate than with the brain.

A misconception as to the true functions of the stomach, its controlling influence over the human organism, has often led not only to disastrous results, but to grossly unjust discrimination in favor of one class and against another class of individuals. Napoleon exclaimed: "Good God! How rare men are! There are 18,000,000 in Italy, and have with difficulty found two—Dandolo and Melzi."

Undoubtedly Napoleon sought men by the commonly accepted sign of greatness—a large, good or fine head. Now, the modern Italian head is neither fine nor handsome, as a rule, and Napoleon found only two good heads in several millions brought under his observation. He was hence amazed at the assumed low grade of intelligence of the Italian people. It is to be regretted that the biographies of Dandolo and Melzi fail to describe their stomachs, but there is little doubt that they were splendidly developed in that region, and that to that fact rather than to their fine heads they owed their greatness. Dandolo, at least, was descended from a very old family, and it is a known fact that the stomachs of members of old families are much better developed and stocked than their heads. Hence the aphorism, "Blood will tell."

Nearly all monarchs are large-stomached men, while Presidents of the United States have been notoriously small-stomached. The reason of this difference is plain, and supports our theory: the Monarchs of Europe are required to think for all their subjects—millions of people—while the millions of free citizens of the United States think for their Presidents, they merely executing their wishes. Does not this show conclusively that thinking develops the stomach? If Napoleon had judged men by their stomachs instead of their heads he might have formed a juster judgment of the Italian people.

That the stomach controls the head is demonstrated by the fact that more than nine-tenths of all the people in the world are compelled to labor from day to day—six days in a week—to obtain a sufficient supply of food to keep the stomach from open rebellion, as it were. When Tanner announced his purpose to neglect and defy his stomach for forty consecutive days he was regarded with amazement. But the announcement of a purpose to refuse all nutriment to the brain forty days, or forty years, would cause neither surprise nor remark. It is doubtless this necessity, which is said to be the mother of invention, that has stimulated the stomach to reduce the head to a state of vassalage. The brain may go hungry with perfect impunity, and having no necessities it has ceased to have ambition. But the stomach must have nourishment or die; hence its necessities have impelled it to become a tyrant.—Chicago Tribune.

A FLY HUNG.

I now began to make havoc among a colony of flies who had apparently spent their lives in obtaining from the window panes some occult flavor which is not perceptible to our coarser palates. I made three captives, who were passed beneath the mslin door of the jar with a little sleight of hand. The appearance of these flies was my next subject of observation. They each had an individuality which I did not till then know that flies possessed. Their deportment, their figures, their very moral tone, had a distinct stamp; yet there was a harmonious something which united characters so different. The first had a stumpy appearance, his body looked sodden, and he behaved in a fat and sensual manner. He took the grossest pleasure in warming his ventral surface on the side of the jar toward the sun. He sipped the sweets of life to excess, and had lost that activity a fly ought to possess. Alas! his career rendered him unfit to battle in the struggle for existence. He became the spider's first meal.

The second fly had but one wing. He

STORIES WITHOUT MORALS.

There could be no question but that John could make a better shoe than James. A shoe made by John would outlast two made by James; but James had a happy way of knocking leather together which produced work fair to look upon. A customer buying a pair of John's shoes came not again for a year or more, because of the durability of the shoes; but he who purchased a pair made by James came again quickly. The employer of the two men perceiving this sent John about his business and rewarded James with increased wages. John had a genius for making shoes, but James possessed tact. This was the difference between the two men.

Charles spent all his time reading, so that in time he came to know more than I can tell you; James, on the contrary, read little or nothing. But James had the gift of gab. To be sure, he had nothing to say, and, although he continually kept saying it, nobody was obliged to listen. Charles, notwithstanding his comprehensive knowledge, seldom spoke. If Charles had been endowed with loquaciousness his friends would have been obliged to listen, which would have awakened interest among the people who are more proficient with their mouths than their ears. James is in receipt of \$10,000 per year; Charles' wealth is of a mental rather than a pecuniary variety. His wealth will be buried with him. James' wealth will go to his heirs, if there be any when he leaves.

Adolphus is a good boy. He never quarrels. Rather than fight he would permit any indignity to be heaped upon him. But Richard was of a pugnacious disposition. This propensity has become so intense that when he plays at marbles the other boys allow him to beat them. They would rather be beaten in the game than in another way. Adolphus, however, is so peaceable that the boys cheat him right along; they knock off his hat and play all sorts of practical jokes upon him. Adolphus is a good boy and is the cause of much pleasure to his mates; while Richard gives them small opportunity for enjoyment.

The very extensive and habitual use of seductive, drowsy drugs bearing Government passports—particularly chloral—in the unobserved undercurrents of the domestic life of our times is, perhaps, little generally known, but that it is a very extensive and daily increasing evil, it has encouraged and greatly facilitated by the present condition of the medicine license acts, is beyond doubt or question, and a custom and habit known to medical men as the "chloral habit" is thus engendered, more enslaving and more fraught with sad results than the habits of alcohol drinking or opium eating. The first dose may perhaps be prescribed in the ordinary course of a physician's attendance, and the prescription is carefully treasured; more frequently, however, the weary, the wakeful and heavy-laden are allured by tempting advertisements of the miraculous effects of Government-stamped bottles, to be obtained of all grocers and chemists, etc. The effect of the first dose is probably charming; another dose on the next occasion is equally satisfactory. No dangerous effects being indicated on the label, no particular danger is suspected, and by degrees the habit resorts to it until it becomes a nightly necessity. After a time the customary respite is not experienced, and not infrequently in the middle of the night, by familiarity become bold, the habitue, after hours of weary tossing, with trembling hand pours out another half-teaspoonful or a few more drops, as the label directs, and drinks it off. The desired effect and more is now produced; coma ensues for sixteen, twenty, or even more hours, greatly to the alarm of surrounding friends, and not infrequently the consequences are such as to necessitate the services of the coroner. From the happy, united family circle of yesternight one is absent from the breakfast table the following morning. A sudden change comes over the wonted cheerfulness of the home. The bright morning sunlight is dimmed, the tread of every step is altered, and every voice is subdued; and anon the festive chamber of the house is converted into a court of inquiry, with all its solemn and somber paraphernalia, and after a short and tender deliberation the final and soothing verdict of "Misadventure by an overdose of chloral" is entered.—Macmillan's Magazine.

Recent investigations have shown that the crocodile is to be found in the less frequented parts of Florida, where it has long been confounded with the alligator, and a single specimen is now among the collection of reptiles of the Smithsonian Institution. The great point of difference between crocodiles and alligators is that the former lives in salt-water bayous or creeks near the sea, while latter are found only in the fresh-water streams. The crocodile, cayman, gavial and alligator are all types of one group, the crocodylia. In these reptiles the heart resembles that of birds more than that of any cold-blooded animals. The ventricle is completely divided by a septum into two chambers, the venous and arterial blood join outside of the heart, and the brain is bird-like. The muzzle of the alligator is in a straight line, but that of the crocodile is much narrower behind the nostrils. There are also other anatomical differences. The crocodile is known among the Indians as the "long-nosed alligator." The Florida crocodile is the crocodylia acutus of Cuvier, and is entirely identical with the Jamaica species, but entirely different from the cayman of Guiana, South America.

A MACHINE has been produced in Hamburg for making "wood wool," suitable for littering purposes, and claiming superior advantages over sawdust. It converts chips of every kind of wood used in workshops into a sort of fiber or flock.

PLEASANTRIES.

BEST size of a man—Exercise. CELESTIAL timber—Sunbeams.

"WELL" shake once more for the quinine, as the ague said to the victim. A YACHT is more like a Christian than the average man. She can stand on a tack without swearing.

A LAWYER who climbs up on a chair after a law-book gets a little higher in that he may get a little lore.

WHEN a man chooses a mate she frequently turns out to be the master.—Philadelphia Chronicle—Herald.

ACCORDING to the rule that silence gives consent, the man who keeps "mum" always votes in the affirmative.

"I LIKE your new hat very much," he said; "it's 'chie,' there's a sort of 'abandon'—" "There isn't any sort of a band on it," she said, putting; "it's a real ostrich feather."

THE Chicago people say that, talk as you may of culture, the product of their pens amounts to more than the income of all the authors of New England. Pig thing.—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

"MR. SPEAKER!" shouted the member from Ruraldom, "I rise to a pint of order." "And I, Mr. Speaker," interrupted his colleague, "rise to a quart of the same commodity; I go the gentleman a pint better."

"WHAT a nice-looking young man!" simpered a lady to her friend, as a youth in the omnibus deposited her nickel in the safety box. "Yes," was the reply, "I see he is passing fair."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

SENATOR McPHERSON, of Ottawa, has written a book on etiquette to be observed by officers and members of the Senate. One of the rules is that no Senator shall call another a liar without first attracting his attention with an unkind or paper-weight.—Canada Quiz.

REFERRED.

You've spoken of love And I've answered with laughter; You've kissed my—hid gloves, You've spoken of love— Why, powers above! Is there more to come after You've spoken of love? And I've answered with laughter?—The Century.

THE Modern Argo mentions a Quince blonde who entertains four beaux at once when she is riding in her hammock. The man who marries a woman who can talk at that rate will soon be wishing that she had fallen from her hammock with a dull thud.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A YOUNG man who had married a bad-tempered woman was one day provoked to correct her. The lady complained to her father who, knowing her character, followed the example of her husband and, boxing her ears, said: "There, now; go and tell the fellow that I am even with him, he has beaten my daughter and I have boxed his wife's ears."

"CANST tell me, Henric, why you fair damsel's tresses are like unto a flower garden?" "Nay, by me troth I cannot, Ferdinand, unless it be that they are trained so artistically." "Thy answer is apt, good Henric, but thou art far from the true answer. List, whilst I discover it unto thee. A flower garden, thou knowest, is yeipect a parterre? Well, Henric, the damsel's tresses are likewise only part hair."—Boston Transcript.

A PHYSICIAN, who had a colored boy in his service, noticed that his alcohol seemed to be rather weak, and, as he had occasion to go to the bottle from time to time, it seemed to grow weaker. He was about to complain to his apothecary for selling him such poor stuff, when it occurred to him that the colored boy might know what the trouble was; so he said, suddenly: "Tom, how much water do you turn into the alcohol when you take a drink out of the bottle?" "Oh, sah," responded Tom, taken off his guard, "I calkerates to leave it about as full as I finds it, sah." No complaint was entered at the apothecary's.—Lovell Courier.

IT is an interesting reflection that the safety of one of these costly trains, to say nothing of the passengers, devolves almost wholly upon one man—the engineer.

There are other men—the conductor, baggage-master, fireman and three or four brakemen, but the hand upon the lever and the brain directing it have an immense responsibility.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A DRUG CLERK.

"Want to hire a drug clerk?" asked a bright-eyed youth, stepping into the office of a prominent apothecary on Dearborn street.

"Are you a competent man?" inquired the proprietor, rising and closing the door with an air of secrecy.

"Well, I should say, yes," replied the youth.

"Had any experience?"

"Three years."

"Where?"

"In Milwaukee."

"What would you do for a plain wink at the sofa fountain?"

"Dash with sonar mash."

"Two short winks and the tongue in the left cheek?"

"Fill the glass half full with Jamaica rum."

"In case a man calls for banana sirup with a doleful look and his hand on his watch pocket?"

"Give him cognac and ginger."

"Three winks and a jerk over the left shoulder with the thumb?"

"Pat in Old Tom gin, and have the same ready for a friend of the man's who will be in directly."

"What if a man says 'Baraboo' and spits to the left?"

"Fill with Old Crow, dashed with peppermint and tansy."

"The examination is satisfactory. You may come on in the morning. The new international code of signals is not published yet. If any change is made I will give you a key. We have to be very strict in the examination of prescription clerks where the health, yes, even the lives of individuals are at stake."—Chicago Chuck.

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Charles spent all his time reading, so that in time he came to know more than I can tell you; James, on the contrary, read little or nothing. But James had the gift of gab. To be sure, he had nothing to say, and, although he continually kept saying it, nobody was obliged to listen. Charles, notwithstanding his comprehensive knowledge, seldom spoke. If Charles had been endowed with loquaciousness his friends would have been obliged to listen, which would have awakened interest among the people who are more proficient with their mouths than their ears. James is in receipt of \$10,000 per year; Charles' wealth is of a mental rather than a pecuniary variety. His wealth will be buried with him. James' wealth will go to his heirs, if there be any when he leaves.

Adolphus is a good boy. He never quarrels. Rather than fight he would permit any indignity to be heaped upon him. But Richard was of a pugnacious disposition. This propensity has become so intense that when he plays at marbles the other boys allow him to beat them. They would rather be beaten in the game than in another way. Adolphus, however, is so peaceable that the boys cheat him right along; they knock off his hat and play all sorts of practical jokes upon him. Adolphus is a good boy and is the cause of much pleasure to his mates; while Richard gives them small opportunity for enjoyment.

The very extensive and habitual use of seductive, drowsy drugs bearing Government passports—particularly chloral—in the unobserved undercurrents of the domestic life of our times is, perhaps, little generally known, but that it is a very extensive and daily increasing evil, it has encouraged and greatly facilitated by the present condition of the medicine license acts, is beyond doubt or question, and a custom and habit known to medical men as the "chloral habit" is thus engendered, more enslaving and more fraught with sad results than the habits of alcohol drinking or opium eating. The first dose may perhaps be prescribed in the ordinary course of a physician's attendance, and the prescription is carefully treasured; more frequently, however, the weary, the wakeful and heavy-laden are allured by tempting advertisements of the miraculous effects of Government-stamped bottles, to be obtained of all grocers and chemists, etc. The effect of the first dose is probably charming; another dose on the next occasion is equally satisfactory. No dangerous effects being indicated on the label, no particular danger is suspected, and by degrees the habit resorts to it until it becomes a nightly necessity. After a time the customary respite is not experienced, and not infrequently in the middle of the night, by familiarity become bold, the habitue, after hours of weary tossing, with trembling hand pours out another half-teaspoonful or a few more drops, as the label directs, and drinks it off. The desired effect and more is now produced; coma ensues for sixteen, twenty, or even more hours, greatly to the alarm of surrounding friends, and not infrequently the consequences are such as to necessitate the services of the coroner. From the happy, united family circle of yesternight one is absent from the breakfast table the following morning. A sudden change comes over the wonted cheerfulness of the home. The bright morning sunlight is dimmed, the tread of every step is altered, and every voice is subdued; and anon the festive chamber of the house is converted into a court of inquiry, with all its solemn and somber paraphernalia, and after a short and tender deliberation the final and soothing verdict of "Misadventure by an overdose of chloral" is entered.—Macmillan's Magazine.

Recent investigations have shown that the crocodile is to be found in the less frequented parts of Florida, where it has long been confounded with the alligator, and a single specimen is now among the collection of reptiles of the Smithsonian Institution. The great point of difference between crocodiles and alligators is that the former lives in salt-water bayous or creeks near the sea, while latter are found only in the fresh-water streams. The crocodile, cayman, gavial and alligator are all types of one group, the crocodylia. In these reptiles the heart resembles that of birds more than that of any cold-blooded animals. The ventricle is completely divided by a septum into two chambers, the venous and arterial blood join outside of the heart, and the brain is bird-like. The muzzle of the alligator is in a straight line, but that of the crocodile is much narrower behind the nostrils. There are also other anatomical differences. The crocodile is known among the Indians as the "long-nosed alligator." The Florida crocodile is the crocodylia acutus of Cuvier, and is entirely identical with the Jamaica species, but entirely different from the cayman of Guiana, South America.

A MACHINE has been produced in Hamburg for making "wood wool," suitable for littering purposes, and claiming superior advantages over sawdust. It converts chips of every kind of wood used in workshops into a sort of fiber or flock.

PLEASANTRIES.

BEST size of a man—Exercise. CELESTIAL timber—Sunbeams.

"WELL" shake once more for the quinine, as the ague said to the victim. A YACHT is more like a Christian than the average man. She can stand on a tack without swearing.

A LAWYER who climbs up on a chair after a law-book gets a little higher in that he may get a little lore.

WHEN a man chooses a mate she frequently turns out to be the master.—Philadelphia Chronicle—Herald.

ACCORDING to the rule that silence gives consent, the man who keeps "mum" always votes in the affirmative.

"I LIKE your new hat very much," he said; "it's 'chie,' there's a sort of 'abandon'—" "There isn't any sort of a band on it," she said, putting; "it's a real ostrich feather."

THE Chicago people say that, talk as you may of culture, the product of their pens amounts to more than the income of all the authors of New England. Pig thing