

was out of sight by this time, and the women feared the life savers were too late. The one who led in the race took a long dive and brought up his man. The body seemed lifeless to those on shore, and they wondered how the life saver could carry him ashore. It took but a second for the swimmer to get the lifeless body on his back, and then came a speedy trip back to the float. In five minutes from the time the life savers started the man who had capsized the boat was lying on his back ready for the resuscitation drill.

One of the men took the body over his knee, while another pulled out the tongue, which is always drawn in by the drowning spasm. If the unfortunate has taken but little water into his lungs a jolty motion with pressure on the diaphragm will usually force it out. Dunn was supposed to be very far gone, so the Syl-

THE FRUIT PEDLERS' TRUST

AN IRONCLAD CONFEDERATION WHOSE ORDERS ARE STRICTLY OBEYED.

One would hardly think that the Italian fruit pedler, he of the butternut complexion and the black felt hat with many holes, whose little two wheeled carts form a gutter fringe along Broadway and neighboring streets, was a member of a trust. Yet he is, and an ironclad trust at that. He is forced into it against his wishes, perhaps, just as many a small manufacturer is forced into the bigger trusts. The fruit trust would ruin his business if he tried to stay out. It would even go further—so far as to beat him black and blue and to urge messenger boys to steal his fruit or pull out the prop that kept his cartbed level. The fruit pedlers' trust has no high salaried officers, in fact, no organization of any kind, yet its dictations are obeyed to the letter.

The trust decides the price that is to be charged for fruit at meetings held every morning in various parts of the city and long before the prospective buyers have been alarm-clocked out of bed. The pedlers who get their stock in trade from the fruit ships along the East River get together in the rough, dirty warehouses on the piers and, after much swearing and wrangling in heathenish Italian, decide at what price the different grades of fruit shall sell. The price depends on the weather, on an under or over stocked wholesale market and on the ripeness of recently arrived cargoes. Care is taken that no pedler gets too many apples or pears or plums to sell for a cent or less, and every man has to take his share of the higher priced fruit. If he has a downtown station—and they are the favorites except on Saturday afternoon and Sunday—he must confine himself to one kind of fruit. That is the reason why one seldom sees two men selling peaches within a short distance of each other. Particular care is taken to keep the pedlers from changing their signs after they leave the wharf or wholesale market. In this way the price is kept up and every pedler has an equal chance.

An impish messenger boy got one unfortunate pedler into trouble the other day. When the Italian was not looking the boy switched the signs on the different piles of fruit. The largest peaches in the cart were marked "4 for 5," while the "2 for 5" sign smiled seductively at passers by from the top of a pyramid of sickly looking peaches that should have gone begging at a half cent. An Italian who had a peach stand further down the street happened to pass and noticed the way in which the signs had been changed. He didn't say a word, but simply went for the unfortunate with all the fists he had. Of course, the attack came as a surprise, but the Italian met it promptly and several fierce rounds followed without attention to Queensberry rules or the time gong. The messenger watched the fight from a safe distance and was sorry when the approach of a policeman stopped the conflict and permitted an explanation.

KING HUMBERT AND THE "FOURTEENTH."

From The London Chronicle.

M. Valfrey mentions that an aide-de-camp of the late King of Italy said he only once saw him out of temper. It arose from a fad of the Queen. Her Majesty holds strongly the anti-thirteen superstition, and to prevent the dread contingency occurring at dinner a "quator-

zème," as the French term him, was always on duty in the person of a second aide-de-camp. One day when they were fourteen a lady had to retire, and an aide-de-camp rose from the table to make the number twelve, but the King, who himself thought the thirteen business all nonsense, angrily desired him to be seated, adding that any one who began a meal at his table finished it there.

A REFORM IN FRENCH GRAMMAR.

DISTRESSING FEATURES TO BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR WORST TERROR BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Paris correspondence of The Pall Mall Gazette.

There should be rejoicing in every schoolroom, not only in France and Navarre, but also wherever French is taught. A beneficent decree emanating from the Council of Public Instruction, the sovereign pedagogic body of the country, ordains that henceforth French syntax and orthography are to be simplified. The grammar is to be purged of certain obnoxious difficulties that have never served any other purpose than to try the memory and patience of successive generations of scholars.

This important reform will deprive some of the most distressing chapters in the French grammar of their worst terrors. First and foremost be it noted the unsurpassably terrible chapter which deals with the past participle of verbs conjugated with avoir is suppressed altogether. As every student knows to his misery, the agreement of these participles with the object was governed by rules of such hair splitting nicety that the grammarians themselves were at loggerheads with regard to them. For the future, these participles are always to be invariable, and this welcome immutability is to be extended to the past participle of reflexive verbs. Thus, it is now permissible to write: "Les livres que j'ai lu" and "Elles se sont tu."

Another simplification affects those perplexing nouns that have hitherto been of two genders. Henceforth they may be of either gender, according to taste. You may say, "Les grandes orgues," or "un des plus grands orgues," the adjective coupled with "gens" may be masculine or feminine, as you prefer, and to make orgues, pâques, or période feminine is to cease to be a heinous grammatical offence. But in the case of substantives the most gratifying innovation is in connection with the plural of composite nouns. These plurals in the past were a crux of the first magnitude. For instance, you had to write timbres-poste and paquebots-poste, but for some inscrutable reason the plural of train-poste was trains-postes. For the future, the essential rule is to be that the plural is to be formed in the simplest manner possible by adding an "s" to the end of the last word. Pedantic people are still to be at liberty to stick to the old orthography, but it will be as legitimate to write coffreforts as coffres forts, or basseours as basses cours. Again, ché-d'œuvre is to be tolerated as the plural of chef d'œuvre, and têtâtêtes as that of tête à tête.

Besides ordering these changes, and many others there is no room to mention, the Council speaks out boldly in favor of the reign in a general way of simplicity and common sense in matters grammatical. It indulges in particular in a shrewd thrust at examiners, who, in France, as elsewhere, delight in "stumping" their victims by setting them questions dealing with trumpery peculiarities it would be better to neglect. Altogether the Council has deserved well of mankind. It has done something to deliver the French schoolboy from the dreaded "colle," and it has lightened for humanity at large the task of learning French grammar.

STILL CHAMPION.

From The Denver Post.

Oom Paul and Prince Tuan have given us very striking exhibitions of their methods of "staggering humanity," but the championship belt for achievements in that line yet remains in possession of John Barleycorn, esc.

NATURE'S BOUNTY.

From The Denver Post.

Abilene, Kan., boasts of a man who "never made a fool of himself." Perhaps nature saved him the trouble of doing so.

QUEEN HELEN.

THE CONSORT OF THE NEW KING OF ITALY HAS LITTLE POPULARITY WITH HIS PEOPLE.

It is extremely doubtful whether Queen Helen, in spite of her undeniable beauty, will ever become so popular as her mother-in-law, the now widowed Queen Margherita. Cold and unemonstrative, reserved and taciturn rather than effusive, her qualities are calculated to appeal rather to the Piedmontese-Highlanders like herself than to the population of the rest of Italy. There is no doubt that the disappointment freely and unkindly expressed by the newspapers of the Peninsula regarding her failure to fulfil national expectations in the presentation to the kingdom of an heir to the throne has had the effect of raising a sort of barrier of antagonism between herself and the people of her adopted country. She seems to feel that they resent her childlessness, while they, on the other hand, do not hesitate to express freely the disappointment of the dynastic hope which they had based upon the marriage.

Queen Margherita's popularity was a source of strength to her husband as ruler. Even at the moment when, owing to the mistakes, domestic and foreign, of his Ministers, he was most unpopular and reviled as "the Austrian Colonel," she always remained an object of so much affection on the part of the people of every shade of political opinion that the field daisy was chosen in her honor as the emblem of a number of political societies, some of them, such as the Italia Irredenta, being hostile alike to the Government and to the King. But for a Queen to be popular in Italy it is necessary that she be of Italian birth and of Italian disposition, and neither the Montenegrin born Queen Helen nor yet the French born Duchess Helen of Aosta, who as wife of the heir apparent of the Crown may eventually succeed her as Queen, is ever likely to give the same amount of political support to her husband as Queen Margherita was able to furnish to the late King Humbert. Nor is it probable that she will ever share to the same degree as her mother-in-law the duties of her husband as ruler. Humbert was notoriously influenced in many matters by his consort, especially in connection with the Triple Alliance, which she induced him to join. But Queen Helen is completely dominated by her diminutive husband, who, like so many small men, is far too autocratic to accept any advice or to brook any interference, even on the part of his wife, in his duties as ruler.

THE NEW QUEEN OF SERVIA.

HER MARRIAGE IS EXPECTED TO DRAW THE COUNTRY CLOSER TO RUSSIA.

Paris, August 8.

The betrothal of the young King Alexander of Serbia to Mme. Draga Maschin, and the prompt congratulations of the Czar of Russia, addressed not only to the King personally, but to his future consort, which rendered impossible the social boycott that had been so plainly hinted at in Belgrade, caused an impression decidedly favorable to the royal couple. The new Queen of Serbia is well known in Paris, and especially so at Biarritz, where she has for several seasons been a frequent visitor. Mme.



COLONEL J. W. JONES.

At the head of the United States Volunteer Life Saving Corps.

vester method was used after the other efforts failed. Two men began to rub his limbs, forcing the cold blood toward his heart. They tickled his throat with a feather as another inducement for circulation to start. They raised his arms over his head and pressed on the diaphragm, giving an injection for the purpose of forcing water out of the lungs. They brought the arms down and pressed the elbows against the ribs. They kept it up until Dunn began to gasp, which is always a sign of returning life. He looked up with a smile, as if he liked drowning for exhibition purposes, and then went out again to have it all done over again.

Dunn is an expert life saver, and has many rescues to his credit. He was nearly drowned in 1897 while trying to save a little boy who had gone under a barge. He finally got the lad out, but his back was torn terribly by the splinters on the bottom of the barge, and for a time it was feared he would die from blood poisoning.

"Jack" Peak came up from Atlantic City for the exhibition. He has saved 194 persons from drowning in the last nine years. In one afternoon he took seven men and women from a wreck on the bar off Atlantic City. His narrowest escape from losing his life while attempting a rescue was when the schooner Shawl, of New-York, went ashore during a terrible storm on the Jersey coast. A number of men and women could be seen clinging to the wrecked boat. He hunted for an hour before he found a man who was willing to risk the trip. They were almost worn out before they got within hailing distance of the wreck. Then they could not persuade any of those on board to leave the wreck for the bobbing lifeboat. They picked up a bottle containing a message which the captain wished to send to shore and started back. In spite of their efforts the boat was overturned and both men thrown into the water. Peak's companion, Clark, was almost exhausted, and would surely have drowned had not Peak succeeded in making a float of the boat's oars. He fastened Clark to the float, and after a long and desperate effort succeeded in towing him ashore.

J. W. Lyons, of Bath Beach, is the only deaf and dumb life saver in the service. He was at Sheepshead Bay on Sunday, and showed his skill in the water. His eyes are very keen, and the fact that he can neither hear cries for help nor shout encouragement to drowning persons has never impeded him in making rescues.

DUE TO ANOTHER GIRL.

From The Chicago Tribune.

It was the middle of the week when the young man appeared at the office to make his excuses and explanations.

"You should have returned from your vacation last Monday, sir," said the proprietor of the establishment. "You were having a good time at that summer resort, I suppose, and thought you were entitled to three days of grace?"

"Not exactly," stammered the young man, with heightened color. "Laura, sir."



INDUCING RESPIRATION BY ARM MOTION AND MANIPULATION OF THE TONGUE.