(FROM THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE WEEKLY REVIEW, DECEMBER 16, 1905.)

Latest Foreign News About Books.

Paris, December 15.

The first volume of a notable art work has just been published here by Armand Colin. It is entitled "Histoire de l'Art Depuis le Premier Temps Chretiens Jusqu'à Nos Jours." The volume now issued treats of ante-Roman and Roman art. It is a classical work of thorough scholarship, and reflects the highest credit on its author, André Michel, who is a prominent professor of art in the University of Paris, and who has devoted the best part of his life to its preparation. Another volume of art interest, but of quite a different character, is a book of caricatures drawn by Puvis de Chavannes. It is published by Delagrave, and contains a preface written by Mlle. Maude Adam. These caricatures reveal Puvis de Chavannes in delightful intimacy, showing his genial humor and mirthful nature, the master thus appearing in a totally new light to those who know him only through his serious work. The original sketches were given by the artist to Madame Philippe Gille, the widow of a well known journalist. George Cain, the curator of the Carnavalet Museum, in a volume entitled "Coins de Paris," just issued by Flammarion, has written some extremely interesting historical reminiscences of the old streets and old buildings of Paris, which may be heartily commended to American visitors to the French capital. It contains one hundred illustrations and a preface by Victorien Sardou. C. I. B.

London, December 15.

British publishers, alarmed by the lightness of the holiday traffic, are seriously considering the subject of restricting the output of books during the next six months. While this will be bad news to the less well known authors, it will not be likely to affect those with well established reputations, and evidences of literary activity among prominent writers are not wanting. Lucas Malet has put the finishing touches on her new book, and those who have seen the manuscript or are familiar with the theme believe that it may rival "Sir Richard Calmady" in strength and originality. Maurice Hewlett is making progress with the new work which he has in hand, but Hall Caine is starting for the Engadine with no new literary plans in view. Miss Marie has rewritten her biography of Chamberlain in a more popular style and has added new chapters on colonial administration and fiscal reform to bring it down to date. Professor George Turnbull Ald's "The Philosophy of Religion" is among the Yale books published here by Longmans, Green & Co., who are also bringing out the "Harvard Studies in Classical Philology." I. N. F.

Books People Are Reading.

PHILADELPHIA FREE LIBRARY.—Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—The books most read this week are as follows:

History—Evans's "The Second French Empire"; Eggleston's "Life in the Eighteenth Century"; Welsh's "Famous Battles of the Nineteenth Century"; Wood's "History of the Civil War in the United States"; Johnston's "American Political History."

Description and Travel—Loring's "The Old World Through New World Eyes"; Hunt's "The Rhine"; Menpes's "Brittany"; Denby's "China and Her People"; Bailey's "Australian Life in Town and Country"; Nitobe's "Bushido."

Biography—White's "Autobiography"; Brookfield's "Mrs. Brookfield and Her Circle"; Cuthell's "Wilhelmina"; Rumbold's "Final Recollections of a Diplomatist"; Dixon's "The Life Worth Living."

Miscellaneous—"Dramatists of To-day"; Gosse's "French Profiles"; Conant's "Principles of Money and Banking"; Rorer's "Mrs. Rorer's Every Day Menu Book"; Singleton's "Great Portraits."

Fiction—Wharton's "House of Mirth"; Osbourne's "Baby Bullit"; Tarkington's "The Conquest of Canaan"; Crawford's "Fair Margaret"; Thurston's "The Gambler."

NEW-YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The most popular books of the week, according to the demands at the circulating department, are as follows:

Fiction—Wharton's "The House of Mirth"; Thurston's "The Gambler"; McCutcheon's "Nedra."

Juvenile Fiction—Munroe's "The Outcast Warrior"; Wiggin's "The Birds' Christmas Carol"; Wade's "A Little Russian Cousin."

Miscellaneous—Whiteing's "Paris of To-day"; Pryor's "Reminiscences of Peace and War"; Roberts's "Red Fox."

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Boston, Dec. 15.—Among the books most frequently in demand at the Boston Public Library during the week were the following:

Fiction—Jewett's "The Tory Lover" and "Deephaven"; Warde's "Betty Wales—Freshman" and "Betty Wales—Sophomore"; Allen's "Back to Arcady"; Knight's "St. Abigail of the Pines"; Wright's "A Southern Girl in '61"; Ellis's "Stork's Nest"; Wharton's "The House of Mirth"; Fox's "A Child of the Shore"; Austin's "Isidro"; Smith's "The Woodfire in No. 3"; Day's "Squire Phin."

Miscellaneous—Shaw's "The Irrational Knot"; Scott's "The Voyage of the Discovery"; Ladd's "The Philosophy of Religion"; Haines's "Restrictive Railway Legislation"; Meyer's "Government Regulation of Railway Rates"; Cole's "The Life That Counts"; Whiting's "The Joy That No Man Taketh from You"; Dawson's "The Business of Life Insurance"; Carl's "With the Empress Dowager."

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY. — Washington, Dec. 15—The following list of books called for indicates the tastes of readers in the Library of Congress this week:

History—Hohn's "Greece"; Rambaud's "Russia"; Sorensen's "Norway"; Griffis's "The Mikado's Empire."

Descriptive and Travel—Lorenz's "The Mediterranean Traveller"; Dunning's "To-day on the Nile"; Gardner's "Athens."

Fiction—Brown's "Paradise"; Hope's "A Servant of the Public"; Williamson's "My Friend the Chauffeur"; Sinclair's "The Divine Fire"; Castle's "The Heart of Lady Anne"; Doyle's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes."

Miscellaneous—Browne's "The Diary of a Girl in France in 1821"; Dole's "The American Citizen"; Fiske's "Myths and Mythmakers"; Spencer's "Principles of Education."

What N. Y. Booksellers Say They Are Selling Most.

The six best selling books in New-York this week, as reported to The New-York Tribune Weekly Review, were taken in the following order:

1. "The House of Mirth"	Edith Wharton	(Charles Scribner's Sons)	$1 50
2. "The Gamblers"	Katherine Cecil Thurston	(Harper & Bros.)	1 50
3. "The Conquest of Canaan"	Booth Tarkington	(Harper & Bros.)	1 50
4. "Nedra"	George Barr McCutcheon	(Dodd, Mead & Co.)	1 50
5. "The Irrational Knot"	George Bernard Shaw	(Brentano's)	1 50
6. "Peter's Mother"	Mrs. Roger de la Pasture	(E. P. Dutton & Co.)	1 50

LITERARY NOTES.

It is usually a dangerous thing for an author to draw his characters so closely from nature that they can be easily recognized by the originals and their friends, but in a recent instance the experiment appears to have met with glittering success. Will N. Harben, whose novel of Georgia mountaineer life, entitled "Pole Baker," was reviewed not long ago in these columns, has received the following letter from the prototype of the leading character in the story:

Dear Bill: I believe folks are right, and that you meant that fellow Baker for me. He's all right, but you made him quit drinking, and I haven't done that yet; but I may; who knows? It certainly paid in his case. Send me a copy for my wife's Christmas present, and write something in it. She's powerfully tickled over what the neighbors say about me and her being in the book. Folks used to say when you was a boy that you didn't have much sense, but I believe you had as much as anybody. It was just covered up.

"Trades Unionism in America" is the title of a volume edited by Professors Hollander and Burnett, of Johns Hopkins University, which Henry Holt & Co. announce for immediate publication. It will devote especial attention to the interesting methods and principles of the Cigarmakers' Union, of which comparatively little is known or has been written in this country.

The danger of procrastination has been experienced by Mark Twain, who commenced a story last summer, but postponed completing it, and now finds that the title has been preempted by another and younger humorist. Writing recently of the bracing and stimulating air of the New-Hampshire highlands, where he spent last summer, Mr. Clemens said:

I am ashamed to confess what an intolerable amount of manuscript I ground out in the first thirty-five days there. . . . Besides "The Adventures of a Microbe" I started another long tale, "The Mysterious Stranger," wrote the first half of it, then put it with the other to finish next summer.

The unfinished tale bears the same title as the book of cartoons by John T. McCutcheon, published this fall by McClure, Phillips & Co. "The Mysterious Stranger" was the name of one of the artist's most popular political cartoons, representing the coming of Missouri into the Republican ranks, and was chosen to give the name to the lately issued collection.

The Rev. Washington Gladden's new collection of essays, "The New Idolatry," just published by McClure, Phillips & Co., takes its title from the first paper, in which the author deplores the tendency of the age, and in this country especially, to place money at the forefront of our desires and to make its acquisition the controlling factor in our lives and aspirations. The burden of all ten of the articles rests upon the problems raised by the rapid accumulation of wealth in this country, and by the manner in which its use and distribution affect the characters of men and the institutions of religion, education and government. The general question, "Shall Illgotten Gains Be Sought for Christian Purposes?" treated in one of the papers, finds more special application in that entitled "Standard Oil and Foreign Missions," while "Tainted Money," "The Ethics of Luxurious Expenditure," "Religion and Democracy" indicate the general trend of his discussions. The author's position, which is well known through a recent agitation in the public press, is indicated by his concluding paragraphs in the paper on "Standard Oil and Foreign Missions":

Finally, the national aspects of this question press upon our attention. This nation is facing a crisis in its history. Our easygoing optimism may ignore it, but the battle is on between corporate greed and industrial freedom. Enormous aggregations of capital are seeking to gather up and control not only the railways and the mines and the food supply of the people, but the government itself. . . . Now it is undeniable that among the powers and influences which have led the nation into the peril which now threatens us—the peril arising from aggregations of selfish wealth—none has been more potent or more ruthless than that which it is now proposed to take into partnership in our missionary work. It is an impossible suggestion. As Christian patriots we cannot think of it. We must keep our churches from all entangling alliances with the enemies of our country, no matter in what guise they may appear. Failure here will be the costliest blunder that the Church has ever made.

The final volume of "The Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" is nearly ready for publication by Dodd, Mead & Co. It will be devoted to fac-simile reproductions of the original charts and maps made by Lewis and Clark on the expedition. These maps trace accurately for the first time the route of the famous explorers, thus determining the much disputed question of how the expedition crossed the Rocky Mountains. Many, if not most, of these maps were lost sight of for a great many years, but they have now, so far as can be determined by the records, all been located and secured for this monumental source publication, just one hundred years after the arrival of the explorers at their camp on River Dubois.

One of the chapters in Oliver Bronson Capen's "Country Homes of Famous Americans" (Doubleday, Page & Co.), is devoted to the home of Whittier, and in it the author gives a new and interesting account of the pains taken by Mr. Ordway, a Haverhill shoe manufacturer, to secure a photograph of the old Whittier kitchen as it looked in the poet's day. The incident occurred, of course, before the birthplace had been purchased as a memorial to Whittier. Mr. Capen says:

At that time the tenants on the unkempt farm used the mother's little bedroom as a potato bin, and the front room, in which the poet was born, as a storeroom. Across the centre of the kitchen a partition had been built, dividing it into two rooms. To photograph the kitchen as it was in Whittier's boyhood, it was necessary to take back to it the old furniture and to remove the unsightly partition. Mr. Ordway carted the furniture to the farmhouse all the way from Amesbury, eight miles distant. The armchair that Whittier and his father and grandfather had used was found in the woodshed. The simple, round, bandy legged kitchen table was taken from the attic. The poet told him minutely where everything belonged.

Harry V. Radford, the enthusiastic young champion of the Adirondacks, has written and published through the Broadway Publishing Company a small volume by way of a biographical appreciation of his prototype, the Rev. W. H. H. Murray, more widely known as "Adirondack Murray." Mr. Murray had chosen Mr. Radford to be his biographer, but death intervened before the material was sufficiently ample for the preparation of a more complete and serious work than the brief but suggestive sketch now presented to the public.

A catalogue of the English and American chap books and broadside ballads in the Harvard College library has just been issued. These comprise some 2,500 or more different individual varieties. The catalogue is the joint work of Charles Welsh and Mr. Tillinghast, the assistant librarian. William Coolidge Lane, the librarian contributes a preface in which he thus describes the methods of the English chapmen:

The chapmen travelled all over the kingdom, visiting every town and hamlet; a considerable number of these little books (generally of only eight, twelve or sixteen pages), besides burdles of broadside ballads, could easily be carried in their packs and must have commanded a ready sale. The chapmen thus became the purveyors of literature to the common people before libraries, bookstores, easy means of communication, and modern methods of publication had made cheap books of a better grade accessible. They did their work effectively, and libraries and library commissions at the present day, in send out travelling libraries, are beginning to adapt the chapmen's methods to their own ends. Chapbooks cover a wide range of subjects; they preserve a record of many details of manners and customs, superstitions and prejudices; they reflect the popular point of view in ways that might otherwise disappear; and they transmit to us a host of romances, songs, jests and anecdotes in the form popular at the time of their production.

Lucian I. Fosdick is the author of a book which the Fleming H. Revell Company has now in press that aims to throw some new light on the make-up of our cosmopolitan population, but going back to Colonial times. The book is called "French Blood in America," and in it the author presents a mass of information that he has collected in regard to the early French immigrants and the part they and their descendants have played in our national development, showing how many of the names that are now household words in American history—such as Revere, Faneuil, Bowdoin and Dana in New-England; Jay, Desbrosses, Hamilton and a host of others, in New-York; Girard and Bayard, in Pennsylvania—were those of French refugees who sought asylum in our colonies at the time of the persecution of the Huguenots in France.

A modern sanatorium with its complicated machinery for leading the "simple life" furnishes Kate Douglas Wiggin with material for a humorous short story, "Philippa's Nervous Prostration," which will appear in the January Scribner.

A newcomer in the magazine field, that makes its first appearance in attractive form, printed on coated paper and handsomely illustrated with half tone reproductions of photographs, is "Army and Navy Life," which announces that it is "conducted by officers of the American Army, Navy and National Guard, and devoted to the instruction, information and entertainment of every branch of the service." Arthur S. Ford is the managing editor, and his associate editors are Rear Admirals Robley D. Evans and Joseph B. Coghlan, of the United States Navy; Colonels Charles W. Larned, H. O. Heistand and George C. Greenough, of the army; Colonel Edward E. Britton and Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel B. Thurston, of the National Guard of New-York; besides Captains Tieman N. Horn and James A. Shipton, of the artillery; Captain March B. Stewart, of the infantry; Lieutenant William Roberts, of the medical department, and Lieutenant Edward E. Farnsworth. The contents of the first number include a portrait of President Roosevelt in colors, and articles on such appropriate and timely topics as "Lessons of the Russo-Japanese War," by Prince Louis of Battenberg; "The Nelson Centenary," "The Efficiency of the National Guard," "England's New Naval Base," "Management of Post Exchanges," "Army and Navy Sports," etc.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

ART.

ENGLISH FURNITURE. By Frederick S. Robinson. Illustrated. 4to, pp. x, 863. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

In "The Connoisseur's Library," edited by Cyril Davenport.

BIOGRAPHY.

THE MEMOIRS OF ROSE EYTINGE. Being Recollections and Observations of Men, Women and Events during Half a Century. By Rose Eytinge. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xii, 311. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

Memories of Edwin Booth, Lester Wallack, E. L. Davenport, Augustin Daly, E. A. Sothern and other prominent figures in the dramatic profession.

RUSSELL H. CONWELL, Founder of the Industrial Church in America. By Agnes Rush Burr. With his two famous lectures, entitled "Acres of Diamonds" and "Personal Glimpses of Celebrated Men and Women." With an appreciative introduction by Floyd W. Tomkins, D. D., LL. D. 12mo, pp. xxii, 365. (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company.)

FICTION.

THE RENEGADE AND OTHER TALES. By Martha Wolfenstein. 12mo, pp. 322. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

Stories of the ghetto.

SEFFY. A Little Comedy of Country Manners. By John Luther Long. Illustrated by C. D. Williams. 12mo, pp. 143. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co.)

A KNIGHT OF THE TOILERS. By Arthur Newell. 12mo, pp. 270. (Philadelphia: F. L. Marsh & Co.)

The story of a strike.

HISTORY.

THE RESHAPING OF THE FAR EAST. By B. L. Putnam Weale. With numerous illustrations from photographs. In two volumes. 8vo, pp. xvi, 548; x, 535. (The Macmillan Company.)

These volumes are complementary to the author's previous work, "Manchu and Muscovite," and deal mainly with the territories lying north of the Yang-tse.

JUVENILE.

GIRLS AND BOYS. With full page color plates after drawings by Emilie Benson Knipe, and with new stories and verses by Alice Calhoun Haines. 4to. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

JAPANESE CHILD LIFE. With numerous full page color plates by Alice Mar, and stories and verses by Alice Calhoun Haines. 4to. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

JOGGING ROUND THE WORLD. Riders and Drivers, with Curious Steeds or Vehicles, in Strange Lands and at Home. With numerous illustrations. 4to, pp. 78. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

Picturing the elephants of India, the camels of the desert, the dogs of Holland and France, the jinrickshas of Japan and other strange means of transportation.

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE HAPPY HEART FAMILY. By Virginia Gerson. Illustrated. 4to, pp. 47. (Fox, Duffield & Co.)

CHILDREN OF OTHER DAYS. Notable Pictures of Children of Various Countries and Times, after Paintings by Great Masters. With Stories and Descriptions by N. Hudson Moore. 4to, pp. viii, 76. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

SIR TOADY CRUSOE. By S. R. Crockett. Illustrated by Gordon Browne. 12mo, pp. x, 336. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

The further adventures of Sir Toady Lion, who appears in this story under the new name of Crusoe.

THE DENIM ELEPHANT. Illustrated in colors by Emily Carter Wight. 12mo. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

CON, THE WIZARD. By John Howard Jewett. With eight illustrations in color by Edward R. Little, and numerous illustrations in black and white by Oliver Herford. 12mo, pp. 123. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

THE BOY'S LIFE OF CHRIST. By William Byron Forbush. With eight half tone illustrations. 12mo, pp. 318. (Funk & Wagnalls Company.)

LITERATURE.

ON TEN PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE. By Stopford A. Brooke. 8vo, pp. 311. (Henry Holt & Co.)

The dramas commented upon are "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," "Richard II," "Richard III," "Merchant of Venice," "As You Like It," "Macbeth," "Coriolanus," "A Winter's Tale," and "The Tempest."

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: HIS PLAYS. By Henry L. Mencken. 12mo, pp. xxix, 101. (Boston: John W. Luce & Co.)

Essays on the various plays and a short biographical sketch.

LETTERS OF HENRIK IBSEN. Translated by John Nilsen Laurvik and Mary Morrison. With portrait. 8vo, pp. 463. (Fox, Duffield & Co.)

Covering a period of more than fifty years and containing much of biographical and literary interest.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE ABOLITIONISTS. Together with Personal Memoirs of the Struggle for Human Rights, 1830–'64. By John F. Hume. 12mo, pp. 224. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

FRENZIED FINANCE. By Thomas W. Lawson. Vol. I. "The Crime of the Amalgamated." 12mo, pp. xix, 559. (The Ridgway-Thayer Company.)

Containing also extracts from various newspapers and periodicals in criticism of Mr. Lawson and his work.

MUSIC.

THE OXFORD HISTORY OF MUSIC. Vol. II. The Polyphonic Period. By H. E. Wooldridge, M. A. Vol. VI. The Romantic Period. By Edward Dannreuther. 8vo, pp. viii, 418; viii, 374. (Henry Frowde.)

POETRY.

THE DREAM CHILD, AND OTHER VERSES. By Norma K. Bright. 12mo, pp. 80. (The Grafton Press.)

THE VALLEY OF DREAMS. By H. Hayden Sands. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 128. (Boston: Alfred Bartlett.)

POLITICAL SCIENCE.

FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY. By William Bell Robertson. 12mo, pp. xiii, 249. (London: The Walter Scott Publishing Company.)

RELIGION.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. A Critical and Speculative Treatise of Man's Religious Experience and Development in the Light of Modern Science and Reflective Thinking. By George Trumbull Ladd, LL. D. In two volumes. 8vo, pp. xx, 616; xii, 590. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

THE RELIGION OF THE INCARNATION. Short Practical Papers on Doctrinal Subjects. By the Rev. Charles Fiske, B. D. With commendatory note by the Bishop of New-Jersey. 12mo, pp. x, 280. (Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Company.)

THE LIVING CHURCH ANNUAL. A Church Cyclopædia and Almanac. For 1906. 12mo, pp. 434. (Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Company.)

THE WORK OF PREACHING. A Book for the Classroom and Study. By Arthur S. Hoyt, D. D. 12mo, pp. ix, 355. (The Macmillan Company.)

COMMUNITY LIFE FOR WOMEN. By Sister Eva Mary. With an introduction by Boyd Vincent, D. D. 12mo, pp. xii, 160. (Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Company.)

REPRINTS.

THE TIMES AND THE TEACHING OF JOHN WESLEY. By Arthur W. Little, D. D., L. H. D. 12mo, pp. 68. (Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Company.)

TRAVEL AND TOPOGRAPHY.

SAILORS' NARRATIVES OF VOYAGES ALONG THE NEW-ENGLAND COAST. 1524–1624. With notes by George Parker Winship, of the John Carter Brown Library. 8vo, pp. 292. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

Chronicles by Verrazano, Champlain, Gilbert, Hudson, John Smith and other famous explorers, each furnished with a brief introductory note by the editor. The volume is in the series of special editions printed at the Riverside Press.

COSTLY TIMBER ON VIEW.

Rare Woods from Philippines at Natural History Museum.

Several new collections and exhibits are now being prepared for display at the American Museum of Natural History. The most important of these is a collection of woods from the Philippines. The collection is the largest and the finest in the world. It is part of the forestry exhibit which the government had at the St. Louis Exposition. It was included in the twenty carloads of ethnological specimens which the government has turned over to the museum.

The value of some of the pieces of timber in the collection would make the owner of a woodyard look green with envy. One plank is valued at $71 50 a foot. It is a piece of calantas, 33½ feet long and 6 feet wide. Alongside it will be exhibited the largest plank of American wood in the East. It is 18 feet long and 6 feet wide. The comparison is not in favor of the American wood.

The woods are in most instances hard as stone and very beautiful. One great cross section of an Agana buttrass, valued at $2,000, varies in color from a deep claret to a bright yellow. This collection will occupy what is known as the north approach of the museum, on the ground floor.

In another wing of the same floor, the museum is preparing a beautiful series of glass and wax models of sea life. Experts have pronounced the pieces so far made as perhaps superior to the famous glass flowers made by the Blaschka family and preserved at Harvard University. The work is being executed by a remarkable glassblower, with the assistance and under the direction of Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, of the department of invertebrate zoology.

Probably the most remarkable specimen was a six-inch model of the radiolarian, a microscopic form of life of the Pacific. Through the use of a high power glass, a drawing was made of the creature and from it the glassblower and Dr. Dahlgren made the model. This consists of a central globe of interlaced spirals of glass, with innumerable slender rays of the same material extending outward in every direction. This is of bluish gray, like the shell of the organism. The speck of life is a red ball of wax in the centre of the globelike shell. All of the models are colored like the originals. One of the most remarkable things about the work is that the models are made from pictures and drawings, having, of course, flat surfaces. In the cases are pink hydroids from Japan, each with a hundred tentacles extending in all directions; a giant sea anemone from the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, having 1,600 glass headed pins representing tentacles stuck into its dull red wax body; polyzoa, the large jellylike moss animals with lacelike skeletons, and dozens of other models, all worthy of inspection. Beside soome of the models there will be microscopes and vessels of alcohol showing the originals.

Dr. Hovey first exhibited on Saturday his four models of Martinique and Mount Pelee. He visited the island at the time of the great eruptions in May, 1902.

Eight new hippotamus skulls, from Nagami, British South Africa, showing eight different developments at as manny different ages, and four giraffe skulls of extraordinary size, also from Africa, have just been placed on view.

A NEW ANAESTHETIC.

An Important Discovery Regarding Properties of Epsom Salts.

A new and important use has been found for sulphate of magnesium, commonly known as Epsom salts. Hitherto its chief, or sole, medicinal service has been that of a laxative, and the substance has been taken into the stomach, as most other remedies are. The discovery has been made by Dr. S. J. Meltzer and Dr. John Auer, of this city, that when introduced into the system in another way it has an anæsthetic effect.

Dr. Meltzer told the Academy of Medicine the other night about the long series of experiments which had justified this announcement; and his statement is reproduced in full in the current "Medical Record." The preliminary work was done at the Rockefeller Research Laboratory, but tests have recently been made at several hospitals in twelve surgical cases. In eight a limited use of chloroform was made in addition to the sulphate of magnesium; in four only the latter agent was employed.

If a solution of the salt be injected into a patient's veins the action is very rapid. Respiration is checked, and a general paralysis of the whole body ensues. If the injection be subcutaneous the influence is more gradual, but complete unconsciousness results. If the solution be applied only to a particular trunk nerve, its influence is limited to the limb or other locality to which the nerve normally ministers.

Finally, if "lumbar puncture" be resorted to, only that portion of the body below the waist is affected—that is to say, the abdominal region and the legs—while the upper part of the body retains its sensibility and the mind its faculties. Lumbar puncture is piercing the spinal cavity near the lumbar vertebræ (in the small of the back). Dr. J. Leonard Corning has shown that cocaine can be employed advantageously in this manner when a formidable operation below the waist is desirable and when chloroform is not safe.

Dr. Meltzer and Dr. Auer have found sulphate of magnesium will produce the same effects when injected into the spinal cavity. Indeed, in the twelve cases in which the new anæsthetic was tested, this method of employing it was adopted. The full effect was not produced for about three hours. It should be added that a severe case of tetanus was cured in thirty-six hours by this treatment. Recovery from the influence of the drug can be hastened by injecting a solution of common salt.

In one case, where such "irrigation" was not employed, the benumbing influence lasted for several days, though usually it ended in from eight to fourteen hours. The temporary partial paralysis extended occasionally to some of the internal organs in the abdomen. Again, with the return of sensitiveness in one instance there were "irradiating" pains in the legs. Whether this unpleasant consequence was due to the drug or to the puncture, Dr. Meltzer was unable to say. He advises keeping the apparatus used to produce artificial respiration at hand when a surgeon expects to try magnesium sulphate. Dr. Meltzer says that the proper dose is one cubic centimetre of a 25 per cent solution for every twenty or twenty-five pounds of the patient's weight.

CHINESE STUDY U. S.

High Commissions Named by Empress Dowager Coming Soon.

The two high commissions named by the Empress Dowager of China to visit the principal countries of Europe and America, to get information on their government and their industries to be used when the constitutional government of China is formed, will visit the United States early in the coming year. A. W. Bash, the founder of the Hankow Railroad and the Chinese representative of the Chinese Investment and Construction Company of America, now here, has received a cable message in which it is stated that the party which will be headed by Duke Tsai, with Grand Counsellor Hsu, will reach Seattle on or about February 25, and will come through Chicago and other Western cities to this city. Governor Tuan's party will arrive at San Francisco about the same time the other reaches Seattle.

The duke's party, for which these arrangements are made, will make an unofficial visit only to the United States, the Governor's party being officially accredited to this government. The other is accredited to France. All the men of the European party are men of culture, most of them men who have received their education in Europe or in America. It is planned to have the itinerary include, besides New-York, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Chicago, Niagara Falls, Ithaca, West Point, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Cambridge, New-Haven and Albany.

HAD A COUSIN THAT WAS ARRESTED.

Longshoreman Admits It's His First Offence, but Boasts of Relative.

"Well, Robert, what have you to say to the charge of being drunk last night?" asked Magistrate Barlow of Robert Obry, a brawny longshoreman, who was arraigned in Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday morning, charged with being intoxicated on 13th-ave. on Saturday night.

"Nothin,' yer honor," was the response. "Only that I was loaded."

"Were you ever arrested before?"

"No, sur, yer honor. Never before in my life, sur," came the statement with some show of pride. Then it seemed to occur to the prisoner that he should establish some connection with the court, even though somewhat remote, for he added quite seriously:

"But I had a cousin wuz."

While every one who heard the remark was roaring with laughter the magistrate suppressed his merriment long enough to remark:

"Well, Robert, I don't exactly see how that circumstance can put us on a basis of friendship, but I'll let you go this time. However, don't follow in the footsteps of that cousin again."

Obry promised immediate reformation.

CARNEGIE TO SPEAK AT TUSKEGEE.

Andrew Carnegie, in addition to President Eliot and Secretary Taft, has accepted an invitation to be one of the speakers at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute on April 4, 5 and 6. A large party of New-York friends are planning to be present on that occasion.

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