FOR THE BUSY MAN.

Constant Reader Tells What He Missed in Last Week's Papers.

"I heard that there was a famine down South," said the Busy Man, "but I didn't believe it."

"I am glad you didn't," responded the Constant Reader, "for there is no famine down South. Instead, it's in the Northwest. The railroads in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana have not furnished enough cars to supply many communities in that part of the country with fuel and food. The winter has brought great suffering. At hearings which the Interstate Commerce Commission has been holding at Minneapolis, to learn why the railroads have been unable to provide adequate transportation facilities, it was learned that in some regions farmers were burning their fences and outbuildings to keep from freezing. It also was brought out that this car shortage has greatly depressed the price of wheat, that at many points wheat was rotting on the ground because it could not be marketed, and that at other places the farmers had either to sell their wheat for little or nothing or haul it back home again. The President has taken a deep interest in the car shortage question, having received complaints not only from the Northwest, but many other parts of the United States. As a result of his efforts coal cars are being rushed to the suffering districts. Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota, visited the White House to show Mr. Roosevelt a bill giving the Interstate Commerce Commission the necessary authority to investigate and order the dispatch of cars from one part of the country to another, where, in its judgment, the cars are more needed."

"But what does the commission itself think about the question?" asked the Busy Man impetuously.

"According to its annual report, the commission says that there is a regular freight car famine in almost every section of the country," replied the Constant Reader. "In some localities it has amounted almost to a calamity. The extraordinary prosperity which everywhere abounds, with the high prices obtainable for all classes of commodities, says the commission, has so stimulated production as to yield a volume of transportation business which far exceeds in the aggregate the carrying capacity of the railroads."

"I still hear a great deal of talk," said the Busy Man, "about those Negro soldiers whom the President discharged. I was told yesterday that the President regretted his action and had reinstated these Negroes."

"He did just the opposite," replied the Constant Reader. "In a message to Congress Mr. Roosevelt defended his action in vigorous language. He gave in detail the facts about the rioting of Negro Companies B, C and D, of the 25th Infantry, at Brownsville, Tex., which led him to discharge nearly all the members of those companies. The evidence proved conclusively, the President said, that a number of soldiers engaged in a deliberate and concerted attack, as coldblooded as it was cowardly, the purpose being to terrorize the community and to kill or injure men, women and children in their homes and beds or in the streets. A blacker crime, the President said, never stained the annals of the American army. Nevertheless, Senator Foraker has taken up the cudgels with the President in behalf of the discharged soldiers, and in a speech on the floor of the Senate he said that Mr. Roosevelt had violated the Constitution, had misconceived his duties and misrepresented the facts. As a consequence, the Senate Committee on Military Affairs will no doubt make a full and searching inquiry into the Brownsville rioting.

"The President was especially active last week. He broke all records by sending to Congress three other messages, all in one day, in which he discussed the Panama Canal, the personnel of the navy and the Land law."

"Lots of news in Washington these days," remarked the Busy Man. "Things certainly keep moving there."

"There was some moving in the different departments last week, if nowhere else," responded the Constant Reader. "Oscar S. Straus took office as the new Secretary of Commerce and Labor. He succeeded Victor H. Metcalf, who became Secretary of the Navy, in place of Mr. Bonaparte, who took the post of Attorney General. Mr. Bonaparte took the place of Mr. Moody, who became a justice of the United States Supreme Court. Meantime the Postoffice Department reports an increase in revenues of more than $15,000,000 over those of 1905, the greatest increase in the history of the service."

"There seems to be a lull in the war against the trusts just at present," said the Busy Man as he lighted another cigar.

"I don't know why you think so," returned the Constant Reader. "The Attorney General of this state last week began action against the American Ice Company to dissolve it, alleging that it was a trust. The federal government also began its fight to break up the licorice monopoly, producing letters in court to show how prices were advanced by the agreement of competitors. Indeed, the prosecution announced that it had evidence which should obtain a prison sentence for violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law. The Standard Oil has been under the probe of Herbert S. Hadley, the Attorney General of Missouri, and witnesses at an inquiry conducted in this city made statements so damaging to the Oil Trust that the trust practically abandoned the fight. These witnesses testified that the Republic and Waters-Pierce oil companies of Missouri were in fact subsidiary companies of the Standard, and that the head of the Republic, in fact, drew a salary directly from the Rockefeller corporation. George Burnham, jr., vice-president of the Mutual Reserve Life, was sentenced to two years in prison for grand larceny."

"I understand Columbia University received a big grant of land," said the Busy Man.

"You mean the New York University," responded the Constant Reader. "Through the generosity of Mrs. Russell Sage that institution received the Schwab property, costing $295,000 and having an area of fourteen acres. It adjoins the university grounds on the north. And here's other news for you. Governor-elect Hughes, to learn how the Brooklyn Bridge jam may be remedied, travelled over the bridge in the height of the rush hour. Albert T. Patrick has escaped the electric chair, his death sentence being commuted to life imprisonment. The news, however, bitterly disappointed the prisoner, as he said he had hoped for a pardon."

"In our last talk you said that France was seeking the enforcement of the Separation act as quietly as possible," said the Busy Man. "Has this course pacified the Pope?"

"No, the Vatican is still opposed to any recognition of the law dissolving Church and State," replied the Constant Reader. "Nevertheless, the law is being put into effect and thirty or more ecclesiastical residences and more than a half score of seminaries have been evacuated by the Catholics. Meantime the Chamber of Deputies is discussing a new law which may prove more acceptable to Catholics. It simply places the clergy under the common law. The anti-clerical spirit in France has aroused a similar feeling in Italy. In Rome the Vatican even had to be guarded by troops to prevent an assault upon it by mobs."

"I saw that some bishop was dead," said the Busy Man.

"Bishop Charles C. McCabe, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died at the New York Hospital," replied the Constant Reader. "Others who died last week were General George A. Marden, for many years Assistant Treasurer of the United States; Charles Fremont Cochran, a former Congressman from Missouri; Edward Livingston, a wealthy member of the old New York family of this name, and James S. Coleman, ex-Street Cleaning Commissioner and one of the firm which built the new Croton dam."

LAKEWOOD VISITORS.

Many to Spend Holiday Season and To Be Entertained There.

Lakewood, N. J., Dec. 22 (Special).—Each train to-day brought many visitors to spend the Christmas holidays here. From the Lakewood Hotel down to the boarding cottages the resort is filled.

In true English fashion Christmas will be celebrated at the Lakewood Hotel. The Yule log will blaze in the big fireplace in the lobby, and at noon the brimming wassail bowl will be brought on by two waiters dressed as "beefeaters," and the Christmas punch will be served to the patrons of the Lakewood and their guests. The cotillon will be danced on Christmas Eve, and on the following evening there will be a ball. The ballroom will be decked in greenery, in the branches of which hundreds of tiny electric lights will shine.

The theatre of the Lakewood Hotel will be crowded Friday evening when the playlet "Hurly-Burly" will be given by the Dramatic Club of Columbia University. Many of the cottagers have planned to give dinner parties at the Lakewood Hotel that evening, and take their guests to the play. There will be dancing in the ballroom after the entertainment.

Mrs. George Eggleston Dodge, of New York, will be the hostess of a Christmas party at the Lakewood Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. John S. Rogers, of New York, will be among her guests. Mrs. Rogers was Miss Catherine A. Cossitt Dodge. Her marriage to Mr. Rogers took place last spring.

John D. Rockefeller came to Lakewood this week to play golf, and, incidentally, to look over the work that has been done at his country place here since last spring. He was especially interested in the new skating pond, to cover an expanse of five acres. Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller will not open their home here until after the holidays. Mr. Rockefeller is staying with his son-in-law, Professor Charles A. Strong, at his cottage, in Lake Drive.

Mrs. Kingdon was the hostess at a bridge luncheon at Georgian Court this week. Those who enjoyed her hospitality were Mrs. Edward Ernest Matthews, Mrs. Arthur B. Claflin, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Arthur Ryle, Mrs. O. B. Huntsman and Mrs. Joseph Blanchard.

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gould will have a small company of friends join them in celebrating the Christmas festival at Georgian Court. The Gould children will have a big Christmas tree, and there will also be a tree for the servants. Jay Gould is to take part in the court tennis matches at Tuxedo in Christmas week, and Mr. and Mrs. Gould will go there for a few days.

One of the notable social affairs of the Lakewood season is the musical and reception which Dr. and Mrs. William Gray Schauffler are giving at their home, in Madison avenue, this evening. Cottage society turned out in force for this entertainment. Mrs. Schauffler is assisted in receiving by Mrs. Robert Haven Schauffler, Mrs. Frederick A. Howard, Miss Frances Karr and Miss Harriet Spining.

William B. Coster, of New York, has taken the Randolph cottage, at 6th street and Madison avenue, for the rest of the season.

Many patrons of the Laurel House will entertain house parties there over Christmas and New Year's. Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Fairfax will have Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton R. Fairfax and Miss Fairfax, of Stuttgart, Germany, and Mrs. Anna Bradford, of Lenox, as their guests. Dr. and Mrs. Kip and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, of New York, will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Rhinelander.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Pratt are among the Brooklynites who will spend Christmas at the Laurel House. Among former patrons of the hotel who returned this week are Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jamison, Mrs. Robert A. Jamison and the Misses Jamison, of Pittsburg.

Miss Frances de Peyster, of New York, is visiting Miss Dorothy Randolph at the Laurel House.

The Country Club of Lakewood will give a series of entertainments at the clubhouse this winter. The opening entertainment will be on New Year's night.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Colton, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Healy and Mr. and Mrs. George R. Valentine have joined the colony of Brooklynites at the Laurel-in-the-Pines.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Betz, of Philadelphia, are at the Laurel-in-the-Pines for the holidays.

Mrs. H. K. Schuyler, of New York, has joined a party of friends at the Hotel Wrisley. Mrs. J. J. Cogan, of Jersey City, is chaperoning a party of young people at the Wrisley.

The Palmer House, the Manhattan and the Bartlett Inn are enjoying an exceedingly prosperous holiday patronage. Many New Yorkers are staying at these hotels over the holidays.

ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

Graft Investigation Proceeding Slowly—Spreckels's Revelation.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The graft investigation has been moving slowly this week, but one important development may be noted—the statement by Rudolph Spreckels that Abraham Ruef agreed to stir up a streetcar strike in San Francisco to depreciate the price of municipal bonds which he wished Spreckels to buy. This is the most serious charge that has yet been made against Ruef in its effect on public opinion, as it shows the boss absolutely devoid of anything like consideration for the welfare of the city, out of which he has made a great fortune in five years. Mayor Schmitz has decided to stand trial alone, but this change of plan does not mean that he has abandoned Ruef. It is simply a scheme of clever lawyers to tie up both the Ruef case and the inquiry of the grand jury so that the court will be so much absorbed in the trial of the Mayor's case that it cannot attend to either of the others.

President Duffy of the Board of Public Works is forcing property owners on the main streets to lay temporary sidewalks and has compelled the United Railroads to put into condition streets which they tore up to lay their tracks.

The Larkin and Polk and the Taylor street crosstown lines are running. The Haight street electric and the Hyde & O'Farrel cable lines are in operation. By Christmas the United Railroads promises to have cars running on the Powell street cable line from Market street to North Beach.

The "earthquake edition" of Stanford 1907 "Quad" was published this week. The original edition was destroyed in the fire, and much difficulty was experienced in getting out this second edition, as both the "dummy" and the copy were lost.

George Compere, the entomologist, has returned from China with a parasite that will speedily destroy the red scale which has wrought such havoc among Southern California orange groves. He is employed to find parasites for fruit destroying pests. Compere found this new parasite in the Canton district of China.

The agreement of Secretary Hitchcock to expend $620,000 for the irrigation of 12,000 acres near Orlando, in Glenn County, has given much encouragement to those who have been working for irrigation on all arid lands in Sacramento Valley. There are over 2,500,000 acres in this valley which would yield enormous crops if abundant water were supplied.

Oil producers of the midway field, near Bakersfield, refuse to sell their output to the Standard Oil Company for less than 30 cents a barrel, the highest price demanded for years. The Standard wants this oil because it is light and valuable to them to mix with heavier grades. The Standard will not build a forty-mile pipe line unless it can obtain a contract for six million gallons.

Representatives of various commercial bodies met in Los Angeles this week and agreed upon a recommendation that it would be undesirable to promote a world's fair in 1915. They argue that the reaction following such an exposition overbalances the benefits derived from it.

A remarkable reason was given this week by the attorney for Anton Besold for withdrawing from his client's case. Besold is being tried at Los Angeles for the brutal murder of his invalid wife in a lonely canyon. Her body was found, and the police established a strong case against Besold. The attorney declared that his wife believed Besold guilty and insisted so strongly on his withdrawal that he consented.

Two women of Dawson have made complete collections of all the wild flowers of the Yukon. These collections of pressed flowers, numbering two hundred and four specimens, are on exhibition at Dawson. One will be sent to Canada and the other to this country.

Representatives of shipping associations, railroads and mercantile bodies met this week to discuss a mode of reform in management of wharfs and docks. It was shown that present methods of management are antiquated and expensive and that the business of the port is seriously injured by high wharfage rates and poor accommodations.

Ever since pioneer days San Francisco merchants have regulated payments of bills by steamer days, falling on the 10th and 28th of each month. Before the days of railroads two steamers left each month for New York by way of Panama on these dates, and all accounts had to be settled then or no future credit could be obtained. This system has since been maintained. This week the Merchants' Association decided to abolish "Steamer Day" and make all bills payable by the 10th of the month by check.

For the first time since the fire a first class Eastern theatrical company has given an entertainment in San Francisco. This was Maxine Elliott's company, which presented Clyde Fitch's "Her Great Match" at the Novelty Theatre, leased by Gottlob Marsh & Co., who used to conduct the Columbia. The house was crowded every night at $2 a seat, which shows that San Francisco is still willing to pay for good entertainment. At the Central, Guy Bates Post appeared as the star in "The Heir to the Hoorah." He will be succeeded by the Lombardi Italian Opera Company.

Activity in building in the burned district was greater this week than ever before. Pleasant weather has permitted the work to go on uninterruptedly, and scores of new structures have been begun.

NATIONAL GUARD NEWS.

Ex-Colonel John T. Camp of the 22d Regiment will be honored by a review of his old command on Wednesday evening, January 9, at the armory, and upon this occasion the newly organized Defendam Association, of which Colonel Camp is president, will be present in a body to renew old comradeship. The Christmas tree entertainment of Company E will be held next Friday night at the armory. Santa Claus will be there, and all the women guests, as well as the members of the company, will receive presents. Supper will be served. The tickets are 75 cents. Company C has received a handsome hall clock from the state as a prize for its superior rifle shooting at Creedmoor.

A review of the 13th Regiment will be held next Friday night at the armory by George Washington Post, G. A. R. Captain George W. Johnston, of Company M, who resigned recently, will continue on duty with the regiment until early in January. Lieutenant Harry Herman will probably succeed him.

Major W. S. Terriberry, the surgeon commanding the Field Hospital of the National Guard, has now thirty competent men enlisted in the organization. He has received a complete set of the latest horse furniture from the United States government, as well as a complete medical equipment for the field. The men will practise horsemanship in the 1st Battery armory, in addition to their medical duties.

The next review of the 23d Regiment will be held about the middle of January. One of the reviews during the season will be by Governor Hughes. The regiment will send a company of thirty-two files to the Old Guard ball on January 24. Lance Corporal J. J. O'Gorman, of Company K, has been appointed battalion quartermaster sergeant.

Company L, of the 14th Regiment, will shortly elect Second Lieutenant W. H. Clayton to the position of first lieutenant. Sergeant E. D. Lyon, of Company I has been promoted to quartermaster sergeant.

Company A, of the 47th Regiment, will hold a smoker on January 5 at the armory. Captain J. D. Kleymeyer of Company G and Lieutenant S. Peck, of Company K, have resigned on account of business.

A regimental drill by the 69th regiment will be held next Thursday night, preparatory to a review soon to be arranged. Company I will hold a beefsteak dinner at the armory on January 5. Captain Healy has received many congratulations upon being appointed to serve on the staff of Governor Hughes.

Company F of the 7th Regiment has won the prize of $100 offered by the Veteran and Active League to the company securing the greatest number of members in the league. Every active member in the company joined. Companies E and F held enjoyable dinners last Tuesday night. Lieutenant C. O. Toussaint, battalion adjutant, who has been ill for several weeks, is now improving, and it is hoped that he will be able to resume his duties about the first of the year.

THE CITY-COUNTRY CLUB.

How Village Residents and Visitors Are Brought Together.

One of the most notable characteristics of the present-day urbanite is his interest in the country and his desire to get back to nature as much as possible. "It is a significant thing, and we may believe a hopeful sign, that the professional man in his city study or office feels the need of a broader view from some hilltop, that the counting house cannot hold a man from the scenes of his childhood's home, and that the soot of the city must be freshened by contact with the freshness and purity of nature," says Walter S. Newell in "The New England Magazine." While the intermingling of city and country people is beneficial to both, there is a sense of irresponsibility which characterizes too frequently the sojourn of the city guests in a rural community which gives the country people the impression that they are selfishly lazy rather than healthfully restful.

In order to give and receive the greatest possible amount of benefit from country life an experiment has been tried in the little hill town of Middlefield, Mass., and during the four years the new city-country club plan has been in operation it has drawn to itself considerable attention and favorable comment. The village is situated on a high ridge of hills, four miles from the railroad, and is naturally endowed with a magnificent outlook. Those who first became interested in this little town as a restful place for a summer colony invited the more public spirited of the local people to confer with them, and a city-country club was the result. In the very beginning of its history the ideal held up was to bring the city visitors and local country people into close and friendly touch with each other, "on a common footing, and to work for the permanent betterment of the community."

In the membership and board of officers of the club, Mr. Newell says, the local residents and city people are represented as equally as possible. For example, either the president or the vice-president must be a permanent resident of Middlefield, and in committee work the college student who is spending his vacation in the town is associated with the young man whose opportunities and duties have been circumscribed by the farm or the village life. The aim of the club, as expressed in a paper read by its first president, is first to develop the social life of the village; second, to encourage such literary and entertaining features as shall be helpful and attractive; third, to direct and provide athletic diversion, and fourth, to lead to village improvement, and to make the premises enhance and not mar the scenic effect of the hills which nature had made so attractive. The club has a village improvement committee, an entertainment committee, an athletic committee, a social committee, a natural history committee and an historical committee. The last named has an interesting task in its study of the local town history. The old roads and farm boundaries are being studied, the foundations of the old homes are being located, and the history of individual houses, giving so far as available the names of owners and residents, is being recorded and preserved.

Among the accomplishments of the first two years were the establishment of golf links, opening of a lawn tennis court, a little beauty spot made of a former mud hole in the village centre, a piano placed in the town hall for free public use, a cabinet placed in the town library and a natural history collection well started, an Old Home Week celebration arranged and carried out, being one of the first observances of the kind ever held in the state, connection established with the outside world by means of telephone and the development of dramatic, literary and musical talent in the village. The club has been valuable to the village in dollars and cents, for a good class of people are coming into the neighborhood and better prices are being paid for farm products. There is also a growing demand for summer homes for city people who desire comfort in a community where social as well as natural conditions are inviting.

BRITONS SELDOM MUTINY.

The British army and navy being the best disciplined and the most content in the world, mutinies among our forces have happily been very rare. Previous to the recent outbreak at Portsmouth the last British mutiny of note occurred on July 7, 1890, when the 2d Grenadier Guards, then at Wellington Barracks, refused to turn out on parade, only about six men of the whole battalion answering the bugle call. Eventually they were induced to assemble, but many, instead of appearing in full marching order, paraded in tunics and fatigue dress. For this insubordination the whole battalion was exiled to Bermuda for one year.

Leaving the mercantile marine out of the question, the last British naval mutiny of note—previous, of course, to the recent trouble—occurred as far back as December, 1801. This was the famous mutiny of the Bantry Bay squadron, the seriousness of which may be judged from the fact that seventeen of the mutineers were condemned to death and all the rest sentenced to receive two hundred lashes each. In those days very stern measures were adopted to quell insubordination in the navy.

Portsmouth has been the scene of a serious mutiny before. In 1797 the whole fleet stationed there "struck" for an advance of wages. The Admiralty appeased the men by a promise, which, however, was not quickly fulfilled, whereupon a second mutiny broke out. Admiral Colpoys and his captain ordered the marines to fire, and as some of the men were killed, these two officers were arrested for using unjustified harshness. Eventually the men's wages were raised and the mutineers were all pardoned.—Answers.

LOGIC IS LOGIC.

The Irish intellect is more often associated with wit than with logic, but an Irish workman recently silenced for a moment the upbraiding tongue of his foreman by a display of something which bore just enough resemblance to logic to confuse his hearer.

The workman enjoyed leaning on his hod and making shrewd observations much more than he did stirring about, and the cry of "Mort! Mort!" fell on dull ears.

"Why don't you attend to your hod and keep that man going?" demanded the foreman severely when Patrick was enjoying one of his frequent periods of rest.

Patrick raised his hod with a leisurely movement and turned a pair of twinkling eyes on his accuser.

"Sure, now," he said, easily, "if I was to keep him goin' all the time sorra a thing he'd say at all, at all; an' if he didn't say anything I'd be thinking he wasn't there. An' if he wasn't there, sorr, what would he be wantin' of morthar anyway?"—Youth's Companion.

MELTING FIRE CLAY WITH SUN'S RAYS.

There is an apparatus which concentrates the rays of the sun from more than six thousand small mirrors on a spot about seven inches in diameter. The heat generated is about 7,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Iron can be melted in less than a minute and fire clay fused in about three minutes by this machine. Magnesia, one of the hardest things to melt, requiring a heat of about 6,400 degrees Fahrenheit, can be reduced to a molten state in twenty minutes. For the benefit of those who wish to forget the name of this instrument, it has been christened the pyrheliophor.—Birmingham Weekly Post.

MIGRATION OF BIRDS.

Their Sense of Locality Well Developed.

The migration of birds is a subject which is full of interesting and difficult problems, and not the least interesting nor the least difficult of comprehension is the question how they find their way. About the admirable accuracy of their movements there is no question whatever. The willow warbler will come back year after year to occupy the same position, in the same tangle of grass and undergrowth, as the site for its nest. Others are no less accurate and punctual; but the exactness of this little bird is the more remarkable because of its apparently feeble powers of flight, which seem to leave it quite unprovided with the locomotive means required to bring it so unerringly to its goal. While the questions which migration presents are difficult enough of understanding, there is one which transcends all the rest in its obscurity. It is the question which is suggested by the fact, apparently quite well authenticated, that in the case of many species they are the young birds of the year that lead the migration flight. Of course this is the kind of fact which is very difficult of proof. It is open to the objector to say: "How do you know that there are not a few old birds, perhaps the barren birds of the year, taking part in the earliest migration flights of the species, and so giving a lead to the youngsters along a line which has become familiar to them through previous travel?" It is difficult to answer this objector satisfactorily, because he at once puts his opponent into the position of one who has to prove a negative, and we all know what an uncomfortable position that is. The pros and cons of the whole argument are far too long and intricate to enter into here. All we can do is to ask the reader to accept the verdict of such observers as Gatke and many more that the birds of the year in many cases do lead the migration flight, that some instinct acts as their compass and that they do not avail themselves of the guidance of any old or barren birds.

No doubt to ask credence for such a statement is to ask a good deal. The explanation sometimes offered, that these birds are led by inherited instinct along the migration lines followed by their forefathers, in some cases pursuing the course of a long-since submerged river or other visible guiding line, is an explanation almost as hard of acceptance as the original mystery which it is invoked to explain. Nor does the mystery become any less mysterious, though it becomes more possible of credence, even if not of comprehension, when we consider it alongside of other examples of a like kind with which natural history can furnish us. For it does not stand alone by any means. If it did, we might indeed ask credence for it in vain. The instinct, as it appears to be, which leads animals to direct their course to a certain spot without, so far as we are able to ascertain, any previous hint or indication of guidance, demonstrates itself in several remarkable ways besides that of the migration flight, but in none perhaps more remarkably than in the case of the guanaco, a species of llama of South America, which resorts in immense numbers to a certain place to die. In fact, it seems, from the accounts given by Darwin and by Mr. W. H. Hudson, that all the guanacos of the southern part of Patagonia must resort, when the hour of death approaches, to a certain spot in a certain riverbed which has become a perfect mausoleum of their bones. Mr. Hudson has hazarded a very ingenious hypothesis to account for this assemblage in the common mortuary. He notes, primarily, that it is only the guanaco of the southern extremity of the South American Continent that has this habit; which is as much as to say that it is a habit restricted to descendants of forefathers who lived at one time in an extremely rigorous, semi-Antarctic climate. Mr. Hudson conjectures that among these forefathers the instinct grew up, when the stress of hunger and cold was very dire and they felt its chill setting upon them, of resorting to this sheltered place in the river bed, where they might find warmth in their own closely collected numbers, and possibly food, which would enable them to outlive the days of extreme rigor. By a continual survival of those which betook themselves to this place of refuge the race instinct would be formed of resorting thither when they felt the tides of life running low. This feeling, Mr. Hudson argues, their descendants are likely to experience now at the approach of the hour of death, and in obedience to it to flock to the same resort. But now it is no longer just a passing spell of extreme cold which they can hope to survive that leads them thither. The death call has come, and they must lay their bones in the common mortuary. It is not "in order to die," as we so frequently say, with a very common error in considering the ways of animals, that the guanaco seeks this place; it would be nearer the truth if we were to say it was "in order to live." But the most true account of all, no doubt (if the hypothesis is accepted), is that it is with no conscious purpose at all, but in mere obedience to the inherited instinct, that the guanaco resorts to this refuge; and still the hypothesis, for all its ingenuity, leaves unanswered the question (save as it is answered by the so-called "explanation" of the migration flight) how the guanaco is guided to this shelter of its forefathers from the Antarctic cold. Yet another instance of what appears to be this wholly mysterious guidance is afforded by the well known habit of the rattlesnakes, in the colder countries of their range, to assemble together in great numbers for hibernation in caves. It seems to be pretty well established that the snakes, on emerging from these caves, cover long distances in their wanderings; that their young are generally born far away from the wintering place, and yet that these young, although they do not accompany their parents nor remain with them until the date of hibernation approaches, still succeed in finding their way to the caves with the greatest certainly.

All these, and many more which might be cited, are instances which tend to show that animals are led or guided, or whatever the word may be which will express most clearly a fact which is really quite obscure, by some force or influence which is distinct from anything that our senses reveal to us. But to say that they prove it would be to say too much.—The Spectator.

AMERICAN IMPORTS IN ARGENTINA.

"All the persons who notice the mercantile barometer of the La Plata countries in regard to the commercial interchange with Europe and North America have been convinced lately that there is a notable increase of imports from the United States to the Argentine Republic." In these words a leading newspaper of Buenos Ayres prefaced a description of the great commercial advantages already possessed in La Plata regions by American manufacturers and traders, advantages surely to be increased, it says, as a result of Mr. Root's visit to South America. The paper shows that, in the branch of agricultural and manufacturing machinery, "imports from the Yankees have trebled in the last three years. This can be said of other articles, of fine leather, glassware, bibelots, etc." Several firms, representing great American factories, are established in the central parts of Buenos Ayres, and their number will rapidly increase, thus popularizing many articles which "were not known in our markets. We begin to be appreciated as a good consuming market. The agents of several important factories in the United States who recently arrived at Buenos Ayres have told us that the highest hopes are expressed in New York and other mercantile centres in regard to the germs of progress and prosperity lying here. Therefore, many North American firms have begun sending over catalogues and samples, with a view to opening branch offices in our regions for the sale of their goods. These merchants and manufacturers hope for the establishment of a regular steamship line between New York and Buenos Ayres. The seven or eight cargo boats and passenger steamers now giving an insufficient service must be replaced by better vessels, which will help to expand the commercial relations between the United States and the Argentine Republic."

DR. S. LEWIN TO LECTURE ON DOUMAS.

Dr. Shmaryahu Lewin will deliver a lecture in the Russian language in the large auditorium of the Educational Alliance, East Broadway and Jefferson street, on the evening of December 25. Dr. H. Solotaroff will preside. The committee of arrangements consists of Dr. David Blaustein, Abraham H. Fromensohn, Elias W. Lewin-Epstein, Abraham L. Lubarsky and the Rev. Dr. Judah L. Magnis.

The lecturer will speak of the late Douma and its Jewish members, what may be expected of the next Douma, the general situation in Russia, and especially of the condition in Russia of the Jews.

A WASP TREE.

The stinging tree of Australia somewhat resembles a gigantic nettle. It has an unpleasant odor, and the natives and native animals are careful to avoid it. When a man is stung by the tree, or, to put it more prosaically, pricked by the tree's thorn, the little wound gives at first no pain whatever. But in a few minutes a maddening pain is set up, and the victim shrieks and rolls on the ground. For months afterward, when water touches the stung part, great agony ensues. Dogs, when stung, rush about with piteous whines, biting pieces of flesh from the place that has been affected.—Birmingham Weekly Post.

GENTLE EXERCISE ONLY.

The new owner of a Scotch shooting preserve had piloted a number of entirely harmless gunners about the ground.

"Look here, Mac," he said to the keeper as they came back. "These gentlemen 'ave to return to town end of the week. Would it do the birds any 'arm to drive the ground again day after to-morrow?"

"Mon," replied the Scot, "ye micht drive it the morn's morn. Fleein' aboot canna hurt them."—Youth's Companion.

Foreign Resorts.

Rome-Grand Hotel Excelsior
OPEN THE YEAR ROUND.
Most Modern House. Splendid Position.
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UNDER SAME MANAGEMENT AS THE GRAND HOTEL NATIONAL, LUCERNE.

BERNHARDT'S TASTES.

She Is Said to Subsist Largely on Raw Foods.

Sarah Bernhardt, who is said to subsist to a large extent on raw foods, reveals her barbaric taste in more ways than this, and leads us to wonder if this very barbarism is the secret of her wonderful success. It was Thomas Carlyle who said that all genius is akin to savagery. Savagery, of course, is the fountain source of civilization.

Does the success of Sarah Bernhardt and others of similar tastes reveal the fact that a person may dip from this fountain source the clear waters that aid in the advancement and perpetuation of genius? It is known that all fine racehorses must come from Arabian Barbary, or Turkish stock, yet the original racehorse could never win a race with one of its trained descendants. It takes several generations for the blood of the Arabian horse to produce a speedy animal. However, the stock will play out in time if the blood is not revived by admixture with the original Arabian stock. So it is with human beings. Too long civilization ever causes degeneration, unless the blood of the people is occasionally intermingled with savage blood. Thus have Rome, Greece, Persia and all the nations of ancient history declined.

It may be that the things that are true of breeds of lower animals and races of people are true of the habits of the individual. It may be that the appetite and customs of the person ought to be refreshed by occasionally returning to the habits and practices of the savage. Maybe this all accounts for the fondness of great men for hunting, and of many for wild adventures in unknown climes. Anyhow, it is worth considering, for a solution of the problem might reveal a great truth that would result in the perpetuation of a race or a nation, or the development of individual genius.

Sarah Bernhardt undoubtedly is either converted to this belief or she has an innate fondness for things barbaric. Her entire home in Paris is proof of this. Her kitchen and dining room are like no others to be found in civilization. The kitchen is ancient and there the foods, when cooked at all, are prepared in the rudest manner possible. She eats grain pones made from grain ground by hand as it was done centuries ago. If she can buy flour made from an ancient hand power mill anywhere in the world she will pay many times the price paid for the choicest of the present day flour. She wants her meats cooked very rare and in the most primitive manner. Her dining room decorations remind one of the messroom of a huntsman or of an outlaw bandit. Peacock plumes and rich colors, such as the savage loves, adorn her sleeping room. Above her Louis XVI bed is hung a gorgeous canopy made of unspun silk taken direct from the silkworm cocoon. In the centre is a great circular piece of brightest crimson satin. Many rows of monkey skulls mark the intersections of the ancient tapestries with which the walls are hung. The eye sockets of the skulls are illuminated with electric lights, which give to them a most weird and savage appearance. Once her favorite pet was a tiger, which she had reared from a wild kitten captured in the jungles. She has substituted for this object of affection a hideous baboon, which is her constant companion at home. The ears of the monstrous looking pet are weighted low with great rings of solid gold. The beast often occupies a seat beside the divine Sarah when she eats.

From out this den of savagery steps the agile, witty, brilliant Sarah, and she starts to her performance at the theatre. She springs into her cab and soon all civilized Paris, with visitors from far and near, is being swayed by her never failing genius. Her face is unfurrowed with wrinkles. Her manner is vivacious, her step as spry and her voice as silvery as when she first electrified the world with her genius.—What to Eat.

COLLEGE JOKESMITHS.

Many of Them Turn Their Gift to Good Account.

The good fellowship, the genial pleasantry, the healthy jollity of college fraternity life have had an appreciable influence upon modern American humor. Student wit has had its effect upon the national wit. Many of the leading comic periodicals of the country to-day have been evolved out of the comic journals of the campus, which, in turn, have grown out of the college annuals edited by the fraternities.

Until about a quarter of a century ago the most popular funny papers in the club, the hotel lobby or on the train were those which caricatured life in an extravagant way. Their tendency, all too often, was toward grossness. Their jokes were of much the same type as those heard on the burlesque stage. But the periodicals of this character have lost their old time supremacy. Their field has been invaded by a new school of fun makers. The followers of this school are to be found on the staffs of the younger publications, and many of them are from universities, where they were editors of college comics, whose wit is saner, cleaner, kindlier, more buoyant.

The comic annuals, which constituted the first stage in the growth of college humor, were established, for the most part, by fraternity men. The reason is not far to seek. The fraternities had been organized to provide a fuller social life for the student. As this social life was developed, its jovial side found expression in humoristic publications, where, in fancy, the freshman was hazed again; the sophomore was lampooned for his arrogance; the junior was compared to a half matured colt, all legs and neck, and the senior was represented with balloon shaped head, inflated to its fullest with academic wisdom.

But the chief trouble with these annuals was that there was not enough of them. They were not published frequently enough. In the bigger universities, therefore, where it was felt that the necessary support could be obtained, monthly and even weekly periodicals of much the same character as the old time annuals, were established. "The Harvard Lampoon" is the oldest of the college comics that have survived. Others among the leaders in this class of journalism are "The Yale Record," "The Princeton Tiger," "The Columbia Jester," "The Cornell Widow," "The Sphinx," of the University of Wisconsin; "The Lehigh Burr," "The Chaparral," of Stanford University; "The Michigan Gargoyle," and "The Punch Bowl," of the University of Pennsylvania.

In these periodicals college humor is found at its best. It is fresher and snappier than in the annuals, because it is newsier. In them the satirist is able to make hits all the more effective because they are timely. For example, nearly all of the comics kept up a running fire on the subject of football reform from the beginning of the movement, and week after week and month after month they kept shooting at this target, no matter at what angle it presented itself.

When President Nicholas M. Butler of Columbia announced the abolition of football at that institution "The Jester" published a series of articles in which it discussed the situation in words and happened in Old Testament times. Among other things "The Jester" said:

And lo! there arose in the land of Klumbia, a leader of the men of the land and he called a council of the people of the land, a very great council in the King's Hall. And there came to the assemblage all the inhabitants of the land—the players of the Rough Game and their allies, aye, even they that were not to do naught but keep their eyes on their books, and the people stirred not, neither did they speak. "O my people," cried the King, "in sooth this hurteth me more than it hurteth you, for verily I love the Rough Game as doth the great Theodore. But, indeed, had I not set forth an edict against it, surely in a very little while would the land of Klumbia have been without inhabitants, and I should have been killing off all of the race as doth the great Theodore. Therefore, I stopped the Rough Game."

Whenever "The Princeton Tiger" spoke on football reform it always took occasion to poke fun at the alleged prudishness of Harvard. This is what it said in an editorial:

When such a man as President Eliot, with his firm grasp of what is going on around him in the college world, refuses to abolish football, there must be some reason for it. Is it because he does not consider the brutality of the game? No; it is because he fears that if football be abolished the game will be transferred to the social contests, thereby endangering the social prestige of the men of the university. We . . . can university to stick to the sport.

In a cartoon "The Yale Record" made kindly sport of Columbia, by picturing the university which had abolished football as a little girl standing before a great chimney place and watching her stocking, on which was pinned this note:

Dear Santa: Please bring me a milk bottle, and if you think it is not too rough, a game of tiddle-de-winks.

Most college comics take it upon themselves to aid in the enforcement of class discipline. Here is an illustration:

Rumors have reached the sanctum of "The Sphinx" that one or two flippant, verdant freshmen have been observed smoking pipes. We wish to make haste to say that we consider Dame Rumor a most fickle, shameless creature, nevertheless, we give fair warning that "The Sphinx" will continue its policy of printing the names of any rambunctious freshmen caught violating Wisconsin traditions.

Another important duty of the college humorist is to assist in the government of the city in which his college is situated. Should the Mayor find himself unable to cope with some civic problem of peculiar difficulty, the college satirist is always ready to solve it for him. And then, if the Mayor or any of his department heads makes a blunder, the campus wit can always explain how easy it would have been to avoid that mistake. Here is how "The Sphinx" offers this illustration:

We wish to congratulate the Madison Fire Department upon the excellent manner in which it conducted itself at the recent fire. It was a stroke of genius to break the plate glass windows and to cut holes in the roof, thus affording plenty of draft for the flames.

Were it not for the college comic, undergraduate poets would pine away from one cause or another to a far greater extent than at present. When they know that they can see their names in print, if they write verses that are snappy and optimistic, they cease brooding over locks of hair and scented letters.—Severance Johnson in "The Caduceus of Kappa Sigma."

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PRISON MANAGEMENT REFORM.

Progress That Has Already Been Made in This State.

A marked change has taken place in the treatment of convicts in the State of New York in the last few years. The lockstep has been abolished and the prisoners' hair is not cropped, nor are those serving their first terms put into stripes. The system of contract labor is a thing of the past, and in dealing with the men kindness has taken the place of harshness. The grading of the men has been fully established and enforced and the parole system has passed the experimental stage.

Since the days of Charles Dickens public opinion has demanded radical reforms in prison management. It is now recognized that in many cases the prisoner is deserving of sympathy rather than abuse. It has become apparent that heredity and environment have much to do with the development of vice and crime and that society must share with the violator of law the responsibility for his character and wrongdoing. Prison bars and stripes, foul air and unpalatable food have not proved to be remedies for crime, and imprisonment is no longer looked upon by intelligent people as in the nature of revenge, but rather as a means of possible reform, as well as of protection to society. The highest aim of imprisonment is to reform the criminal and restore him to the community as a useful citizen.

A writer in "Leslie's Weekly" calls attention to the work done in the prisons of New York with this end in view, through the establishment of schools. Acting upon the conviction that every man should have a chance, Superintendent Collins instituted the movement to establish a system of schools in the prisons of the state, expressing the opinion that, whereas they had been run for profit, they should now be run for the welfare and reformation of the prisoners. In accordance with his views, schoolrooms were provided and equipped with modern appliances. Competent head teachers were secured, and a sufficient number of assistants chosen from among the inmates.

The first school was opened in September, 1905, but the last was not in full operation until February, 1906. At the present time there are about thirteen hundred men under instruction in the four prisons. It is necessary to make the English language the fundamental subject of study, as in Sing Sing alone, at the opening of the school, there were at least two hundred and fifty non-English speaking men under instruction. These represented twenty different nationalities. As soon as the men learn to read their attention is directed to the mental and moral food suited to their needs and likely to inspire them with higher ideals, restore their self-respect and make them self-reliant and efficient. Naturally, the character of the literature must be carefully guarded, for pernicious literature not only leads men to prison, but fosters and intensifies their evil passions and fortifies their criminal instincts.

While these schools have not been in operation long enough to demonstrate fully their efficiency, reports from paroled prisoners show that good is already resulting from the system, as men, who could not have obtained employment otherwise are able through the knowledge acquired in the schools to become self-supporting, thus removing one of the strongest incentives to criminality.