

BROOKLYN NEWS

GOSSIP OF THE BOROUGH

Grading and Curbing of Flatbush Avenue Extension Soon to Begin.

After a delay of more than two years, the work of moving the debris from the Flatbush avenue extension began late last week, and soon the grading of the street and the laying of curbs and sidewalks will begin.

The smoking habit among the girls of the Bay Ridge section has taken a strong hold, if the story told in the Fifth avenue police court before Magistrate Gelesman the other day can be believed.

"All the girls in the Bay Ridge section smoke tobacco," sobbed the girl. "I learned the habit from the others."

"Do you mean to say that all the girls are addicted to this habit?" demanded the magistrate.

"Why, judge, the habit has grown so that girls out there don't think anything of it. I have never smoked much and, when I did smoke, it was just for the fun of it."

The magistrate was informed by Mrs. Heinz that the girl was incorrigible. He ended the hearing by placing her in the care of the probationary officer until August 23, saying that he believed there was a chance for her to quit the cigarette habit and reform.

BROOKLYN SOCIAL CHAT

Summer Travellers—Weddings and Engagements.

Mrs. J. Frederick Ackerman has just announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Adelaide Ackerman, to J. Harold Pearch, of Manhattan and Liverpool, England. The Ackermans formerly lived in Eighth avenue, but for the last three years have made their permanent home in Greenwich, Conn.

Wednesday evening was marked by the wedding of Miss Alice Halleck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Halleck, of No. 465 Marlborough road, Flatbush, and Lieutenant Robert Stanley Donaldson, U. S. A. It was a home ceremony, with the Rev. Dr. Almon F. Gunnison, president of St. Lawrence University, officiating.

Mrs. Anna Walbridge Brown was quietly married to Howard Walbridge Brown yesterday week at the home of her brother, Robert R. Walbridge, in Redding, Conn. Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Olin G. Walbridge, of No. 57 Prospect Park west, and the widow of Paul Taylor Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Thaniel Pressy, of No. 106 East 19th street, Flatbush, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Etta Mae Pressy, to Walter Bristol Davis, son of Mr. Louise C. Davis, of No. 105 Herkimer street.

The engagement is announced of Miss Etta Dorothy Helm, daughter of Mrs. John Helm, of Richmond Hill, and George W. Drucker, of No. 193 Sterling place.

Mrs. Berkeley Mostyn will spend the remainder of the season at Bar Harbor. Colonel and Mrs. Willis L. Ogden returned from Europe on Wednesday on the Oceanic.

Mrs. Van Wyck Rossiter returned from abroad Monday by the Zealand.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kennard Buxton and Miss Jessie Culver Tredwell will spend August and September in England. They sailed yesterday week.

Frederick T. Aldridge and his daughter, Miss Marguerite Aldridge, were booked to sail on the Cleveland yesterday for a two months' trip abroad.

Their itinerary includes Paris, Lucerne, Venice, the Italian lakes, the Engadine, the Austrian Tyrol, Munich and Dresden.

Mr. and Mrs. Ethelbert Ide Low, Lyman Hine and Benjamin Robins Curtis sailed on the Lusitania Wednesday to spend the remainder of the summer travelling on the Continent.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nelson Lowrey, who have been abroad since early summer, will spend this month on a cruise to Russia, Denmark and Sweden.

Mrs. Jeremiah V. Meserole and Miss Sophie L. Meserole were in Lucerne last week.

Mr. and Mrs. William N. Dykman were in Paris last week.

A number of Brooklyn people registered at the Poland Springs House, Poland Springs, Me., on Thursday. Among them were the George D. Pratts, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tredway White, Miss Katherine L. White, Miss Annie Jean White, and a party comprising Francis L. Eames, Miss Eames, Miss Stockwell, Miss Walton, Miss Kenyon and Miss Stearns, all of this borough.

Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Putnam and Miss Carolyn Putnam have left Middlefield, their summer place at Southampton, Long Island, and will spend August in the Adirondacks.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Murdoch, Miss Clara Murdoch and Warren Murdoch were among the motorists at the Equinox, Manchester, Vt., on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Jourdan were among the motorists at the Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, Mass., on Thursday. On Wednesday they were at the Elton, Waterbury, Conn.

Mrs. John B. Ladd is to spend August at the Kent House, Greenwich, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Holliman will, as usual, pass August at the Frontenac, Thousand Islands.

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Reese D. Alsop are at Seal Harbor, Me., for the remainder of the season.

Miss Gertrude Coleman, who has been paying a round of visits, will join her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Coleman, at the Maplewood Hotel, in the White Mountains, next week.



LAYING THE NEW 72-INCH STEEL MAIN TO CARRY WATER FROM NASSAU COUNTY TO BROOKLYN.

BROOKLYN PIPE LINE

New Steel Aqueduct Will Remove Danger of Water Famine.

The 72-inch steel main which is to supplement the old masonry conduit which carries Brooklyn's water supply in from Nassau County is three-fifths completed, according to statements made yesterday by Mr. Cozier, the Deputy Water Commissioner.

By Christmas, he believes, the main will be completed from Amityville to Ridgewood—its entire length, about twenty-three miles. It will represent an outlay of \$2,500,000 or more, with the ground which was purchased for its site, but the money value of the improvement will be far from its true value, for the steel pipe line means that Brooklyn will have a safeguard against that standing terror of big cities—water famine.

For many years Brooklyn's water supply has been a source of worry to officials. The conditions have gradually improved, however. Now there seems little likelihood of a water famine, but the system has one great weakness—the masonry conduit which brings in 120,000,000 gallons daily. A break would be perilous even now, with the Ridgewood reservoir containing 250,000,000 gallons of water and the Titus deep wells at work.

Brooklyn and Queens require 142,000,000 gallons of water daily and the demand may be as much as 170,000,000 gallons daily by next summer.

The completion of the great steel line will mean that Brooklyn will have a reserve line which carries 15,000,000 gallons of water daily—a great help in a pinch, at least enough to preserve life and fight fires, even if all other sources failed.

Deputy Commissioner Cozier and his officials determined upon the need for the steel pipe line three years ago. They obtained a preliminary appropriation of \$1,100,000 to build the line from Ridgewood to Clear Stream. Last year they got \$1,870,000 more to complete the line to Amityville, on the border of Suffolk County, into which Brooklyn may not trespass in search of water.

Just spring, as soon as the frost was out of the ground, the T. A. Gillespie company, the same concern which has a \$6,000,000 contract for laying steel pipes in the Catskill watershed, began work on Brooklyn's 72-inch line. The city acquired a strip of property for the line some time ago. It is 200 feet broad outside the towns and 100 feet broad in them. The pipe line is being constructed along the southern side of the strip, leaving room for as many more such lines as the need for them arises.

The old masonry main goes only from Ridgewood to Massapequa, but the steel pipe will extend about three miles further, to Amityville. The old conduit can stand only a low pressure and its contents must be pumped several times before it reaches the Ridgewood reservoir. The water that enters the steel pipe, after the new pumping stations at Massapequa and Wantagh are completed next summer, will require only one pumping, and that will place it under so high a pressure that it can be admitted directly into the city's mains without passing through the reservoir at Ridgewood.

Hereafter Brooklyn is to have a reserved water supply—an unheard of thing up to the present. The reserve will come through the steel pipe and from the Titus deep wells. The wells have made it possible for Brooklyn to have on hand now more water than at any midsummer period before in her history. The city has been getting 4,000,000 gallons of water daily from the 6th street wells and 10,000,000 from the others.

Soon the wells in Forest Park will be connected with the system, making available 10,000,000 gallons more daily. Between the Forest Park deep wells and the steel pipe Brooklyn's supply will be increased almost 50 per cent before the winter is over.

POTATO DRYING IN GERMANY. Vice-Consul Burrell, of Magdeburg, reports that in order to cope with the overproduction of potatoes in Germany several potato drying plants are operating in various sections. Such factories are increasing the output of the crop by drying the tubers. To produce 100 tons or 220 pounds of dried potatoes, 500 pounds of tubers are required, and the product is worth \$5.00 to \$4.00.—Consular Report.

HARVARD'S CANADIANS.

Activity of a Club Composed of British Subjects.

One of the most thriving of the many organizations at Harvard is the Canadian Club, now entering in its twentieth year of activity, having been organized in 1890. The club is composed mainly of members of the university who have been born in the Dominion of Canada.

The club has two main objects for which it was organized, and which it is now attempting to promote with greater zeal than hitherto. These objects are the promotion of more intimate social intercourse than would possibly be maintained if the students in the university were thrown together in some artificial manner.

Harvard has for many years drawn students from all parts of Canada, and to-day her alumni are to be found all over the Dominion. Among the more distinguished ones may be mentioned Sir Frederick W. Borden, M. D., '68; Sir Charles H. Tupper, LL. B., '76; W. L. Mackenzie King, M. A., '78; and Chancellor Cecil C. Jones, '98, of the University of New Brunswick.

During the last year a pamphlet of more than sixty pages has been issued by the club, giving the history of the organization since its foundation, in 1890, a list of all the men who have held the various offices of the club from the same time, and a list of the Canadian and other British subjects who have studied at Harvard at any time since its foundation.

Hard to work beside a clock. Timekeepers Report the Office Ticker Nearly Drives Them Crazy. Working beside a clock is the most tiresome kind of work. This holds good, however charming the task may be at other times or however engaging the work would be if no clock were in the room.

ITALIAN CORAL MANUFACTURE. Consult C. S. Crowninshield, at Naples, writing on the manufacture of coral shaws. "Coral manufacture is an important trade in Naples. The tourist will be astonished at the number of shops which sell this article in all forms, jewelry and table ornaments especially.

THE TURKEY BUZZARD'S TRICK. The turkey buzzard is one of the few birds which feign death to escape their enemies. Once a friend shot a specimen through the wing. He found it standing under a hurel bush, looking brightly about, one wing hanging. As he approached its head began to droop to one side and by the time he reached it the buzzard lay upon its side, apparently lifeless.

AN IMPERIAL SPIRITUALIST. The Car is by no means what can be called deeply dead, but he takes a great delight in literature of the lighter kind, and he is credited with the remark: "Were I not—well, what I am—I should be the greatest bookworm in the world." One of his most curious hobbies—and yet perhaps not curious when one considers his extremely nervous temperament—is the study of occultism. He loves to get hold of spiritual mediums and clairvoyants, and he is very superior in many ways.

SEA DWELLERS HAVE THE HABIT. In China is found a peculiar little crab about the size of a large pea. It has received the common name of "pill making crab," from its habit of taking up morsels of sand, extracting the food particles and then ejecting the sand in the form of little pellets or pills. Owing to its great activity it is a difficult object to capture. Should one be so unfortunate as to be captured it will immediately die.

SMOKY FIREPLACES. MADE TO DRAW OR NO CHARGE. References—Wm. W. Astor, Jos. H. Choate, White and Reid and many other prominent people. JOHN WHITLEY, Engineer & Contractor, 215 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Telephone 1613 Main.

ACTIVITY AT HAINES FALLS. Sunset Park Inn, Haines Falls, N. Y. July 21.—In this delightful section of the historic Catskills the summer gaiety is at its height. The pinnacles and heights of the mountains dominate the scene and humidity of distances lower down, and are made deserting the sweetening streets of the city to make this pleasant spot by boat and train.

RATS EAT UP \$100,000,000 YEARLY. One of the most serious problems of the riding Department of Agriculture has had to meet in the riding the country of the millions of rats with which it is infested, and which annually take the pest cost of the United States \$100,000,000 yearly in grain destroyed alone. The rat also pollutes a great quantity of food products which it does not eat, and great damage by digging under buildings and bankments, gnawing wood, cutting up goods and papers to make nests, killing poultry and the Norway eggs. The most destructive species is the brown rat, which has been carried to all parts of the world, and is estimated that a single pair of rats would in three years, under favorable circumstances, increase to twenty million. The Department of Agriculture has planned a vigorous crusade against the vermin, and it recommends that roof construction in buildings, and the use of various poisons in localities haunted by rats.—Leslie's Weekly.

Brooklyn Advertisements.

ABRAHAM AND STRAUS. BROOKLYN 10 Minutes—Jersey City to A. & S. Subway Station—Hoyt St.

Upholsterings and Curtains. Record Prices That Seem Impossible.

ONE OF THE MOST INTENSELY INTERESTING and important events of all to those who have a home to furnish—embracing as it does a fascinating assortment of Lace Curtains, Bed Sets, Portieres, Upholsterings by the yard, Couch Covers, Screens and other decorative and useful furnishings at prices that have never been equaled in saving, even by this famously low priced Store.

5,000 Lace Curtain Samples in White, Ivory & Arab at 10c., 19c., 29c. Ea.

Lace Curtains at 10c., 19c., 29c. We would earnestly advise EARLY SHOPPING. This is a record event even for this Store.

\$2.25 Cretonne Figured and Plain Burlap Shirt Waist Boxes at 95c. Each.

\$2 Novelty Renaissance Lace Curtains, 98c. Pair. \$2 Novelty Renaissance Bonne Femme Curtains, 98c. Ea. In white and Arab.

5,000 Pairs Ruffled Muslin and Plain Novelty Net Curtains. Values from 75c to \$3 a pair, at these prices:

Ruffled Muslin Curtains, 39c., 69c., 89c., \$1.15, \$1.59. Novelty Net Curtains at 98c. and \$1.39 a pair.

500 ruffled Renaissance Lace Bed Sets as follows: \$4.50 values at \$2.85.

1,500 Yards of the Popular Curtain Scrim, Value 25c., at 12 1/2c. Yard.

Novelty Figured Curtain Nets at About a Third Reduction. Do not fail to see them at 22c., 28c. and 38c. yard.

\$2.00 Imperial Velour, single face, \$1.29 a yard. \$2.25 Oriental Tapestry Couch Covers, \$1.19 each. \$3.25 Kashmir tapestry Couch Covers, \$1.98 each.

\$5.00 and \$6.00 reversible tapestry Couch Covers, \$2.98 each. \$4.50 Armure tapestry Portieres, \$1.98 a pair. \$5.50 and \$6.50 mercerized Armure tapestry fringed and corded Portieres, \$2.98.

3,500 Pairs Nottingham Lace Curtains At Less Than Cost to Manufacture.

75c. grade at 39c. a pair. \$1.85 grade at 95c. a pair. \$1.35 grade at 69c. a pair. \$2.25 grade at \$1.15 a pair.

White Irish Point Lace Curtains. \$4.50 Curtains at \$2.85 a pair. \$5.50 Curtains at \$3.85 a pair. \$7.50 Curtains at \$4.65 a pair.

\$8.50 Dentelle Arabian Lace Curtains, \$4.85 Pair. \$7.00 real Arabian lace Curtains, \$3.95 a pair. \$4.50 real Renaissance lace Curtains, \$2.50 a pair. \$4.50 and \$9.50 mercerized, fringed and corded tapestry Portieres, \$4.65 a pair.

ANIMALS FEIGN DEATH.

EVEN ELEPHANT "PLAYS" "POSSUM" SOMETIMES.

Creatures, Seemingly Lifeless, Make Their Escape When the Hunter Turns His Back.

"The most perfect simulation of death," remarked a well known naturalist the other day, "is that of the opossum, whence originated the phrase 'playing possum.' Only the closest examination can determine that life still is present in the pulsation of the heart and in the almost suppressed respiration. In this condition, either the animal has lost the sensation of pain or else it possesses most wonderful powers of endurance, for it permits itself to be used most roughly without showing the least sign of consciousness. If, however, attention is withdrawn, the shy rascal opens his eyes, glances around, and, if the coast is clear, gently departs.

"The striped squirrel, when caught alive, will often lie limp and apparently lifeless till its captor, thrown off his guard, makes the opportunity for its escape possible, when the little animal will scamper off with a sharp chirrup of delight. "That such a huge beast as the elephant should practise so remarkable a ruse seems incredible, but Tennent, in his 'Natural History of Ceylon,' records such an observation. After a number of wild elephants had been captured one particularly fine specimen was led out between two tame ones, as is the usual method, and started toward its future home, some miles away. When night fell and torches were lighted to show the way, the elephant refused to go on, and finally sank to the ground, apparently lifeless. The fastenings were taken off its legs and when all attempts to raise it had failed, the keeper, convinced that it was dead, ordered the ropes to be taken off and the carcass abandoned. While this was being done he and a friend who accompanied him being against the body to rest. They had scarcely taken their departure, and proceeded a few yards, when to their astonishment the elephant rose with the utmost alacrity and fled toward the jungle, screaming at the top of its voice. Its cries being audible long after it had disappeared in the shades of the forest.

"W. H. Hudson, the well known naturalist, describes the death-feigning habit of a small South American fox, common on the pampas. When caught in a trap or overtaken it collapses as if dead, and to all appearances is dead. The deception is so well carried out that dogs are constantly taken in by it. When one withdraws a little way from a feigning fox, and watches him very attentively, a slight opening of the eye may be detected. Finally, when left to himself, he does not recover and start up like an animal that has been stunned, but slowly and cautiously raises his head first and gets up only when his foe is at a distance. It was once riding with a gaucho when we saw on the open level ground in front of us a fox not yet fully grown, standing still and watching our approach. All at once it dropped, and when we came up to the spot it was lying stretched out, with its eyes closed and apparently dead. Before passing on my companion, who said it was not the first time that he had seen such a thing, lashed it vigorously with his whip for some moments without producing the slightest effect.

"Lizards are especially addicted to this habit. Phrynosoma Douglasii, known as the 'horned California toad,' is widespread over the entire western plains, where it very closely imitates the color of the soil on which it lives. They are most bashful animals, when they think they are being observed, as well as when roughly treated, depress their bodies, and, with closed eyes, feigning death to perfection. A little tickling along the side will bring them to life, however, and please them hugely, they expressing their fondness for the operation by inflating themselves until nearly spherical.

"Leopoldus Darwinii, which Darwin found in Northern Patagonia, lives on the bare sand near the sea coast, and from its mottled color, the brownish scales being speckled with white, yellowish red and dirty blue, can hardly be distinguished from the surrounding surface. When frightened it attempts to avoid discovery by feigning death, with outstretched legs, depressed body and closed eyes; if further molested, it buries itself with great quickness in the loose sand. This lizard, because of its flattened body and short legs, cannot run quickly. "The gray or sand lizard (Lacerta agilis) attains a length of from eight to ten inches, and is common in Southern Europe. Its movements are as rapid as a bird's. When an attempt is made to seize a gray lizard on the wall, it lets itself fall to the ground, and remains there a moment immovable before attempting to run, evidently simulating death.

"One species of mollusk is known to have this habit. The pneumodermeidae have a spindle-shaped body and two extensible arms bearing suckers, much like those of the octopus. They swim strongly, but when touched by a foreign object roll themselves up like an armadillo, and, feigning death, sink until out of reach of apparent danger. "Lobsters less than a year old occasionally exhibit the death feigning habit, but, strange to relate, the adults do not practise it. When stroked lightly with the finger the young lobster will immediately stiffen, and lie stretched out at the bottom of the dish, on its side or back, as if paralyzed. It will remain in this position for fifteen or more minutes, when it will slowly turn over and begin to move about. While lying at the bottom in this state, a convulsive movement of the swimmerets and a twitching of various muscles over the body can be detected by close observation. The claws and legs remain perfectly rigid, however.

"The willow gnat, when wounded, will occasionally adopt this ruse. As soon as it finds escape impossible it will stretch out its neck and remain stiff and immovable, so that it may be handled in this condition, the muscles remaining rigid as in cataplexy. If, however, it is not disturbed it will soon begin to peep around and gradually attempt to get away. "The Spotted Tinamou (Notura maculosa), of the pampas of South America, is especially addicted to practicing this trick. When captured, after making a few violent efforts to escape, it drops its head, gasps two or three times, and to all appearances dies. But if the hold is released the eyes are opened and with startling suddenness the bird flies rapidly away. "The common English sparrow has been observed on several occasions to adopt this ruse to escape. "Tennent reports the case of a ten-foot Ceylon crocodile, which feigned death on being surrounded while asleep and its retreat cut off. When discovered the animal was under some bushes several hundred yards from the water. The terror of the creature was extreme when it discovered that it was completely surrounded, and it started up and turned around in a circle, hissing and snapping its bony jaws. On being struck with a stick it lay perfectly quiet and apparently dead. Presently it looked cunningly around, and made a rush toward the water, but on a second blow it lay again motionless and feigning death. Its captors tried to raise the animal, but without effect, pulled its tail, snapped its back, struck its hard scales, and tensed it in every way, but all in vain; nothing would induce it to move till accidentally a boy of twelve tickled it gently under the foreleg, and in an instant it drew the limb close to its side and turned to avoid a repetition of the experiment. Again it was tickled under the other foreleg, and the same emotion was exhibited, the monster twisting about like an infant to avoid being tickled. "It is very unusual for snakes to feign death, but one such incident has come to my notice. An amateur naturalist was collecting in the neighborhood of Matawan, N. J., when he apparently cut off the retreat of a copperhead snake. When the naturalist got close to it the reptile appeared to be dead. Desiring to make sure of this, the naturalist circled the snake and was rewarded for his caution by discovering an unmistakable light gleaming from the reptile's eyes. The appearance of the entire body was that of complete relaxation. Thinking to capture it dead or alive, the naturalist looked around for a stick or stone, but could see none nearer than forty or fifty feet distant. He cut a stick from an aspen sapling, leaving it notched at the end. The spot where he left the reptile, apparently as motionless as ever, was marked by a lot of cut horse-mint, and when he returned, the snake had given him the slip, and without any doubt resumed its interrupted journey toward the nearby swamp.

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