THE PROLONGATION OF LIFE.

WHAT MODERN SCIENCE IS DOING TOWARD SOLVING THE VITAL PROBLEM.

Will We Live Longer Than Did Our Ancestors?—Our Pace is More Rapid, but We Know More About Ourselves—Chats with Physicians on the Subject—The Happy Mean that All Should Strive For—We Should Do Our Best Work After We Are Seventy Years Old.

The primary purpose of pathologists and medical savants is the prolongation of human life, and within the past cycle rapid progress has been made toward the elimination of this problem. Epidemics are not only controlled but prevented, sanitary and hygienic laws have been formulated and proven, the cause of maladies discovered and their treatment determined, the average length of life increased, and the death rate percentage lowered. Life is more exhausting in its demands than formerly, more intense, hurried, and exciting, or the advancement of vitality and longevity would be more marked and apparent. The rapid dissemination of ideas, the facilities for travel and observation, the demands of citizenship, all the friction of modern life, with its rapid and unceasing series of impressions, call for constant exertion, which leads to fatigue, premature wear and decay, finally death, and with the idea of the prevention of these divers infelicitous results as a nucleus have been promulgated a nebula of most contradictory and confounding theories. There is the man who drinks only cold water, the man who drinks only boiling water, and the man who drinks no water at all, each living to a remarkable age, and each advocating their own particular Ponce de Leon fountain; vegetarian dietetic cranks, like the physician Sanctorius, spending their lives in a pair of scales weighing their food, of whom Dr. Shrady of this city said "that the prolongation of life was to a certain degree dependent on their elimination, for they would with their patent foods and nostrums debilitate the stomach and impoverish the vitality of the whole race could their enthusiasm be unrestrained;" men who have attained great age through the invigorating results of frequent baths, and centenarians who have lived, not because of a lack of bathing, but in spite of it. One's faith in the beneficial effects of exercise even is shaken by the authentic account of one Rev. William Davis of Hereford, aged 105 years, who for the last thirty-five years of his life took no exercise at all, ate hearty food, and never had rheumatism or paralysis. A little while ago it was distilled water and phosphoric acid that was to prolong our lives beyond the allotted three score years and ten; but now it is the use of common salt, according to Dr. Burggraeve, that is to prevent all disease and ultimately result in centenarianism. But it was reserved to Dr. Villermé of Paris to discover that comfortable living, in the most complete sense of the word, was the surest and most potent agent in the prolongation of life, and with his diagnosis modern physicians concur most emphatically.

Dr. Hammond had some peculiar and utopian ideas of longevity, which unfortunately have not the corroboration of actual experience. His theory is that the natural waste of the different organs in the physical system which occurs in the performance of their various functions can be estimated and analyzed, and that it can be supplied by artificial means to exactly that a man might live interminably if he would submit to the conditions and restrictions required; but the medical fraternity are skeptical concerning this theory, and claim that the body is a kind of machine which, if carefully used, never overstrained or overworked, all its wheels, pistons, and valves kept well lubricated and free from foreign deposits, and its driving power carefully supplied with the fuel that produces most force, will endure for many years longer than if abused and neglected, like a delicate machine in the hands of a clumsy apprentice. They say, too, that man are learning rapidly something of the mechanism of this wonderful apparatus, and to understand that if one wheel or set of wheels are used constantly they will wear out first and lose their usefulness, that the brain, which continually uses that portion of his brain with which he makes arithmetical calculations wakes up some morning unable to think at all and too ill to pursue his avocation. The wheel he calculated with has tired out and is set fast, and the rest of the machinery has become clogged and rusty from disuse. The old-time physician would put leeches or blisters on his head and give him an anodyne to stop his sufferings. The modern physician sends him to the country, oils and cleans up the rest of the machine, sets it all in motion, and the wheel by the little worn-out wheel gets to whirling again as merrily as the rest.

But in spite of every scientific precaution a man cannot prevent certain physiological changes which ultimately result in death. The elasticity of the arterial coats slowly diminishes, his liver decreases in size, the patient pump in his left side gets worn in the valves and wheezy, and the machinery is rubbed so thin by constant friction that a little strain snaps a pulley or lever. According to the prophet "the grinders cease because they are few," and "the grasshopper shall be a burden and desire shall fail because man goeth to his long home," notwithstanding all plausible and cunningly devised theories. Another argument is that nature's forces cannot be satisfactorily supplied by artificial means however scientific. No one ever walked as well on a wooden leg as on one of flesh and blood, and the internal organs are equally embarrassed and awkward by the introduction and assistance of the most kindly disposed foreign agent.

Dr. Fordyce Barker and Dr. Shrady both agree that the average length of life is increasing; that people are learning to take better care of themselves; that cities are more sanitary and hygienic; that plagues and pestilences are to a great extent prevented and controlled, and that that life is most vital and prolonged in which every organ is equally and harmoniously developed, not too much haste and eagerness, but in congenial and continuous energizing action.

Dr. Barker says: "Waste is as essential to life as repair, and as waste is only brought about through exercise, that work is the best life promoter and preserver."

Dr. Shrady aptly illustrates this axiom by saying: "To make your grate fire glow with life and warmth you must rake out the ashes and cinders before you put on more coal. It doesn't do any good to keep heaping on more fuel when there isn't any draught." He also says that "it is extremely difficult to lay down general rules for the prolongation of life or the preservation of health, because the physical being of each individual is peculiarly his own and unlike any other. You might as well try to fit all men with the same coat. It may be a very good-shaped garment, but it will pinch one man in the shoulder and be too short for some one else in the sleeves. You can't put a square peg in a round hole, and you can't make the diet that suits one man nourishing to every other man. The farmer following his plough in the crisp spring air comes in and eats a good dinner of corn beef and cabbage or a piece of pork that would kill a professional man and enjoys it because he needs it. His blood is bounding through his veins calling for nourishment; every muscle is in a state of activity and his stomach wants to act, too—wants something to chew on, and if it gets out of work when everything else is in motion it becomes clamorous and painful, and the cabbage is good occupation for it. Whereas the professional man in a state of inactivity doesn't want to feel a hundred little wheels buzzing in his stomach when all the other machinery is still. Physicians are learning to help men to live comfortably within their environments and conditions, helping them too much, I think, sometimes, for they produce a sort of survival of the unfittest in the prolongation of the lives of chronic and suffering invalids, cripples, and consumptives, who must suffer until they die, and whose misery should in mercy be shortened. The science of medicine has become greatly revolutionized, and the physician of today must understand something besides the application of leeches and blister and the use of the lancet. Modern study and research is devoted largely to the discovery of the cause of disease and to the quickest and surest methods of eliminating its cause rather than in temporarily relieving its discomfort; and the preventing of disease rather than its cure is the great aim of every pathologist. I have several patients who come to me regularly, even if they are in good health, to have me advise them concerning the best means of living with a view of prolonging life, to have me look over their machinery and see if it is all sound and in good working order. I am a kind of an engineer, putting on a little oil here, tightening up a screw there, in the intricate and beautiful machine which is best off when least tampered with. You know the nervous man who is always looking at the works in his watch gets dust in and then he needs must blow the dust out, and this creates moisture. The moisture produces rust and the jeweller tinkers away at it to get the rust out, and there's always something the matter with that man's watch. So nervous people, continually interfering with nature's true processes of life, usually succeed in keeping their system continually out of order. An inactive person suffers from indigestion, perhaps slightly, from simple want of exercise, and so he feeds himself on some of the advertised patent foods, which simply put his stomach in a sling, figuratively speaking. Put your arm in a sling for three days and it will pain you from simple lack of exercise. Take it out and do violent work and it will pain you then through weakness. Because it pains you tie it up three days more and try it again. More pain, more weakness; the course persisted in for some time, and a helpless arm results. So the sedentary man puts his stomach in a sling with his patent, half-digested food. Of course it pains him, for nature resents inactivity, and of course the longer it is kept idle the more helpless it becomes. The diet I recommend to a healthy man or woman is that which his or her appetite craves, and I would have them live in utter unconsciousness of any of the organs that perform the functions of the body unless sharply reminded of them by disease. Food should be varied in character, appetizing, and nourishing. Eat what the sentinel of your appetite admits, and, if it proves to be an enemy, see if in some way you cannot conciliate it by the exercise of the rest of the machine. The man who is always examining with a microscope the water he drinks, groping for microbes in the dust about him, and every time he catches a little smell of onions stealing up from some area pours peppermint in the pipes under the delusion that he smells sewer gas, has a kind of mind malaria, and doesn't live out half his days.

"Interest yourself in some wholesome, active, congenial employment that will call into execution the best powers within you; complement the activity awakened in a portion of your machinery by this work with some kind of pleasant and interesting exercise for those organs not called into execution, and, above all, don't worry, don't hurry and strive, but extract all the enjoyment possible out of each day's life, and your life will be prolonged in peace, and not misery of disease and pain.

"Women are deteriorating in vitality and longevity, and it is largely due to the nervous strain they are continually under, to their vanity and love for dress and display, no matter how injurious its requirements are to their comfort and well being; but there is already the dawning of a better intelligence among some of them, and it is to be hoped that it is the beginning of a better era.

"I have a patient who although 92 years of age still retains the possession of all his faculties, enjoys his life, has no disease, and has an ambition to become a centenarian that sends him around here occasionally to be looked over a little to see if there are any loose screws in the life machine. He is a man who has lived well and temperately, with sufficient means to enjoy the comforts of life and the rare judgment to make the most of each day's opportunities. He is very affectionate toward his wife, with whom he has lived happily for more than fifty years, and his pleasant home and family relations have, I think, been one of the causes of his long existence. I think it is a mistake to consider that a man's career is ended at 70, for many men have had the most brilliant successes after that age. Army officers are, in my judgment, retired too early. Gen. Sherman is more capable of commanding the forces of the United States to-day than he was when he led the army through Georgia, and none dare question his bravery. There is a peculiar instance illustrating this point of an old man, who, feeling that his course was nearly run, divided his property among his sons, retaining only so much of it as he needed for the few remaining years of his life. Before he died he had by his shrewd business tact increased his little fortune to its former size and died possessed of more money than his sons ever acquired.

"Disease is a mean fellow; it always strikes a man when he's down. Two men come into a car together—one overworked, depressed, worried, and exhausted, the other interested in his work, which exercises every faculty to the uttermost, comfortable, and happy, with the conviction that his wife is the dearest woman in the world, his children as bright as any one's children, and that he isn't a very bad sort of a fellow himself. A draught blows through the car as usual, striking both men. They both take cold; one has pneumonia and dies, and the other a cold in his head, which he sneezes away in two days. It is easy to draw the inference and with it to deduce the formula that comfort, cheerfulness, and hopefulness are the best promoters of existence."

Dr. Humphrey of Great Britain gives his premises for longevity as follows:

"First—The prime requisite is a faculty of age inherited in the blood. The body must be wound up and sent into the world with the initial force necessary to carry on the living processes through a long period; that the several organs be so adjusted to one another as to form a well-balanced whole, and that the functions be so harmoniously performed that there will be no cognizance of imperfection or ailment.

"Second—The body must be well developed, capable of much endurance and of quick and complete restoration from fatigue, the nervous system energetic, and the intellectual powers correspondingly developed.

"Third—Owing to the inherent good quality of the nutritive processes degenerate change will be slow to manifest itself if to the foregoing be added ordinary opportunities of living well under sanitary conditions, together with temperance in meat eating and alcoholic beverages."

A BARREL OF APPLES TO THE QUEEN.

The Sender Receives Responses from Various Branches of the British Court.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 19.—George Thorndill, who lives near this city, has been in this country since the fifties, but retains a kindly feeling toward his old sovereign, Victoria. Desiring to give a token of their affection for the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India on Nov. 7, Mr. and Mrs. Thorndill sent her a barrel filled with seven kinds of the finest apples raised on their place. The first response was received four weeks ago to-day, and the letters that have been coming ever since from the different branches of the English court indicate that the royal household must have been thrown into a state of high excitement over the barrel of apples from America. The first letter received by Mr. Thorndill was on royal paper, stamped "Windsor Castle," and is supposed to have been penned by the Master of the Royal Household, though it was unsigned. It reads:

WINDSOR CASTLE, 7 Dec. 1888.

The Master of the Household presents his compliments to Mr. Thorndill and has the honor to inform him that the Queen is very sensible of his attention in forwarding for her Majesty's acceptance the case of apples which arrived here yesterday.

The next letter that arrived was printed in a rich green that would answer for a Home Rule document. It is as follows:

BOARD OF GREEN CLOTH,
BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S. W., 27 Dec., 1888.

SIR: The Lord Steward has received from Sir Henry Ponsonberry your letter of the 6th of November last, and desires me to say that the apples which you wished to present to the Queen arrived safely, and are now being used in her Majesty's service. I am to thank you for this kind intention of yourself and of your wife in making this offering. The good feeling is duly appreciated in high quarters, but as her Majesty, by rule, does not accept presents, the Lord Steward must ask you to accept as an equivalent of value a small sum of £3, which he judges may represent the outlay. The Paymaster of the Household has accordingly received instructions to send the same to you at Syracuse. Yours, faithfully,

THOS. C. MASON.

MR. GEORGE THORNDILL, SYRACUSE, U. S.

As the barrel of Yankee apples neared the royal presence the plot seemed to thicken, and the next to pay his respects to Mr. Thorndill was the royal High Paymaster, who evidently is called on to settle her Majesty's grocery bills. This is the note which the Lord High Grocery Bill Payer sent, accompanying the "cheque" for £3:

PAYMASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD,
ST. JAMES'S PALACE, S. W.,
LONDON, 20th Dec., 1888.

DEAR SIR: You have or probably will by this post receive a letter from Mr. March of the Lord Steward's department of the Queen's household, informing you that it is proposed to send you a cheque for the apples you sent to her Majesty. I now enclose the cheque for three pounds, and I should be obliged if you would kindly sign the receipt for the same and post it to me at the above address. Very truly yours, GEORGE MARGARETT.

GEORGE THORNDILL, Esq.

This is the receipt that Mr. Thorndill was to sign:

THE LORD STEWARD'S DEPARTMENT.
No. A X. Third Class.
Received 1889 of the Paymaster of the Household the sum of Three pounds for Apples sent to H. M. Queen Victoria in the Quarter ending the 31st of December, 1888. £3.

Mr. Thorndill and his wife hope that the apples have got to the Queen by this time. They feel very proud of their correspondence from the English court, and they like to think of the Queen of England and Empress of India enjoying their Northern Spies and Spitzenbergs at Buckingham Palace these winter evenings, or a pie made from Onondaga apples.

An Interesting Old Statesman with a Centenarian Mother.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 19.—The most interesting figure in the Pennsylvania Legislature is the Hon. John S. Rhey, member of the lower House from Cambria county. He is past 70, was Speaker of the House in 1852, and is the only representative of the old school Democracy now in public life in Pennsylvania. As Speaker of the House in 1852, he appointed the committee that looked after the entertainment of Louis Kossuth and his suite when they visited Harrisburg and escorted them across the State to Pittsburgh, a large part of the journey having to be made in sleighs, there being no Pennsylvania Railroad to Pittsburgh then, and the State canal being frozen. Mr. Rhey is one of the oldest and ablest lawyers, journalists, and politicians in active life in the State to-day. His mother is living, and will soon be 100 years old.

A Flash Light for Railroad Signals.

MIDDLETOWN, Jan. 19.—Some Ontario and Western railroad officers have been engaged here for a day or two testing a flash signal light for railroad trains, the invention of a Milwaukee man. The signal light is placed on the top of the rear car or caboose. When the train is stationary it shows a fixed light; when in motion alternate flashes of white and red, so displayed as to indicate whether the train is going forward or backing. The motion of the train revolves the lights, and, to an experienced eye, the comparative frequency of the flashes indicates the rate of speed at which the train is moving. It is claimed that this signal, when used in the darkness of the night, will be of great advantage in warning approaching trains of dangers of collision.

INVENTION IN THE GERMAN.

FIGURES THE LEADERS HAVE TO THINK OF TO LEND VARIETY.

Different Ways of Conducting the German—How the Ladies Show Their Choice—The Man Who Is Left Out—The Favors.

What is the german? How is it danced? Where did it come from? Is it likely to be a permanent feature of social entertainment?

These questions naturally arise with the vast majority of newspaper readers. There are certain kinds of dances that are universally known, but the german is one that has been as a rule confined to a more exclusive set than any other form of entertainment. There was a time when it was looked upon as the most wicked of all devices for amusement, and perhaps in some places it is still held in this estimation. That perhaps is because of the lack of knowledge as to its real nature.

Everybody understands that to be a leader of the german is to be distinguished in society above other men, but just what this leader does and how arduous his duties are is a matter understood only by the few. It would seem that the german might be the very pleasantest form of social amusement, and, though it assumes quite different aspects under different leaders, in general it is bound to remain at the head of all dance gatherings.

The writer has discussed the matter with several successful leaders of the german, and such information as is here given comes from them. No one apparently knows where the name originated or sees any reason for it. The dance was first known as the cotillon, and that is its only proper name, and it is said that people are returning to the use of that term instead of the one now generally accepted.

"To begin with," said one of these leaders, "the german is largely made up of waltzing, all the music being written in waltz time. It is,

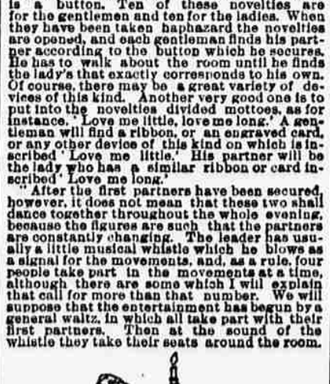
THE LEADER.

however, vastly unlike the waltz or any other dance in that it may take from three to five hours to complete it. When people go to dance the german they do not look for any other dance upon the programme. It has been kept a rather exclusive feature of entertainment, mainly, I think, for the reason that it is not adapted to a miscellaneous or a numerous gathering. It should be danced by only personal friends, and, in my opinion, not more than eight or ten couples should be engaged in it. Its charm lies in the continual novelty that it presents, for I think it may safely be said that no two germans have ever been danced in exactly the same way. That altogether depends upon the ingenuity and success of the leader. In some of the most exclusive circles in this city, where the word "cotillon" is used, it has become more precise than it formerly was, and the dances at least have settled down into a kind of set routine, so that eventually there has developed a special dance taking three or four hours, which will be the same this year and the year after. But those who extract the most genuine fun from it are those who retain most of the old methods, by which the amusement is very largely dependent upon novelties introduced each evening.

"In general it may be said that this dance is a succession of brief waltzes, interspersed with figures or movements of every kind. The leader must know exactly what he is going to do from one end of the evening to the other, but no one in the company need know what is coming unless it be possibly the first four, so called—that is, the two couples who are selected to carry out the leader's instructions before the others take their turns, for except in the general waltzes it is seldom that all parties engaged in the dance are moving at the same time. You must not imagine that those who dance the german are engaged for three or four hours successively, any more than those who go to a ball where there is a card of eighteen or twenty numbers. There are periods of rest for all, save possibly the musicians.

"It is impossible to lay down any law which will apply to all parties where the german is danced, but the way it is done in my set I can explain, and I think it is about the best way to extract the most genuine fun and recreation out of the entertainment. We will suppose that there are twenty of us, ten gentlemen and ten ladies, with one added, who is the leader. He may have a partner, but as a rule he keeps in the background and devotes his whole energy to helping along the entertainment of the others. With us the selection of partners is generally by lot. Twenty novelties are prepared, in each of which is a button. Ten of these novelties are for the gentlemen and ten for the ladies. When they have been taken haphazard the novelties are opened, and each gentleman finds his partner according to the button which he secures. He has to walk about the room until he finds the lady's that exactly corresponds to his own. Of course, there may be a great variety of devices of this kind. A number of years ago is to put into the novelties divided mottoes, as for instance, 'Love me little, love me long.' A gentleman will find a ribbon, or an engraved card, or any other device of this kind on which is inscribed 'Love me little.' His partner will be the lady who has a similar ribbon or card inscribed 'Love me long.'

"After the first partners have been secured, however, it does not mean that these two shall dance together throughout the whole evening, because the figures are such that the partners are constantly changing. The leader has usually a little musical whistle which he blows as a signal for the movements, and, as a rule, four people take part in the movements at a time, although there are some which I will explain that call for more than that number. We will suppose that the entertainment has begun by a general waltz, in which all take part with their first partners. Then at the sound of the whistle they take their seats around the room.



CANDLE FIGURE.

Then the first figure may be what is called 'The Candle,' a very amusing device, which is performed after this fashion: The leader places a chair in the middle of the room, and, calling a young lady from the first four, gives her a lighted candle. She stands upon the chair, and the two gentlemen of the first four come forward. She holds the candle at any height she may choose, and the gentlemen jump up in turn and try to blow it out. The one who succeeds in blowing it out becomes her partner for the next waltz. In this figure, of course, the lady has every opportunity to favor the gentleman she likes. A very tall man may be presented to her, for instance, and if she does not choose him she may hold the candle so high that even he may not be able to reach it to blow out the blaze. On the other hand, if he is a short man whom she favors she may hold it down so low that he may have to do so. All discriminations of this kind are accepted in the utmost good nature, and from this alone you may see how advisable it is to limit the participants to those who are personally friendly. When this figure has been performed by the first four a whistle is sounded and the next four try it, and so on until every lady has stood upon the chair and every gentleman has taken his turn at jumping. After that the whistle is sounded again, and those who have found their partners in this curious fashion waltz for a few moments. The waltzes are just enough to give an exhilarating flavor to the entertainment.

"From this single illustration you can see how an ingenious leader may plan any number of curious features for the evening. Another that is almost always interesting is called 'The Shade.' In this a white curtain is stretched across a part of the room, the lights are turned down, and a lamp or candle

SHADE FIGURE.

is placed upon a table a little way back of the curtain. Certain of the ladies, who are selected by the leader, seat themselves back of the curtain, so that their profiles are cast in shade upon it, and the gentlemen approach upon the other side and pick out their partners according to the shade.

"An amusing feature of most of the figures is an arrangement by which at least one man in every set gets left. A good illustration of this scheme is the screen figure. This is similar to the shade, except that instead of stretching a curtain across the room, a screen of fine tissue paper is used. Four ladies stand in a row, way at one end of the room, at considerable distance from the screen. Five gentlemen get upon their knees behind it. The ladies cannot see the gentlemen nor the gentlemen the ladies. At the sound of the whistle the ladies run forward rapidly, burst through the screen, and fall into the arms of the kneeling gentlemen. As there are only four, and as there is no possible chance of selecting a partner, one of the gentlemen must get left. If a lady by chance falls into the arms of two gentlemen at a time the choice is designated by herself.

"Still another figure with this same purpose may be called 'The Mirror.' In this the ladies sit in a row, and each one holds before her face a hand glass. The gentlemen file past the entire row at their backs, and as they pass each lady can see the gentlemen, one at a time, by the reflection in the mirror. If a lady sees the face of a gentleman whom she does not care to have for a partner she brushes her handkerchief across the face of the mirror. This of course obscures the reflection of his face. I think that the slang phrase 'giving the brush,' or 'getting the brush,' originated from this figure. When a lady sees the reflection of the face of a gentleman whom she wishes for a partner she holds the mirror still. This figure is generally employed in such a way that one man in the party is left out."

"What does the unfortunate man who gets left out in such a case do?"

"He simply has to sit down until the next figure comes, when he gets another chance."

"What about favors in the german?"

SCREEN FIGURE.

"Favors are any kind of an article which a lady presents to her partner or a gentleman to a lady in some of the figures to indicate that he has chosen her for the next waltz, and they become thereby trophies of the occasion. The favors are always placed upon a table in some part of the room, and are not brought to the dance by individuals. At the signal for giving the favors, if it is the gentlemen who have to bestow them, they go to the table and each one selects whatever it may be, a rose, a toy, a little ornament, or, in the case of very wealthy people, a jewel. The lady to whom he gives this favor becomes his partner for the next waltz. The same rule applies when the ladies bestow the favors. As only a portion of the gentlemen in the company select favors at the same time, it thus becomes possible that a particularly handsome or popular young lady may be chosen by somebody as a partner in each of the different sets of that figure, and the same will follow in the case of gentlemen. The result is that after the german is concluded it is seldom that any two persons have received the same number of favors.

"Among wealthy people these favors are generally articles of considerable value, but among more modest companies they are simply pretty souvenirs of the occasion. In this set of mine, where we have no end of fun and recreation, the expense attending the make-up

MIRROR FIGURE.

of favors is borne by the ladies and gentlemen. It was the ladies' wish that it should be so. They organized the club, and insisted that whenever we met for the german they should contribute their share toward the expense. I do not see why that is not a very proper plan."

"How is the leader selected for such events?"

"This duty is generally imposed upon the one man in the company who is regarded as the most inventive, although it is coming to be now so that almost anybody who has danced the german several times can lead it successfully. He is not generally debarred from the pleasure of dancing during the evening, for he has the privilege of selecting at any time any of the ladies present to dance a figure with him. Beyond the planning of movements there has to be something done to secure articles, such as the curtains and screens and candles, which may be used in them. All this work the leader has to do unassisted, and any defect in the arrangements is chargeable to him."

Shot by Man and Caught by a Cat.

ANSONIA, Jan. 19.—An owl measuring four and one-half feet from tip to tip is a rare bird for Connecticut, but a couple of Middletown hunters shot one that filled the bill on Saturday, and even the offer of a conductorship on the Meriden and Waterbury Railroad would not make them feel prouder than they do now. They were out near Long Hill with a dog and rifle, when the bird, a horned owl, was seen sitting on a fence. The dog started him up, and he flew to a tree. A rifle ball was sent into his body, and he fell to the ground, and although wounded unto death he made a savage fight, and both man and dog bear marks of the bird's beak and talons, and one of the hunters was obliged to buy a new pair of trousers the next day.

Flying squirrels are also a rare animal in these parts. E. L. Warner of Southbury has had two until recently, when one of them succeeded in effecting his escape. Both were caught by Mr. Warner's cat, who brought them in to his mistress without doing them any harm. Mr. Warner says the young one he saw for the first time was not much larger than a mouse, and his father told him what it was. Although he lives where squirrels are abundant, he had never seen another until his cat brought the first one in two weeks ago.

She Walks Well at Seventy-one.

SOUTH NORWALK, Jan. 19.—THE SUN has had much to say from time to time about the old people of Connecticut, but it never mentioned an old lady, who lives in Wilton, who is so modest that she doesn't want her name printed. She is 71 years old, and last week she walked into Curtis's hardware store in this city and asked them to lend her a lantern, as she was about to start to walk home and she was afraid it might be dark before she got there. Her house by the nearest road is thirteen miles from here, but she doesn't think anything of leaving Wilton in the morning and walking down and back. Mr. Curtis gave her the lantern and a few matches, and three days later she returned it with many thanks.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY AS WHISPERED IN THE AVENUES.

Music with Hotel Dinners—An Artist's Notion of New York—How Cheap Books are Produced—Maurice Bernhardt's Income—A Slugger's Complaint—The Gaiety Girls.

At least two hotels in town now offer music with their dinners. The bands are concealed, and their strains float in upon the diners. New York is a wonderful town for good hotels, and there is no proof that there are too many, yet only a very few are filled the year round, and nearly all seem to feel the necessity for producing extraordinary attractions for their customers, even to the presentation, as was done at one prosperous house, of beautifully lithographed calendars for 1889 as part of a New Year's Day menu card.

Mr. Frederick Villiers, the war artist of the *London Graphic*, said the other day that New York is one of the most picturesque towns in the world, and owes its distinction to the masses of wires overhead and the vistas of great poles in the streets. He would not have these removed on any account. He wonders that no artists have thrown the best of the city's scenes on canvas with these "artistic groupings of wires against the sky." "I have only been here a few days," he said, "but already I know a dozen corners down town that would make superb pictures, and mainly because of the poles and wires."

A half-dozen Rocky Mountain antelope skins and heads came to town yesterday, consigned to a North William street taxidermist, whose men at once set to work curing the skins and building false frames of wood and straw and wire on which to mount them. Wealthy sportsmen nowadays ship their bags of game at once to such places in this city, sometimes protecting the skins with arsenic and sometimes doing nothing to them. The same taxidermists who receive this also pay professional hunters at work all over the Territories, Mexico, and British America to send to them the finest specimens of whatever game they bring down.

The appearance of the latest English dictionary, absolutely unabridged and bound in cloth at the low price of $1.75 a copy, lets a flood of light on modern publishing methods. It would seem impossible to get out the book so cheaply, with its vast contents, its Greek and Latin roots, and all its complicated arrangements of type. But it was not set up at all. It was simply photo-lithographed. Photographs were taken of the separate pages, and these were next made into electrotype plates to be printed on cheap paper and bound together. Of course the original cost was the mere trouble of printing the book. In this way the standard works of science and fiction are now turned out at a cost that makes a good library within every one's reach.

The principal turf guide for last year is now out, and demonstrates as no other one thing does how great has been the growth of horse racing in this country. It is simply a record of the races run last year, but it is a book of 720 pages set in agate type, whereas ten years ago it was a pocket volume not one-quarter that size.

The other night at one of the up-town theatres an artist sat looking at a play. No one would have known what he was had he not suddenly produced from under his seat a drawing board, on which he drew an outline picture of the principal spectacle in the play. When he had drawn this he marked the colors of each part of the scenery and costumes in writing upon the different objects. A week later he had produced a complete picture of the scene in water colors, using photographs of the actors and actresses to get their faces correctly. This he submitted to the theatrical manager, who accepted it. All this was preliminary to the making of a great twelve-sheet lithographed poster.

Miss Letty Lind will not marry her Australian admirer this year after all. The pretty dancer of the Gaiety company will be confined in New York for a good many months to come, and it is not improbable that the Gaiety company will extend its tour well into the holidays of next year. According to theatrical experts, the talk of American managers about the profits which the Gaiety company made during its New York engagement is understood to be the reason that the list of salaries paid to the men and women of the London organization is very small compared to that of the American companies. The returns to the managers are proportionate. Ever since the arrangement was made for bringing the Gaiety company back to New York, instead of taking it to England, applications have been pouring in for out-of-town engagements, and hence it is not improbable that Fred Leslie, Letty Lind, Nellie Farren, Sylvia Grey, Frank Danby, and all the others of this particular troupe of women comedians will see the snow fly in the fall of next year before they set foot again in London.

The buyer for a large commercial house, who has just returned from Paris, remarked yesterday that Maurice Bernhardt had jumped into the foremost rank of Parisian swelldom.

"His mother," the traveller said, "allows Maurice an income of twelve hundred dollars a week, and the young man is spending every sou of it. His manner of dispensing the money is not particularly modest either. Instead of driving in the Bois, he is a familiar figure on the Boulevard and in most of the business streets. Everywhere that he goes he is surrounded by evidences of wealth. He has lived long enough in America and England to know a correct idea of horses and carts, and his stable is now one of the best in Paris. When he drives down through the Boulevard Capucines he usually holds the reins over a pair of perfectly matched English cobs, and he is clad in the prevailing London mode. He is not received at all in society, by the way, despite the fact that his wife has some sort of right to call herself a Countess, but he is probably as thoroughly contented as any man in the French capital."

Dominick McCaffrey, who has been more or less a frequenter of the Hoffman House café for a dozen years, has grown weary of the original accounts which announced that Sullivan had got on another bender.

"It is his nature to do that sort of thing," McCaffrey said tersely, "and there is no earthly reason to doubt that he will fall from grace whenever the opportunity offers."

McCaffrey's condition would fill Sullivan with envy. He looks like a boy of 17 years, and he is in perfect condition. He claims that people have always regarded him as a heavy weight, though he really belongs in the middle-weight class, since he frequently fought below 160 pounds. One thing that hurts his feelings is the fact that he is receiving a great deal of adverse comment because he is challenging men who are not in the heavy-weight class. This, he claims, is because he finds it impossible to get a match with any of the big ones, and he is anxious to keep fighting while his strength and youth lasts. Nobody, by the way, can talk to a professional pugilist for ten minutes without reaching the conclusion that the life of a fighter is not a happy one.

Mayor Grant would probably be astounded if he had any idea how many people are counting on his liberality and love of fun in a purely commercial light. There is a general impression abroad among promoters of entertainments which are just a shade outside the recognition of the law that there will now be no apprehension at all of police interference when beer and music go hand in hand in New York. The summer season will witness the advent of a vast number of light shows, and people who are obliged to stay at home from the seaside in the hot months of 1889 will not suffer keenly from the want of amusement. Now that the Gaiety company is coming back to New York there will be burlesque at the Standard and light opera at the Casino, the Broadway, Palmer's, and the Bijou all summer long.

The dissolution of the partnership of Robson and Crane has resulted in an offer to Bronson Howard for a new comedy for Mr. Crane on a basis of the largest monetary payment which has yet been made to an American dramatist. Bronson Howard's "Shenandoah," which has been running for some time in Boston, will come to New York in the fall, at the Star Theatre, under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman. Mr. Howard's other play, "The Henrietta," is still a great money maker. Robson paid Crane $25,000 for the latter's share in it. Nearly all of Howard's plays are to be produced in London the coming year, including "The Henrietta," "Shenandoah," "One Of Our Girls," and "The Banker's Daughter." Charles Windom, Mr. Howard's brother-in-law, will have a hand in the English production. When "Shenandoah" was first produced in Boston Bronson Howard was offered $5,000 a week for the play. He refused to sell the play on anything but a royalty, and he has already received nearly the whole amount of the cash offer for it in that way.

Irene Verona is following in the early footsteps of Lillian Russell and Pauline Hall. When she first went on the stage she was a light, willowy blonde, with lots of vivacity and movement. The influence, whatever it is, which so steadily builds up the adipose tissue of burlesque actresses has been at work on Miss Verona, and she is now a stout young woman. Lillian Russell passed through this inevitable stage of a comic opera singer about two years ago. She grew so stout that all of her beauty had disappeared, and then she underwent a thorough course of banting, which reduced her to her former proportions. Pauline Hall rides a bicycle at 6 o'clock in the morning, and undergoes other heavy physical penalties. The result is that she, too, is back to her former dimensions. The task of reducing flesh does not seem, such a difficult one after all.

A HOME FOR HOMELESS BOYS.

Opening of a New Lodging House for the Boys of the Children's Aid Society.

The new lodging house for homeless boys of the Children's Aid Society, which has just been erected by Morris K. Jesup, was formally opened on Monday. It is a four-story brick building at the corner of Second avenue and East Forty-fourth street. It was designed by the architect, Calvert Vaux, after an old house in Nuremberg, Germany, and its features are a high, sharp roof, steep gables, quaint dormer

windows, and shapely oriole towers. The cost of the structure alone was $57,000, and that of the lot $38,000.

The building will be open for the accommodation of the boys in about ten days. It is erected to supersede the old and worn-out house at 314 East Thirty-fifth street. Day and evening schools will be established, and lodgings are provided for 125 boys.

THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE.

A Force that Consists of One Man, Who Is On Duty All the Time.

How many citizens of this commonwealth know that there is such a thing as a State police force? How many of them, if they assert that they always knew that there was such an organization, can tell what its duties are and where it is chiefly exercised?

There is such a force, and in some respects it is the most curious institution in the commonwealth. It has only one station, and its executive organization is extraordinarily simple. The superintendent or head of the department, whatever his title may be, is Mr. Charles Paret. His headquarters are at Quarantine, in the little building next the water's edge where the telegraph office is situated. Mr. Paret is on duty twenty-four hours in the day; is his own lieutenant, sergeant, and patrolman. The entire police surveillance of the State is concentrated in his person. He has an official badge similar in general appearance to the badge worn by the metropolitan police, and it is the only one issued by the State. His duties are in the way of assistance to Health Officer Smith, an official of the State Government, and not of the national, as many people suppose.

Policeman Paret has authority to arrest any person who attempts to board vessels at Quarantine without the doctor's orders. As he cannot possibly be awake all the time, he has one assistant, and between them they keep guard over the peace there. But the assistant is not a policeman, and can make an arrest only by the exercise of a deputy's functions.

Paret is a large, good-natured man, who was formerly on the police force of this city. A part of his occupation consists in taking people out to the boats in the channel after they have received formal permission from the Health Officer to go. He is not required by law to perform this work, and therefore he is enabled to make charges for the service. Nevertheless, no one else would be permitted to take people out to the ships lying there, because it is against the law to board a vessel at Quarantine, and the policeman has to go out with all visitors in order to make sure that this provision of the law is not violated.

STILL HE WAS NOT HAPPY.

Lost Thirty-five Cents by Theft, and Got Forty by Charity.

A gentleman who was passing along Twenty-eighth street near Broadway the other evening, noticed a very small boy sitting on the sidewalk crying bitterly. He stopped and asked the youngster: "What's the matter?"

"Boo-hoo!" was the reply as the lad held out an empty purse: "I had 35 cents, boo-hoo, and a big boy knocked it out of my hands and ran off with it, boo-hoo!"

"Well, that's too bad," said the gentleman, sympathetically, as he put his hand into his pocket and brought out a nickel. "There, that may help you out, won't it?"

"Yes, sir, boo-hoo!"

Several other gentlemen had stopped by this time, and having heard the boy's story as he repeated it with sobbing that was as genuine as ever sobs were, contributed their share to relieving his distress.

"What have you got under your arm there?" asked one of them.

"Papers, boo-hoo!" replied the boy.

"Aren't you going to try to sell them?"

"Yes, sir, boo-hoo! When I get warm." He was sitting over a grating in the sidewalk which is just above the furnace room of a Turkish bath establishment. One of the men in the crowd evidently believed that the youngster had put up a job on the sympathies of passers by, for he said, coolly:

"Say, Johnny, how much have you made by this, so far?"

"Boo-hoo, five cents, boo-hoo!" was the honest reply, and all the gentlemen laughed and left the lad still crying, and his tears now probably resulted from the reflection that if he had not been robbed of the thirty-five cents, all this kindly charity which he had received might have coun