COINING IS ON THE DECLINE.

COUNTERFEITERS ARE LEARNING THAT IT DOESN'T PAY.

The Result Attributed to the Activity of the Secret Service—Close Watch Kept by Sleuths on Suspects—Types of the Men Who Make Counterfeit Coin.

"I swear," said the young coiner, waiting to be taken to the Kings County Penitentiary, "I swear the game isn't what it's cracked up to be. It simply don't pay. Now, look at me.

"Two years ago I was an innocent sort of kid, but looking for trouble. Well, a feller down on the East Side got hold of me—never mind who he was; I guess I am not a squealer—and taught me the game. Quarters and halves were my specialty. I got together all the paraphernalia—zinc, moulds, lead, plaster of Paris and the whole shooting match.

"I made about ten dollars worth of the stuff, but I hadn't passed more'n a dozen coins, all told, when I was nabbed. That meant eighteen months hard.

"I did my trick and I hadn't no more than come out when I was at my old game. Couldn't keep away from it.

"Now, you see, I've got another year's hard. It's an awful thing, I tell you, for a feller to begin to think, 'maybe I am a born crook.'"

To the credit of this coiner, be it said, he has not yet become utterly hardened. In his last coining venture he took an uncle of his in on the ground floor.

Before they could do much, however, both uncle and nephew were arrested by Secret Service agents. At the trial the younger man took all the blame on his shoulders and exonerated his uncle.

"Glad they turned the old man out," he whispered. "It would be an awful thing for him to be sent up, and he having a wife and kid to support!"

But few coiners are so straightforward in their speech as this one. The majority come from Italy, and are dowered with exuberant imaginations and fine dramatic ability to dissemble.

A young Neapolitan was arraigned not long ago.

"We got a fine little plant on him, all complete," said Secret Service Agent Flynn, with the enthusiasm of the connoisseur.

There was a clear case against Luigi but he looked innocence personified. His great brown eyes were filled with tears as he stood there wringing his hands and murmuring "Giesu" and "Maria."

"Ask him what he has to say," the United States Commissioner said to the interpreter.

With a flood of tears and a soft musical voice Luigi told a pitiful tale.

"*Caro signor mio*, tell the Judge I am innocent. A friend of mine whose whereabouts I don't know and whose name I don't remember, brought the outfit to my house and showed me how to make quarters—*antichi*, signor, curiosities not for circulation. I only made a few curiosities. I was arrested, and now *la moglie*, the wife, is alone at home!"

The interpreter, a novice, was infected with some of the man's emotion, but the faces of the Secret Service agent and of the Commissioner were untroubled.

"The old, old story," murmured Mr. Flynn, and Luigi was held.

His two month sojourn in Ludlow Street Jail had apparently proved a liberal education to Luigi, for when he appeared for trial he looked much more manly. In a firm, strong voice he pleaded guilty and took his sentence of two years' imprisonment without apparent emotion.

"No more curiosities for me, signor," he said to the interpreter as the marshal was locking his handcuffs; "the business doesn't pay itself."

Such are types of some of the more common practitioners of the decaying art of coining. For it is decaying, the Secret Service people say.

For the fiscal year ending June 3, 1902, Chief Wilkie reported 411 arrests on charges of coining and passing counterfeit coin. For the year ending with June, 1903, the figures dwindled to 244. The Secret Service people say that the decrease in the number of arrests reflects the decrease in the number of counterfeiters.

The receipts of bad coin in the Sub-Treasury are growing smaller every year. Of 5,000,000 silver dollars and $16,000,000 in subsidiary coin handled in the Sub-Treasury in the last eleven months, only 467 dollars, $493 in halves, $423 in quarters and $278 in dimes were counterfeit.

Counterfeit bills are equally on the decline. The Sub-Treasurer believes there are not more than $30,000 counterfeit in a total circulation of about $1,687,135,568 a month. And the Secret Service figures show the arrests on charges of making counterfeit bills to have declined in the last fiscal year by almost 50 per cent. from the figures of the year preceding. That, too, is attributed to the activity of the Secret Service and particularly of the New York branch. Here is an example of the kind of work done.

Last year after his return from London, where he testified against John Davis, the notorious counterfeiter of Bank of England notes, Agent Flynn made up his mind that Davis, variously known as Schwartz, S Schmitt & Liebman, would sooner or later come to America. In conjunction with Scotland Yard, Chief Wilkie of the Secret Service had the movements of Davis carefully followed across Europe. Last summer, sure enough, Davis arrived in New York.

In spite of all of Davis's cleverness and secrecy the New York agents and Chief Wilkie knew all his movements from the moment he set foot in this city. From the steamship pier he was shadowed night and day by some of the brightest sleuths in the world.

They discovered that he was organizing a syndicate to back him in a big counterfeiting venture, and they knew every member of the gang finally organized. The house he rented in Newark was watched from the moment he moved into it.

At last, when Davis had moved to Revere, Mass., and had completed all his preparations, the officers gave him a chance to produce only a few of the millions of bad bills he intended to put forth, and then their case was complete. The Revere house was raided. Agent Flynn was there, while his men here simultaneously arrested every member of the syndicate.

There was no chance this time for Davis to turn State's evidence. Joseph Baumenblitt, a member of the gang, got ahead of him with a confession and served Davis and the others just as Davis served the Farmashes, his confederates in England, only a year ago. By turning King's witness last year in England and betraying his confederates, Davis not only gained his freedom, but even secured a liberal reward from the Bank of England.

"You have been after me a long time, haven't you, Mr. Flynn?" said Davis when he was arrested at Revere, on Dec. 4.

"Yes, but haven't I got you dead right now?" was Flynn's reply.

With Davis disappears, in the words of Joseph Baumenblitt, the Government's witness, "the greatest mechanic that ever lived."

Santa Claus at Riding and Driving Club Sports.

Santa Claus visited the home of the Riding and Driving Club, on the Park Slope, Brooklyn, last night, and the children made merry with their annual Christmas entertainment and equestrian sports. The Christmas music ride was held in the afternoon, an unusually large number of children participating in the various evolutions on the tanbark to the music of a string orchestra.

After the music ride Santa Claus appeared, mounted on a four-in-hand, with Hamilton H. Salmon, the well known Brooklyn society man, as driver. Riding around the ring, with a red coated guard sounding his horn, Santa tossed forth handsomely decorated boxes of bonbons to the children.

A tilting contest at rings was captured by Fritz Bedford. This was followed by an egg and spoon race on horseback, which was won by Miss Dorothy Hubbs, Miss Smythe being second.

The jumping competitions followed. The blue was won by F. D. Peabody on his bay mare, with Fritz Bedford, on William M. Dykman's mare, gaining second honors. The women's class went to Miss Farrington.

ENGLAND WARNS FRANCE?

Her Intention to Support Japan if France Aids Russia.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—It is authoritatively stated that the British Government has informed the French Government that it is using all possible efforts at Tokio in the interests of peace, but that in the event of war England would side with Japan if France should side with Russia. M. Delcassé has apprised the Russian Government of this statement.

According to other reports the foregoing statement is exaggerated. It is asserted that the closest understanding exists between London and Paris as to the desirability that every pressure should be brought at St. Petersburg and Tokio in behalf of peace.

It is stated furthermore that England has assured France that should hostilities ensue she would only actively intervene in the event of France actively siding with Russia.

But it is said that Lord Lansdowne has been assured by M. Delcassé that France would not one moment consent to being drawn into a struggle in which there was prospect that the Russo-Japanese complications would affect the cordiality of Anglo-French relations.

TWO MEN MISSING.

They Left Tarrytown for Nyack in a Boat, Which Has Been Found Bottom Up.

NYACK, Dec. 26.—Christopher Sickenger, engineer of the ferryboat Rockland, and Isaac Osterhout, mate of the Chrystenah, are missing, and it is believed by their friend that they were drowned in the Hudson, between Nyack and Tarrytown, on Thursday night. These two men left Nyack for Tarrytown at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon in a flat bottomed rowboat belonging to the Rockland. They were accompanied by the fireman of the Chrystenah, who was going to take a train from Tarrytown for his home in Germantown, Columbia county.

The men reached Tarrytown all right, it has since been learned, and the fireman went on his way home. Sickenger and Osterhout left Tarrytown in their boat at 7 o'clock Thursday evening for Nyack, but they did not reach here and have not since been seen or heard from.

This morning Isaac Wallace, the dock agent here, received a telephone message from Irvington telling him that the boat had been found bottom up in the river at that place. This message strengthens the belief that the men were drowned.

Christopher Sickenger had been engineer on the Rockland for two years, and for eight years before that he was engineer of the Chrystenah. He was about 33 years of age. His wife died a few months ago, leaving two children. His home was in Nyack. Isaac Osterhout has been mate on the Chrystenah four years, and his home is in Peekskill, where his wife and two children live.

W. O. BREWSTER KILLS HIMSELF.

New York Merchant's Body Found Hanging in His Hotel Room in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 26.—The dead body of W. O. Brewster of the firm of Bolger & Brewster, commission merchants in knit goods at 256 and 258 Church street, New York, was found hanging in his room at the Burnet House, this city, to-day. He had committed suicide some time during the day as the body was still warm. No note or letter of any kind was found and the cause is a mystery.

The news of Mr. Brewster's death was received here last evening by his brother, R. I. Brewster, and at Westfield, N. J., by his uncle, W. B. Elliott. Mr. Elliott said that for two months Mr. Brewster had done all of his firm's work because of an injury which his partner, Thomas Bolger, had received, and that because of the incidental worry he had become afflicted with insomnia.

"Just before he started West two weeks ago," said Mr. Elliott, "he went to a physician, who, I believe, prescribed for him some drug to induce sleep. It is possible that an overdose of this drug induced him to end his life. I can imagine no other reason."

Mr. Brewster was about 60 years old and was single. He had been in partnership with Mr. Bolger for about fifteen years.

HUCKLEBERRY'S VICTORY.

Dunn and Baker Voted For It, Dickey Against It.

ALBANY, Dec. 26.—In denying the application of the New York City Interborough Railway Company for permission to construct thirty-six miles of electric roads in Bronx borough, the State Railroad Commission says, in a written opinion made public to-day, that there is no necessity for the construction of any part of these proposed roads for the reason that the electric railroads now operated by the Union Railway Company, and those for which it has franchises to build, are and will be ample for some time to come for the street surface passenger traffic in that borough.

Commissioners George W. Dunn of Binghamton and Frank M. Baker of Owego joined in refusing the application to construct. Commissioner Joseph M. Dickey of Newburgh writes a dissenting opinion in favor of granting the application, declaring that there was necessity and room for another line of surface roads in that borough.

CHICAGO POLICE STIRRED UP.

Activity of the Citizens' Committee Causes Them to Decide to Hunt Criminals.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Aroused to action by the knowledge that the citizens' committee on crime was preparing to wage war on crooks of all kinds, the police officials met to-day in a council in Chief O'Neill's office and laid plans of their own for a crusade against the lawless element which for months has reigned over the city.

Inspectors estimated that 5,000 crooks would be caught in the sweep of the dragnet that is to be cast out, unless the criminals should take the alarm and flee the city.

While the carnival of crime is at its height Mayor Harrison has deserted the city for a hunting trip to Oklahoma. He left on the 9 o'clock Chicago and Alton train this evening. The Mayor and his party will go directly to Kansas City and there the further destination will be settled on. It is likely that Chandler, Okla., will be the objective point. The Mayor expects to return on next Friday.

JACK TARS HAD TOO GOOD A TIME.

New Orleans Festivities Too Much for Them—Ordered to Pensacola to Sober Up.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 26.—The warships Minneapolis, Hartford and Yankee, which have been here celebrating the Louisiana Centennial, received orders today to sail at once for Pensacola. The vessels were to have remained here for a week or more longer and then sail direct to the West Indies.

The order to sail for Pensacola was issued at the request of Admiral Wise, who reported that the festivities of New Orleans during the centennial celebration and holidays had proved demoralizing to discipline. The men have been very popular and so large a number have been locked up until they got sober that Admiral Wise thought it best to take them to some quiet place.

Jack Clancy Knocks Out Dave Barry.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 26.—Jack Clancy of San Francisco knocked out Dave Barry of London after seven rounds, in a match for the lightweight championship.

EARLY AMERICAN COIN.

TEN-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE THAT WAS ISSUED IN 1795.

How It Differs From Modern Coin of the Same Denomination—Handsomest of American Gold Pieces—A Boer Gold "Pund" Piece Considered Rare Find.

From the Washington Post.

A local numismatist has recently secured two remarkable coins, an American ten-dollar gold piece of 1795 and a gold "pund" piece of the late lamented Transvaal republic.

The Transvaal piece is interesting. The Boer Government began the coinage of these gold "one pund," or pound pieces, in the year 1892, about the time of the discovery of the Witwatersrand gold field, a fact which is of itself quite interesting, when one recollects that the first twenty-dollar gold piece coined by our own Government was in 1849, when the yellow metal was discovered in California. They continued the coinage of these until the latter part of the year 1898, and the coin owned by the local collector is of that year. It bears on the face a wonderfully fine likeness (bust) of President Paul Krueger, and on the back the arms of the Transvaal republic over the motto of "Right Makes Might," in the Taal, or South African Dutch language. The arms of the Boer Commonwealth, which are said to have been in part designed or suggested by Krueger himself, consist of a shield, halved, with the upper division quartered. Stamped in the lower half is one of the large wagons used by the voor trekkers when, nearly a century ago, they left Cape Colony, and, turning their backs upon everything British, migrated to the high veldt of the Orange and Vaal rivers; while in the upper left hand quartering is a lion couchant, which Krueger is said to have regarded as the symbol peculiar of his power. In the right quartering is stamped the form of one of the old voortrekkers, scanning the horizon of his new-found home beyond the Vaal, while over all this, and surmounting the shield, is the form of the peculiar little "batteleur" (striker) eagle of South Africa, stamped in sharp, high relief. At the close of the South African war the British troops took possession of all the coins of this denomination they could lay hands upon, shipping them off to the mint at Cape Town to be melted down and recast into real English pounds, and, as a result, only a limited number of them fell into the hands of collectors and numismatists. Even at the present time the Cape Government is gathering up, melting down and restamping all coins of this character, in consequence of which they are bringing high prices. The face value of this Transvaal "pund" is $4.85, and they are selling, both here and in England, for $12 and $15, and never less than $10.

The American $10 gold piece of 1795 is much more interesting. Some people entertain the mistaken notion that the American Government began the coinage of gold and silver currency in 1776; but this is a mistake for at that time and for some years after the currency of this country consisted entirely of scrip. The first copper pennies were coined in 1793; the first silver in 1794, and in the year following the first gold coins ($10 pieces) were struck by the American Government. To-day these coins are exceedingly rare and worth their face value several times over. They are exactly the same size as a modern silver half dollar, and on first glance one is tempted to believe that they contain more gold than the modern $10 gold coins, but a careful comparison of the two soon reveals the fact that there is no difference as to weight, one containing as much of the yellow metal as the other. The difference lies in the fact that the modern gold piece is very thick, whereas the first coin, minted in 1795, is exceedingly thin. The latter bears on its face a bust of the Goddess of Liberty, altogether unlike the lady which one encounters on modern American coins. She is big and fat and snub-nosed, and her Phrygian cap is of such size and shape and worn in such a peculiar manner that she looks more like a fat Dutch frau wearing a sunbonnet than she does like the presiding genius of a great nation. Over the head of the portly divinity are the thirteen stars representing the States of the then infant republic. On the back of this coin there is what purports to be an eagle, holding in its talons an olive branch and in its beak a wreath of laurel. That is all. The eagle was so atrocious, however, and looked so much more like a jack snipe or a buzzard or a fly-up-the-creek than it did like the monarch of the air, that in 1797 a new issue of gold $10 pieces was struck, bearing the same obese Goddess of Liberty on the face, but a genuine eagle on the back. The latter is the familiar "spread eagle" of our Government seals and stamps, bearing upon its breast the shield, with the Stars and Stripes; in its left claw a sheaf of arrows and in the right a laurel wreath. One can readily imagine that an eagle must have been pretty bad for the people of 1795 (who wore powdered wigs and took snuff) to have found fault with it, and so it was; but when our forefathers improved in this matter they did very well, indeed, and the spread eagle of 1797, with outstretched wings and bearing in its bill the E Pluribus Unum scroll, which resulted from their efforts, has endured from that day to this. In the 1797 $10 piece the thirteen stars were changed from the face to the back, where they have ever since remained. It was not, however, until the year 1866 that the motto "In God We Trust" was placed above the eagle, and beneath the thirteen stars, upon the American gold and silver coins.

Until 1849, when gold was discovered in California, the United States Government coined no gold pieces higher than $10; but along toward the latter part of 1849 one twenty-dollar gold piece was struck by way of experiment. Only this single twenty-dollar gold coin, and none others, was at that time struck, and it is to-day the only 1849 double eagle in the world. It reposes in the mint at Philadelphia, and although collectors have offered large sums for it the Government has quite properly refused to part with it. In the year following, 1850, however, the Government turned out a large number of double eagles, which it has kept up ever since. Speaking of American numismatics, the owner of the two coins, who is quite an authority on such matters, said:

"It is astonishing the number of misconceptions which people entertain with regard to gold coins. It would take me too long to describe all of them fully, so I will simply tell you about one which, to me, is about the funniest thing going. The Government began the coinage of $1 gold pieces in 1849, which was kept up until the year 1889, since which time no gold dollars have been issued. They sell for double face value, and are becoming rare. In 1854 three-dollar gold coins were issued, the coinage of which was kept up until 1889, when it was discontinued, and now they are also worth double their face value. The $2.50 gold pieces, however, which were first issued in the year 1796, following the appearance of the first American gold coins, in the shape of ten-dollar pieces, have been coined ever since, and, together with the five, ten, and twenty-dollar pieces, constitute the gold coins which are being now issued by the Government.

"Thus it happens that the $10 piece and the $2.50 token are the two oldest gold coins of the American Government, and, what is more, they have been continuously issued ever since. However, despite the fact that any one with a gold certificate can go to any bank in America and cash it in for $2.50 gold pieces, there are hundreds of people here in Washington who imagine the Government has ceased coining $2.50 pieces; that they are extremely rare, and that a premium is being paid for them. I have had well dressed, good looking, intelligent people, who ought to know better, come to me time and again during the past year, offering to dispose of a handful of these coins for the premium and face which they imagined such coins were bringing. When I tell them that such tokens are being coined right along they think I am misrepresenting matters. Now, the fun of it all is that several local pawnbrokers and dealers in valuables have been laboring under the same mistaken notion, and have been actually paying a premium on such coins and trying to sell them at double their face value. In some way they have gotten the $3 gold piece, which was last coined in 1889, mixed up with the $2.50 token, and are paying a premium on the latter, which are common enough, when it is the former that are becoming scarce and are worth double their face value."

The handsomest of the gold coins issued by the American Government is undoubtedly the $3 gold token issued during the period from 1854 to 1889. This is the coin which bears on its face the bust of an Indian princess, which, despite the fact that it is artistically perfect, is ethnologically incorrect, for the reason that the princess wears a headdress of ostrich plumes, a bird indigenous to South Africa, and with which the aborigines were not at all familiar.

SUICIDE OF A CHINAMAN.

Louis Dock of Mott Street Hangs Himself From a Steampipe.

A Chinaman, who lives on the second floor of 4 Mott street and was known as Louis Dock, committed suicide last evening by hanging himself from a steam pipe with a leather thong.

The police think that the man had lost his money at fan tan.

NEW YORK ARTISTS GET MEDALS.

Awards in the Water Color Exhibition at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26.—The jury of awards in the water color exhibition of the American Art Society announced to-day the names of the artists who will receive medals for their work. Eighteen honors were given to Pennsylvania, twelve to New York and eight were divided among the other States.

Gold medals were awarded to anhtus Smith of Philadelphia; W. Verplank Birney, New York; Walter C. Hartson, New York; Peter Moran, Philadelphia; Paul de Longpre, Califronia; James B. Sword, Philadelphia; Carl Weber, Philadelphia; Leon Moran, Plainfield, N. J.; William R. Derrick, New York; H. N. Hyneman, New York, and F. L. Kirkpatrick, Philadelphia.

The following received silver medal awards: Rebecca N. Van Trump, Philadelphia; W. S. Budworth, New York; Walter Satterlee, New York; H. G. Plumb, New York; John A. Graber, Philadelphia; Elizabeth H. Ingham, Philadelphia; Walter Paris, Washington, D. C.; Howell, Wilson, Philadelphia; James Kinsella, New York; E MM. eller, New York; Donald McGregor, Philadelphia; J. S. C. Heiss, Philadelphia; Hannah McC. Rhett, Charleston, S. C.; John J. Dull, Philadelphia; Jules A. Dieudonne, Washington; Mary Austin Oliver, Geneva, N. Y.; George T. Hobbs, Philadelphia; Anna G. Sykes, Cincinnati; Mary Stewart Dunlap, New York; Charles H. Hagert, Dingman's Ferry, Pa., and C. Philip Weber, Philadelphia.

Those who won bronze medals are Edward Ertz, Chicago, Ill.; H. W. Tomlinson, New York; Millicent Drake, Philadelphia; Elizabeth Lesser, New York; M. L. Bates Bumpus, Quincy, Mass.; Ferdinand Moras, Philadelphia; Eugene Castello, Philadelphia, and Winfield Rubins, Minneapolis, Minn.

SWEPT OVERBOARD AT SEA.

Two of a Fishing Schooner's Crew Lost Off Plymouth, Mass.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—In the snowstorm this noon a two-masted schooner was sighted close to the rocks at Cohasset. At first it was thought she was ashore and that her crew were in the rigging. A volunteer crew of life savers put off to the rescue. They found that the craft was at anchor, but had been badly used by the gale of yesterday and last night.

She proved to be the fishing schooner Ellen H. Jones of this port, and when off Plymouth yesterday encountered a gale that blew her mainsail out of the bolt ropes and otherwise crippled her. Two of her crew of ten men were washed overboard and drowned. Her captain worked her in under the Cohasset shore during the night to gain a lee. It is thought the schooner can work off shore safely as soon as the gale abates.

BACK BROKEN A MONTH?

Strange Story Told by a Greek When Brought to a Hospital.

Vassilios Pratio was taken to the Hudson street hospital from 1½ Washington street late yesterday afternoon. Pratio, who is a native of Greece, says that he was at work on a railroad in Chicago a month ago when he was struck by a passing train and his back broken.

He was taken to a hospital, where he stayed some time, but did not get well. He became very desirous of seeing his family in Greece, he says, and finally was taken from the hospital and sent to New York. He was met by friends here, who carried him on a mattress to the Washington street boarding-house.

He had been there two or three days before his friends called an ambulance. The man would not say how he got to the train from the Chicago hospital.

HOW ARIZONA GOT DATES.

Pioneer Put Seeds in His Pocket at a Dinner in San Francisco.

From the Baltimore Sun.

PHŒNIX, Ariz., Dec. 20.—It was by a curious accident that the first date trees were grown here. One of the pioneer residents of the Salt River Valley was visiting in San Francisco twenty years ago. One evening some imported dates were passed around at a social gathering at which he was a guest.

The polite disposition of the date pits bothered him for a few minutes, until he decided not to swallow them or throw them on the carpet, but to put them in his pocket. When he returned in Phœnix some weeks later his wife discovered the date pits reposing in the coat pocket where he had placed them. When she was told what they were, and how they came to be there, she was inspired to plant them, to see if they would grow.

With no idea that fruit would ever come of it, the date pits were planted and carefully tended. As was natural in an irrigated country, the planting was done along a ditch through which water was distributed from the canal to the thirsty land. The seeds sprouted and the sprouts grew. Years went by and the palms increased in size, until finally they blossomed.

By this time the owners had become enough interested to seek all the available information on date culture. It was found that in their native country the date trees have a distinct sex and unless the blossoms are properly pollenized they will not mature perfect fruit. Ordinarily the male trees grow wild, as they are too common to be kept in the cultivated orchards. When the female trees are in blossom, a bloom from the male trees is sought, cut off and hung in the other tree, where the breezes and bees transfer its pollen to the other blossoms. The result is the perfect fruit of commerce.

Luckily for the Phœnix experiment, there were both male and female trees among those which grew from the pits, and it was an easy matter to pollenize the blossoms so that good fruit was matured. Before the trees came into bearing they put forth suckers or shoots sprouting from the stem. These were removed and planted, preferably in a circle about the parent tree, so that the good varieties were readily distinguished and the poor ones allowed to die out. One of the original trees was removed several yards from the spot where it had made its first six or seven years growth and, aside from a setback of one year in bearing fruit, it is now flourishing as well as any. In all, this original orchard now contains about twenty-five trees of all ages, and all sprung from the original seeds.

The blossoms are sent off from below the oldest leaves on the tree, and as the fruit forms it looks like the ordinary green pickled olive. From the broad, fleshy stem hang two score or more of slender but tough straw-like stems, on which the dates grow thickly from all sides. When the fruit is removed the stem is called a broom, and it looks not unlike that common household article. As the dates go on toward maturity they become heavier, until the stem is bent downward in a curve and the straws hang straight down with their burden of fruit.

First a golden yellow, and finally a light brown, the dates ripen and the flavor of the date fresh from the tree is as different from that of the dried article of commerce as is the fresh grape from the raisin.

Some of the bunches of dates attain a weight of forty to fifty pounds, and a half dozen may grow on a tree. It is common for a tree to bear 100 pounds of fruit in a season. Ordinarily the trees bear fruit every other year, although some are known to bear every year, with an ocasional exception.

It has been said of the date tree that it "must have its head in the fire and its roots in the water," or, in other words, be grown in an arid region with little rainfall, but with an abundance of moisture at the roots. These conditions are found in the Salt River Valley, and for that reason the Government has established an experimental farm of ten acres here, devoted exclusively to date-palm culture. As the dates do not grow true to seed, following the habit of other fruits in that respect, it has been found more satisfactory to grow the palms from suckers.

These were brought from Arabia, planted, and now some of the varieties are maturing fruit. As there are only a limited number of suckers from each tree, in order to establish the date growing industry on a large scale it will be necessary to import large numbers of the suckers. This cannot be done with success until the experiments now being carried on show which varieties will do best in their new environment.

In the case of seedling trees, the plants may be cultivated for several years, until they blossom, before it can be determined to which sex they belong, and then the variety may not be a good one. The sex of a sucker is the same as the plant from which it is taken, so that once the desirable variety is determined it is only a question of removing the suckers and planting them in order to perpetuate it.

THREE GENERATIONS PRAISE PE=RU=NA

The HOUSEHOLD REMEDY For All Catarrhal Ills.

A Grandmother's Letter.

Mrs. S. L. Tinker, 519 Second St., Macon, Ga., writes: "Two years ago my grandson suffered with hemorrhages of the bowels, and he was treated by different doctors, but without cure. We quit all other treatment and began to use Peruna, and after the use of three bottles he seemed to be quite well. He is now able to walk six miles to school every day."—Mrs. S. L. Tinker.

A Daughter's Letter.

Mrs. Theresa Rooke, 258 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill., Treasurer Ladies of Maccabees, writes: "In our home Peruna is the only medicine we have. Grandmother, mother, father and child, all have used Peruna. It is our great remedy for catarrh of the stomach and head, colds or female complaint, of which it has cured me. We find it of great value when my husband becomes worn out or catches cold. A couple of doses cures him. If the baby has colic or any stomach disorder, a dose or two cures her. I consider Peruna finer than any doctor's medicine I ever tried, and I know that as long as we have it in the house we will be able to keep in good health."—Mrs. Thresa Rooke.

A Husband's Letter.

Mr. Otto Nehring, Box 54, Perry, Texas, writes: "I take pleasure in informing you that Peruna has made everything all right. All the doctoring we did was of no use, but Peruna has completely cured my wife. She now feels better than ever before. We shall do all we can to recommend Peruna. You are at liberty to make known the fact that Peruna has accomplished a cure where all doctors have failed. Many thanks to Dr. Hartman. You can add one more cure to the already large number who have been cured by Peruna."—Otto Nehring.

Peruna protects the family against coughs, colds, catarrh, bronchitis, catarrh of the stomach, liver and kidneys. It is just as sure to cure a case of catarrh of the bowels as it is a case of catarrh of the head.

A Granddaughter's Letter.

Dr. S. B. Hartman:—"I am a little girl just nine years old to-day. But I have had lots of sickness, so much that I have learned to love some doctors and some I don't want to see. But Peruna is the medicine for me. I have never gone to school much on account of being sick. I have had chills and bilious fever, pneumonia, and last and worst of all, typhoid pneumonia. I couldn't move one bit, nor hear a thing. My mamma and good doctor gave me Peruna. I have been stouter ever since, and mended faster than any one else who had the fever. Our friends all said that I would die, but I am here yet, and can hear very good. My mamma can write you more."—Ila P. Foster.

The following is a short quotation from a letter written by the mother:

"Our little girl begs us to let her send you a letter. It is one of her own writing. My husband's abscess is healed, thanks to your advice. Peruna did me more good than anything I ever tried. I recommend it to all my friends."—Olive C. Foster, Window Cliffs, Tenn.

Medical Advice for Old and Young.

Everybody writes to Dr. Hartman for medical advice.

Grandmothers when they meet some difficulty that the family physician cannot overcome.

Mothers write when something happens in the household that baffles their skill, and about which the doctor does not seem quite clear.

Even the children write to Dr. Hartman.

In our files are many curious letters from the little folks, asking advice and seeking counsel of the great discoverer of Peruna, the world's renowned author of books and pamphlets on catarrhal diseases.

These letters are carefully answered by confidential clerks and assistant physicians. Of course, there are so many of them that it would not be possible for Dr. Hartman to see them all, but whenever such a letter comes it receives careful attention, and an answer that is sometimes vastly more valuable than many visits from the doctor, or much money spent in drugs.

Congressman George H. White of Tarboro, N. C., writes the following letter to Dr. Hartman:

"I am more than satisfied with Peruna, and find it to be an excellent remedy for the grip and catarrh. I have used it in my family and they all join me in recommending it as an excellent remedy."—George H. White.

Once used in the family Peruna always stays. It is an internal, scientific, systemic remedy for catarrh and all catarrhal diseases.

"I Can Do My Own Work and Take Care of My Children with Ease."

Mrs. Fannie Story, Hedrick, Ga., writes: "I feel that it is my duty to thank you for your information and advice which you gave me in regard to my health. I have taken three bottles of Peruna and can say that I feel like a new person. It seems such a pleasure to do my own work and take care of my children with ease. My husband thinks it is one of the greatest medicines out. I have introduced it into a dozen homes or more, since I began to take it. It is a pleasure to me to recommend it to any of my friends whom I hear complaining of their stomachs, and a tired, worn out feeling. I cannot tell you how thankful I feel to Dr. Hartmann and Peruna.—Mrs. Fannie Story.

A Grateful Mother.

Mrs. Mary Craig, of Renno, South Carolina, writes: "I took Peruna quite a while before I was confined and find that it helped me a great deal. I am the mother of four girls and this last one is a boy. I had no trouble at all, had the easiest time I ever had and the baby has not had a day's sickness since he was born. Folks say he is a regular Peruna baby."—Mrs. Mary Craig.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, writes at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

Ask Your Druggist for free Pe-ru-na Almanac for 1904.

SWAPPING CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

DAY-AFTER RUSH OF FOLKS WHO GOT THE WRONG PRESENT.

Big Stores Kept Busy Making Trades —Women in the Majority—Men Folks Rather Do Without Than Shop—Some Who Only Wanted to Learn Prices.

Two women with arms full of bundles met in a Broadway car yesterday morning and each smiled as she greeted the other.

"Going down town to exchange presents," they remarked simultaneously.

The conversation that followed revealed the fact that two families were overstocked with things that they hadn't any use for. A phonograph that offended the musical ear of one was to be traded for a new baby carriage, and a set of Shakespeare, if luck went well, would become a cut glass vase, a bottle of perfume and a dozen candle shades.

The stores were full of women, changing everything from 25-cent lace handkerchiefs to costly jewelry, and there was hardly a man among them. If appearances count for anything, the men who got what they didn't want grinned and bore it.

In most of the stores special arrangements for the annual rearrangements of purchases were made. Exchange desks were set up in various departments and from there matters were straightened out. Some got credit checks, some cash. The clerks in charge of those desks had to work overtime. They had their troubles, too.

"Here's a piece of china that I want to get credit for," announced a large woman with a determined jaw. The piece of china was carefully tied up in a box bearing the firm's name. The clerk untied it, pulled aside about a bushel of excelsior and announced decisively:

"Can't give credit on that. 'Twasn't bought here."

"But I'm sure it was," protested the woman. "My daughter-in-law gave it to me in that box and you must have sold it to her."

"Maybe she had the box and bought the china somewhere else," suggested the clerk.

"What!" gasped the woman with a fine show of indignation. "You accuse my daughter-in-law of trying to misrepresent to me. The idea! She wouldn't do such a thing and you're impertinent to suggest it. I'll report you."

She did, but she didn't exchange the piece of china.

Another phase of the game came to light when a woman appeared at a desk with an ivory paper cutter.

"How much credit do I get for this?" she asked.

The clerk hustled around and finally told her that the article had cost $0.45.

"Oh, very well. I don't think I'll return it to-day," remarked the woman, taking her paper cutter and walking away.

"Another of the rubbernecks," mused the girl behind the counter. "There's a bunch of them that wants to know how much some friends or others spent on the presents they got. They haven't any idea of changing anything—just are so curious that they can't stand it any longer."

There were more serious mix-ups in one or two of the stores which have rules that nothing can be exchanged unless the ticket which is made out at the time of purchase accompanies the goods to be exchanged. Of course, no Christmas gifts were accompanied by the tickets that told how much they cost, and the floorwalkers had a merry time trying to straighten matters out.

"Pink Pearls" Not Pearls at All.

From the Jewellers' Register.

It is somewhat disquieting to learn that many of the so-called pink pearls whose priceless value we hear so much of when any "society function" takes place are not pearls at all. It is a matter of extreme difficulty even for an expert to detect the difference between the coral and the pearl, and many practical jewellers are often deceived.

THE EVENING GROSBEAK.

A Pretty Little Bird That Visits Pacific Coast Cities in Severe Winters.

From the Portland Oregonian.

A flock of evening grosbeaks, the pretty little birds which usually visit this city during the winter, arrived here a few days ago. They have been flitting about and feeding on the seeds of the locust treets, the pods of which still cling to the branches, and pecking at the stems from which the seeds of the maples have fallen, evidently finding something eatable there.

These birds did not visit the city last winter, it was supposed on account of the season not being severe in the mountains and forests, where they have their haunts. There are several species of grosbeaks scattered over North America, from the Far North away into Mexico. They derive the name from the large stout bill which is characteristic of the whole family. The evening grosbeak is the only species seen here. Flocks of them are often seen in the pine woods on the Cascades and Blue Mountains as late as May, being on their way from the South to their summer haunts in the far countries of the North. They are seen at different times in Wisconsin and as far East as the New England States.

They are supposed to visit this city when the snow gets unusually deep in the mountains but their movements appear to be capricious. The blue, pine and rose-breasted species of the grosbeak are of more showy plumage than the evening grosbeak, which is of modest colors, but still is a beautiful bird, being of a dusky olive color shading to yellowish on the rump; the forehead, a line over the eyes and under tail coverts, yellow; crown, wings and tail black; bill, greenish yellow, conspicuously large. In this species the female differs but slightly from the male, but is easily distinguishable. In some of the other species the males are gaudy with red, blue and white markings. During their visits here they appear very tame and unsuspicious, and their only note while feeding consists of a single rather screaming call. In the mating season the male has a warbling whistle not so pretty as the robin's song

Town Pride of a North Carolina Girl.

From the Washington Post.

"A young North Carolina girl gave me a centre shot the other day as a token of that pride of locality which is more pronounced in the South than elsewhere," said Mr. Henry O. Conners of Baltimore, at the Ebbitt.

"It was quite a small place, but it boasted one very fine hotel, at which I stopped all night. After a good breakfast I paid my bill to the grown daughter of the lady who ran the tavern and who was quite up in the duties of a cashier.

"'You have a nice little town here, miss,' said I, trying to make friends with the good looking clerk, 'but I must say that I never knew there was such a town on the map till the Southern Railroad landed me here yesterday.'

"Eying me coolly and looking me squarely in the eye, the Tarheel maiden said: 'Where be you from, mister?' I owned up to Baltimore, and this is what she handed me: 'Well, I reckon there's lots of folks in Baltimore that are just as ignorant as you.'"

THE MOST NUTRITIOUS.

An admirable food, with all its natural qualities intact, fitted to build up and maintain

EPPS'S

Gives Strength and Vigour.

COCOA

robust health, and to resist winter's extreme cold. It is a valuable diet for children.

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

Street Car Hearses in Mexico.

From the Chicago Tribune.

PEKIN, Ill., Dec. 21.—*Editor of the Tribune:* Through the entire republic of Mexico I do not think there is a hearse. All funerals are by street cars, where they have them. They have three classes of street car hearses, elaborate ones for the rich, and not so fine for the second or third class. The car hearse is an open car, trimmed in the same manner as our hearses, with the coffin on a raised platform in the centre of the car. The cars following are the regular street cars, but decorated in black by the wealthy.

Cars can be hired for funeral purposes for $10 each in Mexican money for first class, $8 for second class and $5 for third class. Those prices would be less than half in our money.

What a blessing it would be to the poor of our cities if some such system should be adopted by the street car lines, and if this strike keeps up long I predict action will be taken.

THOMAS COOPER.

"77"

BREAKS UP

GRIP

Prevents Pneumonia.

"Avoid undue exposure to cold. Cold and damp weather are very prolific causes of all catarrhal troubles.

"As Pneumonia is often preceded by Grip, patients with the latter malady should treat its first symptoms with the least possible delay, and should not expose themselves to cold of any kind until all signs of danger are past.

"Persons in attendance upon pneumonia patients should bear in mind that the disease is sometimes communicable through the agency of expectoration."—N. Y. Herald.

The use of Dr. Humphreys' "Seventy-seven" cures Grip, prevents Pneumonia, and breaks up Colds that hang on. At Druggists, 25 cents.

☞ Medical Guide mailed free.

Humphreys' Med. Co., Cor. William & John Streets, New York.

UNMIXED

Whiskey is drinkable—such is

OLD CROW RYE

PURE, WHOLESOME, PALATABLE

H. B. KIRK & CO., Sole Bottlers, N. Y.